

Family Traditions Can Be Varied

“Family traditions” can be a valuable part of your family history, but, how reliable are they? Some can be true, some can be based on stories embellished through the years, and then some can be just untrue. What-ever the story or tradition, the careful researcher should consider these stories a good starting point, and should start their work to sort out the facts.

What kind of “tradition” do you have? Is it based on the memory of things experienced or stories and facts handed down by word of mouth? Is it written down?

I have a copy of a handwritten “Pedigree” from Greenberry (or Green Berry) Sanders. I don’t know who sent it to me. (You can see one of my problems is carefully documenting sources.)

“G B Sanders, son of Moses and Priscella Sanders, was born in Rutherford Co. N.C. in the year 1825. His father, Moses Sanders, born in Montgomery? Co. N.C. - lived in various other counties in sd state. He, (Moses Sanders) was the son of James Sanders, who was born in Scotland? & so he, was a Scotsman, & lived in Motgomery? Co. N.C. G B Sanders’ mother was an illegitimate daughter of Cassendra Coco, or perhaps, Cocoa. or Coker, which name was generally used in speaking of her. She was of Welch blood, or of Welch lineage. The above statements is as far back as I am able to go with my ancestry. Have studied on the matter closely. Jan. 14th 1905.

G B Sanders”

This document ties in with the articles at the right on this page, and the James Sanders here could be part of the lineage of the Benjamin Sanders in the page two article. ■

Don Schaefer, *editor*

Gary Sanders Provides Explanation of The Latest Sanders DNA Test Results

The following article was written by Gary Sanders, P. O. Box 309236, UNT Station, Denton, TX 76203, <gary_bsanders@hotmail.com>. The interpretation of the test results is Gary’s. If you would like to see the complete DNA test result data, go to this URL: <<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~sandersdna/dna.html>>.

A test that was completed in July 2006 established that Benjamin Saunders/Sanders who lived in Montgomery and Randolph counties in North Carolina and later in Jackson County, Alabama, is from the same Sanders line as a descendant of William Aaron Saunders of Montgomery County. This result offers further evidence that Benjamin is the same person as the “Ben Saunders” mentioned in the letter written by Thomas Bailey Saunders in the 1890s. Justin Sanders, administrator of the DNA project, has provided further analysis of this recent DNA test in a posting in the Sanders DNA-L forum.

[See related article on page two.]

A further test in August 2006 established that Francis Sanders (1782-about 1860) of Randolph County, N.C., and Jackson County, Ala., is also from the same Sanders line as Benjamin and William Aaron. My suggestion is that Francis and Benjamin were probably brothers, and though DNA testing can’t prove their fraternity, the results so far are fully compatible with the possibility.

A test in November 2006 shows that James Sanders (about 1740-about 1810) belongs to the same line. According to family tradition passed down among his descendants, James was of Scottish ancestry. James appears to have had a brother named Patrick and a sister named Sarah, and these siblings may have been the children of William and Susannah Sanders who first appear in the tax list of 1764 in Anson County, N.C. Many of James’ relatives moved to

Spartanburg, S. C. and later to Rutherford County, N.C.

So far DNA testing has established that descendants of the following individuals have a common male Sanders ancestor:

William Aaron Saunders, 1735, N.C.-1783, Montgomery Co., N.C.

Benjamin Saunders/Sanders, 1766, N.C.-1845, Jackson Co., Ala.

Francis Sanders/Saunders, 1782, N.C.-1860, Hempstead Co., Ark.

John Francis Sanders, 1805, N.C.-1875, Calhoun Co., Ark. (12 marker, further testing needed)

James Sanders, 1740, N.C.-1810, Spartanburg, S.C. (possibly, born in Scotland)

John Ewing Sanders, 1853, Tenn.-1903, Rutherford Co., Tenn. (12 marker, further testing needed)

Robert Sanders, 1801, N.C.-1882, Izard Co., Ark.

David Sanders, 1803, S.C.-1893-Jessamine Co., Ky.

The prevailing assumption is that the common ancestor of William Aaron, Benjamin, Francis, and John Francis is the John Saunders who married Catherine Nimrod (or whatever the names of the parents Aaron, Isaac, and Moses may have been). This assumption seems reasonable because we have something of a paper trail pointing in that direction. Whether John Ewing and David Sanders are also descendants of John Saunders is less certain. David of Jessamine County, Kentucky, may be descended from William and Susan Sanders of Anson County, N.C. Because John who married Catherine and William who married Susannah were about the same age, they may have been brothers, maybe the two brothers that Thomas Bailey Saunders mentioned as coming to America at about the time the

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Benjamin Sanders is Believed Father of Children Once Attributed to Another

This article was written by Gary Sanders, P. O. Box 309236, UNT Station, Denton, TX 76203, <gary_bsanders@hotmail.com>.

ACCORDING TO FAMILY TRADITION, Benjamin's surname was originally Saunders but was changed to Sanders when the family moved in the 1830s from North Carolina to Jackson County, Alabama. What follows is a biographical reconstruction, based on census records, land deeds, published accounts, and family tradition.

In the family lore passed down among his descendants who moved to Texas, Benjamin was described as an "Irishman" from North Carolina. It is believed he was by occupation a blacksmith or gunsmith, but he must have farmed as well because, at one time, he owned several hundred acres of land. Based on census records from 1800, 1810, 1830, and 1840, Benjamin was probably born between 1766 and 1770. He doesn't appear on the 1850 Jackson County census, and because of family tradition about his having lived to an advanced old age, we may assume he died closer to the year 1850 than to 1840.

Although there is a possibility of a reference to him as early as 1785 in land records of Montgomery County, N.C., Benjamin's first confirmed appearance in a real estate transaction was in February 1793 when he received a warrant for land that was on the border with Randolph County. His property was adjacent to that of the heirs of William Aaron Saunders who died in 1782. A letter written in the 1890s by Thomas Bailey Saunders of Texas suggests that Isaac Saunders, William Aaron's brother, was the father of Benjamin.

Isaac Saunders appears on the 1782 tax rolls of Montgomery County, but by 1800 he is living in Randolph County. In 1806 Isaac Sanders of Randolph County sold one acre of land for one shilling to Benjamin Sanders of Montgomery County. This property was just over the county line, on the Bumpass Fork of the Little River, in Randolph County, and it included a mill site and the property "whereupon the said Isaac Sanders now lives." Two years later, Isaac sold two hundred acres, also on the Bumpass Fork of the Little River, to Benjamin. In this second deed Benjamin is described as now living in Randolph County. The obvious implication from these transac-

tions is that the elderly Isaac was transferring land to his son.

At the time that Isaac transferred the land to Benjamin, Benjamin already had a large family. He must have married his first wife in the late 1780s; at any rate, in 1800 he appears on the 1800 Montgomery County census with one male between 10-15 in the household, one woman born before 1774 (presumably his first wife), and several female children, all under ten years old. The only one of these children whose name we know for certain is William Sanders, who was born in 1789 and died in 1872 in Arkansas.

Benjamin's second marriage, to the former Mary Sanders, probably occurred about 1803, but could have occurred at anytime between 1800 and 1811. In spite of having a maiden name that was the same as her husband's surname, DNA tests of descendants of Mary's Sanders line show that she was not related to Benjamin. Benjamin and Mary are mentioned in the 1811 settlement of her father's estate, though it appears she did not inherit much property.

Children of Benjamin Sanders and Mary Sanders are believed to be as follows, although the children born between 1804 and 1810 may be the children of Benjamin and his first wife:

- ii. Benjamin, b. April 1804, Montgomery or Randolph County, North Carolina; d. bef. January 4, 1866, Wright County, Missouri.
- iii. Rebecca, b. January 23, 1806, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. August 8, 1893, Jackson County, Alabama.
- iv. Sarah, b. Abt. 1808, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. aft. 1880, Randolph County, North Carolina.
- v. George W., b. December 17, 1812, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. bet. 1856 - 1859, Montgomery County, Arkansas
- vi. Phoebe Ellender, b. Bet. 1813 - 1820, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. 1902, Jackson County, Alabama.
- vii. Isaac, b. bet. April 01 - May 16, 1818, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. bet. 1880 - 1900, Prentiss County, Mississippi.
- viii. John, b. 1822, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. August 11, 1896, Jackson County, Alabama.
- ix. Alfred Head Mashburn, b. April 1827, Randolph County, North Carolina; d. April 6, 1919, Kyles, Jackson County, Alabama.

By the 1830s, Benjamin was well over sixty years old, but like many other pioneers, he was not hesitant to seek his fortune in new territory. In November 1833 Benjamin sold 300 acres to Henry Wollaver and 227 acres along Barnes Creek and the Fayetteville Road to John Lucas. At some point during this period, Benjamin and his family moved to Jackson County, Alabama, where he was just one of many of the Sanders family who had migrated from the Randolph/Montgomery area.

The last documentary record of Benjamin is the 1840 census of Jackson County, Alabama, where he is listed as 70-80 years old. One of the traditions about old Ben's last days is that he converted from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant faith at a camp meeting in Jackson County when he was ninety-six years old, dying two years later. A 1917 newspaper article in Van Zandt County, Texas, gives information that probably came from the recollections of Benjamin's grandson: "Levi Lindsey Sanders was born in Jackson Co., Ala...He was a son of Buck Ben Sanders, a gunsmith, and came of Irish Catholic ancestors, his people settling in North Carolina. Uncle Levi's paternal grandfather, Ben Saunders, as the name was originally spelled, was converted from the Catholic faith at a camp meeting in Jackson County, Ala., at the age of 96 years." This Catholic connection is something of a mystery because a Catholic origin is not mentioned in the tradition of the other Saunders/Sanders of Montgomery or Randolph Counties. Whether he was Catholic or not, Benjamin was probably only in his eighties when he died. The mystery about the year of Benjamin's birth, the year of his death, and his religious convictions are symbolic of the many problems in reconstructing his biography. ■

Verona Sanders Robertson, 1824 Shelly Court, Moore, OK 73160-6339, <vrobertsonok@sbcglobal.net>. My g-g-grampa, Anderson Asbury Sanders, b. 1840 Jones Co., Ga., served in the Civil War in Miss. Rifles, d. 1910 in Texas. My g-grampa, James Anderson Sanders, b. Miss. 1867, d. 1897. My grandfather, Chester Ernest Sanders, b. 1886 Yell County, Ark., d. 1962 Okla. My father, James Albert Sanders, b. 1912 Hughes Co., Okla., d. 1989 Okla. ■

Sanders DNA Test Results

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pirate Blackbeard was active. DNA testing doesn't help much in telling how all these people were related; all it does is let us know that they had a common male Sanders ancestor, and the paper trail suggests that ancestor lived during the 1700s. With the exception of two individuals who matched 36 of 37 markers, none of the individuals tested in this group had matches closer than 34 of 37 markers. That's close enough to indicate a common Sanders male ancestor but not close enough to help us to refine the paper trail of lines of descent.

Another group of Sanders from Randolph/Montgomery with a common Sanders male ancestor comprises descendants of the following:

Joseph Sanders, 1755, N.C.-1803, Randolph Co., N.C.

William Sanders, 1740, N.C.-1790, Chatham Co., N.C. (Chatham County borders on Randolph)

Robert Sanders, 1795, N.C.-1848, Tallapoosa Co., Ala.

With this group we have no paper trail or DNA evidence that would indicate the common ancestor. We do know, however, that descendants of Joseph Sanders intermarried into the John Saunders/Nimrod line even though these were two separate Sanders lines and not derived from a common male Sanders ancestor. Descendants of this second group match each other more closely than descendants of the Saunders/Nimrod line matched each other. This may indicate that the common ancestor of Joseph, William, and Robert was only a generation or two removed from the known ancestor or it may merely mean that the Saunders/Nimrod line was more susceptible to mutations.

Early research indicated that a descendant of Francis Sanders (born about 1755), brother of the Reverend Moses Sanders, appeared to have a DNA match with descendants of Benjamin Sanders and Isaac Sanders of Jackson Co., Ala. This match occurred with what is called the twelve marker test. In the spring of 2006, an upgrade was done to the thirty-seven marker test, and the participant was proven to be unrelated to the descendants of Benjamin and Isaac. It now appears that the match at the twelve marker test was purely random. Such random matches are not unusual

Siftings Back Issues Available

Back issues of SANDERS Siftings are available at \$3.00 each. They are: No. 2, July 1995 through No. 47, October 2006. If you order eight issues or more, the price will be \$2.00 per issue.

A copy of issue No. 1, April, 1995, will be included free with any order for back issues. ■

when dealing with people of European and specifically British Isles ancestry. For this reason the twelve marker test is much more useful at disproving a relationship than at proving one. In other words, if the twelve marker test comes back negative, the two individuals can be pretty certain they are not related; but if it comes back positive, they have no assurance of a common ancestor, as we have seen in this case.

We now believe that the participant was not, after all, a descendant of Francis, the brother of Moses. He was a descendant of a Silas Sanders, and Silas was the name of Francis' son, but it now appears that the Silas who was the ancestor of the participant was a different person from the Silas who was the nephew of the Reverend Moses Sanders. Earlier, many researchers, myself included, assumed that Silas, nephew of Moses, was the same person as the Silas Sanders who moved to Illinois.

Regardless of the reason that the descendant of the Silas Sanders who died in Jefferson County, Illinois, in 1836 did not match the descendants of the Saunders/Nimrod line, the assumption still appears valid that Moses Sanders of Georgia is the same person as Moses Sanders of Montgomery County, North Carolina. Still, although the paper trail provides substantial evidence that there was only one Moses who was a Baptist preacher, we really need a DNA test on someone who is unambiguously a descendant of Moses of Georgia before we can conclusively prove the matter beyond any doubt whatsoever.

The Sanders DNA project may still offer a free test for the first person to qualify. For further details, please go to <<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/SANDERS-DNA/2006-07/1153101114>> or contact Justin M. Sanders, 1111 Lucerne Drive, Mobile, AL 36608, <jsanders@jaguar1.usouthal.edu>. ■

Paul F. Sanders Comments On July Article About Rev. Laurence Saunders

Comments from Paul F. Sanders, 2680 169 Ave. S.E., Bellevue, WA 98008, <PaulFSande@aol.com> on Paul Saunders' article about Rev. Laurence Saunders in July 2006 issue of *Sanders Siftings* follow:

After 30 years of study, Paul Saunders of Knoxville in the July 2006 issue of *Sanders Siftings* went to considerable length to conclude that none of the various Saunders of early New England were descendants of Rev. Laurence Saunders, martyr, rector of All Hallows (replaced for a warehouse), Bread Street, London, as proposed by Sarah Saunders Smith in her book, *Founders of Mass. Bay Colony*, 1897, and other historians.

Another data point in support of Paul Saunders' findings are three oil paintings on the City of Coventry Council House wall of Rev. Saunders' baby, Samuel, being taken from him in the gaol and then the father being taken to the stake for burning, 8 Feb 1555, because of his anti Catholic beliefs. He was condemned to death by Mary Queen of Scots ("Bloody Mary"), not only the Queen of England but also the self installed head of the Catholic Church of England. Rev. Saunders last words were, "Welcome the cross of Christ! Welcome everlasting life!"

Under the three oil paintings personally seen by me and my cousin Pauline Holman Hadley, 18 May 1995, is the following inscription, "[These paintings are] Presented to the Corporation of Coventry in 1937 by Mrs. Christine Saunders whose husband, Captain John William Saunders, was the last surviving descendant of Laurence Saunders."

Rev. Laurence Saunders had one son, Samuel. There are apparently no current descendants.

Rev. Saunders' name appears on the Martyr's monument cross along with ten other names in a small park next to the highway ring around and south of downtown Coventry where the burnings took place. Saunders was probably England's most famous martyr. ■

Lavonne Walker, 19603 13th St., Shawnee, OK 74801, <lavonnew@flash.net>. Do you know where Obediah Sanders was born in S.C.? We are looking for any Sanders around Chester and Kershaw Counties in S.C. ■

Richard Saunders Was A Well Known Publisher in Early America

Richard Saunders was an American printer, editor, and publisher during the Colonial Period. His best known publication was started in 1732. He also published a newspaper, posters, broadsides and other publications from his print shop in Philadelphia.

As was the case with most of the Europeans in the Colonial Period, Richard's ancestry was from England; his was from Ecton in Northamptonshire. His grandfather, Thomas, was born in 1598 and had four sons; Thomas, John, Benjamin, and Josiah. Josiah was the father of Richard.

From Richard's autobiography we see something of his family: "This obscure family of ours was early in the Reformation, and continued Protestant through the reign of Queen Mary, when they were sometimes in danger of trouble on account of their zeal against popery. They had got an English Bible, and to conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a joint-stool. When my great-grandfather read it to his family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the apparitor coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon its feet, when the Bible remained concealed under it as before. This anecdote I had from my Uncle Benjamin. The family continued with the church of England till about the end of Charles II's reign, when some of the ministers that had been outed for nonconformity holding conventicles in Northamptonshire, Benjamin and Josiah adhered to them, and so continued all their lives. The rest of the family remained with the Episcopal Church.

"Josiah, my father, married young, and carried his wife with three children into New England about 1682. The conventicles having been forbidden by Law, and frequently disturbed, induced some considerable men of his acquaintance to remove to that country, and he was prevailed with to accompany them thither, where they expected to enjoy their mode of religion with freedom. By the same wife he had four children more born there, and by a second wife ten more, in all seventeen; of which I remember thirteen sitting at one time at his table, who

all grew up to be men and women, and married. I was the youngest son, and the youngest child but two, and was born in Boston, New England. My mother, the second, was Abiah Folger, one of the first settlers of New England, of whom honorable mention is made by Cotton Mather, in his church history of that country."

Josiah was a candle and soap maker and Richard first worked for his father in that trade. He disliked it, wanting to sail the seas, instead. However, because of his love for reading, he was apprenticed to the printing trade, working for his older brother James in Boston. He later left his brother and set out on his own, ending up in Philadelphia

Richard Saunders' best known publication was an annual one and enjoyed a twenty-five year run. It was filled with all kinds of proverbial sentences, chiefly such as inculcated industry and frugality as a means of procuring wealth and thereby securing virtue.

In his newspaper, Richard also promoted virtues not shared by most others in his profession. The following is what he had to say about this in his autobiography:

"In the conduct of my newspaper I carefully excluded all libeling and personal abuse, which is of late years become so disgraceful to our country. Whenever I was solicited to insert anything of that kind, and the writers pleaded, as they generally did, the liberty of the press, and that a newspaper was like a stage-coach, in which any one who would pay had a right to a place, my answer was that I would print the piece separately if desired, and the author might have as many copies as he pleased to distribute himself, but that I would not take upon me to spread his detraction; and that, having contracted with my subscribers to furnish them with what might be either useful or entertaining, I could not fill their papers with private altercation, in which they had no concern, without doing them manifest injustice. Now, many of our printers make no scruple of gratifying the malice of individuals by false accusations of the fairest characters among ourselves, augmenting animosity even to the producing of duels; and are, moreover, so indiscreet as to print scurrilous reflections on the government of neighboring states, and even on the conduct of our best

national allies, which may be attended with the most pernicious consequences. These things I mention as a caution to young printers, and that they may be encouraged not to pollute their presses and disgrace their profession by such infamous practices, but refuse steadily, as they may see by my example that such a course of conduct will not, on the whole, be injurious to their interests.

Have you yet figured how you might be related to Richard Saunders? We all want to be related to the rich or famous. It is not likely that any of us with Sanders or Saunders ancestors are related to this famous Richard Saunders. You see, Richard Saunders was only the pseudonym for Benjamin Franklin.

That best known publication? It was *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

You may read his autobiography on line at: <<http://www.ushistory.org/franklin/autobiography/>>. or check out *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* at your local library. ■

Know About This Isaac Saunders?

Dianne Skidds, 1425 Chapin Rd. N, Evans, WA 99126-9726, <kskidds@ultraplix.com>. My earliest Saunders is as follows. I couldn't find them any farther back. If you recognize one of these or are a descendant please let me know! We can share info. Isaac Saunders, b. 28 Sep (Nov) 1792 London, Eng.; m. 5 Aug 1817 at Aldebury, Hertfordshire, Eng. to Anna (Elizabeth Ann) Gurney. Children all born at Hertfordshire but the last.

1) Isaac, christened 21 Dec 1817, d. 31 Dec 1817; 2) William, b. 5 Dec 1818, c. 14 Mar 1819, d. 11 Sep 1841; 3) Catherine Mary or Mary Catherine, b. 11 Sep 1821, c. 5 Nov 1821; 4) Mary Ann (Ann), b. 6 Aug 1824, c. 8 Nov 1824; 5) Charlotte, c. 11 May 1828, d. 9 Dec 1829; 6) Charles, c. 19 Oct 1829; 7) Samuel, b. 5 Mar 1831, c. 9 Oct 1831, m. Elizabeth Pierce, b. Pa.; 8) Mary Elizabeth (Elizabeth), b. 28 Jan 1832, c. 11 Mar 1832, m. 15 Jun 1851 Cuyanoga Co., Ohio to David Hogan Pulver, b. 18 Apr 1828 N.Y.; 9) Joseph, b. 6 Sep 1836 Reynolds, Jefferson Co., Neb., d. 10 Aug 1924 Jefferson Co., Neb., m. Elizabeth Ann (last name unknown), b. 16 May 1840 Pa., d. 10 Aug 1924 Clackamas Co., Oregon.

Thanks for any help with this family. I am especially looking for the information on child 7, Samuel, and wife Elizabeth Pierce. I am descended from them. ■

Sanders Theater at Harvard University Named For 1802 Alumnus

Sanders Theater or Sanders Theatre is the premiere lecture and concert hall at Harvard University. It is internationally known for its superior acoustics, which in New England are only surpassed by Jordan Hall and Boston Symphony Hall. The theater's design is based upon Christopher Wren's Sheldonian Theatre at Oxford, England. The 1,166 seat theater features three tiers of seating: the orchestra, the mezzanine, and the balcony.

The theatre was designed to function as a major lecture hall and as the site of college commencement. It is currently the largest lecture hall at Harvard University. Although Sanders saw its last commencement exercise in 1922, the theater continues to play a major role in the academic mission of Harvard University, hosting undergraduate core curriculum courses, many of the Harvard a capella groups, the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, and the undergraduate choirs. Many of the most venerable academic, political, and literary figures of the nineteenth and twentieth century have taken the podium at Sanders Theater including Winston Churchill, Theodore Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and Mikhail Gorbachev. Current popular lecturers in the theater include Professors N. Gregory Mankiw who teaches Principles of Economics and Michael Sandel whose famous course 'Justice' commands an audience of over 1,000. The Ig Nobel Prize is also awarded annually there.

Sanders Theatre was the location of a long series of epochal experiments in architectural acoustics by Wallace Sabine and students, a junior physics professor at Harvard, who nightly moved seat cushions in and out investigating the effects of acoustic absorption, whose unit is still known as the sabin.

Sanders Theater is located in the apse of Memorial Hall, which consists of Annenberg Hall, the Memorial Transept and Tower, and Sanders Theater.

Conception and Construction of Memorial Hall

Following the Civil War, The Harvard Corporation gave its official sanction to a group of distinguished and diverse Harvard alumni who petitioned the col-



Sanders Theater

Photo by Steve Rosenthal



Memorial Hall at Harvard University

Photo by Steve Rosenthal

lege to let them raise funds for a memorial to those Harvard graduates who fought for the Union cause. The new committee of fifty alumni suggested that the proposed memorial take the form of a building, one that would not only testify to the heroism of those who fell but also meet the college's urgent and practical needs for a theater and a gathering space for alumni.

The committee proposed a Hall of Alumni in which students and graduates might be inspired by the pictured and sculptured presence of her founders, benefactors, faculty, presidents, and most distinguished sons. The vision was a compelling one: between 1865 and 1868, members of the committee collected a staggering \$370,000, a sum equal to one-twelfth of the endowment of the University at the time.

At the same time, Charles Sanders, who was a member of the class of 1802 and who had held the position of "college steward" from 1827-1831 had bequeathed to the College \$40,000 for the purpose of erecting "a hall or theatre to be used on Commencement days, Class days, Exhibition days, days of the meetings of the society of Alumni, or any other public occasion connected with the College, whether literary or festive." The two projects were thus joined and each helped to make the other feasible.

The site chosen for the new memorial building was that referred to as The Delta because of its triangular shape, bounded on three sides by Cambridge, Kirkland, and Quincy streets. The Memorial Hall Building Committee purchased Jarvis Field (now the Law

school) in order to provide a new location for the playing field that had previously occupied the Delta.

In December of 1865, the committee invited several prominent architects (all Harvard alumni) to submit designs in competition, coding them by number to ensure an impartial choice. The design of William Robert Ware, class of 1852, and Henry Van Brunt, class of 1854, was selected though it was much refined in the months and years to come. The building received its formal name, Memorial Hall, in September of 1870. A month later its cornerstone was laid. It represented a remarkable achievement by a group of committed volunteers, from conception to cornerstone in just five years. Oliver Wendell Holmes composed a hymn for the ceremony held on October 6, 1870, to lay the Memorial Hall cornerstone.

In 1874, less than four year's time, the hall and the transept were dedicated for use. Sanders Theatre was substantially completed in the spring of 1875 but not used until Commencement exercises in the spring of 1876. The tower was completed in 1877.

It was in 1878 that the thirteen-year effort to honor Harvard's fallen soldiers and transform the lives of undergraduates finally culminated with the official turning over of the building to the University.

"...the most valuable gift the University has ever received, with respect alike to cost, daily usefulness, and significance."

President Eliot in accepting Memorial Hall on behalf of The University from the Memorial Hall building committee. ■

ASSORTED QUERIES . . .

From Marjorie Saunders Wolf, 508 N. Jones St., Eureka, IL 61530. I have a copy of a Saunders lineal which has three elephant's heads as the coat-of-arms and motto: *genitum secredere mundo*. My immigrant ancestor was Tobias Saunders, first documented in 1643 in Taunton, Massachusetts. If this is familiar to any Saunders researcher, please contact me. [Editor's note: An article, with pictures, by Paul Saunders in the October 1999 *Sanders Siftings* tells about a monument to Francis Saunders with similar coats-of-arms found by Paul in Welford, England.]

Here are three different queries from Lee Hoover, 544 Twomey Rd., Centerville, TN. 37033, <eleehoover@aol.com>. In twenty years of searching I have never been able to sort out the Sanders/Saunders correctly in Hickman, Humphreys, Dickson, Perry Counties, Tenn. They are all so intermarried and with the same names that researchers are sending out misinformation, which further clouds the issue.

Query 1: There are two Thomas Saunders/Sanders, each a son of brothers, Jesse Saunders and Thomas Saunders that I cannot get correct genealogy. Thomas, son of Thomas and Ann Turner Harper Saunders was born Dec 1773 in Va. and possibly came to Sumner Co., Tenn. with his parents. Thomas, son of Jesse and Annis Yancey Saunders was born 1782 in Granville Co., N.C. and possibly immigrated to Ga. with Jesse and the rest of the children. When many of Jesse's children and grandchildren went to Hickman Co., Tenn. 1811/1812. It was *assumed* Thomas went with them. Which Thomas was in Hickman Co. 1820 and on the 1830 Humphreys Co. census? (Humphreys County annexed a portion of Hickman so he may not have moved.) Humphreys Co. records show "heirs of Thomas Saunders taxed 1833," but no names. No children in household 1830 census. I need spouses and children of each in order to correct records.

Query 2: Who was the Benjamin Saunders/Sanders on 1820 Hickman Co., Tenn. census, with 2 males and 2 females under 5? The name Benjamin does not appear in any genealogy of the numerous Saunders/Sanders families in

Hickman, Dickson, Humphreys, Perry Counties who immigrated in 1811/1812 to the area. Those Saunders were mostly descendants of brothers, Jesse and Thomas Saunders. On 16 Jan 1824 Benjamin Saunders, Dickson Co., Tenn. purchased 20 acres on Hurricane Creek of Duck River from Thomas Epperson, Humphreys Co. I have not located a sale of that property; however, there is no Benjamin Saunders/Sanders on any 1830 census in the state of Tenn. Who was his spouse? Where did he go? Who were his children? Was Benjamin on the 1840 census in Miss.? I hope someone can help clear up the mystery.

Query 3: Need parents of William Sanders, b.ca 1750, m. Sarah Ragan. He was not the son of Jesse and Annis Yancey Saunders, as several researchers have reported. Jesse's son, William, was b. 1766 in Granville, Co., N.C. and possibly immigrated to Georgia with Jesse and his siblings. (See Georgia Land Lottery records 1805.) On 21 Nov 1811 William applied for a passport to travel through the Indian Nations of the Western Country. This was approved for William, his wife, nine children and one negro, all being from Orangeburgh, S.C. William apparently died immediately afterward as he died Nov 1811 in Pendleton District, S.C. and his will was proven Feb 1812, naming all heirs. The family traveled on to Tumbling Creek, Hickman, Co., Tenn. as they were there when the will was settled. Many children and grandchildren of Jesse Saunders came to the Hickman Co. area 1811/1812, which apparently caused the identity confusion. There seemed to be a family connection but how? Anyone working on the families? William had four children that married Tubbs, two that married Perrys, and two that married Smiths, which may help identify as there are so many Williams.

Rick Saunders, 13 Thomson Avenue, Glens Falls, NY 12801-2220, <RS4Liberty@aol.com> has an answer to this query in the last issue:

"Paul F. Sanders, 2680 169 Ave., Bellevue, WA 98008, <PaulFSande@aol.com> has recently learned that the original name of Chehalis, Washington, was Saundersville. Does anyone know which Saunders (c. 1850) was the

source of this name? Ancestors?"

Paul, I think I have an answer. I can tell you that Schuyler S. Sanders moved west searching for his wife, I think, who had left him with two daughters with the Mormons. Schuyler was born about 1813 in Alfred, Allegany County, N.Y., the 12th child of George and Lydia Saunders, and died about 1860. The first wife's name was Ruth Sarsaie. His 2nd wife in Washington was Eliza(beth) Tynan, I think. They had four boys and one girl — James, Mary, William, Alfred, and Joe. The first wife returned to N.Y. and apparently died in an asylum. I happen to descend from their son, Charles, who was the 17th child of these third cousins. Must have been a little more than kissing cousins. Both George (1766) and Lydia (1777) were born in Westerly, Rhode Island, and moved westward, settling in Allegany Co., N.Y. along with friends and family who were members of the Seventh Day Baptist Church. At the time I think Schuyler got 640 acres for settling with his wife in this area. I think he was first in Oregon and then Washington.

Ed Sanders, 163 Virginia Way, Searcy, AR 72143, <sanders.ed@sbcglobal.net>. My wing of the Sanders clan has an annual family gathering in Louann, Ouachita Co., Ark., at noon on Saturday prior to Labor Day. There are usually 40-50 present. We are all descended from John Francis Sanders and Cintha (Cynthia) Harris who were married 3 Jul 1821 in Guilford Co., N.C., and through their son, William James Sanders and Sarah Jane Coffee, who married in Jackson County, Ala., 1836, and migrated to Calhoun Co., Ark., 1871, with some of them entering land in Howard Co., Ark. (George W.), Montgomery Co., Ark. (James G.) and Pike Co., Ark. (Thomas Jefferson). John Francis, the father of the clan, remained in Calhoun Co, Ark., and died there in 1875. He is buried in New Hope Cemetery, near Woodberry, Calhoun Co., Ark.

Any comment or connection will be most welcome.

From Helen Hanley, 920 Mallory Road, Knoxville, TN 37919, <Hfhhanley@aol.com>. Does anyone have information on Edward (Eddie) A. Sanders, b. 1899 or 1900 in Tennessee? Last known home was in Cookville, Tenn. ■

Ed Sanders Sets a Good Example For Us To Follow; Have You Helped A Fellow Searcher?

The following is from an e-mail message written by Ed Sanders, 163 Virginia Way, Searcy, AR 72143, <sanders.ed@sbcglobal.net>. It is typical of the way Ed attempts to assist many people on the Internet when he sees that his knowledge of Sanders information can be helpful to others. It also tells how Ed was able to hear directly much family history from his parents and grandparents. He is fortunate. Most of us do not get interested in our family history until everyone who knows anything has passed on.

Here, Ed is replying to someone who has posted a message on SANDERS-L looking for an Almon Sanders in Virginia or Kentucky.

"I understand that you are seeking Virginia and Kentucky Sanderses, but you likely will be encouraged to know that "Almon" is a Sanders name in North Carolina and Alabama as well.

"A specific example is a son of John Francis Sanders and Cintha Harris was named Hiram Almon Sanders. In the Civil War, 1861-1865, he was captured and imprisoned by the Yankees. He almost starved but survived to walk home to Jackson County, Alabama. His wife, Thursday Gideon, (I love that name!) prepared him a large meal and he ate it and died 2 or 3 hours later. He left 3 young daughters for whom my great-great grandfather, John Francis Sanders was appointed guardian.

"He brought them to Arkansas in 1871, when all of his family relocated to Calhoun Co., Ark., in 7 ox-wagons. Because Arkansas considered at that time that an orphaned person was legally an "infant" until age 21, their father's brother, William Riley "Uncle Bud" Sanders was appointed their guardian in Ark. Two of them married in Calhoun County, Ark., and the third girl married in Ouachita (wash-i-taw) County, Ark., which adjoins Calhoun. I heard of Great-Uncle Alman/Almond first when I was a young child and many times since.

"I am now approaching 79 years of age and was fortunate enough to have my father until he was 88 and I was 68, so we talked "family" a lot. Fortunately, my grandparents lived their last days with my family, and Granddad also loved to talk about the family so I heard a lot of information and have treasured it. I feel very comfortable talking about the

period of 1770 until the present. Here is an interesting sidelight. My Sanders grandparents had 10 boys and 5 girls and all of them except one lived to be married and have children of their own. The first child was a girl and she died of burns after falling into the washpot and fire on a Monday when she was two years old. All the others lived to be married and all but 2 had children. One died of an infected insect bite before she had been married long enough to have a child. Her husband waited 11 years for her nearest sister to grow up, then married the sister. He is buried between them in a cemetery we call New Hope in Calhoun County. My father and one of his brothers married sisters, as did two other brothers, so double-first cousins are known in my family.

"Thank you for allowing me to rattle on as old men sometimes will." ■

Help Find This Soldier's Family

I am searching for the family of a soldier who was killed in the Korea War. Weldon Sanders, born December 27, 1927, Black, date of loss: November 30, 1950, KIA. When he entered service he gave Chester County, South Carolina as his home of record. His remains were never recovered.

When the Korean War ended the enemy never returned or accounted for over 8,000 of our servicemen. They died in their hands. That was over 50 years ago. Since that time DNA has been perfected and also they are recovering remains in North Korea. Our government is obligated to return those remains to the proper family. DNA samples have been obtained from most of the families of these missing soldiers.

When the remains are recovered and identified they will be returned to the family for proper burial. I am just an old (76 years) combat veteran out of the Korea War and thankful that I did return. I hope that you can help in some way to find this family. For more information on the project you may go to <<http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/>>. My part in the program is to match up the lost families with the proper agency.

Harold Davis, 40th Infantry Division, Korea '52-'53, 910-791-2333, <hgdavis@bellsouth.net>. ■



Have You Considered Getting Help From Web Site Named 'Dead Fred'?

There is a web site with the name, Dead Fred that is a free genealogy photo archive. The above picture was found there. The boy's name is Bert Sanders and he was identified as being in the state of Massachusetts. The photographer was Clark and Co. of Pittsfield, Mass.

You can get to the web site at <<http://www.deadfred.com/>>. It is possible to search for photographs by surname or photographer. Some pictures have more identification than others. Many pictures come from school annuals (yearbooks). And you can post pictures to the web site.

Another photo found was of a D. Henry Sanders, also of Massachusetts with Phillips & Bro. of Philadelphia as the photographer. And there was a photo of Thomas A. Gay who was photographed by a photographer named Sanders from Brownwood, Texas. ■

Alabama Revolutionary War Soldiers Record

JOSEPH SAUNDERS, age 77, Lawrence County. Lieutenant of Navy, Virginia State Navy; enrolled on February 14, 1833, under act of Congress of June 7, 1832, payment to date from March 4, 1831; annual allowance, \$365.20. — Revolutionary Pension Roll, in Vol. xiv, Sen. Doc. 514, 23rd Cong., 1st sess., 1833-34. ■

About This Issue

As far as I know, all queries received on time have been used. Let me know if I missed yours. This issue has the fewest queries of any to date. *I need more queries from subscribers!* Review your research and see if you can put together a new query.

I still need good stories about Sanders or Saunders people such as articles from family histories, biographies from county histories, or obituaries.

I have articles left over, to be used in succeeding issues, but still fewer than usual. I prefer to have a good back log. Especially needed are shorter stories or longer queries.

I need more stories of various lengths, wills, your genealogy odyssey, old letters, great research ideas, obituaries, etc. Keep sending in products of your research, but I need quite a few short items. Also, more good pictures are needed to support stories. Think about the kind of things you like to read here, and send similar stuff.

It will be very much appreciated if you send me your queries and other material via e-mail. Send it to me at <dschafe@uark.edu>. If you can't e-mail, send cleanly typed copy. I can scan it with OCR software and a scanner to save time. *Whichever is okay for you—but send me something!*

If you are reading this in a library or from another person's copy and you are not a subscriber and have never received a complimentary copy, send me a query, with your U.S. mail address. I will send you a free sample copy that includes your query.

E-mail addresses of contributors are listed right after their regular mailing address in these signs < >, if the person has an e-mail address.

This newsletter was done in QuarkXPress 5.01 on a PowerMac G4 computer and output is on a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 2200D. Text type is 10 pt. Berkeley Medium on 11 pt. line spacing. Display type is Berkeley and Opine Heavy. Scanning is done with a Microtek ScanMaker IHR using ScanWizard, PhotoShop, and OmniPage Pro.

The envelopes are addressed on the HP LaserJet 2200D printer. ■

Elizabeth Elkins Sanders (1762-1851), Early Civil Rights Activist; Married Thomas Sanders

From *American Women Civil Rights Activists: Biobibliographies of 68 Leaders, 1825-1992*, by Gayle J. Hardy; McFarland, 1993:

Elizabeth Elkins Sanders was an advocate for Native American rights; social critic; and author. She was the daughter of Elizabeth (White) and Thomas Elkins, born August 12, 1762, in Salem, Massachusetts. Her father died at age 26, before his daughter was two years old.

On April 28, 1782 she married Thomas Sanders, son of a Gloucester merchant. He initially worked for one of her relatives in East India trade and later became one of most successful and wealthy businessmen in the community. They lived in a handsome house on Chestnut Street, an area where most other prominent families lived.

They raised four daughters and two sons. Their children were Charles (1783), Catherine (1784), Mary Elizabeth (1788), Caroline (1793), Lucy (1793?), and George Thomas (1804). The eldest son, Charles, is remembered at Harvard University as the donor of the Sanders Theater.

The family attended First Unitarian Church and contributed generously to various causes to improve conditions of less fortunate. Elizabeth's first pamphlet, *Conversations, Principally on the Aborigines of North America*, was published anonymously in Salem when she was 66. The essay was in the form of a dialogue between mother and children; discusses atrocities committed by U.S. troops against several tribes, including Creeks of Georgia. Also included survey of Indian culture emphasizing skills in medicine and agriculture. She became deeply concerned about conditions and inhumane treatment of Native Americans and particularly deplored Andrew Jackson's sanctions of confiscation of Native American lands and wrote

a pamphlet in response to his presidential nomination. She contributed articles, book reviews, and letters to New England newspapers expressing views on various social issues. A person of strong and fixed opinions, her writing style was direct and frequently sarcastic.

Her magazine articles, and later pamphlets, declared deep objection to foreign missions. She felt it absurd to expend large sums to maintain missions while injustices in United States toward Native Americans and African Americans continued. She insisted that missionaries' teachings, especially those of Calvinists, were not beneficial to people whose own religions often compared favorably with ones being taught.

In 1829 her second Native American rights pamphlet was published, *The First Settlers of New England*. It continued and expanded themes expressed in first publication including suggestion that true Christians would not condone such treatment and that Native Americans were people of superior morality and culture.

Her husband died in 1845. Elizabeth Elkins Sanders died February 19, 1851 in Salem at age of 88 of lung problems. Although personally influential and well liked in Salem where she had lived her entire life, her values and ideas were not shared by contemporaries who favored expansion and missionary pursuits for many succeeding decades. ■

Wm. F. Sanders - Bristol, Indiana Obit

The following is from the 22 Nov 1907 *Goshen (Indiana) Democrat News-Times*.

Wm. F. Sanders, aged 68 years, a veteran of the Civil War, died Thursday morning at his home in Bristol. He had been a resident of Bristol about 46 years, where for many years he was engaged in blacksmithing. He was a veteran of the Civil War having enlisted in Michigan in Chandler's Horse Guards and was a charter member of Harrison Cathcart Post, G.A.R., No. 107, of Bristol. He is survived by his wife Louise; a son Arthur D. Sanders of Goshen; three sisters, Mrs. Ellen Westcott of Three Rivers, Mich., Mrs. Charles Loupe of Cassopolis, Mich., Mrs. John Cobb of Batavia, N.Y.; and three brothers, Norman and Erastus of Three Rivers, and George of Mishawaka. ■

Is This Your Last Issue?

If the address on the envelope in which your newsletter was mailed has this—Jan 07, your subscription expires with this issue. Renew now if this is your last issue, by sending \$12 for another year's subscription. Please include your current e-mail address. ■

Sanders *Siftings*

an exchange of Sanders/Saunders family research



For other issues and material about the purpose and history of this journal, please see the home page:

[Sanders Siftings, an exchange of Sanders/Saunders family research](#), edited by Don E. Schaefer.

Sanders Siftings was published from April 1995 until April 2009, four issues per year (January, April, July, October) at Fayetteville, Arkansas.



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