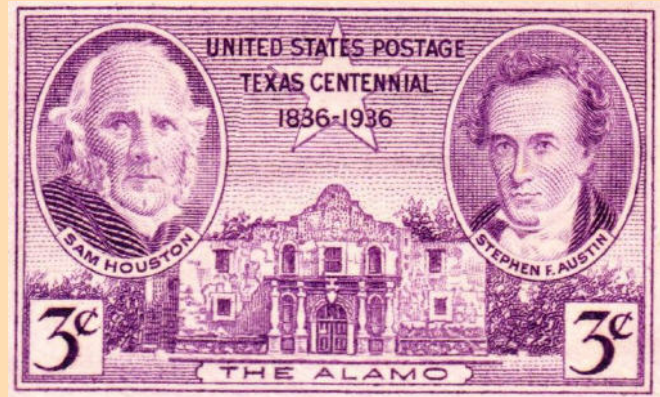


Newton County, Texas Stark Families
Book 2: The Revolutionary War to the Republic of Texas
Compiled by Pauline Stark Moore
Author and Editing by Clovis LaFleur



Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga, New York. 17 October 1777.
Painting by John Trumbull
Source: Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia



Issued 1936 commemorating 100th anniversary
of the Republic of Texas



Wm. Hawley Stark Home, Bon Wier, Newton Co., TX
Family Cemetery among Pine Trees in Background

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Self Published

by Clovis LaFleur & Pauline Stark Moore

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About The Authors



Clovis LaFleur

Descendant of Prudence Jane Stark who married William "Bill" Herrin. They had a son named Edward Herrin who married Georgian Zachary. Their daughter was Maude Mae Herrin who married Oakdale, Louisiana Pentecostal Pastor, Rev. Robert L. LaFleur. Their son was Clovice LaFleur, Sr. who married Eva May Russell who were the parents of Clovis LaFleur.



Pauline Stark Moore

Descendant of Asa Lafitte Stark who married Matilda Donaho. They had a son named John Lawhorn Stark who married Mary Martha Zachary. Their son was Oliver Eugene Stark who married Cynthia Melinda Marlow. Their son was Clarence M. Stark who married Bertha Mae Hunter who were the parents of Pauline Eugenia (Stark) Moore.

Acknowledgements

There are many researchers, past and present, who contributed to the family histories compiled for this publication. Contributors to the Colonial Years in Connecticut were Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, Donn Neal, Neal Lowe, and Mary Stark. Sharon Reck, Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, and Donn Neal supplied much of the information which proved Asahel Stark of Indiana was the son of Christopher Stark (Junior); born in Groton, New London County, Connecticut in 1728.

And one must give credit to past Stark Family researchers like Charles R. Stark and Helen Stark. Their early research into the Aaron Stark Families of America were the starting point for most of our research and provided us with data and material which enhanced our understanding of the times and places where our ancestors lived. Their early research is truly remarkable when one considers the complexity of compiling their family stories 100 years ago.

Without the research of Neal Lowe, we would not know today that Daniel R. Stark — *resident of West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana who died in 1820* — was the father of our four Newton County, Texas siblings and further proved Daniel was the son of the above Asahel Stark.

Contributors to our research in Newton County were the Newton County Historical Commission, Stark Family Association of Texas, Mary Stark, Bonnie Smith, Gladys Zachary Skinner, Floyd Boyett, Ruby Burkett, Lena Hughes, and many others. Finally, we are sure we have overlooked other major contributors to this publication for which we sincerely apologize.

Clovis L. La Fleur & Pauline Stark Moore

November 4, 2003

Preface

These publications are a compilation of the ancestors and descendants of four siblings with the surname Stark who moved to Texas in 1836 and settled in an area that became Newton County when Texas was admitted to the Union on the 28th day of December 1845. Their names were William Hawley Stark, Sarah Mariah Stark, Prudence Jane Stark, and Asahel "Asa" Lafitte Stark. They were seventh generation descendants of Aaron Stark [1608-1685] of New London County, Connecticut who migrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony from England between 1630 and 1637, and was among the first who settled along the Connecticut River near Hartford, Connecticut in 1636. In 1669, he settled in an area which became known as Groton Township, New London County, Connecticut in 1705.

Two other families with the surname Stark, neither related to Aaron Stark, arrived in America around 1720 to 1725. Aaron was not related to the family of General John Stark of Revolutionary War fame for this family did not arrive in America until around 1720 and settled in New Hampshire. Around 1725, James Stark arrived in Stafford County, Virginia, most likely from Scotland. As the descendants of these three families with the surname Stark began to move west, they settled in the same areas which caused considerable confusion for Stark family researchers. However, it is important for future researchers to know these three American Stark families will have origins in either Connecticut, New Hampshire, or Virginia.

Those who have participated in the Stark Family Y-DNA Project have been found to be descendants of many genetically unrelated families having the surname Stark or one of its derivatives. However, the majority of the participants are descendants of families that settled in New Hampshire, Virginia, and Connecticut. Contrary to the beliefs of some earlier researchers, the Stark Family Y-DNA Project has confirmed the descendants of Aaron Stark are not related to the descendants of the New Hampshire and Virginia families. A known male descendant of Asahel "Asa" Lafitte Stark (Project Member #78078) — *having the surname Stark* — has been genetically confirmed to share Aaron Stark [1608-1685] as a common ancestor with other known descendants of Aaron in the project genetically tested.

The four siblings mentioned were not related to John Thomas Stark, born December 19, 1821 in Preble County, Ohio and who died September 23, 1893 in Orange County, Texas. He was Captain of the Dreadnaughts, Company H, 13th Texas Cavalry and became well known in Newton County as a result of his service in the Civil War. John Thomas moved from Ohio to Missouri with his parents and the family eventually arrived in Texas around 1840. They first settled in San Augustine County, Texas and then moved to Burkeville, Newton County, Texas in 1853, many years after the siblings arrived. Careful research by descendants of John Thomas Stark has proven he was descended from the above James Stark of Virginia.

The great-grandfather of the Newton County Siblings was Christopher Stark, Jr., born September 27, 1728 in New London County, Connecticut, the son of Christopher Stark, Sr. and Joanna Walworth. Christopher, Jr. died between 1781 and 1785 in Albany County, New York. Christopher Stark, Jr. had a son, Asahel Stark, who was the father of Daniel R. Stark. Daniel was the father of the above Newton County, siblings.

Daniel R. Stark and Nancy Hawley moved to Louisiana from Genesee County, New York in 1816 and were married before 1809 in New York. She was the daughter of Samuel Hawley, a veteran of the Revolutionary War from Massachusetts and a descendant of one of the early Hawley families who lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Their oldest son, William Hawley Stark married first, Elizabeth Zachary, sister of Bennett Hiram Zachary, and second, Martha C. Whitman, daughter of Adam Whitman and Dorothy Richard. Their youngest son, Asahel "Asa" Lafitte Stark, married first, Matilda Donaho, daughter of Daniel Donaho and Nancy Larimore, and married second, Hester Ann "Hettie" Ford, daughter of David Ford and Courtney Caraway.

Their daughter, Sarah Mariah Stark, married John Taylor Lewis, who was the son of Samuel S. Lewis. They were living in Texas as early as 1835 where they were listed in the census that year in the Mexican District of Bevil. They had a daughter named Nancy Jane Lewis who married James Herrin, descendants of this Herrin family being well known in Newton County.

Daniel R. Stark's youngest daughter, Prudence Jane Stark, was the second wife of William "Bill" Herrin and the above James Herrin was William's son from a previous marriage. Prudence had a son named Edward Herrin who married Georgian Zachary, the granddaughter of Bennett Hiram Zachary. Many members of this Herrin family lived into the Devils Pocket region of Newton County until about 1908, and were living in Leesville, Louisiana by 1909. Other notable families to be discussed in these books will be Dougharty, Donoho, Zachary, Inman, Davis/Moore, Whitman and many others who married descendants of the four siblings.

The Authors make no claims all that will appear in this publication is accurate. We have strived to provide reliable sources when available and in many instances have had to rely on information and family histories supplied by others, which may or may not be correct. We hope the reader will recognize when we have speculated where the evidence was insufficient or circumstantial but could lead to the logical conclusions presented.

Clovis LaFleur
&
Pauline Stark Moore
November 4, 2003

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Chapter 1 Origins of the Stark Families of Newton County, Texas

Author's Note: Without the combined research notes and documents of Pauline Stark Moore, Sharon Reck, Neal Lowe, Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, and Donn Neal, the evidence to be presented in this publication would not have been possible. Thank you for so graciously sharing your research.



The Newton County, Texas Stark Siblings

William Hawley Stark was an early resident of Jasper County, Texas before the County was divided to form Newton County in 1845 when Texas was admitted to the Union. He moved to Texas while it still belonged to Mexico and his son, James Terry Stark, born in 1839, was his first child to be born in the newly formed Republic of Texas. William was appointed Justice of the Peace, Jasper County, Beat 4, on February 4, 1839 and his brother, Asa Stark was appointed Constable of Jasper County, Sabine Beat 4 on the same date. Because William was a resident of Texas before the Texas War for Independence, he received a League of land from the new Republic.

He, along with others, founded the town of Belgrade on his league of land (4,600 acres) near the west bank of the Sabine River south of Bon Wier and William's brother, Asa L. Stark, received 1,280 acres on the river north of William's property. Asa's Spouse, Matilda Donaho, purchased land from Adam Lackey Stewart which fronted the Sabine River north of Asa's 1,280 acre headright. Caney Creek passed through this land and emptied into the Sabine River just below the bridge that crosses the Sabine River on Highway 190 East. In 1859, William Stark established Stark's Landing at the juncture where Caney Creek meets the Sabine River. He build several warehouses and dock's where steamboats could unload and load merchandise being moved up and down the river from the Gulf of Mexico.

The 1880 census for Newton County reports William was 70 years old, married to Martha (Whitman) Stark, 43. Living in the home was a daughter named Jane, age 16, and two boarders named Andrew J. Hair, age 27, and

Simeon S. Davis, age 20. The census reported William was a farmer, born in New York, whose father was born in New York mother was born in Vermont. Therefore, William's place and year of birth, according to this census, would have been New York in the year 1810 [He was born August 22, 1809]. Martha Whitman was William's second wife whom he married in 1859. Living close by, in the next dwelling in this census was a son of William from his first marriage named Daniel L. Stark, age 47, born in Louisiana. Daniel reported his father was born in New York and his mother, William's first wife, Elizabeth Zachary, was born in Arkansas. William's daughter, Jane, married the border named Simeon Davis November 17, 1881 and her name was Dorothy Jane Stark, daughter of Martha C. Whitman and the granddaughter of Adam Whitman and Dorothy Richard. Simeon Davis was the son of Turner Moore Davis and Anna Hall.

In the 1870 census, William H. Stark was 61years old and reported he was born in Illinois and married to "Martha J.", age 32. Living in the house was William, age 17, Adam, age 16, Victoria, age 8, and Jane, age 6. William and Adam were children of Elizabeth Zachary while Victoria and Jane were children of Martha C. Whitman. This would seem to connect William's birth place to Illinois, but as we will see, this is inaccurate for the 1850 and 1860 Newton County Census record his birth place as New York. Victoria, her full name being Queen Victoria Stark, married Monroe Lafayette Inman July 2, 1878 in Newton County.

In 1860, W. H. Stark was 50 years old, his birth place was New York, and was married to Martha, age 22. Living in the home were James L., age 21, Lewis L., age 20, Mary L. age 15, Elizabeth, age 13, Nancy, age 10, Wm H. age 8, and Adam L. S. age 6, all born in Texas, and a domestic named David Price, age 65 born in Canada. Living next door was P. Zachary [Penelope (Davis/Moore) Zachary], Widow. Penelope was the second spouse of Bennett Hiram Zachary, who died in the 1860 census year. Bennett was the brother of Elizabeth Zachary and William H. Stark's brother-in-law. The 1850 census for Newton County list Wm. H. Starks, 41 years old, born in New York, and married to Elizabeth T., age 39, born in Louisiana. Living in the home were Daniel L., age 17, born in LA, Samuel H., age 15, born in LA, James T., age 13, born in Texas, Lewis L., age 11, Martha Ann, age 9, Mary, age 7, and Elizabeth, age 5. From this census data we can conclude William Hawley Stark was living in Texas by 1837 because of the birth of James T. Stark in Texas in that year. Assuming the census data was accurate, this is rather convincing evidence William Hawley Stark and his father were both born in New York.

Sarah Mariah Stark was born in New York State in the year 1812 and married John Taylor Lewis in Louisiana December 28th, 1828. A series of newspaper articles titled, "Early Settlers in Jasper County", by Mrs. Charles Martin relate the following about John Taylor Lewis: "is listed as one of the Judges of The Republic of Texas. He served as a Second Lieutenant in his brother's cavalry company during the siege at Bexar. He and his father [Col. Samuel S. Lewis] and older brother Martin Baty Lewis all served in the Texas Revolution. He served two terms as Justice of the Peace in Jasper County. In 1833 the family was living in Bevil District, Mexico. This is where their second child was born. This family was living in Newton County, Texas by the year 1850. His grant of land is east of Kirbyville in Newton County, Texas." [Note: When Jasper County was divided to create Newton County in 1845, he became a resident of this County.] The 1880 census for Newton County reports John T. Lewis was 72 years old married to 68 year old "Mariah", her birth place given as New York and the birth place of her father and mother given as New York and Massachusetts, respectively. Confirmation of the identity of "Mariah" can be found in the Ouachita Parish, Louisiana Marriage Record Index which reports John T. Lewis married Sarah Mariah Stark December 28, 1828. Living in the home in the 1880 census year was a son named R. E. Lewis, age 22, Marinda, age 20, daughter-in-law, John T. Stivener, age 25, cousin, and Elizabeth Stivener, age 27, cousin.

In the 1860 census year for Newton County, John T. Lewis was 52 years old, born in Indiana and married to "Sarah M.", age 48, born in New York. Living in this home were Wm. M., age 26, Geo. W. age 24, Asa L. age 19, Sarah M. age 17, Elizabeth, age 13, Napoleon B., age 11, Martin B., age 8, Catherine E., age 5, and Robert E., age 2. Living next door was their daughter, Nancy J., age 29, who married James Herrin (Listed as James Herring in this census), his age being recorded as 33 years old. Nancy Jane's birth place was Louisiana and her children were Samuel, age 14, Robert, age 10, Marcus, age 7, Eliza, age 5, and John E., age 3. The 1850 census for Newton County reveals John T. Lewis was 43 years old, born in Indiana married to "Maria", age 39, born in New York. Living in the home were Wm. McF., age 16, George W., age 14, Asa, age 9, Sarah, age 5, Elizabeth, age 3, and Napoleon, age 1, all born in Texas. From these census records we know Sarah M.'s birth year was about 1812 in New York State.

The 1835 census for the Mexican District of Bevil listed John T. Lewis as 27 years old married to Mariah, age 23 and their children were named Nancy Jane, age 4, born in Louisiana and William M., age 2, born in Texas. From the above, one can say with certainty that John T. Lewis and Mariah Stark were residents of the Mexican District of Bevil as early as 1833, Mariah was born in New York, and in the 1880 census for Newton County, Mariah's grown children report their Mother was born in New York. In 1880, Mariah reported her Father was born in New York and her Mother was born in Massachusetts. Therefore, William Hawley Stark and Sarah Mariah Stark, were both born in New York and both reported this as the birth place of their father.

Prudence Jane Stark was reported to be married to "Bill Heran" in the 1850 census for Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, located just across the Sabine River from Newton County and living in the next dwelling was "James Heran", married to Nancy. These gentlemen were William "Bill" Herrin and James Herrin and as related above, James Herrin married Nancy Jane Lewis, the daughter of Sarah Mariah Stark and John Taylor Lewis. Prudence, married to "Bill Heran", was 35 years old and her birth place was New York. Living in the home of William and Prudence was William, age 15, George, age 11, Andrew, age 9, Mary, age 8, Steven, age 6, Asa, age 4, and Edward, age 2. Edward married Georgian Zachary, daughter of William Augusta Zachary and Sarah Elizabeth Whitman and was the granddaughter of the above mentioned Bennett Hiram Zachary. Sarah Elizabeth Whitman was the sister of Martha C. Whitman, the second wife of William Hawley Stark. In the 1860 census, as already explained, William Zachary was living in the home of Penelope Zachary, Widow, who was William's step-mother and the second wife of Bennett Hiram Zachary. Georgian Zachary was the g-grandmother of the Author.

In this census, James Herrin is reported to be 24 married to Nancy age 21. Living in the Home are Samuel, age 4, George, age 2, Robert, age 6/12, and James L., age ?? (Couldn't read from the census). Comparing this data to the above 1860 census for Newton County, we find James , age 33 compared to 24, Nancy, age 29 compared to 21, Samuel, age 14 compared to 4, and Robert, age 10 compared to 6/12. These similarities would imply the "James Herring" in the Newton County 1860 census and the "James Heran" in the Calcasieu Parish 1850 census are the same family.

James Herrin was the son of William "Bill" Herrin conceived in a previous marriage in Louisiana and many descendants of these two men are buried in the Bob Herrin Cemetery located in Newton County. Prudence, married to Bill Heron, would seem to be Prudence Stark, the relationship possible because the spouse of James, Nancy J. Lewis, was the daughter of Sarah Mariah Stark. A possible clue Prudence could be related to William Hawley Stark and Sarah Mariah Stark is her place was given as New York in 1815, the same birth place given for William Hawley Stark and Sarah Mariah Stark.

Asahel "Asa" Lafitte Stark was listed in the 1860 census for Newton County and reported he was 43 years old, was born in Louisiana, and married to "Hettie", age 27. [Newton County Marriage Records record he married Hester Ann Ford March 26, 1857.] Living in the home was Daniel, age 14, John E., age 11, Dennis, age 8, who were children of Asa's first wife, Matilda Donoho, and younger children named David, age 2, and Courtney, age 7/12, children of Hester Ann. All of these children were born in Texas. Also living in the home were "M. J. Dougherty", age 23, and "C. B. Dougherty", age 16, both of whom were half-brothers of Hester Ann Ford. "C. B." was Charles Bowman Dougharty who would later marry Nancy Matilda Stark, daughter of William Hawley Stark and "M. J." was Marshall Joseph Dougharty. The Dougharty boys had been orphaned in 1855 as a result of their father, George Dougharty, Sr., being killed by oxen in that year and because their mother, Courtney Carraway, died in 1853. Hester Ann Ford was a daughter of Courtney Carraway from her first marriage to David Ford. Courtney's second marriage was to George Dougharty, Sr.

Jefferson County, Texas is located south of Newton County and the 1850 census for this County listed Asa Starks, age 33, born in Louisiana and his spouse, Matilda, age 25, born in Louisiana. Living in the home were Julia Ann, age eight, born in Texas, Daniel, age four, John, age 2, and Nancy Hardin, age 62, born in New York, Also listed was Lamar Herring, age 11, born in Texas.

The Newton County marriage index records the marriage of Julia Stark and Phillip Dempsey on September 16th, 1855. Comparing names to the 1860 census for Newton County, we find Asa is 43 compared to 33 and in 1860 Asa's wife was named Hettie, while in the 1850 census, his wife was named Matilda. Probate Records show Matilda Donaho, Asa's first wife, died in 1856 in Newton County. Continuing to compare the 1850 and 1860 census data, we find Daniel, age 14 compared to 4, and John E. age 11 compared to John, age 2. Nancy Hardin, age 62, born in New York, was most likely the mother of Asa Stark which will be proven later. "Lamar Herring" is a mystery, but could be Nancy Hardin's grandson and may have been the son of Prudence Stark and William Herrin, who were living just across the Sabine River from Jefferson County, Texas in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana in the year 1850 [See above]. This is the only reference found thus far to a "Lamar Herring ." From this census data, we know Asa was born in Louisiana about 1817 and was living in Texas by 1842 if his oldest child, Julia Ann was 8 in 1850 and born in Texas.

General activities during the years from 1835 to 1870 for the Stark men, William H. and Asa L., were numerous and active. Three sons of William H. Stark named Daniel L., Samuel H. and James T. served in the Civil War and Asa Stark's son, Daniel Donahue Stark, also served in the Civil War. Samuel H. Stark died of disease in the war, leaving behind a widow, Julia Cassandra Dougharty and their three children. James T. Stark would also die during the Civil War. After the war, Asa Lafitte Stark's son, Daniel Donahue Stark, married Samuel Hawley Stark's widow, Julia Dougharty, who was the sister of Marshall and Charles Dougharty mentioned living in the home of Asa Stark in 1860.

Asa L. Stark married Matilda Donaho/Donahue before 1842. Her family operated the Donaho Ferry across the Sabine in the southern part of Newton County. From 1849 to 1852 the couple lived in Jefferson County (presently Orange County, Texas). A man named Enos Hardin died previous to the 1850 census and Asa L.'s mother, Nancy, was probably living with them, according to the 1850 census for Jefferson County. Asa L. was a constable in Jefferson County, a member of the Masonic Lodge, and registered a cattle brand during their three year residence in the County. In 1853, Asa L. moved back to Newton County and lived there until after the Civil War.

Analysis of these four individuals living in Newton County reveals William Hawley, Sarah Mariah, and Prudence Jane Stark were born in New York while Asa Stark was born in Louisiana. In the 1880 census, William Hawley and Sarah Mariah reported their father was born in New York but differed on the birth place of their mother, whom, it would seem, was born in New York if the Nancy Hardin living with Asa Stark in Jefferson County, Texas is the mother of these four residents of Newton County. It now remains to show they were brothers and sisters and Nancy Hardin was their mother. Was Nancy Hardin the Mother of William Hawley Stark?

Nancy (Hawley) Stark/Hardin

In the Newton County 1847 Tax Records will be found "*William H. Stark, agent for Nancy Hardin, taxes on the 640 acres in the David Pool Survey.*" In the same tax year will also be found "*Nancy Hardin, agent for Napoleon Hardin, 1,481 acres of the Enos Hardin Survey.*" On December 29, 1847, Nancy Hardin, a resident of Newton County, Texas, declared in a document of indenture [given over to work for], that a slave named Ann was assigned by this binding contract to work for Nancy's grandchildren named; "*Daniel Lafayette Stark, Samuel Hawley Stark, James Terry Stark, Lewis Miles Stark, Martha Ann Stark, Mary Stark, Elizabeth McFarland Stark, children of William H. Stark and Elizabeth Stark, all of the County and State aforesaid. Witnesseth, that the said Nancy Hardin for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars in hand paid by their next friends and the love and affection which she bears for her grandchildren afore named, doth by these presents.....*" (See Figure 1)

This document clearly reveals Nancy Hardin of Newton County was the grandmother of William Hawley Stark's children and most likely his mother, for the parents of his wife, Elizabeth (Zachary) Stark were living in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana in 1847 and her mother's name was also Elizabeth. In a land record dated October 28, 1848, 160 acres was deeded to Alex Sappington of Carroll Parish, Louisiana by W. H. Stark and his wife Elizabeth and signed in Newton County, Texas in front of a Notary on this date. This document was witnessed by Nancy Hardin.

State of Texas
Newton County This Indenture made and entered
into on this the twenty ninth day of December
Eighteen hundred and forty seven between Nancy
Hardin of the first part and Daniel Lafayette Stark
Samuel Hawley Stark James Terry Stark Lewis Miles
Esq. Martha Ann Stark Mary Stark Elizabeth M.
Farland Stark children of William H. Stark and Eliz-
abeth Stark - All of the County and State aforesaid
Witnesseth that the said Nancy Hardin for and
in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars
in hand paid by their meet friends and the love and
affection which she bears for her Grand children afo-
named, doth by these presents Grant, bargain sell,
donate and transfer unto the aforesaid party
of the first part, all her right title claim interest
and demand if in or to a certain Negro woman
a slave for life, named Ann, aged about eighteen
years, and the said Nancy Hardin doth hereby
bind herself to warrant and defend the title to
the slave aforesaid to the only proper use, benefit
and behoof of the said party of the first part and
their heirs and assigns, firm and against her
heirs and from and against the claim or claim
of any and all persons forever In Testimony
whereof the said Nancy Hardin has hereunto placed
her signature and seal using a scroll in
place of a seal

256

on the date above written
Witnesses
Lambert M. Farland
G. S. Hunt

Nancy Hardin (seal)

Figure 1:
Nancy Hardin Document Conveying Slave Ann to her Grandchildren.

The sale was recorded November 29, 1848. Recorded on the next day, November 30, 1848 in the same Parish and Conveyance book was the sale of property to the same Alex Sappington by William Herring of Newton County, Texas. A witness to this transaction was John DeHart, married to William's half-sister, Mary Commander Herring. These transactions show William Herring and William Hawley Stark were neighbors in Ouachita Parish, part of which became Carroll Parish after 1832. This was probably property located near an area known as the "upper" Bayou Macon. Therefore, we can say with certainty, Nancy Hardin was the mother of William Hawley Stark and was most likely the mother of Asa Stark, but we will need additional proof of the relationship. The sale of the properties in Carroll Parish also established a link to William Herrin and it remains to be proved his spouse named Prudence was a sister of William Hawley Stark.

From the foregoing paragraphs, a Ouachita Parish Marriage license was issued to Sarah Mariah Stark and John T. Lewis and they married December 28, 1828. Text from "*The Handbook of Texas Online*", provides a short biography of Samuel Lewis, father of John T. Lewis; "*Samuel S. Lewis, early Texas settler and congressman, was born to John and Sarah Lewis on July 4, 1784, in Virginia. He married Sarah Lemaster in Henry County, Kentucky on August 7, 1804. They moved to Indiana, where their seven children were born, five in Indiana Territory and two after it became a state. Lewis founded Orleans, Indiana, and served with the Indiana militia in the War of 1812. In the mid-1820s the family moved to Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, where Lewis became justice of the peace.*" The birth locations of the children of Samuel Lewis provide proof the Lewis family lived in Indiana until about 1824 and the marriage of Samuel's son, John T. Lewis in December of 1828, places the family in that location before the date of this marriage.

Enos Hardin received a headright from the Republic of Texas in 1838 which described him as a single man which would imply he married his spouse, Nancy Hardin, after that year. (See Figure 2) "N. B. Harden", age 32, was born in Louisiana and lived next door to Asa Lafitte Stark, according to the 1860 census for New County. If N. B. Hardin was born in 1828 and Nancy did not marry his father, Enos, until after 1838, then we must conclude N. B. Hardin (His name was Napoleon Bonaparte Hardin) was not a son of Nancy, but her step-son.

Carroll Parish, Louisiana was created from parts of Ouachita Parish and Concordia Parish in 1830 and then divided into East Carroll Parish and West Carroll Parish in 1877. Because Carroll Parish were originally part of Ouachita Parish, the obituary of one Samuel Hawley, published in the Vicksburg Register (Vicksburg, Mississippi), dated July 2, 1835 provides a possible link to the given name of Nancy Hardin, provided one believes William's middle name "Hawley" was his mother's given name: "Another Revolutionary Soldier is no more-- Died at the upper settlement on Bayou Macon in the Parish of Carroll, State of Louisiana, on the 4th day of June 1835, Samuel Hawley, aged about 80 years, a native of the State of Massachusetts, and once a soldier of the Revolutionary army. Mr. Hawley was a pensioner and lived for several years back thus secluded and remote with his child and respected by all who knew him." We have established William Hawley Stark owned property in Carroll Parish and it can be speculated his Mother, Nancy, was living with him in 1835 on this property.

Carroll Parish was located in the northeastern part of Louisiana, bordered to the North by present day Arkansas, to the east by the Mississippi River, and to the west by Ouachita Parish, the Boeuf River being the boundary between Carroll Parish and Ouachita Parish in 1830. The present day boundary between East Carroll Parish and West Carroll Parish is the tributary called Bayou Macon, mentioned in the above obituary. This is not far from Vicksburg, Mississippi and Nancy (Hawley) Hardin was probably the "child" mentioned in the obituary, for Samuel had only one daughter and no other children.

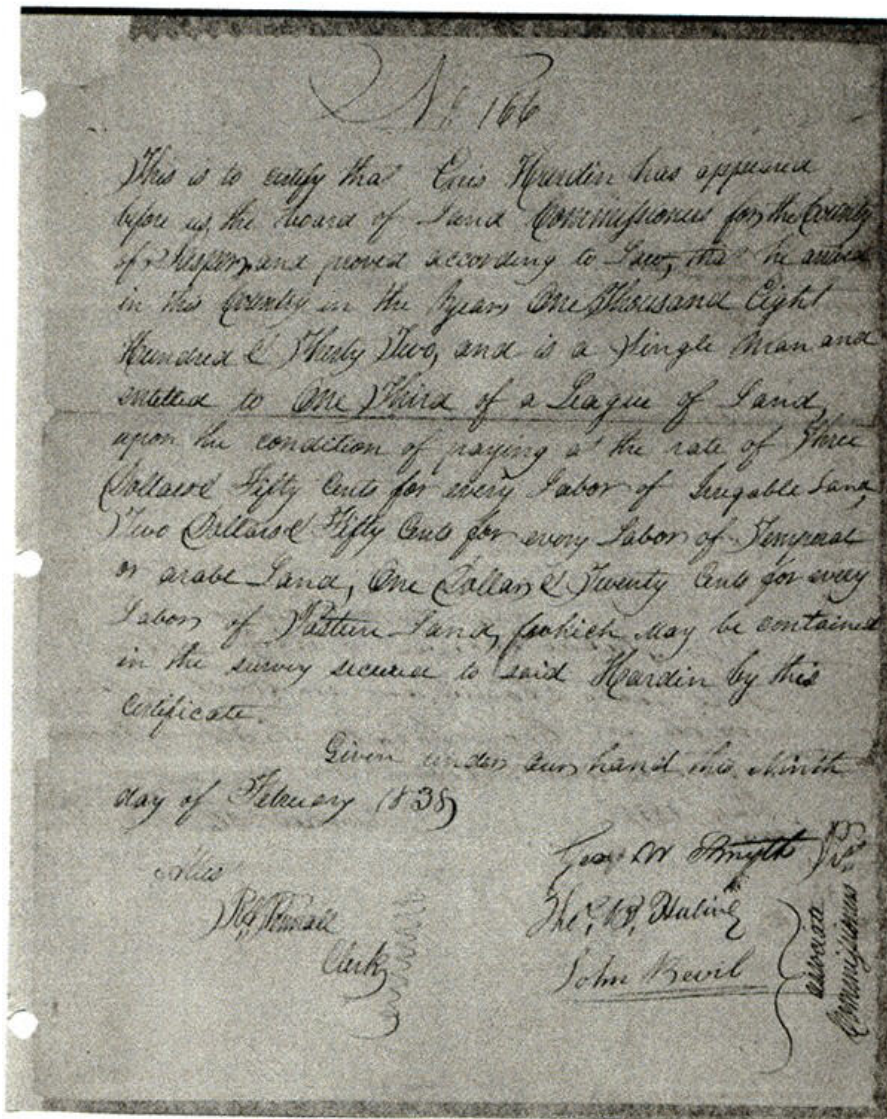


Figure 2
 Enos Hardin Republic of Texas Headright

On April 22, 1828, the Mississippi Pension Agency in Natchez, Mississippi wrote a letter to James Barbon, Secretary of War, which made this request; "*Samuel Hawley, a pensioner on the rolls of the Indiana Agency makes application as per affidavit enclosed for a transfer to my department in having removed to the state of Mississippi. The pensioner resides in a remote corner of our State and will call for his pay (which by his statement is ...[Not legible]... since 4 March 1827) in about two months [?hence?], at which time I expect to see notification of his transfer. Signed Most Respectfully, Your ...[Not legible]...*" From this statement and the above obituary, we know a Revolutionary War Pensioner named Samuel Hawley was living in Indiana prior to the date of this document and had recently moved within the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Pension Agency.

Samuel Hawley had most likely made a pension claim in Indiana and researchers discovered he did make a claim in Floyd County dated March 31, 1826 and in sworn testimony declares; "*he is 68 years old ...That my occupation is that of a farmer, that I am weak, feeble and unable to labor, that I have one daughter only, her name is Nancy McGowan, aged 37 years, that she has five children, William, fifteen years of age, Maria, 13 years of age, Prudence, 10 years of age, Asahel, 8 years of age, and Matilda, 5 years of age - my daughter, her two oldest children, are able to support themselves by their labor the three others, Prudence, Asahel, and Matilda are not - all of which compose my family and looks to me for a support.*" Assuming Nancy McGowan and Nancy Hardin are the same person, then she must have been married prior to her marriage to Hardin. Apparently, McGowan has left or is deceased at the time of the Pension Application for marriage records have not been found indicating she married Hardin or McGowan but are implied by records such as this pension application, association, time, and place.

Nancy Hawley [This given name for Nancy will appear in the remaining text] must have been living with her father in Indiana and they were possibly living near the Lewis Family and others who moved from Indiana to Ouachita Parish, for Orange County Indiana and Floyd County, Indiana, share a common border.

Notice Samuel Hawley's Pension Application has names and expected ages for four children of Nancy McGowan which are similar to the four individuals believed to be her children, later to be found living in or near Newton County, Texas. William age 15, named in the pension application would have been born in 1810 while William H. in the 1880 Newton County Census was 70, both documents establishing his birth year as 1810. Maria, age 13, would have been born in 1812 while Sarah Mariah (Stark) Lewis married to John T. Lewis was 68 years old in the 1880, these documents establishing her birth year as 1812. Prudence, age 10 would have been born in 1815 while the wife named Prudence, married to William "Bill" Herrin was reported to be 35 in the 1850 Calcasieu Parish Census, both of these data sources indicating she was born in 1815. Asahel, age 8 years, would have been born in 1818 while Asa Stark, age 43 in the 1860 Newton County Census, would have been born in 1817 which would be a very close comparison. Finally, Nancy McGowan, age 37, would have been born in 1789 while the Nancy Hardin reported in the 1850 Jefferson County, Texas census as 62 years of age would have been born in 1788, again close enough to believe they could have been the same person. Comparisons of the Newton County Census data to Samuel's Pension application establishes a high probability four of the children of Nancy McGowan were the above Newton County siblings, and because Nancy McGowan was named as Samuel's daughter, her surname was "Hawley."

The Texas census data reports Asahel "Asa" Lafitte Stark was born in Louisiana in 1817 while his siblings were born in New York. If they were living in Florida County, Indiana in 1826, is there evidence Nancy Hawley could have been living in Louisiana in 1817? West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana probate records have a document dated September 5, 1820 which states William Stark and his wife, Victoria Betencourt, provided a donation of \$2,200 to the children of Nancy Hawley, widow of Daniel R. Stark. The children receiving this donation were William, Muriah, Prudence, Esahl, and Amanda. The money was to be paid to Nancy Hawley by March, 1822. Could this be the same Nancy McGowan, daughter of Samuel Hawley, living in Indiana in 1826? The text of this document of donation makes this assertion; "*Know all men by these presents that I, Nancy Hawley, widow of the late Daniel R. Stark, acting as mother and...[Not Legible]... [probably tutor meaning guardian] of the children of the said Daniel R. Stark, named William, Prudence, Muriah, Esahl, and Amanda, do hereby accept in the name of these children, the donation which has been made to them by William Stark and Victoria Betencourt, his wife, which donation is the sum of two thousand and two hundred dollars to be paid by the said Wm Stark and Victoria Betencourt in the month of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-two to me and any other person legally authorized to act in the name of...[Not Legible]... children, their executors administrators. Signed Nancy Stark.*" The names of these children match very closely with the Samuel Hawley Pension Application and the Newton County Stark families.

West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, Probate Packet #85, reports one Daniel R. Stark died June 20, 1820. Before the Probate Court of Judge Ph. Favrot, "Nancy Holly" filed this petition on behalf of her children; "*The petition of Nancy Holly, widow of Daniel R. Stark, who humbly cometh into this honorable court since her husband Daniel R. Stark, late of this Parish died on the 20th last, [has] left said petitioner with five children, all of minor ages. Now it is her request this humble court be pleased to grant her prayer [request] of tutorship in order that she may administer the property formerly in community between her and her late husband, that an [?under?] tutor be appointed to her said children, and that an inventory and appraisement of ...[Not Legible]... here unto have [?assignment?] this 15th day of July in the year 1820. Signed Nancy Stark. Signed before me Ph. Favrot, Judge.*" In Louisiana, the legal expressions, tutor or tutorship, can be defined as, "*assigned the function of guardianship of minor aged children.*" Normally, a close member or friend of the children would be named and assigned by the presiding judge as under tutor to look after the interest of the named children.

Another document in Daniel R. Stark's Probate Packet declares; "*Know all men by these presents that where as Nancy Holly Stark has presented a petition to this court praying for tutorship in order to administer on the property in community between [?her?] and her children and whereas this Nancy Stark has come before this court and has fulfilled all the formalities in such case required by law, it.... [Not legible]children named William, Mariah, Prudence, Esahl, and Amanda, and fully authorized to act as such pertaining to [?the?] laws. Given by hand and seal this [??] of July 1820. Signed Ph. Favrot.*"

Nancy Holly Stark was approved to be the Guardian of her children. Comparing the names of these children to the names of the children in the Samuel Hawley Revolutionary Pension Claim of 1826, shows they are very similar except for Esahl, when compared to Asahel, and Amanda, when compared to Matilda.

Louisiana was under the influence of France until the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 and as late as 1820, many legal documents were prepared in French and often used French words as is still done today. The Judge in these proceedings, Ph. Favrot [Probably Phillip Favrot], was definitely of French descent and may have used a French spelling for the name Asahel. The "E" in Esahl may have been a French accented "É" which would be pronounced "ay". Because the letter "H" is often silent in the French language, the French pronunciation of Esahl in the legal document may have been "Ay-sal", very similar in sound to the English pronunciation of Asahel. Asahel was most likely the given name which would have been his grandfather's name, as will soon be proven. The difference between Amanda and Matilda cannot be explained unless her name was, perhaps, Amanda Matilda Stark. She may have died young for these legal documents are the only information found on this child of Daniel and Nancy.

Nancy Hawley requested William Stark be named under tutor to the children and Judge Ph. Favrot prepared this document which says; *"It is hereby ordered that ...[Not Legible]... William Stark come before this court and say whether he accepts the appointment of under tutor to the minor children of the late Daniel R. Stark. Given under my hand this ?? of July 1820. Signed Ph Favrot."* This document illustrates, as presented earlier, William Stark has an interest in the well being of Daniel's children.

About two months later, Judge Favrot ordered a family meeting of the children's relatives and friends be held September 7, 1820. He wrote; *"It is hereby ordered that a family meeting composed of five of nearest relatives, friends of the children of the late Daniel R. Stark, say Francis White, Zephriam ????, Samuel Hawley, John Ruff???, and William Stark, under tutor of said children, be commenced on Tuesday, 7th [Not legible]to look into consideration the prayer [request] of widow of Daniel Stark. Given order my hand and seal the first day of September 1820. Signed Ph Favrot."* This document named William Stark as the under tutor for the children and Samuel Hawley was considered to be a relative or friend of the children eligible to attend the ordered meeting. These documents along with other data suggest William Stark could have been a brother of Daniel R. Stark and Samuel Hawley could have been their grandfather. Because the names of the children of Daniel R. Stark are similar to those named in Samuel Hawley's 1826 Indiana Pension Application, it would seem reasonable to speculate these children and the Indiana children are the same persons.

Apparently, as a result of this meeting the Judge writes, *"..... and William Stark, under tutor of the children of Daniel R. Stark, especially convened for the purpose of taking in consideration the prayer [request] of Nancy Hawley, widow of the late Daniel R. Stark, requesting that the property now in community between her and her children, the [said?] meeting of family after being ...[Not Legible]... and maturely deliberating was unanimously of opinion that for the benefit and best interest of the children, the prayer of the widow of Daniel R. Stark, [does?] urge it to be granted, and the property now in community between her and her children be [given?] over to him [William Stark??] at the price of the appraisal which has been made hereof. [Not legible] the members of this family meeting have hereto set their hand ?? of September 1820. Signed Zep??? Daigle, John ?Ruffaye?, Francis White, Samuel Hawley. Judge Ph. Favrot presiding."*

The West Baton Rouge Parish probate packet of Daniel R. Stark proves Nancy Hawley was his spouse and they had children named William, Mariah, Prudence, Esahl, and Amanda, the first four names being similar to the given names of the Newton County siblings. They also suggest Samuel Hawley could have been Nancy Hawley's father, providing a link to Samuel Hawley of Floyd County, Indiana who had a daughter named "Nancy." Logic would further suggest the parents of the Newton County Stark siblings were Daniel R. Stark and Nancy Hawley and although not directly stated, it would also appear William Stark and Daniel were related, probably being brothers.

Documented Links of Newton Siblings to Grandparents, Asahel Stark and Sarah Stark

William Stark died May 4, 1822 in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Probate Packet #97 reports his estate was inventoried on May 9, 1822. One document in the inventory papers stated the following: *"Having examined the amount account, in the presence of the heir, Mrs. Sarah Stark, mother of the late William Stark, deceased, I having found the account of vouchers in support of said account true and correct, ...[Not Legible]... Victoria Starks [Victoria Betencourt, wife of Wm. Stark] having delivered up all the papers she has in her possession, to the heir Sarah Starks, said heir declares hereby to have received said notes, vouchers and accounts, it is therefore ordered that said above petition, of their knowledge, fulfills the duties incumbent on him as appraising of the objects contained in same ...[Not Legible]... left by the late Wm Stark. Signed: [Signature was not legible.]"* The William Stark inventory mentioned a bill of sell of property belonging to the late Daniel R. Stark, and left money to his mother, Sarah Stark. The will of Asahel Stark of Washington County, Indiana, to be discussed in more detail later, named Sarah Stark as his wife. William's wife was named Victoria and her surname was Betencourt, which was revealed in the gift made to Daniel R. Stark's children September 5, 1820.

On March 20, 1821, Asahel [Spelled Ashel in his will] Stark of Washington County, Indiana, prepared and signed his last will and testament. He willed to his wife, Sarah Starks, 310 acres of *"land lying and being in the State of New York, Onondaga County and town of Cicero..."* He bequeathed sums of money to sons named Samuel, Asia, Archibald, Christopher, John, and William, bequeathed sums of money to his daughters named Polly Brezee, Sally Graves, and Desire Stark, and named his wife, Sarah Starks, to be the sole executrix. This will proves Asahel/Ashel Stark was married to Sarah Stark and they were living in Washington County, Indiana, in the year 1821 and they still owned property in Onondaga County, New York. She had a son named William, who could be the same William who died in Louisiana May 4, 1822. Unfortunately, the will doesn't provide for a son named Daniel R. Stark because he died prior to the date the will was made by Asahel.

Page 219 of the 1820 census for Washington County, Indiana has as heads of Household the names Asaatl Stark, over 45 years old, Archibald Stark, age range 16-26, and Samuel Stark, age range 26-45. Living in the home of Asaatl/Asahel Stark is a male, age range 16-26, and a female, age range 16-26. They are probably Asahel's son, Asa, and Asa's wife Deborah Moore or his daughter, Desire. Also living in the home is a female, over 45 years old, most likely the spouse of Asahel, her name probably being Sarah, if she is the Sarah named in Asahel's 1821 Will.

Living in the home of Archibald was a male over 45 years old, perhaps John Stark, declared legally insane in 1817, as we will learn later in this text. The female, age 16-26 is probably Archibald's spouse named Rhoda Howe. In Samuel's home we find a male, age 16-26 and two females, age 16-26. The male is most likely Asahel's son named Christopher. The females would be sisters named Sophia and Nancy Scott, the former the spouse of Samuel and the latter the spouse of Christopher. Asahel's will named Samuel, Asia, Archibald, Christopher, John, and William as sons. Assuming the above speculation on who was living in the homes of "Asaatl", Archibald, and Samuel in 1820 are correct, can these brothers be connected to William Stark and Daniel Stark of West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana?

Parish land records report William Stark purchased land in 1809 [Book A, p. 82] and may also be the William Stark in the "American State Papers" who claimed a tract of land located in the Parish of Iberville, Louisiana on the banks of the Mississippi River containing 680 acres. A man named Christopher Stark bought land in 1812 [Book D, p. 41] and later sold land to John Stark in 1815 [Book D, p. 164]. Daniel R. Stark first bought land in 1817 [Book E, p. 33] and in 1818, Samuel Stark purchased this property from Daniel [Book E, p. 118]. Daniel also sold property to Caleb Eddy in the same year and, as already seen above, he died in June of 1820. All of the given names in these transactions are the same as those in Asahel's will with the exception of Daniel R., who was not a named beneficiary. None of the Stark names, so active prior to the 1820 census, appear to be in West Baton Rouge Parish in 1820 except for William Stark. However, we do find Samuel Stark listed as Head of Household in Washington County, Indiana. Another transaction related to Louisiana of interest will be found dated September 28, 1818 in Knox County, Illinois which says one Christopher Stark, a resident of Louisiana, purchased 160 acres. This could be the above Christopher who sold land to John Stark in 1815.

In the year 1817, found in the Parish of West Baton Rouge, was Probate Packet #50 for John Stark, Interdicted. In this packet is a deposition made by William Stark which states, "*The petition of William Stark of this Parish respectfully represents; that he a brother of John Stark of the Parish aforesaid, age about [?35?] years; that the said John is in a state of mental derangement of insanity, and is truly considered wholly incapable of taking care of his person or property....*" This document most certainly proves William and John are brothers, and both names appear as beneficiaries in Asahel's Indiana Will.

On January 20, 1817, two additional depositions were made by Samuel Stark and Daniel R. Stark which supported the petition presented to the court by William and included in the John Stark Probate Packet. Both depositions, recorded in French, refer to some insane mental behavior of John which occurred in October of 1816. Another item in the packet was a bond for \$1,000 paid by William Stark and Daniel R. Stark and which names William "Curator ad Bona." The inventory taken as a result of this interdiction by John's family declared he was owed \$52 by William Stark and \$6 by Daniel R. Stark. John was indebted to Christopher Stark in the amount of \$150, most likely this debt occurring when Christopher sold his property to John in 1815 and John also owed his brother, William, \$100. February 12, 1817, Probate Judge William Wikoff, Jr. conducted an auction at the home of John Stark. Daniel Stark bought several items as did William Stark. John's plantation was sold to Sullia Guidry for \$1,207 dollars.

Although Daniel was not named as a brother of John or William, the documentation thus far examined suggest Daniel had a close relationship with John and William, and both of these men appear to have been associated with Samuel Stark and Christopher Stark. All were living in West Baton Rouge Parish from about 1810 to 1818. However, if Samuel Stark and Christopher Stark of Indiana are the same persons, then they both removed to Indiana from Louisiana by the fall of 1819 for Christopher Stark married Nancy Scott October 2, 1819 and Samuel Stark married Nancy's sister, Sophia Scott, November 10, 1819, these marriages held in Switzerland County, Indiana. It now remains to prove these men who lived in Louisiana are the children of Asahel Stark.

John Stark served in the War of 1812 and the National Archives Military Records, page 284-285 recorded men who enlisted in the U. S. Army prior to the establishment of peace, May 17, 1815. Found in the 44th Regiment, U. S. Infantry was; "*John Stark, 5' 9" tall, Blue Eyes, Brown Hair, Dark Complexion ; Occupation, Carpenter, Born in New York, New York. Enlisted July 5, 1814 at Natchez by Lt. Peters for duration of the war. At Baton Rouge July 6, 1814. Remarks: R. R. July 31, 1814 - D. R. Capt. J. J. Miles Company Feb. 16, and I. R. New Orleans Feb. 28, 1815, present Private. I.R.P. M. Bcks. April 30, 1815. Discharged April 8, 1815 at New Orleans, LA [77497 - A G O].*" This was John Stark of West Baton Rouge Parish and observe he was born in New York and note from the earlier discussion of the 1880 Newton County census records Daniel R. Stark was born in New York as reported by his son William Hawley Stark and daughter Sarah Mariah Stark. The 1850 census for Clark County, Illinois, where Archibald and Asa Stark [Sons of Asahel Stark] would later move from Indiana, reports their birth place as New York. Therefore, these records establish John Stark, Daniel Stark, Archibald Stark, and Asa Stark were all born in New York State.

Probate Record # 199, dated Feb. 23, 1838, was prepared for Sarah Stark in Edger County, Illinois and named the following five heirs; A. C. Stark, Asa Stark, an insane brother of which Asa is the guardian, Mrs. Brezee, and Mrs. Howe. A. C. Stark was Archibald Stark, Asa was Asia Stark, the insane brother was John Stark of Louisiana, Mrs. Brezee was the same Polly Brezee, and Mrs. Howe, was Desire Stark {She married Nathan Howe in 1824}. These are five of the children of Asahel Stark and his wife Sarah mentioned in Asahel's will in 1821 and clearly this document, taken in context with all of the other evidence presented, shows the Louisiana Starks of West Baton Rouge Parish are children of this couple.

Therefore, with a high degree of certainty, it has been established that William Hawley Stark, Sarah Mariah [Stark] Lewis, Prudence Jane [Stark] Herrin, and Asa Lafitte Stark were the children of Daniel R. Stark and Nancy Hawley and their grandparents were Asahel Stark and Sarah Dark. Since Daniel was living in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana in October of 1816, the place of birth of Esahl "Asa" Lafitte Stark was in this location for the family bible of Asa's son, John Lawhorn Stark, gives his date of birth as June 19, 1817.

Asahel Stark documented Links to New York State & Father, Christopher Stark (Junior)

On September 20, 1817, Asahel and Sarah Stark of Penfield, Ontario County, New York, sold to Jesse Adams for \$1,000, land in township 13, region #4, it being part of the Southwest division of Lot #14. Witnesses were Daniel Wilson and Rufus Henrik. On September 30, 1817, "Sarry" Stark was examined separately [Book 29, p. 80]. This property was purchased by Asahel from Robert Bowne of New York, New York in 1813 for \$206.48. Asahel Stark was also listed in the 1813 Penfield Assessment Roll with Real Estate valued at \$203 and taxes of \$0.47. These documents clearly prove one Asahel Stark and his spouse, Sarah, were living in Ontario County, New York prior to their being listed in the 1820 census for Washington County, Indiana.

Sometime between 1810 and 1813, Asahel moved from Caledonia, Genesee County, New York to Ontario County. The 1810 census for Genesee County lists "Asel" Stark. He had 2 sons and three daughters living in the home. He and Sarah were probably the male and female over 45 years old. Sometime between 1807 and 1810, he moved to this area from Onondaga County, probably as a result of a Law Suit brought against him and his son, Jasper Stark. At about the same time, Daniel R. Stark purchased land March 28, 1809, located in Genesee County, probably soon after his marriage to Nancy Hawley, the Hawley family recorded as living close by when Asahel was living in Onondaga County. This would seem to show there was a Asahel Stark and Daniel R. Stark living in Genesee County at about the same time.

Researcher Sharon Reck's publication entitled, "*The Descendants of Christopher Stark*", reveals, "By the 1800 census, 'Asel' Starks was living in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York with 7 sons [5 between 10 and 26] and three daughters. Jasper Starks was nearby in the town of Fabius, age 16-26. Jasper may have been the oldest son reported in the 1790 census. Jan. 1, 1800 Edward Lounsberry of Ulster Co., NY, gentleman, sold to William Stark of Manlius 200 acres, part of lot 24 in Homer, witnessed by William Mitchell and John R. Stark. [From Deed Book, p. 266-9] In May 1802, Asahel Stark of Manlius purchased 200 acres of land lying in Cicero, Onondaga County, NY, the south part of Lot 73, and on May 22, he added the north 300 acres of Lot 73. On January 22, 1805, Asahel Stark of Cicero, sold to Joseph Hosley, Jr. of Sullivan, Chenango Co., NY, 50 acres of land, and on March 6, 1807, Jasper Stark and his wife, Betsy, sold Asahel Stark 146 acres for \$650 lying in Cicero and being part of Lot 73. This was land that had been previously deeded 'by Asahel and Sarah, his wife, to said Jasper together with one fourth part of a mill seat against said land as was previously deeded to said Jasper.' This last transaction was witnessed by John R. Stark and Benjamin Hosley. From Book G, p. 398, 'Elijah Phillips, Esq., Sheriff of Onondaga by writ of testatum fieri facias from the Supreme Court of NY 3 Aug 1807 against Jasper and Asahel Stark at the suit of James Knopp for \$260 plus \$29.56 damages. Sheriff had sold at public venture Lot 73 in Twp. of Cicero for \$40 to Thaddeus M. Wood and Geo. Hall, highest bidders.'"

From this paragraph, Asahel probably had sons named Jasper Stark, William Stark and John R. Stark. The nature of these transactions suggests William and John R. Stark were born before 1779 because they would have had to be twenty-one years old to participate in signing the instruments presented. John R. Stark served in the War of 1812 and enlisted when he was 32 years old in the year 1814 which would establish his year of birth as 1782. However, it may be possible John R. Stark was older than reported in Louisiana, because if he was twenty-one years old in 1800, when he was a witness to William Stark's purchase of land, then he would have also been born before 1779. The 1820 Census for West Baton Rouge Parish, LA records William was in the age range of 26-45 placing his birth between the years 1775 and 1794. If he was near the age of 45, then he could be this William Stark. If John and William were born during the years estimated, then they were born in New York. Also, we find Asahel owned property in Cicero, Onondaga County, NY, the same location of property bequeathed to Sarah Stark by "Ashel" Stark in his 1821 Washington County, Indiana will. It would seem very likely this family living in New York is the same family found living in Indiana.

Asahel & Sarah Stark in Pittstown, Albany County, New York

In the 1790 census for Pittstown, Albany County, New York, list Asahel Stark and William Stark [Most Likely Asahel's brother later found living next to Asahel in Penfield, Ontario County, New York] as neighbors of Jonathan Price. Others living close by are Jonathan and Timothy Fuller, the Gifford's, Israel and William Shepherd, and William Richard. All of these individuals had lived in Dutchess County, New York prior to the Revolutionary War. These names, living so close to Asahel, would appear to provide a link to Dutchess County for both William and Asahel Stark, for these families also are related in various ways too complicated to unravel in this text.

The text, "*New York In The Revolution as Colony and State*", Volume I, published in 1904, is a compilation of documents and records from the office of the State Comptroller of New York. On page 125 was listed, "*The Militia - Albany County, Fourteenth Regiment*". Listed as officers are Lieut. Colonel John Van Rensselaer, Colonel Peter Yates, and others. Shown as enlisted men on page 127 are Asel Stark, Christopher Stark, Christopher Stark, Jr., Asahel Start, Christopher Start, and William Start. The Start spelling for these similar given names were most likely the same persons and were really Asahel Stark, William Stark, and Christopher Stark, Jr., serving in the 14th Regiment. Page 235 of this text reports John Stark, William Stark, and Asahel Stark served in the Fourteenth Regiment, Albany County Militia and received Land Bounty Rights of 500 acres.

The Militia Regiments could only be called out of state for three months and were usually designated by the Colonel's name followed by the County name such as, "Rensselaer's Regiment of the Fourteenth, Albany County". The name of the Colonel was usually found to be sufficient to identify the Regiment. Pay was not always in money and timely or regular. As late as 1784, a large majority of soldiers were still unpaid for their services from 1776 through 1782. On April 27, 1784, the New York legislature passed, "*An act for the settlement of the pay of the Levies and Militia for their services in the late war.*" After certifying the pay of individuals in the various Regiments, the treasurer of the State was required to issue to persons to whom pay was due, or their legal representatives, certificates of indebtedness bearing five percent interest on such certificates. These certificates provided researcher, Sharon Reck, with documentation which revealed the probable relationship of Asahel Stark, William Stark, and John Stark to their father Christopher Stark, Jr. and their possible relationship to others serving in the 14th Regiment of the Albany County Militia.

From the Revolutionary War Period Records (Referred to as RWPR in the rest of this text), Roll M859, will be found Manuscripts #12071 and #12072 which state: 1] Manu #12071; "*28 Feb. 1785 to Col. John Rensselaer. Please to deliver to the bearer, William Stark, the notes that is due to Christopher Stark for his Militia wages and you will oblige your friend. Signed Susanna (Her Mark) Stark; Witnesses William Gifford, John Gifford.*" 2] Manu #12072; "*11 Jan. 1786, Col. John Van Rensselaer. Sir please pay the bearer, William Starke, all the wages due to Christopher Starke, Jr. for service done in your Regiment and this order shall be your discharge for the same for me. Signed Susanna (Her Mark) Stark, Witness Israel Shepard.*"

Sharon Reck did further research on the names mentioned in these documents and revealed her findings in her notes which stated; "*William & John Gifford were brothers. John Gifford was born 27 Aug. 1760 in Dutchess County, New York, living at Cambridge, Washington, NY at enlistment. Later he lived with a brother at Pittstown, NY. In 1790 there was Jabez, Benjamin, John, and Joseph Gifford, sons of Benjamin Gifford and Abigail Wing. Mary Gifford, born in 1744, who married Timothy Fuller, could have been a sister to these Gifford men. The Fuller's daughter, Mehitable Fuller married William Starks. Timothy Fuller and Mary Gifford lived in Pittstown, NY in 1790. Israel Shepard was born in 1746 in Plainfield, Windham, Connecticut. He and brother, William Shepard fought with the 14th Albany County Militia with Asahel, Chris, and William Stark. He also fought in Douty's Vermont Regiment with Christopher Stark, Jonathan Price, and Asahel Stark. Israel Shepard and brother, Daniel, both married in 1766 in Amelia, Dutchess County, NY. Israel is also found in the Pittstown 1790 census.*"

These relationships are important and note William Stark was to receive the notes or certificates for Christopher Stark on behalf of Susanna Stark. One note clearly refers to Christopher as Junior suggesting this could be Christopher Stark, Jr., son of Christopher Stark, Sr. who died in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania in 1777. Susanna was to receive these notes due to Christopher, who must have been deceased at the time of this request. Therefore, Susanna Stark must have been the widowed spouse of Christopher and William Stark was most likely the son of Christopher and Susanna.

Revolutionary War Records show Lieutenant Christopher Stark and "Ashel Stark" were on the payroll of Capt. William Shepard's Company, Col. Cornelius Douty's Regiment, in a Regiment of Foot, of the State of Vermont, from the 1st day of August to the 4th day of August, 1781, in the "Alarm at Saratoga." They were, most probably, a Militia Company from New York assigned to Vermont for 4 days during this crisis. Many of those living in Pittstown in the 1790 census, appear on this pay voucher, suggesting these men were from New York, and not Vermont, further supporting their temporary assignment to the above mentioned Vermont Regiment.

William Stark, probably Asahel Stark's brother, prepared a Revolutionary War Pension in which he declared he lived in Pittstown, New York, his place of enlistment in May of 1780, and served in the Levis under Col. Harper. The term "Levis" was used for military units having men drafted from the County Militia Regiments, from the population of young men not in a militia unit. Levis Regiments served inside and outside the state for periods longer than the three months they usually served in the local militia regiments. William Stark married Mehitable Fuller, hence the possible relationship to the Fullers mentioned previously. To further suggest Susanna could have been married to Christopher, Jr. the 1951 research of Jennie McKee of Greensburg, Indiana, found that on May 24, 1781, Susanna Stark was a member of the Congregational Church of New Concord, Town of Chatham, Columbia County, NY. This town is located in the Oblong adjacent to the Beekman Patent.

If the above suggests Christopher and Susanna were husband and wife, and the mentioned William was a son, is there evidence Asahel Stark was a son of this couple. RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #12051 may provide the link for it says, "*8 Jun 1786. Col. Yates, please to let the bearer, Ashel Starke, have my sale notes and I will oblige. Your friend and humble servant. Signed Jonathan Price; Witnesses John Price, Jr., Samuel Price.*" Jonathan Price was one of the men listed in the "Alarm at Saratoga" payroll with Christopher Stark and Ashel Stark and appears under Asahel's name in this document. These two documents would seem to show there is a relationship between Christopher, Asahel, and now Jonathan Price.

RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #14370 provides another connection to Dutchess County, New York for Asahel Stark. This record states, "*Warrens Bush 27 May 1785. Col. Volkert Vader. Sir, please to pay all my Militia wages due to me, Jeremiah Burch, for my service during the late war in Col. Frederick Fisher's Reg. of Militia in Capt. Joseph Yomens Company or sum others to Gilbert Roseboom Berry and this shall be your discharge four yours to serve. Signed Jeremiah (His Mark) Burch; Witness Asahel Starke*" According to the research of Sharon Reck, "*Jeremiah Burch was born 1749 in Dutchess., NY and married 29 July 1773 in Dutchess County, Patty Pringle. His grandfather, Jeremiah Burch, was from New London, CT.*"

However, RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #12070, dated 11 Jan., 1786 was the most revealing document suggesting Asahel, Christopher, and William were related for it says, "*Col. John Van Rensselaer, Sir please to let William Stark have the certificates that you have for me for my service done in the Militia and this order shall be your re sate for the sums. Signed Asel Stark; Witness Zacock Scribner.*" This document and #12071 from above, clearly provides proof William Stark was sent to pick up the pay of both Christopher and Asahel and from the above analysis of the pay vouchers, Christopher, Jr. was most likely the father Asahel Stark and William Stark. The evidence provided in these documents also suggest Christopher Stark, Jr. was married to a spouse with the given name Susanna and he probably died between the years 1781 and 1785.

Could the above mentioned John also be a son of Christopher? RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #5794 records, "25 April 1781. To Lieut. Peaks. Sir be pleased to pay to my honored father on his order three months wages which is due to me - it being for value received as witness my hand this 25 April 1781. Signed John (His Mark) Stark, Witness Timothy Price, William Richardson." Sharon Reck's notes on this document provide some insight to who John's honored father may have been and state, "With this manuscript was a folded & torn piece of paper which may have been an envelope. On the outside it read; John Starks order 1 or 0 107, James Wail Ja???, Sr., and Christopher Stark. There were Lt. James & Jacob Peck in the Levis under Col. Dubois. Timothy Price lived in Pittstown, NY at the time of his enlistment. A brother, John Price, made affidavit for Timothy's pension in 1832. A Jonathan Price lived between Asahel & Wm. Stark in Pittstown, NY in 1790. Wm. Richardson & Timothy Price fought in the Levis under Col. Dubois with Aaron Stark, Jonathan Stark, Henry Stark, John Stark, & Zadock Scriber. Zadock Scriber also fought in the 14th Albany, Yates Regiment of NY Militia."

If Sharon's analysis is correct, then John's father, Christopher Stark was to pick up the three months pay of his son. Sharon Reck further speculated Susanna Stark was the daughter of William Price, originally on the Beekman lease Christopher bought from Henry Carey. Considerable documentation exists showing there was a close relationship between the Price and Stark families. The 1790 Census for Pittstown does list Jonathan Price between Asahel Stark and William Stark and Jonathan did serve with them in the Revolutionary War. Sharon's research suggested John Price, Sr. had sons name John Price, Jr., Jonathan Price, and possibly Timothy Price and John Price (Senior) was Susanna Stark's brother. Although the above doesn't indicate with certainty the relationship of Christopher, William, Asahel, and John Stark, it would not seem improbable they are related and Asahel Stark, John Stark, and William Stark are children of Christopher Stark, Jr. and Susanna (Perhaps Price) Stark.

Sharon Reck's conclusions, based on the New York military records and the 1790 census were, "I believe Christopher Stark, Jr. was the father of Asahel, William, probably the Nathan Stark who fought with William in Harper's Regiment, and John [who also later lived in Penfield, Ontario County, New York near Asahel and William and subsequently moved to Clermont County, Ohio]; Susannah was probably Christopher's wife. It's clear that many of their friends were from Dutchess County, New York."

By 1758, Christopher Stark, Sr. of Groton, New London County, Connecticut, married to Joanna Walworth, had divested himself of all of his property in Connecticut. January 27, 1758, he sold the land east of Fort Hill to Nathan Niles and probably sold all of his Connecticut property as preparations were being made to move to the Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, near present day Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania around 1756. Because of the French & Indian War, Christopher, Sr. and his family made a decision, probably in 1756-58, to move to Dutchess County, New York and become tenants on the Beekman Patent until the war ended. James Stark, Christopher, Sr.'s son, may have moved to Dutchess County sometime in 1758 for the text, "Aaron Stark Family, Seven Generations", by Charles R. Stark, reports he married Elizabeth Cary that year, daughter of the Reverend Henry Carey, one of the earliest ministers of Dutchess County.

Most likely, Christopher Stark (Junior) received a lease in the Beekman Patent May 1, 1759 in Lot #4 consisting of 341 acres, although we cannot discount the possibility he was Christopher Stark (Senior). It was the sixth farm in Lot #4, located Northeast of the present village of Pawling. The lease originally belonged to William Cooper along with William Price, John Price and Sarah Price beginning May 1, 1740. William Price then assigned the lease to Henry Cary for 120 pounds March 30, 1751 who then assigned it to Christopher for 200 pounds on the above date. [Reck, Sharon, Article titled, "Descendants of Christopher Stark". Reck37719@aol.com] Named on the lease with Christopher Stark (Junior) was William Stark and Azell Stark. The landlord usually rented the land to an individual and two others in the same family, sometimes a wife and son or daughter, sometimes to brothers but almost always for "three lives." William may have been Christopher Stark (Junior) younger brother who would have been about fourteen years old at that time. From the Manlius, Onondaga County, New York census records of 1800, will be found a "Asel" Stark reported to be over 45 years of age that could be the "Azell" named on the lease.

Conclusions

Therefore, we have shown Asahel was most likely the son of Christopher Stark (Junior) and until about 1817, had lived his life in New York. We see there were New York land transactions revealing the names of his sons Jasper, William, John R., Daniel R., all occurring near locations in New York where Asahel was living at the time. From our earlier documentation, we have seen William, John R. and Daniel Stark of West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, were brothers and sons of Asahel, making them the grandsons of Christopher Stark (Junior). From all of the documentation shown in this Chapter, sufficient proof exists to conclude with a high degree of confidence, the Newton County Stark siblings described in the beginning of this text are descended from their great-grandfather, Christopher Stark (Junior), who was the son of Christopher Stark (Senior) of Groton, New London County, Connecticut, who was the son of the Baptist, William Stark (Senior) of the same County and State, who was the son of Indian Fighter Aaron Stark of Connecticut who migrated from England about 1636 to New England. The Chapters that follow will develop these relationships in more detail.



Baroness Frederika von Diesedel & American General Phillip Schuyler (Handsome man in Below Account)
From Baroness Diary on events after Surrender of British General Burgoyne; Battle of Saratoga

The baroness, in the simple language of her narrative, thus bears testimony to the generous courtesy of the American officers, and to the true nobility of character of General Schuyler in particular: "My husband sent a message to me to come over to him with my children. I seated myself once more in my dear caleche, and then rode through the American camp. As I passed on I observed, and this was a great consolation to me, that no one eyed me with looks of resentment, but they all greeted us, and even showed compassion in their countenances at the sight of a woman with small children. I was, I confess, afraid to go over to the enemy, as it was quite a new situation to me. When I drew near the tents a handsome man approached and met me, *took my children from the caleche, and hugged and kissed them, which affected me almost to tears.* 'You tremble,' said he, addressing himself to me; 'be not afraid.' 'No,' I answered, 'you seem so kind and tender to my children, it inspires me with courage.' He now led me to the tent of General Gates, where I found Generals Burgoyne and Phillips, who were on a friendly footing with the former. Burgoyne said to me, 'Never mind; your sorrows have now an end.' I answered him that I should be reprehensible to have any cares, as he had none; and I was pleased to see him on such friendly footing with General Gates. All the generals remained to dine with General Gates.

"The same gentleman who received me so kindly now came and said to me, 'You will be very much embarrassed to eat with all these gentlemen; *come with your children to my tent, where I will prepare for you a frugal dinner, and give it with a free will.*' I said, 'You are certainly a husband and a father, you have shown me so much kindness.'

Chapter 2 Historical Introduction American Revolution in Up State New York

Author's Introduction

Christopher Stark (Junior), well documented by the Groton, New London County, Connecticut records to be the son of Christopher Stark (Senior) and Joanna Walworth, was living in Dutchess County, New York by 1759 and appears to be documented as living in this County as late as 1770. However, records on Christopher (Junior) become more difficult to find after 1770, which has caused many researchers to mistakenly believe he was the Christopher Stark of Kentucky who married Martha Vineyard. Later research has suggested the Kentucky Christopher was actually a son of Jonathan Stark and Sarah Lacock; and a grandson of William Stark (Junior) and Experience Lamb. Jonathan and Christopher (Junior) were cousins and grandsons of William Stark (Senior) of Groton, New London County, Connecticut.

The family of Christopher Stark (Junior), was living in and around Albany County, New York before, during, and after the Revolutionary War, and overlooked by the early research of the Aaron Stark's descendants, this organizational error greatly influenced by the research of Charles R. Stark and Walter O. Shriver. Military Records have shown the Christopher Stark who married Martha Vineyard served in the Washington County, Pennsylvania Militia during the Revolutionary War.

The evidence linking Asahel Stark to his father, Christopher Stark (Junior) and brothers, William, Nathan, and John, has been found to be circumstantial and primarily dependent on Revolutionary War Records from New York which were carefully researched by Stark family researcher, Sharon Reck. Her sources of material on these individuals comes from New York State Revolutionary War Pay Vouchers, Pension Applications, and the 1904 publication, "*New York In the Revolution As Colony and State*," compiled by the State Comptrollers Office.

To appreciate the importance of these military records, one must understand the organization of military forces in New York which were divided into three classifications. The "New York Line Regiments" were under the command of General Washington. Many regiments of artillery and an organization of "Green Mountain Boys" from Vermont were Line Regiments. The "New York Levies Regiments" consisted of men drafted from different militia regiments for a usual time duration of nine months and their members could be drafted from the population as well. These regiments and the men serving in them could be called outside the State of New York for the duration of their tour of duty. The "New York Militia Regiments" consisted of men prepared to be called to service when needed locally and then allowed to return home at the conclusion of the emergency. As the following will reveal, many men served in each of these military units and can be found serving in any one of the three classifications and even recorded several times as different individuals because they served in more than one of these classifications.

Each County was divided into districts and a Colonel was assigned as the Regimental Commander. These Commanders were given almost unlimited jurisdiction in all district military matters and required to see that every male between the ages of sixteen and fifty were enrolled and prepared for military service on a moments notice. [the upper limit raised to sixty later in the war] and could be fined or imprisoned if he was not prepared when "warned of a call to arms." When called, the enlisted soldier was to present himself armed, with a blanket, powder-horn and flint, and sometimes with a tomahawk and all of the officers of the cities of New York, Albany, and Schenectady were fined twenty shillings for not wearing their swords during divine service.

Pay for military service was not always timely and not always in money. As late as 1784, the large majority of soldiers from New York still had not been paid for their services from 1776 through 1782. On April 27, 1784, the New York legislature passed "An act for the settlement of the pay of the Levies and Militia for their services in the late war." This New York State act provided that abstracts and pay-rolls of the different regiments and separate commands should be certified by the State auditor. Upon receipt of these accounts from the auditor, the State Treasurer was then required to issue certificates of indebtedness bearing five percent interest to persons due pay for their services in the war. From the years 1784 to 1786, our ancestors were issued these certificates, the content of which reveal the Regiments they served in and their possible family relationships.

In 1781, a bounty of "Land Rights" [a "Right" being 500 acres] was offered to officers and men of Militia Regiments which provided men for Line and Levies Regiments. By an act of April 1, 1778, each Militia Regiment was divided into "classes" of fifteen men each. When soldiers were needed for the Line Regiments, each class of men was to provide a man from their ranks fully armed and equipped to serve within nine days and if they were unable to select a man, their designated officer would then draft one of the fifteen by lot. An act passed March 11, 1780 divided every regiment into classes of 35 men and the process of choosing a man needed for the Line or Levies was much the same.

If a "class" furnished a man as the law required, it received a money bounty, sometimes as much as 80 pounds. However, as the war progressed and the needs of the government became more pressing, land "rights" were added to the money Bounty and on March 23, 1782 an act was passed providing any "class" or person who furnished an able-bodied man to serve "for three years or during the war" should be entitled to 600 acres, 350 acres for two years of service, and if any person or "Class" who delivered a man within twenty days from the time of notification, 200 acres extra. Therefore, many of our ancestors were granted "Land Bounty Rights" which have also revealed the Regiments and possible relationships they may have had during the Revolutionary War.

The Mohawk River Valley of New York During the Revolutionary War Years

The Mohawk River Valley was the scene of many skirmishes between New York Regiments and British Loyalist and their Indian Allies. After the British captured New York City and Long Island early in the Revolutionary War, they developed a strategy to divide the Colonies by capturing the Hudson River Valley in 1777 but battles won by General John Stark [Not related to our ancestors] of New Hampshire at Saratoga, New York and Bennington, Vermont, changed the course of the War for both the British and the Colony of New York.

After the British were defeated by General Stark, they developed a plan to attack communities along the Colonial Frontiers, using Indian Allies and Tory Loyalist, which would pressure the Army of Washington to send his Line Regiments to the frontiers to protect the citizens. One of the first actions utilizing this strategy was the Wyoming Valley Massacre of July 3, 1778. In November, Tory Captain Walter Butler, brother of the notorious Tory Colonel John Butler who commanded the British forces at the Wyoming Valley Massacre, attacked communities in the Cherry Valley, located about 50 miles west of Albany, New York with similar results. These two incidents pressured the Continental Congress to take measures to protect citizens living on the Colonial frontiers. However, General Washington could not and did not immediately send troops to these regions. Their protection fell on the local Militia and more permanent Levies Regiments which would be called out many times over the course of the next four years. Our ancestors would be participants, especially those living in and around Albany County.

In the spring of 1779, steps were taken by the New York State Legislature to provide a force of one thousand men to protect the frontier. These men were drafted from the New York Militia Regiment "Classes" of fifteen men as defined by the April 1, 1778 act discussed above and they were to continue to serve until the following January and were provided the same pay and rations as the Continental army. While this force of men was being gathered, the Continental Congress, realizing the seriousness of the situation, decided to address the frontier problem and ordered General Washington to begin a campaign aimed at not only checking the raids, but that would bring total destruction and devastation on the raiders settlements and would capture or kill as many of the enemy as possible. This task was given to General Sullivan, who was to proceed with a Division of 2,500 men to the Wyoming Valley from Eastern Pennsylvania and attack north up the Susquehanna River. From the North, General James Clinton, brother of Governor George Clinton of New York, with a force of 1,600 men, was to proceed south down the Susquehanna River from Lake Otsego [located about 50 miles west of Albany, New York], joining up with Sullivan at Tioga Point.

General Clinton's men, under the direction of Henry Glen, began to prepare and assemble the 1600 man force at Schenectady, New York. Schenectady was chosen for the preparations rather than Canajoharie [Located on the Mohawk River just 15 miles from the North shore of Lake Otsego] because there were no storehouses at Canajoharie and further because it was felt that at Schenectady there would be less likelihood of there being an attack before the preparations were complete. On May 28th, General Clinton reported to Washington that a quantity of provision had been successfully collected and one hundred batteaux [Boats] assembled ready to be loaded on the shortest notice.[1] On June 15, General Clinton reported that the one hundred boats at Schenectady had been loaded and were already on their way up the Mohawk. *"I have ordered one hundred more boats to be had in readiness immediately," continues the report, "as the Genl. has ordered me to embark all the Troops, and take no P. Horses."*[1]

Under the direction of the Schenectady County, New York Committee of Safety and under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Yates, many of the Schenectady militia and volunteers were employed in the embarkation of Clinton's brigade. Some of these men voluntarily accompanied the division on its march to join Sullivan, assisted in cutting the road through to Otsego Lake, and assisted in the erection of the dam necessary to transfer the batteaux to the Susquehanna River. Captain Garret Putman with a few men from the Third Battalion of the Tryon County Militia joined General Clinton as volunteers under Colonel John Harper and shortly afterwards Captain Putman was appointed second in command of the volunteers.[2,3] They were involved in all the skirmishes and the Battle of Newtown which was fought on August 29th of 1779.

Sullivan's campaign began in July of 1779, and with most of the objectives accomplished, concluded by September of 1779. However, soon after the conclusion of Sullivan's campaign, reports began to arrive in Albany of murders committed by roving bands of Indians. On October 25, 1779, Colonel Van Dyck, writing from Fort Schuyler, reported a plan by the "British Regulars" to lay siege to that post while their Indian allies were to destroy *"the Country down as far as Schenectady."*[4] While the reported plan did not mature, sufficient alarm was caused to warrant the militia to be kept almost constantly on duty during the fall of 1779, with men from Colonel Wemple's regiment forming part of the garrison of many of the forts to the westward along the Mohawk River and acting as guards for the farmers in the vicinity while they gathered their harvests.[5]

In February of 1780, hostilities in the Mohawk Valley flared again when a small band of the enemy attacked German Flats, a settlement to the north of Palatine in March; followed by a raid by Brant's men on Harperfield in April.

1) Letter from James Clinton to Washington from Albany, dated May 28, 1779. Source Washington Papers, Library of Congress.

2) From the Publication by James F. Morrison titled, *"A Brief History of the Third Battalion."*

3) Colonel John Harper commanded a regiment of New York Levies, probably consisting of many men selected in the 1,000 man New York draft described above.

4) Near present day Rome, New York on the Mohawk River. Was also known as Fort Stanwix before being renamed Fort Schuyler. Many Revolutionary War pension applications use both names for this Fort.

5) Source 11: Public Papers of George Clinton, Volume V, pages 330 & 365.: Public Papers of George Clinton, Volume V, pages 330 & 365. Source 2: Pension Office Records; Daniel McMichael, S 13885; Richard Van Vranken, S 11623; Matthew DeGarmo, S 23599; Gerrit Schermerhorn, S 14422; John DeGraff, S 15090; George Passage, R 7889.

Although the raids only caused minor loss of life and property, they served to reinforced rumors larger raids were planned for the frontier regions. By May of 1780, depreciation of Continental currency was making it difficult to purchase supplies for the frontier garrisons and the settlers provisions were becoming low, making it difficult for the civilian and military troops living on the frontier. Many settlements were being abandoned causing Colonel Van Schaick to declare Schenectady would soon be the western frontier unless some speedy and effectual measures were taken to inspire the despondent people with confidence.[1]

On the morning of May 22, 1780, British troops commanded by Sir John Johnson struck on the Mohawk River at Tribes Hill with a large force of Indians and Loyalist. From Tribes Hill, he proceeded westward "*burning the Houses and Barns of the Inhabitants and putting to Death every Male capable of bearing arms.*"[2] "*Collo. Fisher is mortally wounded,*" reported Colonel John Harper from Johnstown on the same day, "*and his two brothers killed, [and] old Mr. Douw Fonda with seven others.*"[3]

The Schenectady Militia under Colonel Wemple "on the first alarm" began it's march to the area but was forced to turn back because of a lack of provisions. They then pulled back to Johnstown and joined the troops at Fort Hunter under the command of Colonel John Harper's Regiment of Levies and others under Colonel Volkert Vedder.[6] This combined force of 450 men prepared to engage Sir John if he decided to press his attack further east towards Schenectady. Although Sir John' force outnumbered the American troops by two to one, he chose to withdraw to the safety of Canada, eluding troops sent to intercept him by Governor George Clinton. Many Tories had joined Sir John Johnson during his raid, and after his withdrawal, many small bands from Albany and Tryon counties left to join the enemy, many of whom began to assemble at Beavertdam, which was reported to the Schenectady Safety Committee on July 18, 1780. Militia troops were called to meet this threat, but the main body of these men were warned and they dispersed before they could be captured.

Late in July of 1780, the British Commander, Joseph Brant, launched an attack against Fort Schuyler [also called Fort Stanwix] in an attempt to draw Militia forces away from Canajoharie [located 50 miles east of Fort Schuyler on the Mohawk River], which was the actual British objective. The British had advanced to a position near Canajoharie by moving up the Unadilla and Susquehanna Rivers and attacked August 2, 1780 as Brant withdrew from Fort Schuyler.

The Albany County Militia and Schenectady militia, who had turned out with cheerful promptness under orders previously given, had just gone into camp at Caughnawaga opposite Mr. Frey's at about eleven o'clock on the morning of the second when they saw heavy smoke "*between John Abeails and Fort Plank about four miles distant.*"[5] In a dispatch to General Ten Broeck, Colonel Wemple reported: "*Instantly I did order both Regiments to be formed and proceed against the Enemy, who were at that time in their full Carear and tho our Numbers were not equal, yet I can assure you I should be void of Justice if I omitted mentioning their Prudence and cool behavior without Distinction to all Raneks. An altho they had been in full march since early in the morning they came up with such Vigor that the Enemy on our approach gave way & tho in sight we had no opportunity to give them Battle they retired in the usual way.*"[6] In another section of the report, Wemple wrote "*Such a Scean as we beheld since we left the River, passing dead Bodies of Men & Children most cruelly murdered, is not possible to be described. I cannot ascertain at present the Number of poor Inhabitants killed and missing but believe the Loss considerable as the People were all at work in the Fields ... Some Persons pretend to say not less than one hundred dwelling House are burnt.*"

On August 21, 1780 Colonel Goose Van Schaick, writing to General Washington from Albany, confirmed the details of the withdrawal of Brant from Fort Schuyler and of the attack on Canajoharie. "*From thence,*" continued the letter, "*they returned towards the Susquehanna, & in a few days after made a Descent on Schohary; here they burnt twelve Houses, & have by information taken and killed a larger number of the Inhabitants than at the former place, & it is expected the remainder of Schohary will share the same fate. The Indians are seen daily in small parties, & take prisoners & Scalps. Schenectady is threatened & the Inhabitants are moving their effects to Albany with all dispatch seeing no appearance of support, & numbers going off to the enemy daily.*"[7]

In England, Riverton's Royal Gazette told of the successful progress of the expedition. "*The Indians have laid waste the whole country,*" reads its issue of September 23, 1780, "*the Tory houses excepted, down to Schenectady, where some rebels are at work throwing up works to oppose the progress of the British troops and our Indian allies. The rebel women and children have retired to Albany.*"[8]

1) Colonel Van Schaick's letter to Governor George Clinton, May 17, 1780. Public Papers of George Clinton, Vol. V, page 715. He expressed the same view to General Washington a few days later. Washington Papers, Library of Congress.

2) Tribes Hill is near Present day Fonda, New York. During the Revolutionary War,, present day Fonda was known as Caughnawaga.

3) Source 11:Frederick Visscher (Fisher), a colonel in the Tryon County Militia. He had removed his family to Schenectady for safety's sake a few days before. Having been brought down by a tomahawk, scalped and left for dead by the raiders he subsequently recovered consciousness and managed to escape from the burning house he had so gallantly helped to defend. With the aid of a Negro slave belonging to one of the neighbors Colonel Visscher managed to reach friends, who at once sent him to Schenectady by canoe. Here he received medical attention and subsequently recovered from his wounds. Source 2: Public Papers of George Clinton, V, 737. Source 3: John and Harman. They with Colonel Visscher were the sole defenders of the family homestead where the attack occurred. Source 4: He had removed from Schenectady and settled at Caughnawaga (Fonda) about the year 1751. An account of his murder may be found in Jephtha R. Simms, *Frontiersmen of New York*, II, 339.

4) Fort Hunter Located about nine miles southeast from Johnstown on the east side of Scholarie Creek where it enters the Mohawk River.

5) Caughnawaga known today as Fonda, New York.

6) Public Papers of George Clinton, VI, 80.

7) Washington Papers, Library of Congress. Quoted from the Willis T. Hanson, Jr. publication (See Bibliography).

8) Franklin B. Hough, "*The Northern Invasion of October, 1780*", p. 81. Quoted from the Willis T. Hanson, Jr. publication.

Reports from General Van Rensselaer's scouts were received in Albany by the end of August, 1780, indicating Sir John Johnson was preparing to strike between Fort Schuyler and Oneida, New York at a place called Stone Arabia. On this news, Van Rensselaer moved his headquarters to Schenectady to better oppose his forces in the event there was an attack further west on the Mohawk River. On October 12, 1780, word reached Albany that on the eighth Sir John Johnson, Butler, and Brant had commenced attacks on the eighth of October west of Schenectady while forces commanded by British Commander, Major Christopher Carleton, had attacked and captured Fort Ann north of Albany and were threatening to take Fort George.[1]

On the night of October 16, 1780, the settlement of Ballston was attacked by a detachment of Major Carleton's division consisting of British regulars, Tories and Indians commanded by Major John Munro, a former merchant of Schenectady. It is believed that the original intention of the enemy was to surprise Schenectady but the element of surprise was lost due to Militia scouts reporting their presence. The Northern force decided to proceed no further than Ballston for fear they would meet superior numbers of Militia.

Simultaneous with the attack by Munro at Ballston, Sir John Johnson, approaching from the west of Schenectady, attacked a series of three Forts near present day Middleburg, New York. The upper fort was quickly captured and after an attempt to get the middle fort to surrender, it was by passed. The Johnson force then burned and pillaged their way through the countryside as they continued their attacks, eventually camping six miles below the lower fort which they had also by passed during the days fighting.

On October 17, 1780, word reached General Van Rensselaer in Albany of the attack of Sir John and he proceeded to Schenectady with any troops he could rally to the cause. On October 18, Van Rensselaer left Schenectady and proceeded west up the Mohawk Valley. On the morning of October 19, Colonel Brown, commander of Fort Kayser, left the post with 130 men to join Van Rensselaer but was surprised by Sir John's forces, and outnumbered seven to one, disastrously defeated.[2,3] General Van Rensselaer was apprised of the enemy's whereabouts and of the defeat of Colonel Brown and in the afternoon, overtaking the enemy, he forced the engagement known as the battle of Klock's Field. Sir John and his forces, unfortunately, were permitted to escape and although General Van Rensselaer was blamed for his failure to follow up on the advantage gained, the Court of Inquiry convened for the purpose of investigating his action not only wholly exonerated him, but declared that his conduct "*was not only unexceptional, but such as became a good, active, faithful, prudent and spirited officer.*"[4]

By the spring of 1781, there was wide spread discouragement and apprehension among the population because of the raids by the British and their allies. Furnishing supplies to the many Forts along the Mohawk River was becoming increasingly more difficult which caused many desertions from the militia ranks and the Continental Congress was slow to reimburse for goods and supplies. The area was a prime target for invasion with the militia low on both arms and ammunition. As defeat of the Continental Armies appeared possible, the number of Tories available to the British for their armies appeared to be increasing.

Throughout the spring of 1781, there were many minor skirmishes with small bands of Indians and rumors persisted that larger attacks were imminent. In June, Colonel Marinus Willett took over command of the levies troops raised for the defense of the frontiers and with wisdom and skill, justified the confidence placed in him. The lower part of the Mohawk Valley around Schenectady was practically free of large scale incursions by the enemy and the frontier areas further west on the Mohawk River only experienced minor attacks due to Willett's aggressive engagement with these small Indian raiding parties.[5]

Late in October, 1781, the enemy again appeared in force south of the valley under Major Ross with about 450 Indians, Regulars, and Tories, advancing north through the Cherry Valley to the Mohawk Valley. This force attacked Warren's Bush located about 20 miles east of Fort Rensselaer. Immediately upon receipt of the news of the raid, Colonel Willett dispatched messengers down the Valley asking the militia to join him, while he himself at once set out in pursuit of the enemy with what forces he could collect. After the engagement at Warren's Bush, Major Ross retired to Johnstown and on October 25, 1781, Colonel Willett engaged the enemy causing them to retreat from the area.

On the evening of October 28th, Colonel Willett, having been reinforced by a band of Oneidas Indians and the militia, started in pursuit of the raiders, subsequently attacking a detail of them on West Canada Creek, killing several, among whom was the notorious Captain Walter Butler, commander of the British forces who participated in the Cherry Valley Massacre.[6] The news of the death of Butler was received in Schenectady with great rejoicing. The Whigs illuminated their houses and the Tories, under threat of being mobbed, were forced to do likewise. With the expedition under Major Ross chased back to Canada, operations on the frontier ended when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, ending the Hostilities.

As will be shown later in this text, Christopher, Asahel, William, Nathan, and John Stark most surely were participants in some of the actions described above. Their participation, suggested by their military documents, clearly shows there was a family named Stark living east of Albany, perhaps even in Vermont, although the evidence to be presented seems to suggest they lived on the New York side of the Hudson River.

1) Public Papers of George Clinton, VI, 288.

2) Fort Kayser was to the north of Palatine Bridge.

3) It is believed during these actions by the British troops of Sir John, Capt. Seth Sherwood, Capt. Harper, and Nathan Stark were taken prisoner.

4) Quoted from the publication by Willis T. Hanson, Jr. (See Bibliography).

5) Lt. Christopher Stark and Asahel Stark were probably called out from August 1 to August 4, serving in Captain William Shepard's Company, assigned for this period of time to Col. Cornelius Douty's Regiment of Foot, State of Vermont. The Pay Roll referred to this as, "the alarm at Saratoga."

6) Included a detachment from Schenectady under Captain Jellis Fonda.

One final event occurred in December of 1781 and January of 1782. The issues that had existed before the war in the New Hampshire Grants located around Bennington, Vermont, resulted in dissention in the Militia Ranks with the possibility of hostilities being renewed between the people of the Vermont Grants and New York. There was an insurrection among the militia in the areas around Bennington and New York Militia Units drawn from Batten Kill and Hoosick, the area around which it is believed our ancestors were residents. On December 1, 1781, the arguments became so intense that an insurrection broke out in the regiments of Colonels John and Henry K. Van Rensselaer. The Regiment of Colonel Peter Yates also became divided over the issue, with residents from Batten Kill and Hoosick taking sides with the people of the Grants.

According to the 1850 publication, "*Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*", Volume I, Chapter XVII, by Benson J. Lossing; "*The insurgent regiments belonged to General Gansevoort's brigade. He heard of the defection on the 5th, and immediately directed Colonels Yates, Van Vechten, and Henry K. Van Rensselaer, whose regiments were the least tainted, to collect such troops as they could, and march to St. Coych, to quell the insurrection. An express was sent to Governor Clinton, at Poughkeepsie, who readily perceived that the movement had its origin among the people of the Grants. With his usual promptness, he ordered the brigade of General Robert Van Rensselaer to the assistance of Gansevoort, and gave the latter all necessary latitude in raising troops for the exigency. Gansevoort repaired to Saratoga, and solicited troops and a field piece from General Stark, who was stationed there. The latter declined compliance, on the plea that his troops were too poorly clad to leave their quarters at that season, and also that he thought it improper to interfere without an order from General Heath, his superior. Governor Chittenden, of the Grants, had just addressed a letter to Stark, requesting him not to interfere; and, as his sympathies were with the Vermonters, that was doubtless the true cause of his withholding aid from Gansevoort. The latter, with what volunteers he could raise, pushed on to St. Coych, where he discovered a motley force of about five hundred men, advancing to sustain the insurgent militia. Having only eighty men with him, Gansevoort retired about five miles, and attempted to open a correspondence with the leaders of the rebellion. He was unsuccessful, and the rebels remained undisturbed. Early in January following [1782], Washington wrote a calm and powerful letter to Governor Chittenden, which had great effect in quelling disturbances there, and no serious consequences grew out of the movement.*"

As we will see, Christopher Stark (Junior), Asahel Stark, and William Stark served in the regiments of Colonel John Van Rensselaer and Peter Yates.

Bibliography

- "New York in the Revolution As Colony And State," 1904 publication.
Hanson, Willis T, Jr.; "A History of Schenectady During the Revolution." Published 1916.
Chapter XV entitled "Steps Taken to Protect the Frontier," pages 90-94.
Chapter XVI: "The Mohawk Valley Laid Waste," pages 95-100.
Chapter XVII: "The Raids on Ballston and the Schoharie Settlements," pages 101-108.
Chapter XIX, "The Raids of 1781," pages 114-120.

Chapter 3 Biography of Christopher Stark, Junior

Christopher Stark, Jr. was born September 27, 1728 in New London County, Connecticut, son of Christopher Stark, Sr. and Joanna Walworth.[1] He died between 1781 and 1785 in probably Albany County, New York.[2] According to the text by Charles R. Stark entitled, "*Aaron Stark Family, Seven Generations*", descendants of Christopher often went by the name of Start and on page 20 lists his children as Aaron, James, b. 1760; William; Johanna, Christopher, and Daniel, but gives no references to the source of this information. There appears to be no proof of any of these children except for a son named William, discussed in the previously in this publication. Some of these names appear to be the result of research that believed Christopher Stark (Junior) married Martha Vineyard and moved to Pennsylvania.. From documents related to leases in the Beekman Patent, we know that this Christopher Stark (Junior) first leased land on May 1, 1759 and continued through 1769 in Beekman and again in Pawling in 1772 when Beekman was divided. At sometime during his tenure from 1759 to perhaps 1772, the names William and "Azel" Stark were added to the lease agreement.[3]

This lease began May 1, 1740 and originally belonged to William Cooper with William, John, and Sarah Price named on the lease. It was described as the 6th farm in lot 4, located northeast of the village of Pawling. William Price assigned this lot to Henry Cary [of Beekman's Fields in Dutchess County] for 120 Pounds on March 30, 1751, which was witnessed by John Price and Thomas Cooper. On February 25th 1759, Henry Cary assigned it to Christopher "Start" for 200 Pounds before witnesses named John Franklin and Zephaniah Eddy, who were neighbors. [4]

The relationship between the Coopers and Prices is not known. However, there was a Price Cooper, probably the son of William Cooper and Unknown Price, involved in the spy case against Solomon Baker, who was convicted in 1781 of having sided with the British. Testimony was taken involving several men lurking in the neighborhood and hiding out in a cave. They were John Warden, Price Cooper, John Start, William Dunbar, and Samuel Tid. Could this be our John Stark? It seems unlikely since he did serve against the British and received Bounty Land for his service. However, Price Cooper also enlisted later at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Solomon Baker was the son of John Baker, born 1722, probably the son of Thomas Baker of Swansea, Massachusetts who came to Dutchess County in 1729. John Baker paid taxes in Beekman from the years 1745 to 1748. If John was the son of Thomas, John's brother was Josiah who married Charity Eddy, who, as Charity Baker, witnessed the sale of land by Robert Millard to Christopher Stark, Sr. in 1758. Zephaniah Eddy witnessed the assignment of the lease in lot 4 to Christopher Stark, Jr. by Henry Cary in 1759.

However, because Christopher's father, Christopher Stark (Senior), also moved to Dutchess County at about the same time, there is a question that must be answered as to which of these men bought the lease. By 1758, we know Christopher, Sr. had divested himself of all of his property in Connecticut when he sold the land east of Fort Hill to Nathan Niles on January 27th, 1758. He probably sold all of his Connecticut property as preparations were being made to move to Pennsylvania for Christopher, Sr. had bought one whole share in the Susquehanna Purchase on May 7, 1754.[5] The purchase of a full share would provide 500 acres of property in the Wyoming Valley, an area located near present day Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on the Susquehanna River. However, the French & Indian War started in 1757 and lasted until 1763, probably delaying plans to move to the Valley until the region was safe for settlement. There was a massacre in the valley by Indians in 1757 which drove many settlers back to Dutchess County and most likely in 1756-58, the family made a decision to move to Dutchess County, New York until the hostilities ended. On July 12, 1758, Robert Millard of Beekman sold 150 acres to Christopher Starks, recorded as "formerly of Groton, County of New London, Colony of Connecticut in New England, yeoman, now of Dutchess County beginning on the line of lots 3 and 4, SW corner of Ralph Woolman, deceased."

The property was bordered on the north by the mountain called Purgatory. Witnesses were Charity Baker and Henry Cary. Henry Cary would have been the same Henry Cary who sold the Beekman Lease to the above Christopher Stark in 1759. Henry was also the father of Elizabeth Cary who would marry James Stark, Christopher, Sr.'s son. This property was later sold to Nathaniel Howland on Oct. 12, 1762 and offers proof it was owned by Christopher Stark, Sr. for the deed is signed by Christopher Stark and his spouse, Johanna Stark. Therefore, it would seem reasonable to believe the Beekman lease was made by Christopher, Sr.'s son of the same name, Christopher Stark, Jr., and this is re-enforced by the names "Azell" and William being added to the lease, probable sons of Christopher Stark, Jr.

1) Source 1: Groton, New London County, Connecticut Vital Records. Source 2 : "*The Aaron Stark Family, Seven Generations*" by Charles R. Stark, published, 1927, page 20.

2) Author's estimate. Reported living in 1781 when he participated in the "Alarm at Saratoga" Aug. 1-4 of that year. In 1785, a Susannah Stark requested the pay of Christopher Stark for service in the Militia which would imply Christopher was deceased by this date. This doesn't agree with the year of death published in the Charles R. Stark text on page 20 which was 1777.

3) "*New York Genealogy & Biography Records*," Volume 117, 1986, page 15. By Frank J. Doherty. States that the landlord usually rented the land to an individual and 2 others in the same family, sometimes a wife and son or daughter, sometimes two brothers, the period of time given refers to the time the first person noted on the lease is listed as a taxpayer in Beekman.

4) "*Settlers of Beekman Patent*", Vol. III, p. 644.

5) The Westmoreland County, Connecticut Deed Records.

Tax list from the region are also revealing. There is a Christopher "Hart" shown paying 3 shillings, and 6 pence in February of 1759. In June of 1759 we find a Christopher Start paid the same amount of tax along with another Start, given name not legible, who paid 10 shillings, 6 pence. Also listed on this June, 1759 list is Aaron Start who paid 3 shillings, 6 pence. The tax record for the Start whose given name we cannot determine is described as "on the farm of Robt. Miller." This would seem to be the Robert Millard from whom Christopher Stark, Sr. bought property in July of 1758 making it likely this Start is probably Christopher Stark, Sr. Therefore, by June of 1759, we would seem to have fairly positive proof there were two men named Christopher Start/Stark living in Dutchess County on two different pieces of property.[1]

Based on the tax amounts paid, the tax records further reveal that Christopher Stark, Sr. paid four shillings in February of 1760. Also paying in February was "Aron" Stark, most likely the son of Christopher, Sr. In June of the same year, Christopher Start again paid the tax.[2] In 1765, the tax list show Christopher Start, Jr., the Junior clearly describing this individual, paid 5 shillings, and 10 pence. In 1766, a Christopher Stark paid a tax of 1 shilling, the amount indicating this was probably Christopher Stark, Sr. In 1768, we find that there is a Christopher Start who paid 14 shillings, and 7 pence and his son, William Start, also paid a tax that year. Again, the amount seems to reveal this was Christopher Stark, Sr. In June of 1769, we again see the name Christopher Start, Jr. who paid 2 shillings, and 10 pence and his brother, Aaron, who paid the same amount of tax and then another Christopher Start who paid 11 shillings, and 5 pence.

Therefore, from the above analysis of the tax list, one can say with a fairly high degree of confidence that Christopher Stark, Sr. and Christopher Stark, Jr. were living in Dutchess County, New York at separate residences in the years 1759, 1765, and 1769. Why they did not appear on the tax roles each year from 1759 to 1771 remains something of a mystery which will need more research. Further more, from the tax roles, we can say Christopher Stark, Jr. paid taxes in February of 1759, June of 1759, 1765, and June of 1769. Although a Christopher Start paid taxes in Pawling in 1771, this would seem be Christopher Stark, Sr.

On January 25, 1768, Christopher Stark, Sr. conveyed his full share of the Susquehanna Purchase to his sons Aaron, James, and William. This deed was made in Beekman Precinct, Dutchess County, New York and was witnessed by Joanna Stark and Christopher Stark, Jr. Clearly, on this date, Christopher Stark, Sr. and Christopher Stark, Jr. are in Beekman.[3]

On November 5, 1768, the British government signed the Fort Stanwich Treaty, which established a diagonal line across Pennsylvania and opened up territory east of the line for settlement which included the Wyoming Valley. On the same day, the representatives of the "Six Indian Nations" deeded all of the land in the province to Thomas and Richard Penn. Pennsylvania interpreted this to mean all of the land including the Wyoming Valley. The Susquehanna Company, formed in Connecticut, claimed ownership and was determined to occupy the region by sent forty men to the area. They arrived February 6, 1769 and were promptly arrested for trespass by Sheriff Jenning of Northampton County, Pennsylvania and Captain Amos Ogden who had established a trading post at Mill Creek. They were placed in the Easton jail, but some escaped while the rest were released on bail.

In June of 1769, Thomas Walsworth, brother-in law of Christopher Stark, Sr., was among two hundred and sixty men to arrive with Major John Durkee. They erected Fort Durkee on the eastern bank of the Susquehanna and named their town Wilkes-Barre. A Pennsylvania force led by Colonel Turbutt Francis invaded the Wyoming Valley in July with considerable fanfare demanding the surrender of Fort Durkee. The Yankees declined the Colonel's courteous offer and the good Colonel returned to Pennsylvania without pressing the issue.[4] By September 12, 1769, Christopher Stark, Jr. and his brothers, Aaron, James, and William, had arrived at the Fort. In November, Sheriff Jennings and Captain Ogden, with a large force of Pennsylvanians, captured Major Durkee and drove the Yankees from the valley and destroyed the settlement.[5]

Members of the Stark family regrouped in Dutchess County to plan their next move. Captain Zebulon Butler assumed command of the Yankees in January of 1770 and recruited Lazarus Steward and the Paxtang Rangers to the Yankee cause. He compensated the Rangers with the grant of Hanover Township. The Paxtang Rangers had been outlawed by Pennsylvania and with prices on their heads had openly defied Pennsylvania authority for years. The Rangers arrived in the Valley in February of 1770 and drove the Pennamites from the Valley. Christopher Stark, Jr. and his brother Aaron returned to the Valley again in June of 1770 to again take possession of the families shares of land.[6]

Captain Ogden regained temporary possession of his trading post but was forced to surrender in April. Construction then began on the celebrated Forty Fort in Kingston Township west of the Susquehanna. Captain Ogden returned in the fall with a large force and captured Fort Durkee. At this change of fortunes in the settlement, Christopher Stark, Jr. returned to Dutchess County and made no further attempts to settle in the Wyoming Valley.[7] The Yankees recaptured Fort Durkee in January of 1771 and the Pennamites then erected Fort Wyoming nearby. The Yankees then laid siege to Fort Wyoming in July and the First Yankee-Pennamite War ended on August 20, 1771, with the capitulation of Fort Wyoming.

1) Dutchess Co., NY, Tax Records, FHL #925,902, p. 329.

2) Ibid. Tax Records, FHL #925,902, pages 403, 489.

3) Source 1: The Westmoreland County, Connecticut Deed Records. Source 2: "*The Aaron Stark Family, Seven Generations*," by Charles R. Stark, page 12.

4) Name for people from Connecticut trying to settle in the Valley.

5) Helen Stark article entitled, "Christopher Stark's Migration to New York and Pennsylvania. Published in "The Stark Family Association Yearbook," 1927, page 18.

6) Pennamites name for people from Pennsylvania trying to settle in the Valley.

7) Helen Stark article entitled, "Christopher Stark's Migration to New York and Pennsylvania. Published in "The Stark Family Association Yearbook," 1927, page 21.

In September of 1771, James Stark wrote from Pawling Precinct to Captain Zebulon Butler, commanding the Yankee forces in the Valley, "I have hired the bearer thereof, Timothy Pearce, to go on the same right for two months. At the end of two months, I will come and take possession of it myself." [1] On October 23, Aaron Stark arrived to claim his share and October 31, James Stark arrived to claim his share. Early in 1772, James returned to Dutchess County to collect his family, brother Daniel, father Christopher, Sr. and mother Joanna. They returned to the Valley in early spring of 1772. Pawling Precinct deed records show William Stark sold 200 acres (Half share in the Susquehanna Company) to Henry Carey, May 20, 1773. By the end of 1772, the families of Aaron Stark and James Stark had taken up residence in the Wyoming Valley along with their brother Daniel, father Christopher Stark, Sr. and mother Joanna Walworth. By June of 1773, William Stark and his family, along with his in-laws, had moved to the Valley. [2] If Christopher Stark, Jr. was attempting to help his brothers settle in the Wyoming Valley beginning in late summer of 1769 through 1771, this may explain why he was not on the Dutchess County Tax List for those years. Note he paid his taxes in June of 1769 and the research of Helen Stark shows Christopher, Jr. and his brothers were in the Valley by September of 1769. [3]

For a period from 1771 to 1781, the whereabouts of Christopher Stark, Jr. can not be found in the records. It is believed many of those who had settled on the Beekman Patent fled to Albany when the British captured New York City, which would explain why many members of the family joined the Albany County Militia as revealed in their Pension Applications.

In 1781, Captain William Shepard's Company was assigned to Colonel Cornelius Douty's Vermont Regiment for four days during the "Alarm at Saratoga." Captain William Shepard, Christopher, and Asahel served in Yates Regiment along with John Price, John Price, Jr., Jonathan Price, John Waldo, Sr., John Waldo, Jr. and Jonathan Waldo and many others. We know that in 1785 "Asel" Stark assigned his pay receipts to William Stark for his time in service in Yates Regiment. Susanna Stark requested that the notes due to Christopher Stark be paid to William Stark in 1785 and 1786. In 1781, John Stark requested that his "honoured Father (Father's name not named but the original envelope bearing the request has the name Christopher Star_ and shows John Stark's order #) receive his pay receipts." [4]

By 1790, William and Asahel were living in Pittstown, Albany County, New York with other men from Dutchess County including John and Jonathan Price. The records suggest the Christopher Stark who was a Lieutenant in Douty's Vermont Militia was the father of William, Asahel, and John and that he had died sometime before February of 1785, the month Susanna, his wife, first sent her son William for his pay. He was probably the Christopher Stark, Jr. in Yates Regiment since Susanna sent her request to Col. John Rensselaer, who was the commander of the Albany County Militia. Other records suggest John Price, Sr. was Susanna's brother and that John Price, Jr. and Jonathan Price were his sons. This would make them Asahel's first cousins and would explain why they were neighbors in Pittstown.

There is no proof of the marriage of Susanna Price and Christopher Stark, Jr., the evidence being purely intuitive from the records. However, we know that the Stark and Price Families were close in Dutchess County, New York, before and during the Revolutionary War, and later in Pittstown Township, Albany County, New York where the 1790 census list Asahel Stark, his brother William, and Jonathan and John Price as neighbors who were probably sons of John Price, Susanna's brother. Timothy Price, another probable son of John, moved to Fulton County, New York near William Stark at a later date. According to the records, Susanna Price was the daughter of William Price and Mary Unknown. Susanna was born September 23, 1729 in Ashford, Windham County, Connecticut. From the records, we know the Susquehanna Company was formed July 18, 1753 in Windham County which may have provided the opportunity for Christopher Stark, Jr. to meet Susannah Price and for them to marry before 1755.

1) Pawling was set-off from Beekman's Precinct in 1768.

2) Helen Stark article entitled, "Christopher Stark's Migration to New York and Pennsylvania. Published in "The Stark Family Association Yearbook," 1927.

3) Ibid; page 18

4) "Revolutionary War Rolls," page 409. On the pay request for Shepard's Company appear Lieutenant Christopher Stark and Asahel Stark. Most of the men on this pay roll are listed in the 14th Regiment of the Albany County, New York Militia. It is believed this was Christopher Stark, Jr. born in 1728. Christopher, Sr., born in 1698, died in 1777 in the Wyoming Valley of PA. There was a Christopher Stark, III, but he would have been too young to be a Lieutenant in the Militia. [Source: Revolutionary War Period Records, Roll M 859, Manuscript #12070] [Manuscripts #12071 & #12072] [Manuscript #5794]

Chapter 4 Biography of Asahel Stark

Introduction

Asahel Stark was born before 1755, probably in Groton, New London County, Connecticut, and was the son of Christopher Stark, Jr. and Susannah Price.[1] He was recorded as "Azell" in 1759 on the Beekman Patent lease in Dutchess County, New York with his father and brother. This particular lease was located near present day Pawling, New York.[2] Several military records from the Revolutionary War reveal Asahel served with Christopher Stark, John Stark and William Stark in the 14th Militia Regiment of Albany County, New York commanded by Colonel John Van Rensselaer and Colonel Peter Yates. These documents reveal the State of New York paid those who served in the war from 1777 to 1782 by issuing Certificates of Indebtedness in 1784. On February 28, 1785, William Stark was granted permission by Susanna Stark to pick up the military wages due to Christopher Starks for duty in Colonel John Van Rensselaer's Regiment of Militia, this note attested to in St. Coyek. On August 20, 1785, William Stark was granted permission to pick up the military wages of Asahel Stark for his service in the same regiment. On January 11, 1786, from St. Coyek, William Stark was given permission to pick up the pay of Christopher Stark on behalf of Susanna Stark from Colonel John Van Rensselaer. These military records would imply these three men were related and it can be speculated Christopher Stark was the Father of Ashel and William who was most likely deceased by February of 1785.[3]

Content of Military Records & Sharon Reck's Notes on Each

Manuscript #12070: Aug. 20, 1785 [Vol 7, p. 185]. Corl John Van Ransselar, Sir Please to let William Stark have the certificates that you have for me my Servis Don in the Melisha and this order shall be your Resate for the Sums. Signed Asahel Stark. Witness "Zacock" Scriber [**Note:** Zadock Scriber was in Yates Rebt.]

Manuscript #12071: Feb. 28, 1785 9Vol 7, p. 155]. St. Cook, To Col John Rensselar. Please to Deliver to the Barer William Stark the notes that is due to Christopher Starks for his militia wagers and you will oblige your friend, Susanna Stark. Witness William Gifford and John Gifford. [**Note:** From "Settlers of the Beekman Patent," we know that William Gifford was born in Dutchess County about 1755 and from the "Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files," we know that John Gifford was born 27 Aug. 1760 in Dutchess County, New York; he lived at Cambridge in Washington County, New York at the time of his enlistment and was later living with his brother at Pittstown, Rensselaer County, New York; he also enlisted there and served with Ens. Joseph Gifford, who may be related to Mary Gifford, b. 1744, who married Timothy Fuller and was the mother of Mehitable Fuller who married William Stark known to have lived in Penfield, Ontario County, New York near Asahel Stark.]

Manuscript #12072: Jan. 11, 1786 [Vol 7, p 155] St. Cuick [**Note:** This place, also transcribed St. Coyick or Coyek is almost certainly St. Coic, which was an early Dutch settlement in the southeast corner of White Creek Township located in the southeast corner of Washington County, New York]. Col. John Van Rensellar Sir, please pay the Barer William Starks all the wages due to Christopher Starke, Junr for service done in your Regment and this order shall be your discharge for the same from me. Susanna Starke. Witness Israel Shepard. [**Note:** Israel and William Shepherd were also in Douty's Vermont Regiment. Israel was born 1 Apr. 1746 in Plainfield, Connecticut; married Hannah Pitcher about 1766 in Amenia, Dutchess County, New York and applied for a Revolutionary War Pension in Madison County, New York.]

Records on file for Asahel spell his given name as Ashel, Asahel, Azell, and Ashael. Because of these different spellings of his name, the correct version is not known with certainty. Asahel could not sign his name and he probably didn't know how it was spelled while those recording documents for Asahel probably spelled his name as it sounded to them. To provide some clarity to the text that will follow, the given name Asahel has been chosen while any original document will use the spelling found in that document.

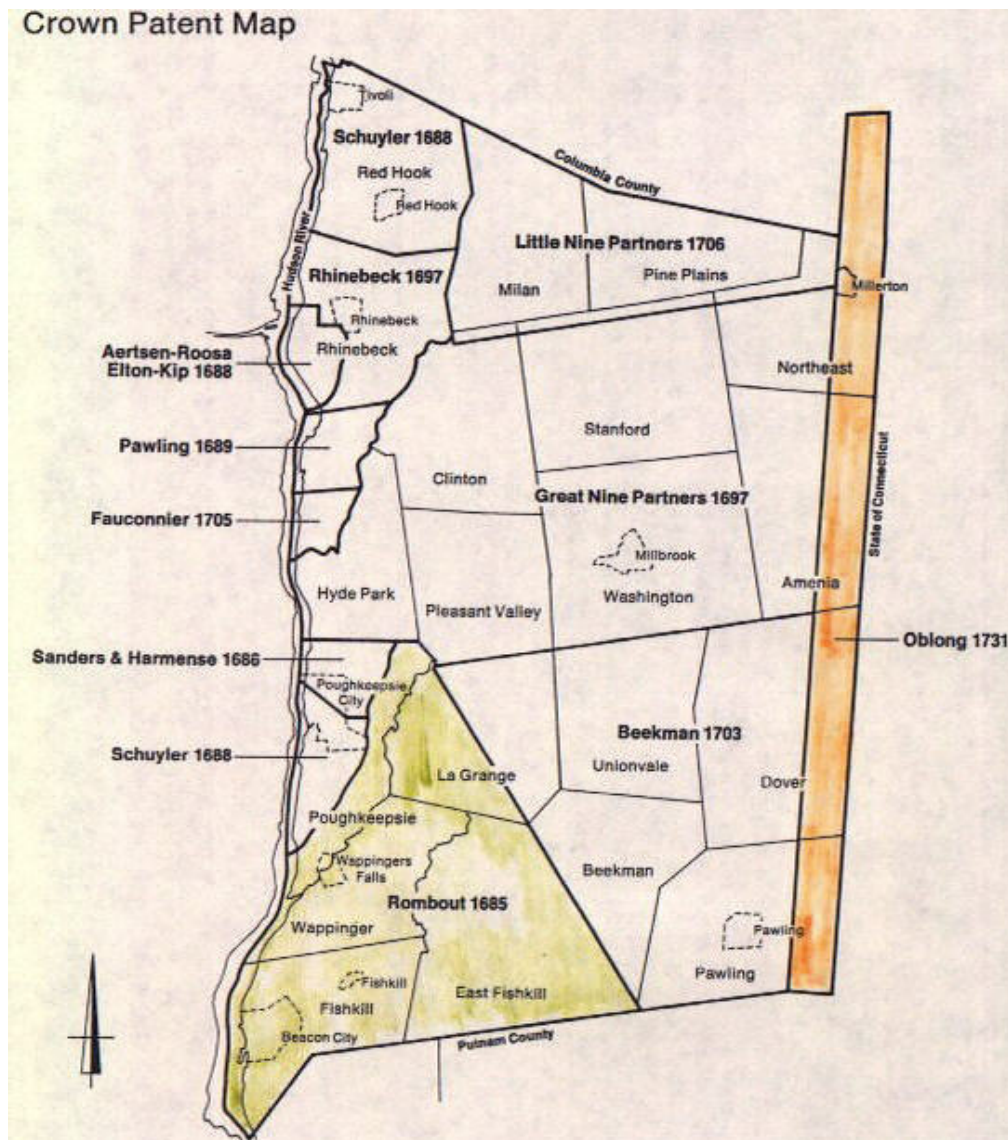
It is believed Asahel married Sarah Dark in this region about or before 1776, based on the probable birth years of her first children. They would have children named Jasper, William, John R., Daniel R., Mary "Polly", Samuel, Christopher, Sarah Marie, Asa, Archibald, and Desire. All were named in Asahel's will in 1821 except for Jasper and Daniel R. Stark.[4]

1) Onondaga County, New York 1800 Census. Records "Ashel" Stark as head of the house with one male over 45 years old who is most likely Asahel. Place of birth would be residence of his father, Christopher Stark, Jr. before 1755.

2) Doherty, Frank J.; Contribution made to New York Genealogical and Biography Record, Volume 117 [1986], page 151.

3) Reck, Sharon; Her notes and records collected from New York Pay vouchers, Manuscripts #12070, #12071, & #12072.

4) County of Washington, State of Indiana, March 20, 1821; Last Will and Testament of "Ashel Starks."



Location of Early Patents in Dutchess County, New York

Asahel's Early Years

By 1758, we know Christopher Stark, Sr. of Groton, New London County, Connecticut who was married to Joanna Walworth had divested himself of all of his property in Connecticut. January 27, 1758, he sold the land east of Fort Hill to Nathan Niles. He probably sold all of the property as preparations were being made to move to the Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania, near present day Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania around 1756. When the French & Indian War started, Christopher, Sr. and his family faced a dilemma. They were now living in New London County without a means of making a living and would have to live on the funds they made from the sale of their property.

On July 12, 1758, Robert Millard of Beekman sold to Christopher Starks, formerly of Groton, County of New London, Colony of Connecticut in New England, yeoman, now of Dutchess County, 150 acres beginning on the line of lots 3 and 4, SW corner of Ralph Woolman, deceased. The property was bordered on the north by the mountain called Purgatory. Witnesses were Charity Baker and Henry Cary who also sold the Beekman Lease to another Christopher Stark May 1, 1759. Henry was also the father of Elizabeth Cary who married Christopher Stark, Sr.'s son, James, in 1758. The above property bought by Christopher, Sr. in July of 1758 was later sold to Nathaniel Howland on Oct. 12, 1762 and this sale offers proof this property was owned by Christopher Stark, Sr., for the deed is signed by "Christopher Stark" and "Johannah Stark", his spouse.

The family made a decision, probably in 1756-58, to move to Dutchess County, New York until the war ended. Because it is apparent Christopher Stark, Sr. and his spouse, Joanna Walworth, already owned property by 1758, it is most likely Christopher Stark, Jr. who received a lease in the Beekman Patent May 1, 1759 in Lot #4 consisting of 341 acres. It was the sixth farm in Lot #4, located Northeast of the present village of Pawling and the lease, dated May 1, 1740, originally belonged to William Cooper along with William Price, John Price and Sarah Price. William Price then assigned the lease to Henry Cary for 120 pounds March 30, 1751 who then assigned it to Christopher for 200 pounds on the above date.[1]

1) Reck, Sharon, Article entitled, "Descendants of Christopher Stark". Reck37719@aol.com

Named on the lease with Christopher Stark, Jr. was William Stark and "Azell" Stark. The landlord usually rented the land to an individual and two others in the same family, sometimes a wife and son or daughter, sometimes to brothers but almost always for "three lives." William Stark was most likely Christopher Stark, Jr.'s younger son. From the Manlius, Onondaga County, New York census records of 1800, will be found a "Asel" Stark reported to be over 45 years of age that could be the "Azell" named on the lease. Christopher, Jr. is also believed to have had a son named William Stark who is reported to have been born in 1760, from the Revolutionary War Pension Records, who could have been named on this deed at a later date. Questions still remain as to why this Christopher did not name his relationship to William and Azell or did not name his spouse. This may have been because he arrived with these two in 1759 and the rest of the family followed later.

Sometime between 1770 and 1778, the family moved from Dutchess County to Pittstown, Albany County, New York, settling on property near the Hudson River on the present day New York State side of the River across from present day Bennington, Vermont. Ownership of the region was being contested by the Colonies of New York and New Hampshire. Ethan Allen, of Bennington, was protesting for neither to have control of the region and petitioning for the creation of another colony to be called Vermont. When the Revolutionary War began, the family was probably living in the region. By this time, young Asahel Stark had married and probably had either one or two young sons. By 1781, we find him as a member of the 14th regiment of the Albany County Militia from Pittstown along with many others who had been living in Dutchess County prior to the war.

Revolutionary War Documents Linking Asahel to His Father, Christopher

Revolutionary War Records show Lieutenant Christopher Stark and "Ashel Stark" were on the payroll of Capt. William Shepard's Company, Col. Cornelius Douty's Regiment, in a Regiment of Foot, of the State of Vermont, from the 1st day of August to the 4th day of August, 1781, in the "Alarm at Saratoga." They were, most probably, a Militia Company from New York assigned to Vermont for 4 days during this crisis. Many of the names of those living in Pittstown in the 1790 census appear on this pay voucher, suggesting these men were from New York, and not Vermont, further supporting their temporary assignment to the above mentioned Vermont Regiment.

From the Revolutionary War Period Records (Referred to as RWPR in the rest of this text), Roll M859, will be found Manuscripts #12071 and #12072, discussed earlier which reveal the relationship of William Stark to Christopher Stark and Susanna Stark.[1] RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #14370 perhaps gives us another connection to Dutchess County, NY for Asahel. This record states, "Warrens Bush 27 May 1785. Col. Volkert Vader. Sir, please to pay all my Militia wages due to me, Jeremiah Burch, for my service during the late war in Col. Frederick Fisher's Reg. of Militia in Capt. Joseph Yomens Company or sum others to Gilbert Roseboom Berry and this shall be your discharge four yours to serve. Signed Jeremiah (His Mark) Burch; Witness: Asahel Starke" According to the research of Sharon Reck, "*Jeremiah Burch was born 1749 in Dutchess County, New York and married 29 July 1773 in Dutchess County, Patty Pringle. His grandfather, Jeremiah Burch, was from New London, CT.*"

However, RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #12070 discussed earlier, dated 11 Jan., 1786 is the most revealing document linking Asahel to Christopher and William which states, "*Col. John Van Rensselaer, Sir please to let William Stark have the certificates that you have for me for my service done in the Militia and this order shall be your re sate for the sums. Signed: Asel Stark; Witness: Zacock Scribner.*" This document along with #12071 clearly shows William Stark was sent to pick up the pay of both Christopher and Asahel. From the above, I would surmise, Christopher, Jr. was the father of Asahel Stark and William Stark. Also, the name of Christopher's spouse was Susanna and her husband died between the years 1781 and 1785.

From William Stark's pension application, it would appear he was living in Pittstown for he mentions this was his place of enlistment in May of 1780, serving in the Levi's under Col. Harper. William married Mehitable Fuller, hence the possible relationship to the Fullers mentioned previously. Now, if the above suggest Christopher and Susanna are husband and wife, and the mentioned William is a son, can we connect Asahel to this family with other documentation. From RWPR, Roll M859, Manuscript #12051 we find, "*8 Jun 1786. Col. Yates, please to let the bearer, Ashel Starke, have my sale notes and I will oblige. Your friend and humble servant. Signed: Jonathan Price; Witnesses: John Price, Jr., Samuel Price.*" This would appear to be the same Jonathan Price who was shown on the "Alarm at Saratoga" payroll with Christopher Stark and Ashel Stark. Jonathan's name appears under Asahel's name in this document. These two documents would seem to show there is a relationship between Christopher, Asahel, and now Jonathan Price.

Sharon Reck's conclusions, based on the military records and the New York 1790 census were, "*I believe Christopher Stark, Jr. was the father of Asahel, William, probably the Nathan Stark who fought with William in Harper's Regiment, and John [who also later lived in Penfield, Ontario County, New York near Asahel and William and subsequently moved to Clermont County, Ohio]; Susannah was probably Christopher's wife. It's clear that many of their friends were from Dutchess County, New York.*"

1) Manu #12071; Manu #12072; See Asahel's Introduction above for details.

Census Records After The Revolutionary War

In the 1790 census for Pittstown, Albany County, New York, we find Asahel Stark and William Stark [Most Likely Asahel's brother later found living next to Asahel in Penfield, Ontario County, New York] as neighbors of Jonathan Price. Others living close by are Jonathan and Timothy Fuller, the Gifford's, Israel and William Shepherd, and William Richard. All of these individuals had been living in Dutchess County, New York prior to the Revolutionary War and are now living close by in 1790. These names, living so close to Asahel, would appear to provide a link to Dutchess County for both William and Asahel Stark, for these families also appear to be related in various ways perhaps to complicated to unravel in this text. This census reports Asahel Stark's home as having one male over 16, 6 males under 16, and two females. Assuming Asahel is the male over 16 and one of the females is his wife Sarah Dark, then in 1790, they had six sons and one daughter who would have been born between the years 1774 to 1790.

By 1800, Asahel has moved to Manlius, Onondaga County, New York and the 1800 Census for this township and County report "Asel" Starks as head of the house. Listed in the home are Asel Starks with one male over 45, 2 males under 10, one male 10-16, four males 16-25, one female over 45, three females under 10, and two females 16-26. Assuming Asel is the male over 45 and Sarah is the female over 45, we now have 7 males of which two were born after 1790. There should be 8 sons in 1800 indicating one of the older sons must have left home. It's also possible one of the males reported in 1790 could have been an infant at the time and is reported as under ten in the 1800 census depending on the month the census was taken. However, it is more likely a son has left home for from the Onondaga County Deed book, pages 266-269 we find William Stark bought 200 acres from Edward Lounsberry on January 1, 1800, which was witnessed by William Mitchell and John R. Stark.[1] William could be the son who has left home before the 1800 census or could be Jasper Stark living in nearby Fabius, Onondaga County in the 1800 census who reported his age as between 16 and 26. William's property transaction does reveal William and John R. Stark were most likely over 21 years old placing their birth years as before 1779, assuming the first had to be 21 to purchase property and the latter had to be 21 to be a witness. Since Jasper has established a home by the 1800 census, he would be the most likely candidate as the son who has left home. We will later find through property transactions, Jasper and Asahel must have been related.

By combining the reports of the 1790 census and the 1800 census we can conclude two of the young men in the 16 - 26 age range in 1800 are probably John R. Stark and William Stark. John R. Stark's Military Record from the War of 1812 reveals he was 32 years old July 5, 1814, the date of his enlistment. This would place his year of birth as 1782. As revealed above, William purchased property January 1, 1800 which would place his latest year of birth as 1779 if he had to be twenty-one years old to purchase property in New York. Even if he could purchase property at the age of 14, the latest year of birth for those in the 16-26 age group in the 1800 census, he would still be one of those in this age group living in Asahel's home. Since he surely was older than 14 years old when he purchased this property, he has to be one of these young men age 16 - 26.

There are candidates for the other two in this age range. They would be Daniel R. Stark and Samuel Stark. Daniel R. Stark purchased land in Genesee County March 28, 1809 which would imply he was at least 21 years old on that date and would place his year of birth as before 1788. This would also make it possible Daniel is the son in the 10 - 16 age group. Samuel Stark is listed as head of the house in the 1820 census for Washington County, Indiana. He reports he is in the 26 - 45 year old age range which would place his latest year of birth as 1794 and the earliest year of birth as 1775. However, as will be shown in the following text, Christopher Stark and Asa Stark would seem to be the sons under 10 years old. Therefore, Samuel would have to be either in the 10 - 16 age range or the 16 to 26 age range. Christopher purchased property in Port Allen, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana in 1812. If he was 21 or older when he purchased this property, then he was born before 1791. This would make him possibly one of the sons under 10 years old but doesn't rule him out as possibly over 10 years old.

From the "*Central New York Genealogical Society Publication -Tree Talks*", Volume 23, #3, page 143 dated September 1983 can be found this record which states, "*Oregon Donation land - people who applied; #4060; Asa Stark, born 1796, Onondaga Co., NY*" Clearly, if this record is accurate, then Asa is one of the sons under 10 years old. Although there is no proof, I would speculate Daniel R. Stark and Samuel Stark are the other two in the 16 - 26 age group and Christopher is the male in the 10 - 16 age group or the other male under 10 years old.

In the home of Samuel Stark in the 1820 census for Washington County, Indiana is a male in the 16-26 age range along with two females in the 16-26 age range. Sharon Reck, in her article, "*Descendants of Christopher Stark*", page 7, self published in 1997, speculated this male is most likely Christopher because in 1819 Samuel and Christopher married the sisters Sophia and Nancy Scott in November and October, respectively, in Switzerland County, Indiana. If this were true, then Christopher was born no earlier than 1794, making him and Asa the two sons under 10 years old in the 1800 census. However, one can not overlook the Louisiana purchase of property made by Christopher which would imply he was born before 1791.

There should be one more son, for in 1800, Asahel records 7 sons, but from the above, we only have 6 sons we can name from later records who were most likely born before 1800, although Jasper could be considered this seventh son. However, he is reported as head of the house in the 1800 census which implies he could not be one of the seven sons reported by Asahel in 1800. The only other known son of Asahel and Sarah is Archibald Cass Stark who was born in 1801 according to his later records. One can only speculate one of the sons reported in the 1800 census died before Asahel's Will was made and was not mentioned, this being the source of the names of his children. He could have been a son in any of the age ranges from under 10, to 10-16, to 16-26.

1) Reck, Sharon, Article entitled, "*Descendants of Christopher Stark*". Reck37719@aol.com]

The 1790 census indicated there was one female in the home other than Asahel's spouse, Sarah. Therefore, there should be one daughter born before the 1790 census. There are two females mentioned in the age range of 16 - 26 and one over 45 years old. I would speculate one is a daughter and the other is a daughter-in-law. Therefore, one of the above sons was married, most likely either John or William, of which there is no record. There are three other daughters reported to be under 10 years old. However, from Asahel's will, we only know of the three daughters named Mary "Polly", Sarah Marie, and Desire. Since we know Desire was born after 1800, then only Mary and Sarah can be counted as daughters born before 1800.

It would seem possible one of the children under 10 could be a granddaughter. This would seem to be verified by the 1810 census for Caledonia, Genesee County, New York for living in Asahel's home were three females. One is under 10 [Desire], one is 11-16, and one is 16-20. The latter two would seem to be Mary and Sarah. In this census, the male under 10 would be Archibald while the male 11-15 is most likely Asa; for later records show Christopher bought property in Louisiana in 1812. Therefore, one can only speculate about the other females reported in the 1800 census. I believe they were most likely extended family, or, if daughters, they died after 1800 and before 1810. From this analysis one would place the order of births and estimated dates of birth for the known children of Asahel and Sarah as; 1] Jasper, before 1779, 2] William, before 1779, 3] John R., 1782, 4] Samuel, 1775-1790, 5] Daniel R., before 1788, 6] Christopher, 1791, 7] Mary "Polly", 1790-1799, 8] Sarah Marie, 1790-1799, 9] Asa, 1796, 10] Archibald, 1801, 11] Desire, 1803-1804.

Onondaga County, New York

On September 16, 1776, Congress had promised bounties for 88 battalions. In 1783 New York added the promise of lands to their troops for their service in the military. This was the genesis of the "Military tract," a land grant frequently referred to in New York State history. On January 1, 1791, drawing for the lots laid out in this tract began on the land. Many of the soldiers who participated in the drawing did not settle on the acres, but sold it to land speculators. Many did take possession of the land and stayed causing the population to increase to 879 people in Onondaga County by 1799.

Onondaga County was organized as a County June 6, 1794. The new County was created from a portion of Herkimer County and much of the new County included military tracts. Cayuga County was taken off from Onondaga five years later, Cortland in 1808, and Oswego in 1816, leaving Onondaga County as it now exists, an almost square body of land thirty by thirty-four miles of which Syracuse, New York is the principle city. Manlius and Cicero were townships formed within Onondaga County with Manlius located southeast of present day Syracuse while Cicero was one of the original townships (number 6) of the Military Tracts. Cicero was part of Lysander Township when Onondaga County was first organized and was organized into a township in 1807 when it was split off from Lysander. Cicero was located northeast of present day Syracuse and had Oneida Lake as it's border to the north and northeast.

As already noted, the 1800 census reports Asahel and his family were living in Manlius, Onondaga County, New York. He had probably been living in this county at least since 1796 for his son, Asa Stark, declared he was born there in that year. Although there is no record showing Asahel received property in these tracts for his service in the New York Militia, we do know early in May of 1802 he purchased land from James Knapp and his spouse Lucy which was the south part of Lot #73 [200 acres] in the region which later became Cicero Township, Onondaga County, and purchased the remainder of Lot #73 [300 acres] May 22, 1802. Therefore, Asahel now owned 500 acres in this region of Onondaga County.[1]



Central New York Military Tract Map

Drawn by Simeon De Witt, 1792 or 1793

Map presents location of Military Tracts of bounty land set aside to compensate New York's soldiers after their participation in the Revolutionary War. Above located in Present Day Northeast Onondago Co., New York

1) Cicero Property Sales, Book B, pages 266 & 268.

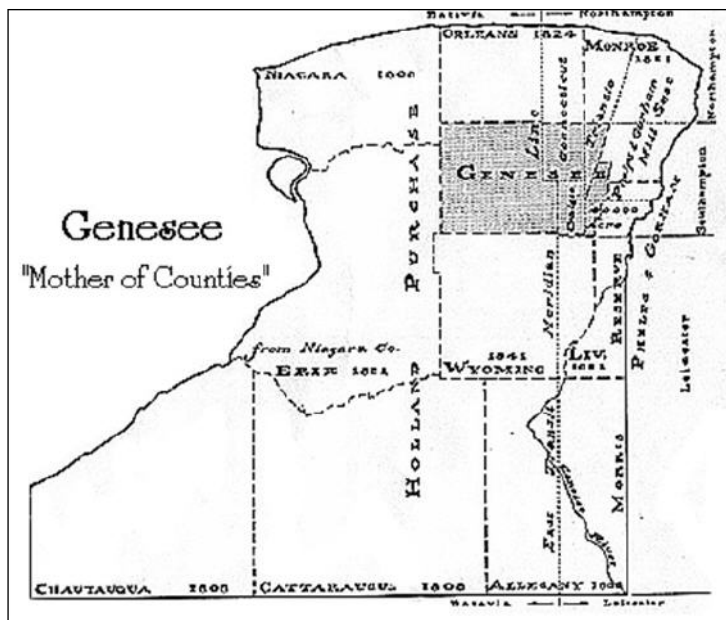
The records show Asahel sold 146 acres of Lot 73 to Jasper Stark in 1805 and then purchased, for the sum of \$650, the property back from Jasper and his spouse Betsy on March 6, 1807.[1] This transaction was witnessed by John R. Stark and Benjamin Hosley. There were other records showing Asahel sold portions of Lot #73 to Joseph Hosley, Jr. of Sullivan Township of the County of Chenengo, New York in 1806 and two portions to Benjamin Hosley in 1807.[2]

In 1807, Jasper Stark and Asahel were ordered to give up another portion of Lot #73 due to a Judgment made against them by the New York Supreme Court. August 3, 1807 "*Elijah Phillips, Esq., Sheriff of Onondaga by writ of testatum fieri facias from the Supreme Court of New York 3 Aug 1807 against Jasper and Asahel Stark at the suit of James Knopp for \$260 plus \$29.56 damages Sheriff had sold at public venture Lot #73 in Twp. of Cicero for \$40 to Thaddeus M. Wood and Geo. Hall, highest bidders.*"[3,4] A "*writ of testatum fieri facias*" was a court order authorizing the sheriff to collect a judgment in debt or damages from the goods and chattels of the defendants Asahel and Jasper Stark owed to James Knapp. Therefore, the judgment was made and a portion of Lot #73 was sold for \$40, recovering the remainder of the money owed. There were probably other items from the estates of Jasper and Asahel sold at auction to complete the payment of this judgment.

It would seem Asahel continued to own 310 acres of Lot #73 for on March 20, 1821, when Asahel wrote his Last Will and Testament, he bequeathed "*unto my beloved wife Sarah Starks three hundred and ten acres of land lying and being in the State of New York, Onondaga County and town of Cicero ...*"

Genesee County, New York

In the later part of the 1700's Western New York was claimed by both Massachusetts and New York until an agreement was made in 1786 which gave governing rights to New York while allowing Massachusetts to retain title to the lands. It was, therefore, from Massachusetts that Robert Morris purchased four million acres of land in 1791. Two years later Morris sold the land, with the largest parcel being sold to the Holland Land Company comprised of six banking houses in Amsterdam. The first land sale of the Holland Land Company was made in 1801 in an area which was still part of Ontario County, New York which levied high taxes on land. The high taxes combined with the distance settlers traveled to record deeds, lead to the creation of Genesee County in 1802. The County name originates from the Seneca word meaning "*beautiful valley.*" The newly formed County consisted of all of the land west of the Genesee River to the Western border of New York and was bounded to it's south by Pennsylvania and to the north by Lake Ontario. Caledonia was a township located about 20 miles southwest of Rochester, New York which was first called "Southampton" when officially recognized as a township on March 30, 1802. Its name was changed to Caledonia April 4, 1806 with the Genesee River being its eastern boundary.



Asahel had moved further west from Onondaga County to Caledonia, Genesee County, New York by 1810 as recorded in the census for this region in the same year. On March 28, 1809, Asahel's son, Daniel R. Stark purchased Lots #13 &14 in section zero of township #11, range #1. According to the Holland Land Company Records, Daniel was a first purchaser of this land who paid for the property in full at the time of purchase and his deeds included the "*Table of Original Articles or Deeds*" given to those who paid cash for the property. Most purchasers received an "Article of Agreement" document with a time limit for payment.[6] The property available for purchase from the Holland Land company was west of Caledonia in an area that would later become parts of Niagara County, Erie County and Cattaraugus County. The above indicates Daniel R. Stark may have been living in either Niagara or Cattaraugus Counties since they were created from Genesee County in 1808. By 1810, Daniel was married and had at least one son, William Hawley Stark, born in 1809.

Sometime between 1810 and 1813, Asahel moved a few miles from Caledonia, Genesee County, New York to Penfield, Ontario County where he purchased with a mortgage, 50 acres from Robert Bowne of New York City, New York for \$206.48. The property was part of the Southwest Division of lot #14, township #13, range 4 in Penfield. Asahel is listed in the 1813 Penfield Assessment Roll with Real Estate valued at \$203 and taxes of \$.47. On September 20, 1817, Asahel sold this property to Jesse Adams for \$1000.[5] This deed was witnessed by Daniel Wilson and Rufus Henrik. "Sarry" Stark was examined separately. In 1820, Asahel was listed in the census for Washington County, Indiana. Therefore, sometime after this land transaction and before the 1820 census, Asahel and his family left the State of New York.

1) Cicero Property Sales, Book E, page 117; Book F, page 508.

2) Ibid. Book F, page 509; Book E, page 510; Book F, page 508. Book F, page 509; Book E, page 510; Book F, page 508.

3) Ibid. Book G, page 398. Book G, page 398.

4) **Author's Comment:** This may have been James Knapp from whom Asahel purchased the property in 1802.

5) Deed Records, Ontario County, New York, Liber 29, page 80.

Washington County, Indiana

In the 1820 census for Washington County, Indiana, we find several Stark families. Asahel is listed on page 219 as "Asaatl Stark." Listed living at this dwelling are one male over 45 who is most likely Asahel, one male age 16 - 26 who could be Asa Stark, one female over the age of 45 who would be Sarah, one female age 16 - 26 who could be Deborah Moore Stark, wife of Asa, and the youngest daughter of Asahel and Sarah, Desire Stark, age 10 - 16.

Also listed on page 219 of the census is Archibald Stark, who was the male listed in the 16 to 26 age range. The 1850 census for Clark County, Illinois records Archibald was 49 years old which would place him within this age group in the 1820 census. Also living in this dwelling was a male over 45 years old. Since this cannot be Archibald and is not Asahel, who could he be?

Sharon Reck speculates this could be the "insane brother", John R. Stark, who was declared insane in the State of Louisiana in 1817 by his brothers, William Stark, Daniel R. Stark, and Samuel Stark. William became the legal guardian of John and settled his affairs in Louisiana.[1] The female in the 16 - 26 age range would be the spouse of Archibald, Rhoda Howe, and it would seem they had one daughter under the age of ten, her name not known. As already mentioned, also listed on page 219 of this census was Samuel Stark with his wife Sophia Scott and most likely his brother Christopher and his spouse Nancy Scott who was the sister of Sophia Scott. Listed on page 220 of this census was Alvin Graves and Sarah Stark, the daughter of Asahel and Sarah. Not accounted for in this census are Jasper Stark, William Stark, who was living in Louisiana, and Daniel R. Stark, who, as we will soon learn, died in Louisiana in 1820.

Asahel Stark prepared his last will and testament March 20, 1821 in Washington County. As beneficiaries he named his spouse Sarah, sons Samuel, Asa, Archibald, Christopher, John, and William; his married daughters, Polly Brezee and Sarah Graves, and his unmarried daughter, Desire. Daniel R. Stark was not named in the will because he was deceased as mentioned above. Asahel named his wife, Sarah as the "sole Executrix" of his estate. The will was proved January 21, 1822 and Sarah Stark was appointed executrix. On October 17, 1845, the Surrogate Court of Onondaga County, New York, proved the will of "Ashel Starks" deceased and acknowledged the death of executrix, Sarah Starks on or about October 2, 1839 and granted Archibald C. Stark the legatee of the will allowing him to dispose of and sell all "*goods, chattels, and credits....within the State of New York.*" Archibald probably traveled to New York to dispose of the 310 acres in Cicero, Onondaga County, New York which Sarah had received from Asahel's will, the transcription presented in the following.

Will of Asahel Stark

I, Ashel Starks of Washington County and State of Indiana being weak in body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory blessed be Almighty God for the same, I do make and publish this as my last will and testament in a manner and form following, to wit; First, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Sarah Starks, three hundred and ten acres of land lying and being in the State of New York, Onondaga County and town of Cicero and all my hold furniture and also two hundred and fifty dollars cash. I do also give and bequeath unto my son Samuel Starks one hundred and fifty dollars. I do also give and bequeath unto my son Asia Starks one hundred and fifty dollars. And I do also give and bequeath unto my son Archibald Stark one hundred and fifty dollars. I do also give and bequeath unto my son Christopher Stark fifty dollars. I do also give and bequeath unto my son John Stark fifty dollars in stock property. And I do also give and bequeath unto my son William Stark the sum of ten dollars--and I do also give and bequeath unto my daughter Polly Brezee the sum of twenty dollars. And I do also give and bequeath unto my daughter Sally Graves the sum of twenty dollars. And I do also give and bequeath unto my daughter Desire Starks the sum of fifty dollars which several legacies of sums of money, I will and order shall be paid to the said respective legatees within twelve months after my decease. And lastly as to all of the rest residue and remainder of my personal estate, goods, chattels, of whatsoever I give and bequeath the same to my said beloved wife Sarah Starks, whom I hereby appoint sole Executrix of this my last will and testament, and hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one. Signed: Ashel Starks, his mark. In presence of T. T. Weathers and Wm. Crocket.

Will Proved and Sarah Stark appointed executrix on Jan. 21, 1822. On 17 Oct 1845, Surrogate Court of Onondaga Co., NY proved will of "Ashel Stark's", deceased and acknowledged the death of executrix, Sarah Stark's on or about 2nd Oct, 1839 and granted to Archibald C. Stark, legatee in will, the administration of all "goods, chattel, and credits within the state of NY."

1) John R. Stark Declaration of Insanity Document (Transcription) | Made by William Stark, Brother of John R. Stark. John R. Stark was the son of Asahel Stark. In the year 1817 living in the Parish of West Baton Rouge is found a Petition which states: *To the honorable Parish Judge, of the Parish of West Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana. The petition of William Stark of said Parish respectfully represents; that he a brother of John Stark of the Parish aforesaid, age about [?35?] years; that the said John is in a state of mental derangement & insanity, and is truly considered wholly incapable of taking care of his person or property. Wherefore your petitioner prays that the said John Starks may be ... [Not legible] ... of this honorable court, and that a ... [Not legible] ... be appointed to take charge of his person & administer his property according to the provisions of law, --- that your petitioner may serve said appointment, and that he be authorized to sale the property of the said John, as so much thereof as may ... [Not Legible] ... & sufficient to pay the debts of the said John, to provide for his comfort and happiness and pay the costs of this application. Your petitioner further prays that the annexed affidavits may be taken as ... [Not legible] ... of this petition and that such proceedings may be had in ... [Not Legible] ... Signed: Wm Stark.*

Sarah (Dark) Stark and her sons in Louisiana

Asahel's spouse, Sarah Stark lived many more years after Asahel. Her son William Stark had removed to Louisiana before 1809 to Port Allen, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Court records show he sold property to Emanuel Landry and we also find William Stark of New York married Victoria Betencourt March 6, 1808.[1,2] Another record reveals one William Stark claimed a tract of land located on the west side of the Mississippi in the County of Iberville which was rejected because the land was never inhabited or cultivated until after December 20, 1803.[3] There are numerous other land transactions in Port Allen between Christopher Stark who bought property from William Wikoff, Jr. in 1812 and then sold it to John Stark May 1, 1815.[4] The latter document has the signatures of John Stark and Christopher Stark as the principles in the land transaction along with William Stark's signature as a Witness.[5]

Samuel Stark purchased property with a mortgage from Daniel R. Stark in 1818 and then sold it to Caleb Eddy in 1818. William Stark sold property to Daniel R. Stark in 1817 and then Daniel R. sold property back to William in 1819. In the first transaction, Daniel R. purchased the property and took out a mortgage while in the second transaction, William Stark paid for the property in cash.[6]

As can be seen, several of the same given names which appear in Asahel's Will appear in these deed transactions in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana and the William Stark shown in these transactions was from New York as revealed in his marriage to Victoria Betencourt. Records from the Parish show Daniel R. Stark died June 20, 1820.[7] From the Washington County, Indiana 1820 census and the Louisiana records, Christopher and Samuel must have divested themselves of their Louisiana property by 1818, moved to Indiana, and have married the Scott sisters there in 1819. John Stark, as we will know from the earlier discussion, served in the War of 1812, and was declared insane by his brothers, William, Daniel R., and Samuel in the year 1817.[8]

William Stark died May 4, 1822 in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Probate Packet #97 for that Parish records his estate was inventoried on May 9, 1822. In the inventory papers of William's Estate we find, "*Having examined the amount account, in the presence of the heir, Mrs. Sarah Stark, mother of the late William Stark, deceased, I having found the account of vouchers in support of said account true and correct, ... [Not Legible] ... Victoria Starks having delivered up all the papers she has in her possession, to the heir Sarah Starks, said heir declares hereby to have received said notes, vouchers and accounts, it is therefore ordered that said above petition, of their knowledge, fulfills the duties incumbent on him as appraising of the objects contained in same ... [Not Legible]... left by the late Wm Stark. Signed [Signature was not legible.]*"[9] From this record, we can presume Asahel's spouse, Sarah, came to Louisiana to settle the affairs of William's estate.

Edgar County, Illinois Probate Record #199 dated October 28, 1839 related to the estate of Sarah Starks, deceased.[10] In this Probate Record, five names appear as heirs to Sarah's estate. They are A. C. Stark [Archibald Cass Stark], Asa Stark and an insane brother [John R. Stark] of which Asa was the guardian, William Bresee [Spouse of Mary "Polly" Stark], and Wm. Howe, spouse of Desire Stark. Therefore, Sarah probably died near the date of this probate record.

- 1) West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana Deed Book A, page 82.
- 2) Diocese Of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records; Volume 3 (1804-1819); Diocese of Baton Rouge, Department of Archives; 1800 South Acadian Hwy; P.O. Box 1018; Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. Record Quote; "*Stark, Guilenmo, of New York (Estle and Sera amitted) Married 6 March, 1808, Victoria Du Bitancoure Witness: Juan Grady; Hens Morrison (sjo-89, 1).*"
- 3) "*First Settlers of The Louisiana Territory*"; Orleans Territory Grants from American State Papers; Class VIII, Public Lands, Volume 2, 348-437; TERRITORY OF ORLEANS. Text Quote "*No. 52- William Starks claims a tract of land, situate on the west side of the River Mississippi, in the county Iberville, containing six arpents in front, and forty in depth, and bounded on one side by land of William Cunningham, and on the other by vacant land. This claim is founded upon a petition to the Governor for this land in the year 1795, with the certificate of the commandant stating the land to be vacant, and that it might be granted without injury, & c. It does not appear that the Governor ever acted upon or saw the petition. There are also produced affidavits, stating that Alexis Hebert, under whose title the present claimant holds, was put in possession of this land by the commandant, in the year 1795. But it appearing that the land was never inhabited or cultivated until after the 20th December, 1803, we are of the opinion that the claim ought to be rejected.*"
- 4) West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana Deed Book D, pages 41 & 164.
- 5) Transcription of Christopher Stark Deed Transaction to John Stark. "*Know all men by these presents that I, Christopher Stark of the Parish of West Baton Rouge in the State of Louisiana have bargained ... [not legible] ... and confirmed unto John Stark a certain tract of land situated in the Parish aforesaid containing seven chains and 95/100 of a chain in front and such depth as may be found without interfering with the lines of the settlers on the other side of the point and bounded above by lands of Joseph N. ?Batencour? & below by lands belonging to Jean B. Hebert to have & to hold the aforesaid granted premises with its improvements and privileges unto the said John Stark his heirs executors and ?apargues? for their own proper use & benefit & behalf forever. For and in consideration of the sum of four hundred and twenty five dollars to be paid in the manner following: Two hundred and seventy five dollars in cash in hand truly be paid the receipt there of the said Christopher Stark doth hereby acknowledge and the sum of one hundred & fifty dollars in the said John Stark obligations payable in eighteen months from the date here after. And be it also remembered that the said John Stark being here present doth agree to & accept of this said sale and conveyance for himself his heirs, Executors & assigns. In witness whereof they have here unto set their signatures this first day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred & fifteen. Signed: John Stark, Christopher Stark; Witnessed by: Wm Stark & Gilbert Wikoff; Done before me Wm Wikoff, Jr., Probate Judge."*
- 6) West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana Deed Book E, pages 109, 118, 159, & 223.
- 7) West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana Probate Record #85.
- 8) Ibid. Probate Record #50 titled John Stark, Interdicted.
- 9) Victoria (Betencourt) Starks was the wife of Wm. Stark.
- 10) Probate Court, Edgar County, Illinois, Number 199; In the Matter of the Estate of Sarah Starks, Deceased; Leander Muncill, Administrator; Document # 9. "*So far as the administrator has any knowledge there are but five heirs to divide the estate among Viz-- A. C. Stark --- Asa Stark --- and an insane brother of which he is the guardian --- Wm Brazee --- and Wm Howe --- No other claim having been presented or known of to the administrator, The Probate Justice will please declare a ?divident? to the heirs of the entire estate remaining to take off so soon as the money come into the hands of Administrator --- I will here remark that so far as collection have actually been made all the heirs are how indebted to the administrator and some of them entire joyment has been made, a legal order only, wanting to have the ?court? shortly ?close, etc.? --- All of which is respectfully submitted. Signed" Leander Muncill, Adm. of Sarah Stark, Dec.; Paris, Illinois 17th November 1842."*

Chapter 5 Daniel R. Stark's Family Movements After his Death in Louisiana

Nancy (Hawley) Stark, her father, Samuel Hawley, and her four children, were living in Floyd County, Indiana in 1826; having moved to the region after the death of Daniel R. Stark in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Living near by was the family of Samuel S. Lewis, born in Virginia on July 4th, 1784. He married Sarah Lemaster on August 1st, 1804 in Henry County, Kentucky. In the year 1806, he moved his family across the Ohio River from Henry County into the Indiana Territory where he and Sarah had seven children. Samuel was the founder of Orleans, Indiana, located in Orange County, and served in the Indiana Militia during the War of 1812. Around 1825, he moved his family to Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, where he served as Parish Justice of Peace.

Nancy and her family along with her father, soon followed the Lewis family to Louisiana, and settling at the head of Bayou Macon near the Arkansas border in Northeast Louisiana. Ouachita Parish was located in northeast Louisiana with it's eastern border being the Mississippi River. Samuel Hawley transferred his Revolutionary War Pension payments to the Vicksburg, Mississippi District in 1828 and December 28, 1828, Nancy's daughter, Sarah Mariah, married John Taylor Lewis, the son of Samuel S. Lewis, in Ouachita Parish. Both of these events suggest Nancy Hawley and her children were in Ouachita Parish by 1827 or 1828.

In 1829, John Bevil moved into present day Texas and settled between the Naches and Sabine Rivers. With the permission of Lorenzo de Zavala, he was given a grant to allow 500 families to settle in the region. One of those attracted to move to Texas was Samuel S. Lewis, who sent his slaves in 1830 to settle within this Mexican Land that became known as Bevil District. He then moved his family to the region in 1832; his sons, Martin Baty Lewis and John Taylor Lewis, soon after following their father to Texas. By about 1832, Sarah Mariah (Stark) Lewis was a resident of Mexican Controlled Texas.

Earlier, on April 6th, 1830, the Mexican Government had passed a law which was intended to halt immigration from the United States into Mexico. Tensions between the settlers and the Mexican garrison Commander at Nacogdoches, Jose de las Piedras escalated and he ordered the settlers to surrender their arms, which was refused and aroused the anger of the settlers in the region. On August 2nd, 1832, a group of settlers attacked the garrison forcing the Commander and his men to abandon the Fort and leave the town. Piedras and his troops were pursued by a small number of men who harassed the Mexicans until the soldiers surrendered and gave up Piedras to the settlers. The Mexican troops were returned to Nacogdoches where Piedras was paroled and allowed to return to Mexico City. The three hundred soldiers captured were marched to San Antonio by James Bowie and discharged. This action removed the Mexican Military presence from East Texas which would then encourage the Texans to later revolt in 1836. Samuel S. Lewis served as a lieutenant colonel in the battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 and later participated in the siege of Bexar in 1835. His son, Martin Lewis was a sergeant major in the battalion commanded by James Whitis Bullock. Martin also participated in the battle of Nacogdoches. In November and December of 1835 he was Captain of a company of East Texas volunteers that took part in the siege of Bexar. John T. Lewis served as a Second Lieutenant in his brother Martin's cavalry company during the siege at Bexar. All three men would serve in the Texas War for Independence.

Meanwhile, back in Louisiana, William Hawley Stark married Elizabeth Zachary in about the year 1830, daughter of Benjamin Zachary and Elizabeth Odom of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. It is believed shortly after, he purchased acreage in Ouachita or Carroll Parish (formed in 1832 from the eastern part of Ouachita Parish), most likely using funds he received as a gift from his Uncle William Stark. One would presume he received his share when he reached twenty-one years of age in 1830. His mother, grandfather, and other siblings, may have lived with him and his new bride for the Vicksburg Register newspaper (Vicksburg, Mississippi), dated July 22nd, 1835 reported: "*Another Revolutionary Soldier is no more--Died at the upper settlement on Bayou Macon in the Parish of Carroll, State of Louisiana, on the 4th day of June 1835. Samuel Hawley, aged about 80 years, a native of the State of Massachusetts, and once a soldier of the Revolutionary army. Mr. Hawley was a pensioner and lived for several years back thus secluded and remote with his child and respected by all who knew him.*" Since Samuel only had one child, Nancy Hawley, it would probably be correct to speculate from the newspaper report he lived with his daughter. The above property sold by William in 1848 was located at the head of Bayou Macon or probably in the area of the "upper settlement on Bayou Macon." This property either belonged to William or was inherited from his grandfather after he died. No documents have been found, as yet, on how this property came into William Hawley Stark's possession.



Map of the Tensas River highlighted within the Ouachita River watershed. The darker yellow indicates the Tensas River watershed. Date: 8/8/2007. Source: Self-made, based on USGS data. Author: Kmusser. Licensed under the *Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic*

William Hawley Stark and Elizabeth had children born in Louisiana named Daniel L. Stark [Born in 1833] and Samuel Hawley Stark [Born in 1836] while the first child born in Texas was James Terry Stark in 1839. This suggests the family moved to Texas during or after the year 1836. It is believed William may have obtained a Mexican League of land [4,428 acres] before the Texas Revolution but did not move to the property until after the War. After the Texas Revolution, the Republic of Texas Congress declared heads of families living in Texas on March 2, 1836 could apply for a square league [4,428 acres] of land with no requirement to live on the land. To encourage settlement, Congress also offered immigrants arriving between March 2, 1836, and October 1, 1837, a grant of 1,280 acres for heads of families and 640 acres for single men. Therefore, it is possible William was a resident of Texas before March 2nd, 1836 and applied for a league of land, which was granted. In any event, he was a resident of Texas before 1839, for he was elected Justice of the Peace, Sabine Beat 4, of Jasper County on February 4th, 1839.

William Herrin, Sr. was born in 1807 in the Mississippi Territory; his father being Abel Herring. Before 1825, William married a woman whose name and family is unknown. It is believed William was one of the children reported in the Ouachita Parish, Louisiana 1820 census, living in the home of Abel Herring. William's first marriage may have occurred in either Ouachita Parrish or Chicot County, Arkansas. The Herring land was located very close to the Arkansas line and often people from that area would go to Eudora or Lake Village to conduct business. William Herrin was living in Ouachita Parish in 1830 for recorded in the census that year was "*William A. Herring, age 20-30 years old, with a spouse, age 15 -20 years old, one male child under five and a daughter under five years old.*" The son under five years old was probably James Herrin, born in 1826 or 1827, according to his tombstone and census records, his connection to the Stark family to be discussed later. The daughter's name is unknown. Sometime after 1830 and before 1834, William's first wife is believed to have died.

William Herrin was living in Newton County September 30, 1846 when he recorded his cattle brand along with his two brother-in-laws, William Hawley Stark and Asa Stark. January 11, 1847, the Newton County Court met and "*then proceeded and passed the following orders in relation to roads & Overseers of roads within Newton County, Viz: Road Precinct 5: Road from W. H. Starks to Ford on Creek near Wm. Herrings. Asa L. Stark, Overseer. List of Hands, E. S. Hunt & hired Negroes, William Herring, James Herring, Joshua Hickman, Wm F. Dobbs & Negro.*" W. H. Stark was William Hawley Stark and the brother of Prudence Jane Stark. Asa L. Stark was also her brother. William Herrin is recorded as a resident of Newton County, Texas in Carroll Parish, Louisiana where he sold property to Alex Sappington November 30, 1848 which was apparently next door to the property sold by William Hawley Stark in Carroll Parish to the same Alex Sappington on the same day. This would imply William Hawley Stark and William Herrin were neighbors when they lived in Ouachita Parish.

Daniel Donaho and Nancy Larimore, both of South Carolina, married about 1807 and moved to Mississippi with several of Daniel's brothers. In the early 1820's, Daniel and Nancy moved to Ouachita Parish, Louisiana where their son, Lewis Donaho, married Ann Lewis, the sister of John T. Lewis. Daniel Donaho appears in the 1830 census for Ouachita Parish but soon after was drawn to the Bevil settlement where he is recorded in the 1835 Mexican Census taken that year. Living in his home in 1835 was his daughter Matilda, age 13, and Willis Donaho, age 23. However, the beginning of the Texas Revolution caused Daniel to move across the Sabine River where he can be found in the 1840 census for Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. Asa married Matilda Donaho before July 5, 1838, the day he was granted his 1,280 acre headright. His headright document records he was a married man and as shown above, single men would have received 640 acres. Therefore, from the above, we can say all four of the Stark siblings were living in the Republic of Texas before the Republic joined the Union December 28th, 1845. It was at this time Jasper County was divided to form Newton County, Texas.

Chapter 6 The Years Before the Republic of Texas

In the 1830 census, John and Sarah (Stark) Lewis were living next door to William Herrin and his first spouse who had given birth to James Herrin in 1826. As will be revealed later, James Herrin married Nancy Jane Lewis who was the first daughter and child of John and Sarah Mariah (Stark) Lewis. On page 191 of the 1830 Ouachita Parish Census, head of the house on line 10 was Martin B. Lewis, on line 12 was John Lewis, and on line 13 was William Herrin indicating they were neighbors.[1] After William Herrin's first wife died, he married Prudence Jane Stark, the sister of Sarah Mariah Stark.

Samuel S. Lewis was also recorded on the same page as his sons in the 1830 Ouachita Parish Census which was enumerated on November 25, 1830.[2] It is believed Samuel may have already obtained land in Mexican Texas earlier. Mrs. Charles Martin published the following in the Kirbyville Banner in 1971: "*In his (Col. Samuel S. Lewis) certificate of character, he states that he came to Texas in March 1832, but that his servants had been in the province since January 1830. This was probably to prepare fields and buildings for the arrival of the family. The Lewis Plantation was on Indian Creek between the communities of Bevilport and Peachtree, but his post office address was Zavalla in Angelina County. The other part of his grant was east of Cow Creek and south of the Biloxi community.*"[3]

From the above and other sources, the Lewis family most likely arrived in Texas between the 1st and 5th of March in the year 1832. The Mexican certificate of character made by Samuel Lewis stated his servants and other property had been in Texas since January of 1830 and he and his wife had two children still living at home. The certificate of character was dated in January of 1833 and signed by the local Alcalde, William McFarland.[4] Also moving to Texas at this time were Samuel's sons, Martin Lewis and John Taylor Lewis.

However, as the family was preparing to move to Texas, the Mexican Government declared an end to the flow of immigrants from the United States into Texas. General Manuel de Mier y Terán had left Mexico City with an expedition in November of 1827 charged with surveying and marking the northeastern border of Mexico which had been established in the 1819 treaty between the United States and Spain. However, his covert mission was to assess the situation in Texas relative to the size, strength, and attitudes of the settler colonies; evaluate the condition and prospects of the Indians; study the extent and value of the natural resources; and recommend measures to keep Texas as a Mexican providence.[5]

After traveling across Texas to Nacogdoches, Terán reported what he had observed and speculated what it meant to Mexico. He wrote, "*As one travels from Béxar to this town, Mexican influence diminishes, so much so that it becomes clear that in this town that influence is almost nonexistent. But where could such influence come from? Not from the population, because the ratio of the Mexican population is precisely the contrary the Mexicans of this town consist of what people everywhere call the abject class, the poorest and most ignorant. The poor Mexicans neither have the resources to create schools, nor is there anyone to think about improving their institutions and their abject condition.*"[6]

This was but one of many observations made by Terán and illustrate his concern the Americans, as you moved closer to the Louisiana border, were much better at colonization of regions of Texas than the Mexicans and he feared Texas would ultimately become part of the United States. Therefore, how could Texas be defended against the invasion of the Americans? Terán first recommended the Mexican army's presence in Texas must be increased. "*On the frontier there are intrigues,*" Terán wrote; and the way to prevent intrigues from becoming rebellions was to have troops at the ready. Second, he recommended immigration of North Americans be suspended but recommended those American colonies already present, like Stephen F. Austin's at San Felipe, be left alone and allowed to prosper.[7]

The most important measure recommended by Terán was reserved for east Texas from west of the Sabine River to the Gulf of Mexico and east of the Trinity River. Terán believed Texas should be truly Mexican and without this measure, the other recommendations would only be temporary solutions delaying the inevitable settlement of Texas by Americans. Therefore, Terán declared; "*The land of Texas, or at least its eastern part where its principle rivers begin to be navigable, should be reserved for Mexican settlers.*" He further recommended the government transplant five thousand Mexicans along the Trinity River to form a barrier to further encroachment of Americans into Texas.[8] As will be seen, this recommendation would have adverse affects on the Lewis Clan who would settle in this region.

1) Census Year 1830 State Louisiana Parish Ouachita Page No 16 Reel no M19-44 Division Western District Sheet No 191 Enumerated by Haywood T. Alford on November 25th, 1830 Reference Source Used Blue Roses Publishing images Transcribed by Karen Mabry Rice and Proofread by Shawn Martin for USGenWeb, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~census>.

2) Ibid; Western District Sheet No 184.

3) Martin, Mrs. Charles; "*Early Settlers of Jasper County; The First To Arrive.*" Kirbyville Banner, Kirbyville, Texas 75956, Wednesday 17, 1971.

4) Benthall, Lillian Light, "*Colonel Samuel S. Lewis, Early Texan Founder of Orleans, Indiana*", June 13, 1966.

5) Brands, H. W., "*Lone Star Nation; How a Ragged Army of Volunteers Won the Battle For Texas Independence - And Changed America.*" Published by Doubleday, March 2004, First Edition; Pages 142 & 143.

6) Ibid, page 148; H. W. Brands. Source: Pages 97 & 98; "Texas by Terán The Diary Kept by General Manuel de Mier y Terán on His 1828 Inspection of Texas." Edited by Jack Jackson. Austin University of Texas Press, 2000.

7) Ibid, pages 151 & 152; H. W. Brands Source Pages 38 & 39 of the Teran Diary.

8) Ibid; Source: "Texas by Terán The Diary Kept by General Manuel de Mier y Terán on His 1828 Inspection of Texas." Edited by Jack Jackson. Austin University of Texas Press, 2000, pages 38 & 39.

In the Spring of 1830, Mexican foreign Minister Lucas Alamán introduced a bill to the Mexican Congress which became known as the “April 6 Law.” This bill authorized the construction and manning of military posts in Texas, encouraged colonization by Mexican nationals, prohibited further immigration to Texas from the United States, suspended empresario contracts not already completed, and banned the introduction of additional slaves, slavery having already been banned by the Mexican Constitution of 1824. William Bennett Travis came in early 1831 to Anahuac, Texas from Claiborne, Alabama, establishing a law practice in that community. Travis was to be appointed the American Council in Anahuac on the recommendation of Stephen F. Austin but before Congress could act on this recommendation, Anahuac became the focal point of immigrant discontent because of the April 6, 1830 Law. Stephen F. Austin’s colony on the Brazos had been granted exemption from custom duties for seven years and under the new law, Mexican authorities insisted on payment after the exemption ran out, which applied to all of the colonies. The colonist and merchants responded by smuggling their goods into Anahuac and the Mexican authorities resorted to seizures of ships and their cargos.[1]

The smuggling was a direct challenge to Mexican Authority and the government appointed Colonel Juan (John) Bradburn, a Virginian by birth, as Commander of the garrison at Anahuac. The American colonist were annoyed by Bradburn’s allegiance to Mexico and, because he was a intemperate, belligerent man, completely lacking in the powers of persuasion, animosity between the Commander and Colonist grew in intensity.[9] The original Mexican Constitution of 1824 specifically made slavery illegal in Mexico but the authorities allowed immigrants from the United States to bring their slaves if each slave signed long term documents of indenture. The slaves readily signed the documents having no idea the laws were different in Mexico. Bradburn took the ban on slavery seriously and attempted to enforce the Mexican Constitution and when Travis made application to Bradburn to recover two runaway slaves, Bradburn rejected the application, stating the runways were not contraband, but free men under Mexican Law and that the two men had joined the Mexican Army and requested Mexican citizenship.[1]

Taking advantage of Bradburn’s unpopularity with the colonist, Travis spread a rumor that Louisiana vigilantes were coming to Anahuac to recover the slaves causing Bradburn to prepare the garrison for an assault, only to discover there was no threat at all. Because Travis had laughed so hard telling the story to others, making Bradburn the laughing stock of Anahuac, Bradburn had Travis arrested and thrown in the guardhouse. Travis became an instant celebrity among the American population, who despised Bradburn anyway, and when Patrick Jack was arrested for attempting to raise a militia against Bradburn, the colony became restless. Fearing the Anahuac residents would attempt to free his prisoners, Bradburn moved them from a ordinary guardhouse to a empty brick kiln.[1]

Other arrest were made which infuriated the colonists even more and word of the plight of those arrested in Anahuac spread northward to San Felipe and Nacogdoches. Thirty armed men were raised from Brazoria and as they rode toward Anahuac, their number grew to more than 100 men. As they were riding towards Anahuac, this band of settlers came upon soldiers sent out by Bradburn who were taken hostage. On arriving in Anahuac, a prisoner exchange was discussed and the Mexican soldiers were released. However, Bradburn reneged on releasing Travis and Jack and instead sent soldiers into Anahuac who shot up the town in the American sector. A group of settlers traveling from Brazoria with a cannon, engaged some Mexican soldiers, the skirmish resulting in several fatalities among the Mexican troops.[1]

The fatalities alarmed the Commander of the garrison at Nacogdoches who hurried south to Anahuac to prevent the rebellion from becoming a full fledged revolution. Because the Mexican army’s presence at that time was not of sufficient strength to put down an uprising in East Texas, the Nacogdoches Commander convinced Bradburn to release Travis and Jack to the Mexican Civil Courts and persuaded Bradburn to relinquish his command to a replacement.[2] Travis was released two months later and declared in a publication, “*Americans know their rights and will assert and protect them. The Americans have gained everything which they claimed. There is every prospect that this happy state of things will have a long and prosperous duration.*”[2]

Stephen F. Austin and James Bowie attempted to calm the American colonist after the Anahuac Rebellion; but during the summer of 1832, José de las Piedras, Commander of the garrison at Nacogdoches, ordered all of the settlers in the area to surrender their arms. This was just a few months after the Lewis family had located in Texas from Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. As one would expect, this order clearly threatened the security of the settlers. The order was rejected and the settlers in the region organized a militia to prevent Piedras from enforcing it. Word was sent out in all directions from Nacogdoches to the other American colonies that this order must be resisted by force of arms.[3]

Samuel Lewis and his sons, Martin Baty Lewis, and John Taylor Lewis, answered the call to arms and joined with the insurgents against Piedras. John W. Bullock was elected Commander of the force which assembled near Nacogdoches on the 31st of July. The men were divided into companies and made preparations to attack the garrison. However, Piedras was considered to be a gallant man and a gentleman who was generally liked by the residents. A committee was formed consisting of Isaac W. Burton, Philip A. Sublett and Henry W. Augustin who visited Piedras and make known to him the views and intentions of their constituents, and ask his co-operation in sustaining Santa Anna and a free Republican government, with an intimation, unmistakable in tone, that, if he did not, he must evacuate his position and retire to the interior of Mexico. To the requests of the committee, Piedras delivered a gentlemanly but emphatic “No.” The answer left but one of two courses to the armed citizens.[4]

1) H. W. Brands; Pages 163 thru 167.

2) Ibid; Source: Davis, William C., “*Three Roads to the Alamo The Lives and Fortunes of David Crockett, James Bowie, and William Barret Travis.*” New York, Harper-Collins, 1998.

3) Ibid; Pages 179 & 180.

4) Brown, John Henry, “*History of Texas, The Confrontation at Nacogdoches, August 1832*”; Published 1898.

In 1898, John Henry Brown wrote this account of the battle of Nacogdoches.[1]

*“On the night of August 1st, these earnest men, about three hundred in number, camped a little east of Nacogdoches. During the night, in anticipation of bloody work on the morrow, the families evacuated the town. On the next the forces entered the suburbs, challenging attack; but, none being made, moved into the center of the town, whereupon they were charged by about a hundred Mexican cavalry, who were repulsed with some loss. Don Encarnacion Chirino, Alcalde, fell by the fire of his own countrymen. The Texans took position in houses and behind fences, and a random fire was kept up till night, in which time they lost three killed and five wounded, while the Mexican loss was stated at forty-one killed and about as many wounded. During the night Piedras retreated on the road to San Antonio. Colonel James Bowie, who seems to have arrived during the night, headed a party to out travel and got in front of Piedras, while the main body pursued in the rear. By taking the lower road Bowie succeeded and appeared in Piedras' front a little west of the Angelina, in crossing which the Mexican sergeant, Marcos, was killed by Bowie's men. Seeing his inevitable defeat, and resolved not to abandon the cause of his chief, Piedras surrendered the command to the next in rank, Don Francisco Medina, who at once declared for Santa Anna and the Republican constitution, and submitted himself to the colonists ¾ nominally yielding himself and command as prisoners. By agreement, Bowie escorted the Mexicans to San Antonio. Asa M. Edwards conducted Piedras to Velasco, whence he returned to Mexico. Among the volunteers at Nacogdoches, besides Bullock and Bowie, were Asa M. Edwards, Haden H. Edwards, Alexander Horton, Almanzon Huston, Isaac W. Burton, Philip A. Sublett, Henry W. Augustin, **M. B. Lewis**, Theophilus Thomas, Isaac D. Thomas, **Thomas S. McFarland**, Asa Jarman, and William Y. Lacy.”*

It is ironic, as later events will reveal, that the officer surrendering Piedras' troops to James Bowie declared for Santa Anna and the Republican Constitution. In the summer of 1832, Santa Anna was a hero of the Mexican Revolution and the hopeful salvation of the Texans and the interest of Stephen F. Austin. The government was controlled by centralist who were manipulating the elections to give them the results they desired. Santa Anna, as a hedge against this fraud, enlisted the aid of some of his old comrades in arms and seized the Port of Veracruz, the single largest source of Mexico's public revenue. On hearing the port had been captured, other southern states in Mexico, along with the Texans, called for Santa Anna to lead the country back to federalism. Stephen F. Austin wrote; *“I would not be a lover of the fundamental principles of the constitutional liberty of my adopted country if I failed to respect the Chief whose arms have always been used to protect and sustain them.”*[2]

After a series of small battles, Santa Anna's forces had gained control of the country by October of 1832. In January of 1833, a parade was held in Santa Anna's honor in Mexico City and Santa Anna called for pass grievances to be forgotten with these words to a grateful nation; *“... indulgence with mistakes of opinion, an end to hatreds, and the erasure from memory of the word vengeance. Thus, you will attain the object of your desires and sacrifices, long and happy days for the republic, durable happiness for all.”* With the nation at peace, Santa Anna retired to his hacienda but assured his supporters he would not be far away with these words, *“My whole ambition is restricted to beating my sword into a plowshare. If any hand should again disturb the public peace and constitutional order, do not forget me. I shall return at your call, and we shall again show the world that the Mexican Republic will not tolerate tyrants and oppressors of the people.”*[3]

The Lewis family settled on Indian Creek in the region which later became Jasper County. Samuel Lewis and John Taylor Lewis probably encouraged others in Ouachita Parish to move to Texas where there was an abundance of land for the taking and it is believed William Hawley Stark followed his sister, Sarah Mariah Stark and her husband, to Texas, purchasing a league of land in 1835 at about the same time his brother-in-law and neighbor, William Herrin, by then married to Prudence Jane Stark, purchased land in November of 1835. By 1835, John Taylor Lewis and Sarah Mariah Stark had a son, William McFarland Lewis, born in Texas in 1833, and a daughter, Nancy Jane Lewis, born in Louisiana in 1831.[4]

Mary Holly was a cousin of Stephen F. Austin who was a writer by inclination. Her husband had died and Mary knew her brother, Henry, and cousin Stephen, were in Texas. Being an enterprising woman, she decided to make a journey to Texas, keeping an diary of her travels, which she intended to publish as a book. Because Stephen Austin was becoming well known in the United States as a successful empresario in Mexico, she reasoned her readers would find her stories interesting and her travel guide helpful to those planning a move to Texas. She found a publisher, and in the fall of 1831, left New Orleans with a boatload of passengers bound for Texas. From her account, life in Texas, as seen from a woman's point of view, can be appreciated and understood. Although she visited communities like Brazoria and San Felipe on the Brazos River, we can get some understanding of what life was like for the women who arrived and lived in these early Texas communities. One would suppose the circumstances and experiences in other communities would be similar.[5]

Mary wrote this first impression of the community of Brazoria, *“One street stretches along the bank of the Brazos, and one parallel with it further back, while other streets, with the trees still standing, are laid out to intersect these at right angles, to be cleared at some future day as the wants of the citizens may require. Its arrangement, as well as its wealth and greatness, are all prospective.”*[6]

1) Brown, John Henry, *“History of Texas, The Confrontation at Nacogdoches, August 1832”*; Published 1898.

2) Brands, H. W., Page 182. Source: *“The Austin Papers,”* Edited by Eugene C. Baker. 3 Volumes. Volumes 1 & 2; Washington Government Printing Office, 1924-1928 (Volumes 1-2); Austin University of Texas Pres, 1927 (Volume 3). Vol. 2, page 811.

3) Ibid; page 183. Source Callcott, Randolph B. *“Santa Anna The Story of an Enigma Who Once Was Mexico.”* Norman University of Oklahoma Press, 1936, page 96.

4) The 1835 Mexican Census of Texas; Bevil District or Municipality.

5) Brands, H. W., Page 213.

6) Ibid, page 215; Source: Holly, Mary Austin. *“Texas Observations Historical, Geographic, and Descriptive.”* 1833, New York Arno Press, 1973. Also the 1836 edition, subtitled *“Original Narratives of Texas History and Adventure,”* reprinted Austin Steck Company, 1935.

Of the fifty or so families who lived in the town, she wrote, *"Some families, recently arrived, are obliged to camp out, from the impracticability of getting other accommodation. The place, therefore, has a busy and prosperous air, which it is always agreeable to notice, but has not yet advanced beyond the wants of first necessity. There is neither cabinetmaker, tailor, hatter, shoe-maker, nor any other mechanic, except carpenters."* Of the one boardinghouse, she said, *"The proprietors of it are from New York and know how things should be, and have intelligence and good sense enough to make the best of circumstances they cannot control."*[1]

Mary counseled those expecting to move to arrive in the fall. *"The best month to arrive is in October. The first impression at that time is delightful, as well as just, and there is less inconvenience and trouble at that time than at any other season. It is also the most favorable season on account of health. Those persons who come from the northern states or from Europe, in the spring and summer, experience too sudden a change and are always more or less affected by it."* She then gave the following advice for women who would be making the transition to Texas with their families:

"House-keepers should bring with them all indispensable articles for household use, together with as much common clothing (other clothing is not wanted) for themselves and their children, as they conveniently can. Ladies in particular should remember that in a new country they cannot get things made at any moment, as in an old one, and that they will be sufficiently busy the first two years, in arranging such things as they have, without occupying themselves in obtaining more. It should also be done as a matter of economy..."

Those who must have a feather-bed had better bring it, for it would take too long to make one; and though the air swarms with live geese, a feather-bed could not be got for love or money. Everybody should bring pillows and bed linen. Mattresses, such as are used universally in Louisiana — and they are very comfortable — are made of the moss which hangs on almost every tree. They cost nothing but the case and the trouble of preparing the moss. The case should be brought. Domestic checks are best, being cheap and light, and sufficiently strong. The moss is prepared by burying it in the earth until it is partially rotted. It is then washed very clean, dried and picked, when it is fit for use. These mattresses should be made very thick, and those who like a warmer bed in winter can put some layers of wool, well carded, upon the moss, taking care to keep this side up.

Every emigrant should bring mosquito bars They are indispensable in the summer season, and are made of a thin species of muslin, manufactured for the purpose. Furniture, such as chairs and bureaus, can be brought in separate pieces and put together, cheaper and better, after arrival, than they can be purchased here, if purchased at all. But it must be recollected that very few articles of this sort are required, where houses are small and building expensive Tables are made by the house carpenter, which answer the purpose very well, where nobody has better and the chief concern is to get something to put upon them. The maxim here is, nothing for show but all for use.
"[1]

And for those who Texas might not be the place for them, Mary gave this sobering advice, *"Those persons ... Who are established in comfort and competency, with an ordinary portion of domestic happiness; who have never been far from home, and are excessively attached to personal ease; who shrink from hardship and danger, and those who, being accustomed to a regular routine of prescribed employment in a city, know not how to act on emergencies or adapt themselves to all sorts of circumstances, had better stay where they are."*[1]

From October 1, to October 6 of 1832, the American Settlements in Texas held a convention to ask the Mexican Government to address the issues which had been the cause of the insurgencies in Nacogdoches and Anahuac. Attending were fifty-six delegates from sixteen districts. Austin was elected President of the Convention and among those attending were William McFarland, representing Ayish Bayou District and Samuel Lewis, named to the Subcommittee of Safety, Vigilance, and Correspondence for the Snow River District (later became Bevil District).[2,3,4]

The convention adopted a series of resolutions such as; requesting an extension of the tariff exemption in Texas for three years; modification of the Law of April 6, 1830 which would permit more general immigration from the United States; the appointment of a commissioner to issue land titles in East Texas; donation of government lands for the maintenance of primary schools to be conducted in Spanish and English; and a request from the ayuntamiento (Town Council) of Nacogdoches to prevent white encroachment on lands guaranteed to Indians in East Texas. The convention also established a plan for organizing a militia and committees of vigilance, safety, and correspondence, which could disseminate news quickly in case of an emergency. In its most controversial decision, the convention adopted a motion to request separate statehood from Coahuila which, after some debate, was adopted.[4]

For several reasons, the resolutions were never presented, the primary reason being the refusal of San Antonio to cooperate with the convention which made it appear that only the colonists who had come from the United States were dissatisfied. Therefore, the political chief of the province, Ramón Músqiz, ruled that the meeting was unauthorized and therefore illegal and Stephen Austin, believing the petition for statehood was premature, decided Santa Anna would soon take over the centralist government from Anastasio Bustamante and be more favorable to the petition. As already presented, Santa Anna did take over soon after the convention adjourned.[4]

1) Brands, H. W., page 215; Source: Holly, Mary Austin. *"Texas Observations Historical, Geographic, and Descriptive."* 1833, New York Arno Press, 1973. Also the 1836 edition, subtitled "Original Narratives of Texas History and Adventure," reprinted Austin Steck Company, 1935.

2) "The Handbook of Texas Online", MCFARLAND, WILLIAM (1774-1840), by McXie Whitton Martin; BIBLIOGRAPHY George L. Crocket, Two Centuries in East Texas (Dallas Southwest, 1932; facsimile reprod., 1962). Texas House of Representatives, Biographical Directory of the Texan Conventions and Congresses, 1832-1845 (Austin Book Exchange, 1941).

3) Martin, Mrs. Charles, *"Early Settlers of Jasper County, The First to Arrive,"* Kirbyville Banner, Kirbyville, Texas 75956, 1971.

4) "The Handbook of Texas Online", Convention of 1832, by Ralph W. Steen; BIBLIOGRAPHY Eugene C. Barker, The Life of Stephen F. Austin (Nashville Cokesbury Press, 1925; rpt., Austin Texas State Historical Association, 1949; New York AMS Press, 1970). Hans Peter Nielsen Gammel, comp., Laws of Texas, 1822-1897 (10 vols., Austin Gammel, 1898).

Sam Houston had met James Prentiss, a speculator who controlled tens of thousands of acres in the Leftwich grant, or at least he controlled them on paper. He offered to bring Houston in as a partner in exchange for payment of cash and Houston's commitment to travel to Texas to make good on his claim. The April 6, 1830 law made it imperative that Houston make the trip as soon as possible. Houston arrived in Nacogdoches in January of 1833 and from there traveled to San Felipe and then to San Antonio. His traveling companion from San Felipe to San Antonio was James Bowie and it is probable the two men exchanged information on the unrest and insurgency which had occurred in Texas in the previous year. Houston met with several Comanche Chiefs in San Antonio to provide legitimacy to his presence in Texas on behalf of President Jackson and then returned to Nacogdoches, which, by 1833, had become the center of intrigue and agitation in the dispute between the American Colonist and the Mexican Government, and where many opportunist had established their base of operations.

Another convention was held in San Felipe on April 1, 1833, the same day Antonio López de Santa Anna became President of Mexico by popular demand. The convention included about fifty participants including Austin, representing San Felipe, Sam Houston, representing Nacogdoches, and most likely William McFarland, representing Ayish Bayou District, and although the list of names of the attendees has been lost, men like Samuel Lewis probably attended representing their regions. The resolutions adopted by this convention were much the same as the Convention of 1832.

The convention petitioned again for repeal of the anti-immigration section of the Law of April 6, 1830 and in addition asked for more adequate Indian defense, judicial reform, and improvement in mail service. They sought tariff exemption as before, and passed resolutions prohibiting African slave traffic into Texas which agreed with the Mexican Constitution of 1824. The delegates proposed the Mexican Government split the Mexican State of Coahuila allowing a new Mexican State of Texas to be created. Assuming that the petition for statehood would be granted, a committee, of which Houston was chairman, prepared a constitution for submission to the Mexican Congress. Stephen Austin was chosen to present the petition to the Mexican government in Mexico City and the Convention adjourned on April 13.[1]

There was considerable debate on the issue of Mexican Statehood which at times took a decidedly secessionist direction with Sam Houston the leader of this group. At the convention, Houston declared in a speech, "*Can Mexico ever make laws for Texas? No!!...Mexico is acting in bad faith and trifling with the rights of people. Plans formed without the assent of Texas are not binding upon Texas.*" By preparing a Constitution and requesting Statehood, the message was clear that Texas was determined to govern itself. While many in the delegation, led by Stephen Austin, would have been content with self-government within the Mexican federation, there were others, led by Sam Houston, who saw the separation from Coahuila as a first step towards eventual separation from Mexico.[2]

Austin left for Mexico City soon after the convention and on arriving at the seat of Mexican government, he found Vice President Valéntin Gómez Farias was sitting in for Santa Anna, who was ill and had not arrived at the Capital to take control of the government. Austin, in letters back to San Felipe, reported the progress of his meetings with Vice President Farias and the Mexican Cabinet members; "*I explained at large and with some detail the situation of Texas and the necessity of erecting it into a state and had the right and duty of every people to save themselves from anarchy and ruin ... On this last point I enlarged very much. I distinctly stated as my opinion that self-preservation would compel the people of Texas to organize a local government, with or without the approbation of the General Government — that this measure would not proceed from any hostile views to the permanent union of Texas with Mexico, but from absolute necessity, to save themselves from anarchy and total ruin. How such a measure would affect the union of Texas with Mexico, or where it would end, were matters worthy of serious reflection.*"

If Austin spoke to the Vice President in this way and tone, he had issued an ultimatum — Give us statehood or we will give it to ourselves. This enraged Gómez Farias causing him to become suspicious of Austin's motives and loyalty to the Mexican government. Gómez Farias further questioned Austin's loyalty when he obtained letters Austin sent in October of 1833 to the ayuntamiento (town council) of San Antonio de Béxar. When Austin wrote these letters, he had seen little progress towards statehood and he reported and recommended; "*And in my opinion nothing is going to be done ... And so I hope that you will not lose a single moment in directing a communication to all the Ayuntamientos of Texas, urging them to unite in a measure to organize a local government independent of Coahuila, even though the general government should withhold its consent.*" To the Mexican officials, these were the words of a rebel organizing his followers.[2]

Believing he could do no more, Austin left Mexico City in December of 1833 and hurried to catch up with General Pedro Lemus, newly appointed commandant of the Northern District. He caught up with the General at Saltillo and was immediately placed under arrest on the order of the war ministry and was to be returned to the capital to answer charges raised by the state government of Coahuila y Texas. He arrived back in Mexico City February 13, 1834 and was placed in prison with no charges being formally filed. After three months in prison, Austin had been allowed no visitors and hopes for a hearing and freedom had to await Santa Anna's return to the capital.

1)"The Handbook of Texas Online", Convention of 1833, by Ralph W. Steen. BIBLIOGRAPHY Stephen F. Austin, "Explanation to the Public Concerning the Affairs of Texas, by Citizen Stephen F. Austin," Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association 8 (January 1905). Eugene C. Barker, The Life of Stephen F. Austin (Nashville Cokesbury Press, 1925; rpt., Austin Texas State Historical Association, 1949; New York AMS Press, 1970). Eugene C. Barker, ed., The Austin Papers (3 vols., Washington GPO, 1924-28). Holland Edwards Bell, The Texas Convention of 1832 (M.A. thesis, University of Texas, 1907). John Henry Brown, History of Texas from 1685 to 1892 (2 vols., St. Louis Daniell, 1893). E. W. Winkler, "Membership of the 1833 Convention of Texas," Southwestern Historical Quarterly 45 (January 1942). Henderson K. Yoakum, History of Texas from Its First Settlement in 1685 to Its Annexation to the United States in 1846 (2 vols., New York Redfield, 1855).

2) Brands, H. W., Pages 205, 220 - 223, 226. Source: Washington Daniel Miller Papers, Austin Papers.

For one year, Santa Anna had skirted his duties as President, feigning illness as his reason for not attending his own inauguration and then for the same reason, letting his vice-president, Gómez Farias, run the country in his absence. Some historians believe Santa Anna's "illness" was a political ploy to avoid being responsible for liberal reforms the vice president and a likewise liberal congress put into place. The most influential persons in the country, the wealthy, were the biggest losers if the reforms were enacted, which caused Santa Anna to delay his return to the capital and wait for their reaction and the reaction of the general population. If they proved to be popular, Santa Anna could claim credit, but if they failed, then he could place the blame on Gómez Farias and the Congress.

Santa Anna, during his stay at his hacienda, was approached by a conservative alliance of Bishops and Generals asking Santa Anna to assume emergency powers which he declined to do at that time with these words: *"I swear to you that I oppose all efforts aimed at the destruction of the constitution and that I would die before accepting any other power than that designated by it My firmest determination is to defend without the slightest hesitation the constitution as our representatives gave it to us in 1824."*[1] However, after several more months had passed, the bishops, generals, and landed gentry, again visited Santa Anna's hacienda and again requested he move against the liberal movement, arguing the masses weren't ready for republicanism and Mexico needed stronger leadership. Santa Anna allowed himself to be persuaded by these arguments and in a complete about face, determined he alone would rule the country. Towards the end of April 1834, he returned to the capital, sent the congress home, forced Vice President Gómez Farias into exile in New Orleans, and unilaterally repealed most of the reforms of his liberal government.

With his now conservative base satisfied, Santa Anna justified his actions to the Mexican citizens with these words, *"I encountered stormy sessions of the Congress. One faction was endeavoring to confiscate the property of the church and to deny to the clergy its rights and ancient privileges. The public was dismayed by these actions and opposed violently any usurpation of the clergy's rights. Obeying the dictates of my conscience and hoping to quell a revolution, I declined to approve the necessary decree to put these edicts into law."*[2] With these sweeping political actions, Santa Anna assumed dictatorial powers over the government of Mexico in May of 1834.

Meanwhile, Stephen F. Austin continued to languish in his Mexico City prison cell, but was much encouraged by the return of Santa Anna to the capital. Santa Anna eased the conditions of Austin's imprisonment after Gómez Farias departed, having him transferred to better prison quarters in the suburbs. Visitors were allowed and one businessman who admired Austin, offered to help him escape. However, Austin declined the offer, placing his faith in Santa Anna to set things right. This faith in Santa Anna led Austin to write in August of 1834, *"I have no doubt that the political intentions of the President General Santa Anna are sound and patriotic ... President Santa Anna is friendly to Texas and to me, of this I have no doubt."*[3]

Santa Anna continued to expand his control over the Mexican government by dismantling the federalist institutions, dissolving state legislatures and militias, and even demoting the Mexican States to departments of the national government. After disposing of his vice-president, Gómez Farias, he held rigged elections that provided him with a rubber stamp congress. This was not done without some resistance. The State of Zacatecas, northeast of Mexico City, refused to disband its militia. Santa Anna personally led an Army which soundly defeated the Zacatecas Militia and then, as an example, brutally slaughtered the insurgents and hundreds of women and children. His message was clear, those who opposed his rule could expect no mercy if their opposition failed, an ominous warning to Texans if they planned to oppose Santa Anna's ambitions.

To restore order to the northern frontier and Texas, Santa Anna sent his brother-in-law north to Texas with several hundred men, their mission, to prevail in Texas as Santa Anna had prevailed in the State of Zacatecas. His orders were to disarm the citizens of Texas and if this could not be accomplished peacefully, then, the population could expect the same harsh treatment experienced by the State of Zacatecas. Cos, on his arrival, announced; *"The plans of the revolutionist of Texas are well known to this commandancy, and it is quite useless and vain to cover them with a hypocritical adherence to the federal constitution. The constitution by which all Mexicans may be governed is the constitution which the colonists of Texas must obey, no matter on what principles it may be formed."*[4] With all of the players in place, the revolution is about to begin.

In the spring of 1835, Santa Anna ordered new troops to Anahuac to collect the customs duties, which angered the local merchants and rebellion began anew in Anahuac, led once again by William Travis. The merchant's retaliated using sabotage and evasion. One of Travis' clients had a schooner which arrived having passengers aboard without passports. The schooner was seized, its cargo impounded and the passengers arrested and taken to Veracruz. Word was quickly passed among the colonist that similar actions by the British had triggered the American Revolution. Travis raised a band of volunteers who elected him Captain and advanced on Anahuac where he demanded the garrison commander surrender or have every member of his garrison killed. Not knowing the strength of Travis' band, the garrison commander, after assurances his men would not be harmed, abandoned the garrison and rode towards the Rio Grande. General Cos ordered the arrest of Travis but the local authorities refused to carry out the arrest order. A \$1,000 dollar bounty reward was offered for the capture of Travis, which further enhanced his reputation among the Texas settlements.

James Bowie was arrested by General Cos who was after some other officials and happened to catch Bowie in his net. After several weeks, Bowie escaped to the American settlements, sounding the alarm that General Cos and his troops were coming. He eventually reached Nacogdoches where militia units were being raised and was elected to be a Colonel.

1) Brands, H. W., Page 227. Source: Callcott, Randolph B. *"Santa Anna The Story of an Enigma Who Once Was Mexico."* Norman University of Oklahoma Press, 1936, page 102.

2) Santa Anna, Antonio López de. *"The Eagle: The Autobiography of Santa Anna."* Edited by Ann Fears Crawford. Austin Pemberton Press, 1967.

3) Austin Papers, Volume 2, page 1077.

4) Brands, H. W., Page 237. Source: Wooten, Dudley G., *"A comprehensive History of Texas, 1685 to 1897."* Volumes 1, page 173. Dallas William G. Scarff, 1898. Reprinted edition Austin Texas State Historical Association, 1986.

Austin was finally released in August of 1835 and traveled by boat from Veracruz to New Orleans. He found there were thousands of immigrants pouring into Texas each month, most entering without the permission of the Mexican government or the local empresarios. Texas was becoming Americanized with the population now about thirty thousand from the United States compared to about three thousand Mexican nationals. During his time in New Orleans, Austin learned of the latest Anahuac uprising and of General Cos' approach. Although Austin still had a glimmer of hope Santa Anna had the best interest of Texas at heart, his trust in this man as a savior of the settlers was faltering as he wrote, "*General Santa Anna told me he should visit Texas next month as a friend. His visit is uncertain, his friendship much more so. We must rely on ourselves, and prepare for the worst.*" Upon his return, there was a tremendous celebration and at the conclusion, Austin was asked to speak.[1]

"My efforts to serve Texas involved me in the labyrinth of Mexican politics. I was arrested, and have suffered a long persecution and imprisonment. I fully hoped to have found Texas at peace and in tranquility, but regret to find it in commotion, all disorganized, all in anarchy, and threatened with immediate hostilities. This state of things is deeply to be lamented; it is a great misfortune, but it is one which has not been produced by any acts of the people of this country. On the contrary it is the natural and inevitable consequence of the revolution that has spread all over Mexico, and of the imprudent and impolitic measures of both the general and state governments with respect to Texas. They are farmers, cultivators of the soil, and are pacific from interest, from occupation, and from inclination. They have uniformly endeavored to sustain the constitution and the public peace by pacific means, and have never deviated from their duty as Mexican citizens. The federal constitution of 1824 is about to be destroyed, the system of government changed, and a central or consolidated one established. Let all personalities, or divisions, or excitements, or passion, or violence, be banished from among us. Let a general consultation of people of Texas be convened as speedily as possible, to be composed of the best, and most calm, and intelligent, and firm men in the country, and let them decide what representations ought to be made to the general government and what ought to be done in the future."

General Cos loaded five hundred troops on ships and two weeks after Austin's homecoming, landed troops on the Texas coast. Austin had hoped for more time to get organized, but this new development and the populations fear of meeting the same fate as the State of Zacatecas, moved the settlers to act more quickly than they would have liked. Committees of Safety were organized with Austin heading San Felipe's. Austin circulated a letter to the other communities giving the latest information on the movements of General Cos and plans for countering those movements. He wrote; [2]

"Things have come on us much sooner than I expected. The substance of this information is that General Cos was expected at Béxar on the 16th of this month with more troops, that there was a plan to try and foment divisions and discord among the people, so as to use one part against the other, and prevent preparation — and that the real object is to destroy and break up the foreign settlements in Texas. All kind of conciliatory measures with General Cos and the military at Béxar are hopeless Nothing but ruin to Texas can be expected from any such measures. They have already and very properly been resorted to, without effect. War is upon us. There is no remedy. The people must unconditionally submit to whatever the government chooses to do for them; he (General Cos) lays down the principle that General Government have the right to force us to submit to any reform or amendments or alterations that congress may make in the constitution, &c, for we shall be, under 'Cos' doctrine, without any rights or guarantees of any kind. War is inevitable. There must now be no halfway measures — war in full. The sword is drawn and the scabbard must be put on one side until the military are all driven out of Texas."

In early October of 1835, there was an altercation at Gonzales on the Guadalupe River. The empresario, Green Dewitt had been given a cannon by the Mexican authorities several years earlier to protect the settlement from Indians. When General Cos ordered the Texans to disarm, Colonel Ugartechea sent a small detachment of troops from San Antonio to Gonzales to retrieve the cannon. The colony refused to turn over the cannon after many Texan volunteers arrived in Gonzales. While the Texan Commander, John Moore, chosen in an election of the men who had assembled, parleyed with the Mexican commander, a banner was unfurled by the cannon with the words, "**Come And Take It.**" Moore returned to the Texan side of the Guadalupe River and the cannon was fired, discharging metal scraps toward the Mexicans. Musket fire was exchanged and the Mexican officer retreated to San Antonio. Casualties were light on both sides, but hostilities were escalating beyond insurgency and now becoming open rebellion which would rapidly lead to revolution.

The Texans had still not had a general consultation as suggested by Austin in early September of 1835. The skirmish in Gonzales left no doubt the Texans needed to meet and get organized soon, which would not happen until November. Because of the events in Gonzales, the communities of Gonzales, San Felipe, and Nacogdoches raised companies of volunteers naming as their commanders, John Moore, Stephen Austin, and Sam Houston, respectively. Once the commanders were named, they chose Austin as the Commander of the Texan Army. Now that the Texan Army was organized, Austin ordered a march towards San Antonio de Béxar to attempt to engage General Cos.

1) Brands, H. W., Pages 247, 248, 250. Source: Austin Papers, Volume 3, pages 102, 103, 116-119.

2) Austin Papers, Volume 3, page 128.

James Bowie was in Nacogdoches when news of the Gonzales battle arrived and with some friends from Louisiana, caught up with Austin's army near Cibolo Creek, about 25 miles east and north of San Antonio. Austin assigned Bowie to his staff and gave him, along with James Fannin, the responsibility of reconnoitering San Antonio to learn more about the Mexican defenses. Intelligence reports from the town prompted Bowie and Fannin to report "*A large number of the citizens of Béxar and of this place are now laying out, to prevent being forced to perform the most servile duties Great consternation was manifested there when our approach to this point (Espada Mission, 9 miles from San Antonio) was made known They have 8 pieces (4 lb) (Cannon) mounted, and one of larger size preparing for us. They have none on the Church, but have removed all their ammunition to it, and enclosed it by a wall, made of wood, six feet apart and six feet high, filled in with dirt, extending from the corners to the ditch, say sixty yards in length.*"[1] They further reported provisions in the town were running low and General Cos and his men could be starved out in five days.

On this intelligence, Austin cautiously advanced towards San Antonio on October 27, 1836 sending Bowie and Fannin ahead with ninety men with orders to reconnoiter and return. However, in defiance of that order, Bowie and Fannin established a position in a bend of the San Antonio River, which protected them from flanking or rear attacks but having the disadvantage of providing no avenue of retreat. General Cos became aware of the presence of Bowie and Fannin and the position they had taken and sent a contingent of troops to exploit the rebels tenuous position. With the battle about to be engaged before Austin was prepared, he hastened forward to reinforce Bowie and Fannin, who were about to become embroiled in a fight with General Cos' troops.

During the night of October 27, a heavy fog settled on the river and continued to hang in the air on the next morning. Although shots were exchanged by both sides, it was ineffective. As the fog lifted, the ninety rebels found themselves surrounded. Noah Smithwick wrote of the encounter: [2]

"When the fog lifted, we found ourselves pretty well surrounded, though the bluff and heavy timber on the west side of the river secured us against attack in the rear. In front was a field piece flanked by several companies of infantry; and across the river, to cut off retreat, were two companies of cavalry. But we lay low and their grape and canister crashed through the pecan trees overhead, raining a shower of ripe nuts down on us, and I saw men picking them up and eating them with as little apparent concern as if they were being shaken down by a norther. Bowie was a born leader, never needlessly spending a bullet or imperiling a life. He repeatedly admonished us, 'Keep under cover, boys, and reserve your fire; we haven't a man to spare.' Our long rifles — and I thought I never heard rifles crack so keen, after the dull roar of the cannons — mowed down the Mexicans at a rate that might well have made braver hearts than those encased in their shriveled little bodies recoil.

Three times they charged, but there was a platoon ready to receive them. Three times we picked off their gunners; the last one with a lighted match in his hand; then a panic seized them and they broke. They jumped on the mules attached to the caisson, two or three on a mule, without even taking time to cut them loose, and struck out for the fort, leaving the loaded gun on the field. With a ringing cheer we mounted the bank and gave chase. We turned their cannon on them, giving wings to their flight. They dropped their muskets, and, splashing through the shallow water of the river, fled helter skelter as if pursued by all the furies."

In a stunning victory which became known as the Battle of Concepción, Bowie and Fannin had routed four times their number, inflicting sixty casualties on the Mexican troops while having one of their own killed. Austin arrived shortly after the battle concluded and wrote, "*The overwhelming superiority of force, and the brilliancy of the victory gained over them, speaks for themselves in terms too expressive to require from me any further eulogy.*"[3]

In early November of 1835, Martin Baty Lewis raised a company of East Texas Volunteers who joined the Texas Army after the Battle of Concepcion. Among the volunteers was his brother, John Taylor Lewis.[4] The Consultation convened at about the same time in San Felipe with 55 delegates attending. Among the many decisions made, Sam Houston was appointed commander of the army, replacing the ailing Stephen F. Austin, and a provisional Government of Texas was created as a state of Mexico with Henry Smith elected as Governor. Houston was now commander of an army that didn't really exist for the fighting thus far involved irregulars who came to fight when the mood struck them. The army lacked discipline, command and control, equipment and supplies, and the necessary training needed to act as a cohesive unit. The irregulars at San Antonio had defied Stephen F. Austin attempts to organize an assault before he relinquished his command and most decisions were actually being made by committee, many times at the lowest level units and this democratic army had decided to starve General Cos and his men into submission by laying siege to San Antonio.

Houston was against this strategy, believing it would be better to pull back to the east until the army could be trained. Houston wrote to James Fannin suggesting, not ordering, the army fall back to La Bahia and Gonzales along the Guadalupe River, leaving a force of sufficient strength to protect the frontier. The other fighting men would be allowed to go home until the Army could be supplied with ammunition and artillery to make a proper attack on San Antonio. However, retreat was not acceptable to this democratic army and the siege of San Antonio continued in defiance of Houston's suggestion. After weeks on siege duty, the men became bored and on hearing a Mexican column, rumored to have a large quantity of silver, was approaching from the Rio Grande, decided it was time to attack to break the boredom and collect the booty.

1) Austin Papers, Volume 3, page 202.

2) Brands, H. W., Pages 275-277. Source: Compiled by Nanna Smithwick Donaldson. Austin Gammel Book Company, 1900, page 114-115.

3) Ibid; page 277. Source Austin Papers, Vol. 3, page 217.

4) Audited Military Claims, Republic of Texas (Miscellaneous Archives, Texas State Library)

Bowie was placed in command of forty men to intercept the soldiers who had approached to within one mile of Béxar. Out numbered three or four to one, the Texans boldly galloped into the middle of the Mexican train, forcing them into a arroyo where they took refuge. Hearing the sound of gunfire, Cos sent troops out to reinforce the train and these additional Mexican troops then forced the Texans to seek cover in another close by arroyo. The battle raged back and forth, until Texan reinforcements made up of volunteers who wanted to share in the booty, arrived, driving the Mexicans into the town and forcing them to leave their baggage behind. The Texans fell upon their prize only to find out the train was nothing more than a contingent of troops sent out to gather grass to feed their horses and mules. This battle became known as the “Grass Fight” for obvious reasons.

All of this was happening with Edward Burleson commanding, who had been elected by the volunteers participating in the siege when Austin stepped aside. He was by now having difficulty keeping the bored men from going home and promised an assault was to begin on San Antonio on the morning of December 2. However, the lack of a chain of command stopped the planned attack for the company captains polled their men and reported to Burleson they wouldn’t attack. Discouraged by this turn of events, many of the men elected to return to their homes if the Army wasn’t going to fight. Burleson tried to rally the men, but the exodus continued, weakening the siege. He then decided to make preparations to retreat to the east side of the Guadalupe as “suggested” by Houston.

A group of volunteers raised in New Orleans called the “Greys” because of their uniforms arrived at about this time, spoiling for a fight, only to find out the army was going to retreat from San Antonio rather than attack. They were among a group who strongly objected to the retreat and the most notable objector to the retreat was Ben Milam. When he found out Burleson was going to withdraw, he declared he would attack San Antonio on his own. Heated discussion could be heard after Milam and another volunteer, Frank Johnson, entered Burleson’s tent to argue their case. After several minutes, Milam stepped out of the tent and drew a line on the ground with the stock of his rifle and cried out in a loud voice; “Boys! Who will go with Ben Milam into Béxar?” Many of those close by answered “I Will” and Milam said, “Well, if you are going with me, get on this side.” About three hundred answered the call causing Burleson to reverse his decision and plan an attack to start on the morning of December 5. He persuaded those opposed to attacking to stay as a reserve force with these words; “Remain like men, and, win or lose, you will share the glory with your comrades. Abandon us, and you will merit the contempt of posterity.”[1] Herman Ehrenberg, a member of the New Orleans Greys, wrote this account of the ensuing battle from his vantage point.[2]

“The hollow roar of our cannon was followed by the brisk rattling of drums and the shrill blasts of bugles. Summons, cries, the sudden trampling of feet, the metallic click of weapons mingled in the distance with the noisy blare of the alarm and the heavy rumblings of the artillery. Our friends had done the trick. [Note: James C. Neill, the artillery commander, sent several salvos in the direction of the Alamo to divert attention away from other forces moving into the town of San Antonio.] Their cannonading had put the Mexicans on the alert, and many of them would probably rush to the defense of the fortress. The success of this first part of our scheme encouraged us, for we thought that in the midst of the din and confusion we should have a better chance of slipping into the city unnoticed.

[Note: Jesus Cuellar, a native of Bexar, led the New Orleans Greys into the city.] *Not a word passed his {Jesus Cuellar} lips, and his eyes were constantly turned toward the Alamo, as if the dense shadows about the fortress held the secret fate of our adventure. {Note: at some point after the cannon fired on the Alamo, rockets flared up from the fort, calling for the men in town to come to the defense of the fort.} It meant, he said {Cuellar comment on seeing the flares}, that the road was free and that we were safe. The further into the city we ran, the more stone houses we should be able to occupy. Sometimes our way led across small Mexican gardens, which afforded us a good deal of shelter; sometimes over bare, exposed patches of ground close to the edge of the stream.*

It was quite early yet. Most of the objects around us were still wrapped in the receding shadows of departing night, but in spite of this semidarkness, we easily detected the enemy’s position. The lurid glow of the explosions lit up the central quadrangle of the city, from which the Mexican artillery poured forth continuous volleys of shot. A dozen or more six-pounders seemed to have chosen our small fortress [Note: Place of shelter taken by Ehrenburg and several other men which was a stone building that had served as a guardhouse.] as a special objective, and one of them, which stood within eight feet of us, gave us a good deal of anxiety Cannon balls and bullets whizzed and crashed above our heads, leaving us frightened and bewildered.

On our right and somewhat farther back than we were, little clouds of smoke were raising at intervals from several stone buildings. Judging from the intermittent shooting that these were held by a small number of our adversaries, we promptly made up our minds to seize the houses and use them as part of our quarters. Just as our plans were completed, several discharges from these same houses informed us that they were in the hands of our friends, who likewise had mistaken us for enemies. While they were firing upon us, one of their bullets had hit a tall Mississippian named Moore, but fortunately it had glanced off a two-dollar piece which he had in his coat pocket. The second bullet struck another very tall fellow, also from Mississippi, tore off his forehead, and dashed its fragments on the flagstone and on those of us who stood around him. [Note: A third man, a German, was badly wounded in this exchange of friendly fire.] Scores of lead and copper bullets greeted the appearance of volunteers bold enough to run the gauntlet of this well- sustained fusillade. {On silencing the cannon which harassed them} Several of our best sharpshooters stationed themselves close to the loop-holes in our walls and mercilessly struck down every bluecoat who came near the artillery piece, which was very soon reduced to silence because the Mexican soldiers were unable to reach it.

[Note: The fighting was causing the men to become thirsty and the rebels attempted to run to the river for water but were discouraged by sniping by the Mexicans. By this time, Ehrenberg and his group had taken refuge in a house with a Mexican woman in attendance. She made them breakfast and then realized the men needed water. She volunteered to make the trip to the River, at which the men protested.] *But she {The Mexican women} laughed at our objections, saying that we did not begin to realize the fondness of the Mexicans for the fair sex. She added that since there was no danger it would be foolish to stop her, and was off before we had time to hold her back. She {after reaching the river without incidence} had filled the buckets and was preparing to go back when the enemy opened fire on her. Four bullets went through her body and she fell lifeless on the green grass. Our men, horror-stricken, gazed over the walls, and after a few moments several of them rushed outside and dragged in the well meaning but unfortunate woman.” [Note: While both sides paused in the battle after this horrifying event, several of the Greys were able to make it to the river and bring back the badly needed water.]*

1) Brands, H. W.; page 297. Source: Taylor, Creed, “*Tall Men with Long Rifles*,”; pages 62-63. As told to James T. DeShields. San Antonio Naylor Company, 1935, 1971. Note Creed Taylor was a volunteer present at the Siege of Bexar.

2) Ibid; page 297-301. Source: Ehrenberg, Herman. “With Milam and Fannin Adventures of a German Boy in Texas’ Revolution”; Originally published in German in 1843. Translated by Charlotte Churchill. Dallas Tardy Publishing Co., 1935, pages 71-81

At the conclusion of the first day of battle, the Texans had one killed and several wounded while the Mexican side had several killed and several more wounded. However, the Mexicans still held the plaza and the Alamo. Creed Taylor recalled the action at the plaza on the close of the first day of fighting; "These walls were manned by Mexican troops who kept up a brisk fire upon us during the day, and if they had been trained marksmen, armed with any other gun than the 'escopeta,' few of us would have escaped death. I saw volley after volley fired from an 'ararea' in our front and not a man's head to be seen. Crouching behind the roof-walls, these Mexican soldiers would load, thrust their guns over the crest of the low wall, and send a constant shower of balls in our direction, with harmless effect. It was a matter of self preservation, since no sooner did a head appear above the walls than it served as a target for a dozen hunting rifles, and there was always another dead Mexican." [1]

Frank Johnson's after-action report to Burleson on the second day of fighting gave this brief account; "*At daylight on the 6th the enemy were observed to have occupied the tops of houses in our front, where, under the cover of breastworks, they opened through loop-holes a very brisk fire of small arms on our whole line, followed by a steady cannonading from the town, in front, and the Alamo on the left flank, with few interruptions during the day.*"

On the third day, Creed Taylor's company found themselves pinned down in an adobe house which came under fire from Mexican cannon. Each time the cannon roared, another part of the house was destroyed and it would only be a matter of time before there protection was gone and they were exposed to the cannon. Across the street was another stone house occupied by Mexican soldiers, but which offered better protection. Taylor wrote this account of the heroics of Henry Karnes. "*Boys (Karnes speaking), load your guns and be ready. I am going to break open that door I want you to pour a steady hot fire into those fellows on the roof and hold their attention till I reach the door, and when I break it in I want you boys to make a clean dash for that house.*" Taylor and the other men appraised Karnes of all of the guns in the windows of the building and the danger of what he was suggesting to which he answered: "*Damn the Mexicans and their escopetas, (Mexican Gun) It's that house or retreat. You men do as I tell you.*" Taylor continued his account; "*And with rifle in one hand and crowbar in the other, he flew across the street, and after a few well-directed blows, the door gave way, by which time our whole company was at his heels.*" The company forced the Mexicans from the house and took up their new safer position. [1] Around noon, the rebels captured the Veramendi house [2], and this was where Ben Milam established a headquarters. While scanning the battlefield with a telescope from the house courtyard, he was killed by a Mexican sniper.

During the night of December 7th, a cold rain fell, wetting the gun powder preventing and slowing the firing of weapons. The rebels took advantage of the lull to improve their defensive positions while General Cos attempted to change the outcome of the battle by attacking the headquarters' of Burleson. According to one witness of the attack, "*It appeared we were to be swept off by a general charge by the cavalry, Infantry, and lancers, playing more music than I ever heard.*" [3] With the assistance of his artillery, Burleson and his men held their ground, inflicting heavy casualties on the Mexican troops which forced them to break-off the charge and withdraw.

A rumor started making the rounds in the Mexican camp that a relief column was approaching and Cos sent two hundred men out to meet them. These men, on finding no troops approaching the city, promptly deserted. Mexican General Vicente Filisola wrote these words related to Mexican moral when the deserters didn't return. "*There was a feeling that General Cos was dead. The fact that many of the women and children of the town had sought refuge in the Alamo depressed the troops which yet remained. They became obsessed with the idea that their cause was already lost, and increasing rumors of more desertions persisted.*" [4]

On the afternoon of the fourth day of battle, five hundred men under the command of Colonel Ugartechea arrived from the Rio Grande and entered the town where the defenders still held the rebels at bay. Juan Sanchez - Navarro, a Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers gave this account of their arrival in San Antonio. "*We entered the town by the trail to Cadet Flores' house and from there to the plaza, where we were greeted with rifle fire, acclamations and ringing of bells by 300 valiant souls who for 55 days had been preparing breastworks day and night without regard for distinction of rank.*" However, the relief troops had been marching for forty-eight hours and were fatigued to the extent, they could offer little support. Sanchez wrote, "*I slept so soundly that nearby cannon and rifle fire did not wake me.*" Sanchez was awakened by one of his captains declaring, "*We are lost!*"

General Cos ordered Sanchez to approach the rebels to obtain the best terms of surrender possible. His instructions from Cos were "...approach the enemy and obtain the best terms possible. Save the dignity of our Government, the honor of its arms, and honor, life, and property of chiefs, officials, and troops that still remain with me, even though I myself perish." Sanchez wrote of his encounter with the rebels "We were surrounded with crude bumpkins, proud and overbearing. Whoever knows the character of North America may appreciate the position in which we found ourselves." [5] His negotiations with the rebels resulted in better terms of surrender than expected. The cease-fire document stated the Mexicans could "retire with their arms and private property into the interior of the republic under parole of honor....not in any way oppose the reestablishment of the federal constitution of 1824." In addition to the above, the rebels agreed to supply the Mexicans with provisions for their journey from the battlefield. So ended the Siege of Béxar. [6]

1) Brands, H. W., page 301-303. Source: Taylor, Creed, "*Tall Men with Long Rifles.*"; page 67, 69-71

2) Home of Juan Martin Veramedi, the father-in-law of James Bowie.

3) Brands, H. W.; page 304. Source: "*Papers of Lamar*", Vol. 5, page 97

4) Ibid; page 305. Source: Huson, Hobart. "*Captain Phillip Dimmit's Commander of Goliad, 1835-1836 An Episode of the Mexican Federalists War in Texas, Usually Referred to as the Texian Revolution.*" Austin Von Beckman - Jones Co., 1974, page 190-194

5) Benthall, Lillian Light, "*Colonel Samuel S. Lewis, Early Texan Founder of Orleans, Indiana*", June 13, 1966.

6) "Papers of the Texas Revolution"; Volume 3.

Apparently, after the Siege of Béxar, the Lewis men returned to their families. After Santa Anna recaptured San Antonio and the Alamo and the fate of the men defending spread through the communities, large numbers of settlers left their homes behind and began to move towards the Sabine River and the United States. The Retreating Texas Army burned crops, buildings, and anything that would aid the enemy soldiers as they advanced towards the United States border, hoping to deprive them of the ability of living off the land. The exodus from Texas by the refugees became known as the “Runaway Scrape” and most likely, the Lewis Family, along with the Stark and Herrin families, removed to their previous homes in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana until the war ended. No further records have been found indicating the participation of members of these families in the Texas Revolution after the siege at Béxar further supporting the probability the families and their men became refugees after Santa Anna captured the Alamo.

At the conclusion of hostilities after Houston was victorious at the Battle of San Jacinto, Samuel S. Lewis became a prominent member of the Jasper County community and served in the Texas Republic as a representative from Jasper County until his death February 10, 1838, at his plantation in the Bevil district.

Chapter 7

Daniel R. Stark & Nancy Hawley, Parents of the Newton County, Texas Stark Families

Author Comment: I have organized and compiled the following text from the research, documents, and data of Pauline Stark Moore, Sharon Reck, and Neal Lowe. With out their efforts, this text would not have been possible. I would like to thank them for allowing me to use the information they have collected over many years on Daniel R. Stark and Nancy Hawley.

Introduction

Daniel R. Stark and his spouse, Nancy Hawley, had four children named William Hawley Stark, Sarah Mariah Stark, Prudence Jane Stark, and Esahl "Asa" Lafitte Stark. This branch of Aaron Stark's [1608 - 1685] descendants would eventually settle in Newton County; a migration beginning in New York State in 1808 and ending with all four of their children living in Newton County by 1846, the year Texas joined the Union.

Daniel R. Stark was born around 1788 in Pittstown, Albany County, New York to Asahel Stark and Sarah Dark.[1] Pittstown was about 20 miles from Albany and not far from where the Mohawk River, running from west to east across New York State, empties into the Hudson River. Daniel had older brothers named Jasper, William, John R., and Samuel and his younger brothers were Asa, Christopher and Archibald. His sisters were Mary "Polly", Sarah Marie, and Desire.[2] Daniel R. Stark was the grandson of Christopher Stark, Jr., who was the son of Christopher Stark, Sr., who was the son of William Stark, Sr., who was the son of the Stark family patriarch, Aaron Stark, who came from England around 1630, settling in New London County, Connecticut.

The Early Years

As a boy, growing up in this region of New York, young Daniel probably was told the stories of how his grandfather, father, and uncles had fought the Indians and Tories during the Revolutionary War, of the hardships endured to win their freedom from England, and of the massacres at the hands of the Indians that had such a profound effect on the lives of his grandfather's brothers and sisters.

On January 1, 1791, the State of New York laid out tracts of land for those who participated in the Revolutionary War. The tracts of land were located in Onondaga County, New York, which was created in 1794. Manlius township was located southeast of Syracuse and when the tracts were set aside, they were located in the township of Lysander, and were referred to in the deed documents as "Military Tracts." Cicero township was created from a division of Lysander township in 1807, located northeast of Syracuse and had Oneida Lake as it's northern boundary. Documentation has shown Asa Stark, Daniel's younger brother, was born in Manlius, Onondaga County in 1796 and Daniel's father was documented as living in Manlius, Onondaga County, by the 1800 census taker.[3]

The streams and lakes of the Mohawk River and Oneida Lake waterway served as a natural inland corridor during the eighteenth century for European exploration and military expansion, becoming a vital transportation link between the Hudson River and the Great Lakes by 1790. The migration route the Asahel Stark family took from Pittstown to Onondaga County was probably on the Mohawk River to Utica, New York and then overland about 40 miles to Onondaga County and the township of Manlius. Because of the "military tracts" there were many who participated in land speculation, buying up land from those who received the tracts from the State of New York and then selling the land [at a profit, no doubt] to others who were beginning to move west from eastern New York and New England to establish farms. Asahel and his oldest son, Jasper, may have been land speculators, for they participated in many land transactions in the area that would become Cicero Township from 1802 to 1807 involving Lot #73, consisting of 500 acres. Before they moved from the region, Asahel still owned 310 acres of this property, which was mentioned in his will in 1821.[4]

- 1) "Western New York Land Transactions, 1804 - 1824"; Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company, by Karen E. Livsey, page 45. Her reference/page #488/0028 relates the archives Inventory Number to the year and to the reel number of the microfilm on which the item appears. The Daniel R. Stark transaction appears on Reel # 110 as inventory # 488 on page 28. Daniel purchased the referenced property March 9, 1809. If Daniel was required to be 21 years old to purchase property, then his latest year of birth would have been 1788. If he could purchase property at 18 years of age, then his latest year of birth may have been 1791.
- 2) **Source 1:** Last Will & Testament of Asahel Stark, dated March 20, 1821, Washington County, Indiana. Named in this will are William, John, Samuel, Asa, Christopher, Mary "Polly", Sarah Marie, & Desire. **Source 2:** Onondaga County Deed Records, Pages 508-509. Shows Jasper Stark & spouse Betsy Stark, sold land to Asahel & Sarah Stark, from whom Jasper first bought the land.
- 3) **Source 1:** Central New York Genealogical Society Publication -Tree Talks, Volume 23, #3, page 143, dated Sept. 1983. Record which states, "Oregon Donation land - people who applied; #4060; Asa Stark, born 1796, Onondaga Co., NY. **Source 2:** Manlius, Onondaga County, New York 1800 Census. Listed as "Asel Starks."
- 4) **Source 1:** Cicero, Onondaga County, New York Property Sales. [Book B, pages 266 & 268], [Book E, page 117], [Book F, page 508], [Book F, page 509], [Book E, page 510], [Book F, page 508]. **Source 2:** Last Will & Testament of Asahel Stark, dated March 20, 1821, Washington County, Indiana. Quote: "bequeath unto my beloved wife, Sarah Starks, three hundred and ten acres...being in the State of New York, Onondaga County..."

Also living in the region was Samuel Hawley, a Revolutionary soldier who served in the Massachusetts Militia during the war. He was living in Western Massachusetts in West Stockbridge, located on the border with New York, when the war started, and enlisted as a private in the company commanded by Captain Goodall of the line regiment commanded by Colonel R. Putman. He enlisted for three years and Samuel probably participated in battles along the Northern Hudson River, which forms the border between New York and Vermont, for he spent most of his enlistment at West Point on the Hudson River building boats for the war effort which would transport men and supplies to the battlefields near the Mohawk and the Susquehanna Rivers. His occupation at enlistment was recorded as "bloomer", this occupation being that of an iron-worker, which is similar to the occupation we know of as blacksmith. He was discharged in January of 1784 in New York. He had an only daughter named Nancy, who was born in New York before 1789.[1] Samuel is listed in the Hoosick Township, Albany County, New York census in 1790 with two females in his household. By 1800, he was back in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts with just him and two females, and can then be found living in Onondaga County in the 1810 census.

Hoosick was only a few miles from Pittstown, so there was probably plenty of opportunity for Asahel Stark and Samuel Hawley to have known each other. The name of Samuel's wife is not known, but Samuel is probably the son of John Hawley and Abigail Sanford of Fairfield County, Connecticut. He is probably the Samuel mentioned in John Hawley's will, the following transcription taken from "*Collections of The New York Historical Society For The Year 1904.*"[2]

"In the name of God Amen. I, John Hawley, of Salam, Westchester County, being in good health do this 31st day of December, in the year of our Lord, 1770, make this my last Will and Testament. I leave to my loving wife Abigail one third of my house and barn and one third of my lands and of my movables after my "debts is paid" as long as she shall live. The rest of my estate to my children, viz.: John, Henry, Samuel, and Abigail to be divided as follows: to John, being the oldest son, 10 pounds more than the rest of my sons, and then for my sons to be equal, and for my daughter Abigail to have one third as much as one of my sons, I mean that where one of my sons will have nine pounds my daughter shall have three; and my wife's thirds above mentioned to be equally divided with my sons as aforesaid, and my daughter to have one third as much as any son. If I shall have any more children by my wife, if sons, they to be equal with my other sons, if girls, to be equal with my other said daughter. I constitute my wife sole executor. Signed: John Hawley and also Abigail. Witnesses, Gershom Selleck, Nathan Olmsted Jr., Ezekiel Hawley, Jr. Proved, Westchester County, November 6, 1784. Administration granted to Abigail Hawley, New York, December 24, 1784."

Daniel and Nancy's Early Years of Marriage

Between 1808 and 1810, Daniel's father moved further west from Onondaga County to Caledonia, Genesee County, New York, as revealed in the 1810 census for this region. On March 28, 1809, Daniel R. Stark purchased Lots #13 & #14 in section zero of township #11, range #1 from the Holland Land Company.[3] This property was located west of the township of Caledonia in Genesee County in an area that would later become parts of Niagara County, Erie County, and Cattaraugus County. According to the Holland Land Company Records, Daniel was a first purchaser of this land, who paid for the property in full at the time of purchase. Those who paid cash for the land received deeds recorded as, "Table of Original Articles." Most purchasers received deeds of debt recorded as, "Article of Agreements", with a time limit for payment. From this, we can presume Daniel R. Stark paid in full for the property he purchased.[4] On August 22, 1809, William Hawley Stark was born in Genesee County.[5]

The Louisiana purchase in 1803 included the vast territory between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian Border. In 1804 the Territory of Orleans was organized and April 30, 1812 the Territory of Orleans, which had been renamed Louisiana, was admitted to the United States as the 18th State. The land along the Mississippi River in the newly formed State of Louisiana had mostly been settled by the Spanish and French prior to the Louisiana Purchase. However, immediately after the formation of the Territory of Orleans in 1804, large numbers of Americans living north and south of the Ohio River began to move into the new Territory.

Daniel's older brother, William Stark, probably moved to West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana as early as 1808, where he married Victoria Betencourt March 06, 1808 in the Baton Rouge Catholic Church.[6] William purchased land in West Baton Rouge Parish in 1809 and his brother Christopher purchased land in the same Parish in 1812 and then later sold land to his brother, John Stark, in 1815.[7] Therefore, as late as 1815, three of Daniel's brothers are known to be living in Louisiana. Furthermore, military records show John enlisted in the military and fought in the War of 1812 in the "Battle of New Orleans." [8]

1) Revolutionary War Pension Application S34916 obtained from the National Archives Trust Fund NWCTB. Record of this pension granted in Indiana July 27, 1826. Samuel Hawley of Floyd County in the State of Indiana who was a private in the company commanded by Captain Goodall of the regiment commanded by Colonel R. Putman in the line of Massachusetts for the term of 3 years from March 1781 - March 1783 — Inscribed on the Roll of Indiana at the rate of 8 dollars per month, to commence on the 12th day of July 1826. -- Certificate of Pension issued the 27th of July 1826 and sent to Harvey Scribner Esq. New Albany, Indiana.

2) "*Collections of The New York Historical Society For The Year 1904*", page 67, section entitled "Abstracts of Wills on file in the surrogates office, City of New York." It's Volume XIII with dates from September 3, 1784 to June 12, 1786 [Page 328 in the Volume of originals. Page 67 is the publication page.]

3) See early map of Genesee County Asahel Stark Biography.

4) "*Western New York Land Transactions, 1804 - 1824*", Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company, by Karen E. Livsey, page 45.

5) Cemetery Record, William H. Stark Cemetery, Newton County, Texas. Cemetery Surveyed by Clovis LaFleur, April 22, 2002. Tombstone States date of birth. His place of birth comes from where his parents were living in 1809. They had purchased property from the Holland Land Company in Genesee County, NY in March of 1809.

6) National Archives Military Records, pages 284-285. Contents; Name: John Stark; Rank and Regiment: Rect. 44th U.S. Infantry; Description: 5'9" Tall, blue eyes, brown hair, dark complexion; Age: 32; Occupation: Carpenter; Born: New York, New York; Enlistment: July 5, 1814 at Natchez by Lt. Peters for duration of the war, at Baton Rouge July 6, 1814; Remarks: R.R. July 31, 1814- D.R. Capt. J.J. Miles Company February 16, and I. R.. New Orleans February 28, 1815 present Private I, R. P. M. Bcks. April 30, 1815. Discharged April 8, 1815 at New Orleans, La. (77497-AGO).

7) Deed Records, Ontario County, New York, Liber 29, page 80.

8) Washington County, Indiana 1820 Census.

In 1813, Daniel's father purchased property in Penfield, Ontario County, New York which was located only a few miles from Caledonia township where he was recorded by the 1810 census taker. On September 20, 1817, Asahel sold this property to Jesse Adams for \$1,000, which is the last record we have of Asahel in New York State.[1] By 1820, we find Asahel, along with all of his children, except for Daniel and William, living in Washington County, Indiana.[2] Daniel and his wife, Nancy, probably lived on their Holland Land Company purchase until the end of 1816. Deed Records from West Baton Rouge Parish show Daniel R. Stark purchased land in 1817 and his brother, Samuel, purchased land from him in 1818. Samuel then sold this land in the same year and is later recorded as having married Sophia Scott in Switzerland County, Indiana November 11, 1819 just after his brother, Christopher, married Nancy Scott, Sophia's sister, October 2, 1819.[3] We can place Daniel and Nancy in West Baton Rouge Parish on January 20, 1817 for he personally appeared before Justice of the Peace, Belony Hébert, in the proceedings which declared his brother, John Stark, insane.[4] He signed his name as Daniel R. Stark in this document which was prepared in French and his testimony recounted an incident which occurred in October previous to this date which could place him in Louisiana as early as October of 1816. Daniel and Nancy Stark's son, Asa Lafitte Stark, was most likely born in this Parish June 19, 1817.[5]

Asahel and all of his family were probably in the process of moving from New York to Louisiana, as revealed in all of these land purchases. However, the War of 1812 most likely delayed the final move, perhaps even changed their plans. By 1820, Samuel, Christopher, and John were living in Washington County, Indiana where Asahel would die between March of 1821 and January of 1822. John, who had participated in the War of 1812 at the Battle of New Orleans, would be declared "insane" by his brothers, William, Samuel, and Daniel in West Baton Rouge Parish soon after the War and then moved to Indiana where he could be cared for by the family.[4] John may have made the trip with Samuel and Christopher in 1819 before they married their brides in the fall of that year. By 1820, only William and Daniel were living in Louisiana. By 1815, Daniel and Nancy had added two daughters to their family named Sarah Mariah, born in 1812, and Prudence Jane, born in 1815.[6] These births probably occurred on the Holland Land Company property in Genesee County, New York.

The move to West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, was a trip of some 750 miles as the crow flies from Genesee County. Imagine the logistics of transporting a family and household goods over such a vast distance around 1815. From Genesee County, one would move over land to the Allegheny River, located just south of the county on the New York and Pennsylvania border. The Allegheny then flows from north to south through western Pennsylvania and comes together with the Monongahela River near Pittsburgh to form the Ohio River, which then flows into the Mississippi. Along this route, the Ohio River passes only 30 miles from the heart of Washington County as the boundaries were defined when Indiana became a State in 1816. At that time, Switzerland County was bordered to the south by the Ohio River. It would not be hard to imagine Daniel and Nancy migrating to Indiana with Daniel's father and then continuing the trip to Louisiana. It is not known why the brothers, Christopher and Samuel, decided to live in Indiana. Perhaps their brides didn't want to make the move south, or perhaps the threat of disease in that region changed their minds. For whatever reason, by 1820, we find Daniel and William living in the south while the rest of the family is living in Indiana.

The Daniel Stark Louisiana Probate Court Records

Daniel R. Stark died suddenly at the age of about 31 years. This tragedy was devastating to Nancy, having just given birth to her fifth child, Amanda. [Could also have been named Matilda.] She had to not only look after the affairs of the family but endure the Louisiana Probate Courts. Documents from the probate proceedings, as we will discover, give us the surname of Daniel's wife, the names of Daniel's children, the name of Nancy's father, and reveal an association with his brother, William Stark.

West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, Probate Packet #85, declares one Daniel R. Stark died June 20, 1820. Nancy "Holly" appeared before Probate Judge Phillip Favrot, requesting: "*this humble court be pleased to grant her prayer [request] of tutorship in order that she may administer the property formerly in community between her and her late husband, that an [?under?] tutor be appointed to her said children, and that an inventory and appraisal of ... [Not Legible] ... here unto have [?assignment?] this 15th day of July in the year 1820. Signed Nancy Stark. Signed before me Ph. Favrot, Judge.*"

In Louisiana the legal words "tutor" or "tutorship" were defined as, "*assigned the function of guardianship of minor aged children.*" In most Louisiana guardianship cases involving underage children, a family member or friend of the children who was not the court appointed guardian of the children, would be named and appointed by the presiding judge as "under-tutor" to look after the interest of the named children. The guardian of these underage children would then have to obtain the approval of the court-appointed under-tutor in legal transactions affecting the interest of the children.

1) Deed Records, Ontario County, New York, Liber 29, page 80.

2) Washington County, Indiana 1820 Census.

3) Indiana State Library, Indiana Marriages Before 1850.

4) West Baton Rouge Parish Probate Packet #50, 1817, titled John Stark, Interdicted. This document was prepared in French.

5) Pauline Stark Moore Research.

6) On March 31, 1826, Samuel Hawley, living in Floyd County, Indiana, petitioned for his Revolutionary War Pension and declared, "*he is 68 years old ... That my occupation is that of a farmer, that I am weak, feeble and unable to labor, that I have one daughter only, her name is Nancy McGowan, aged 37 years, that she has five children, William, fifteen years of age, Maria, 13 years of age, Prudence, 10 years of age, Asahel, 8 years of age, and Matilda, 5 years of age - my daughter, her two oldest children, are able to support themselves by their labor the three others, Prudence, Asahel, and Matilda are not - all of which compose my family and looks to me for a support.*" If Marie was 13 in 1826, then she was born in 1812 or 1813 depending on her Month of birth. In the 1880 census for Newton County, Texas, Sarah Mariah was recorded to be 68 years old placing her birth in the year 1812. In 1850, the Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana Census records Prudence as being 35 years old. Therefore, she was probably born after March 31, 1815 if she was 10 years old in the 1826 pension application of Samuel Hawley.

The next document in the packet names Daniel's children, for it states: "Know all men by these presents that where as Nancy Holly Stark has presented a petition to this court praying for tutorship in order to administer on the property in community between [?her?] and her children and whereas this Nancy Stark has come before this court and has fulfilled all the formalities in such case required by law, it [Not legible] children named William, Mariah, Prudence, Esahl, and Amanda, and fully authorized to act as such pertaining to [?the?] laws. Given by hand and seal this [??] of July 1820. Signed: Ph. Favrot." In this document, we see that Nancy Holly Stark has been approved to be the guardian of her children.

In 1820, many legal documents used French words and spelling. The judge in these proceedings, Phillip Favrot, was definitely of French descend. The Author believes he used a French spelling for the name Asahel. The "E" in Esahl may have been a French accented "É" which would be pronounced "ay". In French, the "h" is silent. Therefore, the French pronunciation of Esahl may have been "Ay-sal", very similar in sound to the English pronunciation of Asahel. The Author believes his intended name was probably Asahel, the name of his grandfather, as will soon be proven.

We then find Nancy Hawley requested William Stark be named under-tutor to the children. From Judge Phillip Favrot we find a document which says: "*It is hereby ordered that ... [Not Legible] ... William Stark come before this court and say weather he accepts the appointment of under tutor to the minor children of the late Daniel R. Stark. Given under my hand this ?? of July 1820. Signed Ph Favrot.*"

This document illustrates William Stark is probably related to the children, for Nancy has requested he be named under-tutor to her children. In the next document from the packet, we find William accepted the appointment. In this document, Judge Favrot called for a family meeting of the children's relatives and friends to be held September 7, 1820. He states in this document: "*It is hereby ordered that a family meeting composed of five of nearest relatives, friends of the children of the late Daniel R. Stark, say Francis White, Zephriam ????, Samuel Hawley, John Ruff???, and William Stark, under tutor of said children, be commenced on Tuesday , 7th [Not legible] to look into consideration the prayer [request] of widow of Daniel Stark. Given order my hand and seal the first day of September 1820. Signed Ph Favrot.*"

We find in this document that William Stark has been named under-tutor for the children and Samuel Hawley, their grandfather, is named to attend the ordered meeting on behalf of the children. This document provides our first documented link to the children's grandfather and Nancy Hawley's father.

Apparently, as a result of this meeting the Judge writes: "*..... and William Stark, under tutor of the children of Daniel R. Stark, especially convened for the purpose of taking in consideration the prayer [request] of Nancy Hawley, widow of the late Daniel R. Stark, requesting that the property now in community between her and her children, the [?said?] meeting of family after being ... [Not Legible] ... and maturely deliberating was unanimously of opinion that for the benefit and best interest of the children, the prayer of the widow of Daniel R. Stark, [?does?] urge it to be granted, and the property now in community between her and her children be [?given?] over to him [William Stark??] at the price of the appraisement which has been made hereof. [Not legible] the members of this family meeting have hereto set their hand ?? of September 1820. Signed Zep??? Daigle, John ?Ruffaye?, Francis White, Samuel Hawley. Judge Ph. Favrot presiding.*"

From the above West Baton Rouge Parish documents related to Daniel R. Stark's Probate Records, we can say, with some high degree of certainty, that Nancy Hawley was the spouse of Daniel R. Stark and had children named William, Mariah, Prudence, Esahl, and Amanda, the first four names being similar to the given names of the Newton County, Texas families. These documents provide solid proof Nancy Hawley's father was Samuel Hawley, which will be further verified by documents related to the Revolutionary War Pension Application of Samuel Hawley.

Proof Daniel R. Stark was the Son of Asahel Stark of Indiana

On March 20, 1821, Asahel Stark of Washington County, Indiana, prepared and signed his last will and testament. He willed to his wife, Sarah Starks, 310 acres of "land lying and being in the State of New York, Onondaga County and town of Cicero..." He bequeaths sums of money to sons named Samuel, Asia, Archibald, Christopher, John, and William. He also bequeaths sums of money to his daughters named Polly Brezee, Sally Graves, and Desire Stark and names his wife, Sarah Stark, to be the sole executrix.[1] After the death of her husband, Nancy continued to live in Louisiana with her children. In January of 1822, Daniel's father died in Indiana and as revealed above, he named all of his living children. Because Daniel had preceded him in death, Daniel was not named, nor was Jasper. Therefore, how can we be certain Daniel was a son of Asahel? For proof, we must establish a relationship to Daniel's brother, William, and then establish the William Stark living in Louisiana was the same William named in Asahel's will.

We begin this proof by establishing John R. Stark is the brother of William. In West Baton Rouge Parish is found an 1817 petition which states: "*The petition of William Stark of this Parish respectfully represents; that he a brother of John Stark of the Parish aforesaid, age about [?35?] years; that the said John is in a state of mental derangement of insanity, and is truly considered wholly incapable of taking care of his person or property*"

1) Last Will & Testament of Asahel Stark, Washington County, Indiana.

This document clearly reveals William and John were brothers. The Illinois probate records for Sarah Stark, wife of Asahel Stark, dated November 17, 1842 — *three years after the death of Sarah* — reveals there was an "insane brother" of whom Asa Stark was the guardian. John Stark, declared legally insane in the above 1817 Louisiana probate document was probably placed in the care of his mother, Sarah Stark, when he arrived in Indiana before 1820.[1] The West Baton Rouge Parish petition, along with the Illinois Probate Document provide a link to the insane John Stark of Louisiana and the "insane" brother mentioned in Sarah Stark's Probate Records. If this is true, then one has to conclude the above William Stark is a son of Asahel Stark and his spouse Sarah.

We find a document dated September 5, 1820 in West Baton Rouge Parish, which states William Stark and his wife, Victoria Betencourt, will provide a donation of \$2,200 to the children of Nancy Hawley, widow of Daniel R. Stark, with the benefactors of this donation being named William, Muriah, Prudence, Esahl, and Amanda. The text of this document of donation makes this declaration: "*Know all men by these presents that I, Nancy Hawley, widow of the late Daniel R. Stark, acting as mother and ... [Not Legible] ... [probably tutor meaning guardian] of the children of the said Daniel R. Stark, named William, Prudence, Muriah, Esahl, and Amanda, do hereby accept in the name of these children, the donation which has been made to them by William Stark and Victoria Betencourt, his wife, which donation is the sum of two thousand and two hundred dollars to be paid by the said Wm Stark and Victoria Betencourt in the month of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-two to me and any other person legally authorized to act in the name of ... [Not Legible] ... children, their executors administrators. Signed: Nancy Stark.*" Clearly, this document would seem to imply William Stark has more than a passing interest in the well being of Nancy Hawley's children, for this is a substantial amount of cash in 1820.

William Stark died May 4, 1822 in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Probate Packet #97 records his estate was inventoried on May 9, 1822. In the inventory papers of William's Estate we find: "*Having examined the amount account, in the presence of the heir, Mrs. Sarah Stark, mother of the late William Stark, deceased, I having found the account of vouchers in support of said account true and correct, ... [Not Legible] ... Victoria Starks [Victoria Betencourt, wife of Wm. Stark] having delivered up all the papers she has in her possession, to the heir Sarah Starks, said heir declares hereby to have received said notes, vouchers and accounts, it is therefore ordered that said above petition, of their knowledge, fulfills the duties incumbent on him as appraising of the objects contained in same ... [Not Legible] ... left by the late Wm Stark. Signed: [Signature was not legible.]"*

The William Stark inventory mentioned a bill of sell of property known to have belonged to Daniel R. Stark, deceased, and left his possessions to his mother, Sarah Stark. Although Daniel R. Stark is not mentioned to be a brother in the inventory, the Author believes they were siblings. Combining the information supplied in all of the above documentation related to Sarah Stark, William Stark, John R. Stark, and Daniel Stark, we can conclude with a high degree of certainty, Daniel R. Stark was a son of Asahel Stark.

Nancy Hawley Holds the Family Together, From Louisiana to Indiana

It is believed, as will be exhibited in a moment, Nancy Hawley married C. H. McGowan, probably after the probate proceedings were completed. Although no marriage record has been found, we find in an 1826 application for a Revolutionary War Pension, Nancy's father refers to her as "Nancy McGowan." From the Daniel R. Stark Probate records, we find there was a "C. H. McGowan" who performed the appraisal of Daniel's property and paid some of the remaining debts from the estate. On May 31, 1826, Samuel Hawley, living in Floyd County, Indiana, petitioned for his Revolutionary War Pension and declared: "*...he is 68 years oldThat my occupation is that of a farmer, that I am weak, feeble and unable to labor, that I have one daughter only, her name is Nancy McGowan, aged 37 years, that she has five children, William, fifteen years of age, Maria, 13 years of age, Prudence, 10 years of age, Asahel, 8 years of age, and Matilda, 5 years of age - my daughter, her two oldest children, are able to support themselves by their labor the three others, Prudence, Asahel, and Matilda are not - all of which compose my family and looks to me for a support.*"[2]

If this Nancy McGowan was the same Nancy (Hawley) Stark in Louisiana, she was married to someone named McGowan before this petition was made. The Author speculates Nancy Hawley probably moved to Indiana to live with her father, presumably after Mr. McGowan died or she obtained a divorce. Observe the Samuel Hawley Pension Application has names and expected ages for the children of this Nancy McGowan similar to the five named in the Louisiana probate packet of Daniel R. Stark.

From Samuel's Pension Application, William, age 15, would have been born in 1810 if he turned sixteen after May 31, 1826. As we will find later, William Hawley Stark's tombstone records he was born in August of 1809. According to his tombstone record, he would have been sixteen in May of 1826 and turned seventeen in August of 1826. The Maria, age 13, would have been born in 1813. We will find out later that Sarah Maria Stark, married to John T. Lewis, is 68 years old in the Newton County, Texas 1880 census, placing her birth year as 1812. The Prudence, age 10 would have been born in 1816. We will find the Prudence Stark married to William "Bill" Herrin was reported to be 35 in the 1850 Calcasieu Parish Census placing her birth year as 1815. The Asahel, age 8 years, would have been born in 1818 but if he was born June 19, 1817, he would have turned nine after the application was made. The Asa Stark in the 1860 Newton County Census was 43, placing his year of birth as 1817. Finally, Nancy McGowan, age 37, would have been born in 1789 while the Nancy Hardin [this married name for Nancy Hawley to be proved later] reported to be living with her son, Asa, in the 1850 Jefferson County, Texas census was 62 years of age placing her year of birth as 1788. All of the years match very closely and the given names are approximately the same as those found in the Louisiana, Texas, and Indiana documents.

1) Probate Record of Sarah Stark; No. 199; Probate Court, Edgar County, Illinois; In the Matter of the Estate of Sarah Starks, Deceased; Leander Muncill, Administrator; Dated: November 17, 1842; Document #9: "*So far as the administrator has any knowledge there are but five heirs to divide the estate among Viz-- A. C. Stark --- Asa Stark --- and an insane brother of which he is the guardian --- Wm Brazee --- and Wm Howe --- No other claim having been presented or known of to the administrator, The Probate Justice will please declare a ?divident? to the heirs of the entire estate remaining to take off so soon as the money come into the hands of Administrator...."*

2) Samuel Hawley Service: Revolutionary War pension of a Samuel Hawley, S34916, National Archives Trust Fund. Record of this pension granted in Indiana July 27, 1826. States: "*Samuel Hawley of Floyd Co. in the State of Indiana...."*

Observe the name Asahel in the pension application instead of Esahl as recorded in the Louisiana documents. This would seem to confirm the intended name for this child was that of his grandfather. We have the name Matilda for the youngest child, who had to have been born before July 20, 1820, the month and year she is mentioned in the Louisiana Probate packet for Daniel Stark. This Matilda is referred to as Amanda in the Louisiana documents. We can only surmise her name may have been Amanda Matilda, the latter name being used by the time of this pension application. After this document, there appears to be no further evidence mentioning the names Amanda or Matilda; indicating this child may have died young.

If it is true this was Nancy Hawley, widow of Daniel R. Stark, then sometime after 1822 and before the date of this application, Nancy and her children moved to Indiana from Louisiana to live with her father, or perhaps she and her father moved to Indiana to be near the core family of Daniel after William died. Present day Floyd County, Indiana is located in an area that was originally part of Washington County, Harrison County, and Clark County, Indiana. We can presume Nancy and her children were living in fairly close proximity to Daniel's family, who were known to be living in Washington County.

Nancy Hawley & Her Father, Samuel Hawley, Move Back to Louisiana

On April 22, 1828, the Mississippi Pension Agency in Natchez, Mississippi wrote a letter to James Barbon, Secretary of War, requesting: "*Samuel Hawley, a pensioner on the rolls of the Indiana Agency makes application as per affidavit enclosed for a transfer to my department in having removed to the state of Mississippi. The pensioner resides in a remote corner of our State and will call for his pay (which by his statement is ... [Not legible] ... since 4 March 1827) in about two months [?hence?], at which time I expect to see notification of his transfer. Signed Most Respectfully, Your ... [Not legible] ...*"[1] From this statement, we know a pensioner named Samuel Hawley had been living in Indiana until April of 1827. This document reveals he has moved into the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Pension Agency. If this is the same Samuel Hawley, then could his daughter and grandchildren have moved with him and where might they have been living?

Possible proof of where they were living can be found in the Ouachita Parish, Louisiana Marriage Records. Sarah Mariah Stark, most likely the daughter of Nancy Hawley, married John T. Lewis on December 28, 1828. Text from "*The Handbook of Texas Online*" has a short biography about John's father, Samuel Lewis that states: "Samuel S. Lewis, early Texas settler and congressman, was born to John and Sarah Lewis on July 4, 1784, in Virginia. He married Sarah Lemaster in Henry County, Kentucky, on August 7, 1804. They moved to Indiana, where their seven children were born, five in the Indiana Territory and two after it became a State. Lewis founded Orleans, Indiana and served with the Indiana militia in the War of 1812. In the mid-1820s the family moved to Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, where Lewis became justice of the peace."[2]

John Taylor Lewis reportedly was born in Clark County, Indiana, one of the counties from which Floyd County was created.[3] From the birth locations of the children of Samuel Lewis, we know the Lewis family had been living in Indiana until at least 1824. The next record available to the author shows the marriage of John T. Lewis in Ouachita Parish in 1828. One could correctly speculate the Lewis family, along with others, decided to migrate to northeast Louisiana and Samuel Hawley, his daughter, and her children joined this migration south from Indiana. This would have provided the opportunity for Sarah Mariah to meet and later marry John Taylor Lewis.

But we need further proof the family is living in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. Carroll Parish was created from parts of Ouachita Parish and Concordia Parish around 1832. In 1877, Carroll Parish was divided into East Carroll Parish and West Carroll Parish. Since parts of the original Carroll Parish were originally in Ouachita Parish, we find a possible connection to Ouachita Parish in the obituary of Samuel Hawley, believed to be the father of Nancy Hawley, published in the Vicksburg Register (Vicksburg, Mississippi), dated July 2, 1835: "*Another Revolutionary Soldier is no more--Died at the upper settlement on Bayou Macon in the Parish of Carroll, State of Louisiana, on the 4th day of June 1835, Samuel Hawley, aged about 80 years, a native of the State of Massachusetts, and once a soldier of the Revolutionary army. Mr. Hawley was a pensioner and lived for several years back thus secluded and remote with his child and respected by all who knew him.*"[4]

Carroll Parish, formed in 1832 was located in the northeastern part of Louisiana, bordered to the North by Arkansas, [known as the Missouri Territory until Arkansas became a State in 1836], east by the Mississippi River and west by Ouachita Parish. The present day boundary between East Carroll Parish and West Carroll Parish is the tributary called Bayou Macon which is only about 30 miles from Vicksburg, Mississippi. One would probably be correct if they speculated Nancy Hawley was the "child" mentioned in the obituary, for Samuel had only one daughter and no other children.

1) Copy in Revolutionary War Records stated before.

2) Located in Orange County, Indiana, which was the west boundary of Washington County.

3) John T. Taylor, according to those researching the Lewis family, report he was born in Clark County, Indiana when Indiana was a Territory. Some say he was born in Orange County, Indiana. All agree he was born February 14, 1808. Their source of this information is not known to the Author.

4) His age was probably 77 based on his pension application.

The Family Migrates From Northeast Louisiana, to Jasper County, Texas

John Taylor Lewis and Sarah Mariah Stark were reported as living in Bevil District, Mexico in the 1835 census for that region. John was recorded as being 27 years of age while Sarah was 23 years old. They had a daughter named Nancy Jane, age 4, and a son, William M., age 2. Later census records reveal Nancy Jane was born in Louisiana while William M. was born in Texas. If these places of birth are correct, then sometime between 1831 and 1833, John and Sarah moved to the above District of Mexico, which would later become Jasper County, Texas during the Republic of Texas years.

Family tradition relates that not long after the move to Louisiana, Nancy Hawley married Enos Hardin and had a son named Napoleon Bonaparte Hardin. However, Enos Hardin's Texas Head Right Certificate states "*This is to certify that Enos Hardin has appeared before us the Board of Land Commissioners for the County of Jasper and proved according to Law, that he arrived in this County in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Two and is a single man and entitled to One third of a league of land, upon the condition of paying at the rate of Three Dollars Fifty Cents for every labor of ?Irregable? land, Two Dollars Fifty Cents for every Labor of ?timberable? Or [Not legible] land, One Dollar Twenty Cents for every Labor of Pasture land, for which may be contained in the survey secured to said Hardin by this certificate. Given under our hand this Ninth day of February 1838.*"[1]

Clearly, on the above given date, Enos Hardin is pronounced to be a single man. Therefore, it can be said with some certainty that Nancy and Enos married after February 9, 1838. From the 1860 census for Newton County, Texas, N. B. Hardin, living next door to Asa Stark, was 32 years old, placing his year of birth as 1828. If Nancy married Enos after the above date, then Napoleon would not be her son. We can also say that the marriage probably didn't occur until after the death of Nancy's father in 1835, for the Vicksburg obituary clearly reports Samuel "lived for several years back thus secluded and remote with his child and respected by all who knew him." Therefore, if Enos was living in Texas from 1832 to 1838 and Nancy in Louisiana from 1832 to 1835, they probably would not have had the opportunity to marry before 1835.

Around 1832, Nancy's son, William Hawley Stark, married Elizabeth T. Zachary of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. No actual record has been found of this marriage and the speculated year of this marriage is based on the birth of their oldest known child, Daniel L. Stark, born November 22, 1832 in Louisiana. We know Elizabeth was the daughter of Benjamin Zachary and Elizabeth Odom of the above-mentioned Parish, because Elizabeth's brother, Bennett Hiram Zachary, lived next door in Texas and is known to be their son.[2] It is believed William Hawley owned land in Ouachita Parish at the time of Samuel Hawley's death, for researchers in the Vicksburg area have indicated Samuel Hawley was buried on the land of his grandson, William Hawley Stark, and there is a deed of record showing he sold land in West Carroll Parish in November of 1848.[3] Although this is only speculation, it is believed William Hawley Stark, his mother and grandfather, were probably living on this property, most likely purchased with money William received from his Uncle William Stark in 1822.

On February 4, 1839, William Hawley Stark was appointed Justice of the Peace for Beat 4 in Jasper County, Texas and his brother, A. L. Stark, was made Constable of the same Beat 4 on the same day.[4] Therefore, probably sometime in the year 1838, William Hawley Stark and his family, along with his mother, Nancy Hawley, moved from Louisiana to Jasper County, Texas. From census records, we know James Terry Stark was born in Texas before July of 1838 who is known to have been the first child of William Hawley Stark recorded born in Texas. If we can believe these dates of first residency for William Hawley Stark in Jasper County and that his mother, Nancy Hawley, was living with his family, then she probably married Enos Hardin between 1838 and 1841. However, since we have no marriage record, how can we prove Nancy Hardin and Nancy Hawley are the same person?

In the Newton County 1847 Tax Records will be found "*William H. Stark, agent for Nancy Hardin, taxes on the 640 acres in the David Pool Survey.*" In the same tax year will also be found "*Nancy Hardin, agent for Napoleon Hardin, 1,481 acres of the Enos Hardin Survey.*" From these records we find there is a Nancy Hardin living in Newton County. Is she related to William H. Stark, who was her agent for the 1847 tax year? On December 29, 1847, Nancy Hardin, a resident of Newton County, Texas, declared in a document of indenture [given over to work for], that the slave named Ann was assigned by this binding contract to work for Nancy's grandchildren named: "*Daniel Lafayette Stark, Samuel Hawley Stark, James Terry Stark, Lewis Miles Stark, Martha Ann Stark, Mary Stark, Elizabeth McFarland Stark, children of William H. Stark and Elizabeth Stark, all of the County and State aforesaid. Witnesseth, that the said Nancy Hardin for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred dollars in hand paid by their next friends and the love and affection which she bears for her grandchildren afore named, doth by these presents*"[5]

Clearly, the Nancy Hardin in this document is Nancy Hawley, who is the grandmother of the named children described as the children of William H. Stark and Elizabeth Stark. Therefore, we can presume she is the mother of William Hawley Stark since we have already proved his mother's name was Nancy Hawley from previous documentation. Also from these documents, we can probably say Enos Hardin died sometime before 1847 and Nancy and Napoleon Hardin inherited his land and possessions, which probably included the above mentioned slave, Ann.

1) See copy of original in Chapter 1.

2) "*The Zachary Family, From Virginia to Texas*", by Clovis La Fleur, 1999, self published. Documents in this publication reveal Bennett Hiram Zachary married his first wife, Clarinda Bennett in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Deed Records from the same Parish show Bennett Hiram Zachary interacted with Benjamin Zachary and Elizabeth Odom of the same Parish.

3) In a land record of October 28, 1848 deeded to Alex Sappinton of Carroll Parish, La. (W.H. Stark and his wife signed this in Newton County, Texas, this being witnessed by Harriott Merirtt(spelling) & Nancy Hardin; 160 acres, noted in West Carroll Parish, Conveyance Book Old A, page 136. The sale here was recorded Nov 29, 1848. Contributed by Pauline Mobley, caldonia@bayou.com, September 9, 2002.

4) "Government Officials In The Republic Of Texas", 1836-1845, page 295.

5) Newton County Deed Book A, pages 255 - 256. See copy of the original in Chapter 1.

We next find Nancy Hardin living with her son, Asa Stark, in Jefferson County, Texas, located south of Newton County. She is reported in the 1850 census for that year as Nancy Hardin, age 63. Also living in the home of Asa Stark is Lamar Herrin, age 11, most likely a child of Nancy's daughter, Prudence Jane, who married William "Bill" Herrin. In the 1860 census for Newton County, Texas, we find Asa Stark and N. B. Hardin living next door to each other but no record of a Nancy Hardin. Most likely Nancy died between 1850 and 1860. No burial site for Nancy has been found to date. It is possible she was buried in the Lewis Myles Stark Cemetery, for recently it has been proven L. M. Stark's mother, Elizabeth Zachary, who died in 1859, was buried in this first cemetery for the Stark Family. At the time, this property was owned by William Hawley Stark, and it would seem probable he buried his mother at this cemetery site. In this cemetery are several unmarked depressions, which are likely grave-sites of which one may be the grave of Nancy.

Prudence Jane Stark married William "Bill" Herrin around 1834, probably in either Ouachita Parish or in Carroll Parish. We can only speculate on this year of marriage. It is known from the 1850 census for Calcasieu Parish that their oldest known child, William, was born in 1835 in Louisiana, hence the speculated year of marriage being at least before this birth. Esahl "Asa" Lafitte Stark married Matilda Donaho sometime before July 5, 1838. This marriage probably occurred in Louisiana, but could have been in Jasper County. From the Texas Head Right Certificate issued to Asa, we find "*he arrived in this Republic subsequent to the Declaration of Independence say August A. D. One Thousand and Eight Hundred and Thirty-Seven and that he is a married man and is entitled to Twelve Hundred & Eighty acres of land to be surveyed after the 1st day of August A. D. 1838. Given under our hands at Jasper this 5th day of July 1838.*"

Therefore, all of Nancy's children were living in close proximity to her in Newton County although William Herrin and Prudence are recorded in the 1850 census for Calcasieu Parish, located just across the Sabine River from Jefferson County, Texas and we also know from Newton County records that on September 30, 1846, Elizabeth Zachary's brother, Bennett Hiram Zachary, recorded the county's first cattle brand, the numeral "7" with the cattle bearing for earmarks a crop and slit on the left ear and a crop on the right ear. Later on that same day, cattle brands were recorded for Asa L. Stark, William Herrin, and William H. Stark. Therefore, at least before this date, William Herrin and his spouse, Prudence Jane Stark, were living in Newton County.[1]

Daniel R. Stark and Nancy Hawley started a family in New York in 1808 and over a span of only thirty-eight years, all of this family, except for Daniel, would be living in an area that would be known as Newton County, Texas by 1846. In their lifetime they witnessed the beginning of a new nation dedicated to liberty for all, saw its expansion from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, witnessed the birth of the Republic of Texas, and were there to see their Republic become the 28th State of the United States of America in 1846. What a trip in a lifetime! May we always remember their hardships, heartaches, and triumphs, for theirs was truly a lifetime of pioneering spirit and adventure.

1) Commissioners Court Minutes of Newton County, Texas, 8/22/1846 - 2/18/1851.