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Benjamin Franklin's Kite Experiment

Cover Photo: Benjamin Franklin's Kite Experiment

In 1749 Alexander Wilson used a kite to perform various meteorological experiments in Scotland. He attached thermometers to a number of kites in a chain flown from the same string. He was able to detect variations of temperature at different altitudes. He flew his kites as high as 3,000 feet.

In June of 1752, when he was 46 years old, Benjamin Franklin flew a kite in order to prove his idea that lightning was of the same "electrical matter" as generated electricity. He made a kite from silk with a cedar frame in the shape of a cross. He used silk so that it could withstand the force of the wind once it had become rain-soaked.

He attached a piece of silk at the end of the string near the handle, which was tied to a metal key. A very sharp pointed wire, about a foot in length, was attached to the front of the kite.

In his instructions on how to repeat the experiment, Franklin explained that the person holding the handle must stand underneath shelter to protect the piece of silk from the rain. He even explained that it was important that the twine did not touch the frame of the shelter.

Franklin explained how the experiment should work. He understood that the electrical charge, striking the wire sent a current down the string making it electrically charged. The loose filaments of twine would stand out all along the length and could be attracted towards a finger if placed near it. Once the rain soaked the kite and the line, the electrical current flowed freely. Evidence of this was provided by a metallic key. Franklin suggested that the electrical current could be felt if a knuckle of a hand was placed near it. The key could be used to light kindling as it generated heat. Electrical experiments could be performed using the electrically charged key.

By this time in his life, Ben Franklin had achieved enough financial success that he had time to dabble in what he called "scientific amusements." Kites and electricity had fascinated him for much of his life. On his voyage to England he recorded numerous observations of nature. Although he didn't have the education in mathematics to be one of the foremost theoreticians of his time, he was considered one of the finest practical scientists of the era. His observations about electricity were truly foundational to the tremendous advances made in the 19th and 20th centuries. To this day, we use terms that were first used by Benjamin Franklin: battery, charged, condense, conductor, neutral, positive and negative.

Although the kite experiment was interesting, his practical application of its implications is the first event that brought Benjamin Franklin international acclaim. That application was the lightning rod.

In reality, he only proposed the lightning rod. Franklin had already made this speculation by 1750 in a series of letters sent to Mr. P. Collinson of London. Collinson published these as a booklet and they were translated into French and German. People in London were amused by Franklin's suggestions about electrical rods which were read to the Royal Society, and they did not even publish them in their *Philosophical Transactions*. Unbeknownst to Franklin or Collinson, several weeks before the kite experiment, on 10 May 1752, a retired French dragoon acting on instructions from Thomas-François Dalibard, the French translator of Collinson's booklet, succeeded in drawing sparks from a tall iron rod that was carefully insulated from ground at the village of Marly-la-Ville near Paris. Franklin's work was credited and he became an instant celebrity.

Franklin could have made a fortune by patenting the lightning rod, but he was concerned that it first and foremost benefited mankind. He wanted it to be widely installed as soon as possible, so he freely gave the invention to the international community. In the Fall of 1752, he published a description of how to make and install lightning rods in *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

At first there was bitter opposition by some clergy who thought it interfered with the Will of the Almighty, the lightning rod found rapid acceptance in America and Europe. It is hard now to imagine what it must have been like to know that all tall buildings, steeples, towers and poles were in danger of being struck by lightning, and subsequent fire, in a time when most building materials were combustible.

Franklin's invention has been credited with saving hundreds and thousands of lives.

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Letter from the Editor

Well, wrapping up another year! This past year I bit off far more than I could chew and had to scale back my New York volume to only include the first seven US censuses. There will be more to come in the future, and they're mostly written now.

This particular volume is just a few odds and ends left over from other parts of FFRU where they didn't quite fit. I've not been able to publish many queries because the various census volumes are too full right now.

You will note that this is a rather short volume. This year I have published 199 pages, so to contain costs this issue is thin. This is in harmony with the goal to provide you with 200 pages per year.

Per FFRU policy, this being the last volume of the year, here is the financial report.

	Category	2002	2003	2004
Income	Subscriptions (2004 - 50 Subscribers)	1166.00	920.00	970.50
	Other income, Backissues, gifts, etc.	568.78	542.92	304.94
Total Income		1,734.78	1,462.92	1,275.44
Expenses	Photocopying	<1215.87>	<862.60>	<716.30>
	Postage	<381.43>	<290.32>	<203.31>
	Miscellany, advertising, bank fees, sales tax, carryover from previous year.	<137.48>	<310.00>	<355.83>
Net		<0.00>	<0.00>	<0.00>

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Will of Sarah (Franklin) McGee

By Lynda Smith <lssmith@wtvmail.com>

Sarah Franklin was the wife of William McGee. Both were residents of Christian County, Kentucky.

From Wills, Christian County, Kentucky, Volumes G-H 1831-1835, FHL microfilm # 0464795. Probated 4 March 1871

In the name of God, Amen, I Sarah McGee being sound in mind but weak in body, feeling the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death do hereby make and publish this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other wills.

Item 1st, I give and bequeath to my beloved son G. W. McGee all my earthly goods, real and personal that I may die possessed of.

Item 2nd, I nominate and appoint my said son G. W. McGee Executor of this my last will and testament and ask the court to allow him to act as such without security. Witness my hand this 3rd day of April, 1865.

Signed in the presence of the undersigned, the testator acknowledging this to be her last will this 3rd day of April, 1865. Sarah McGee

Witness: J. Marable
T.M. Carter
J.R. Anderson

Sarah "Sally" Franklin¹ was born 13 Aug 1789 in Franklin County, Georgia,² and died 22 Jan 1871 in Christian County, Kentucky³. She married William McGee, 12 Apr 1810. He was born about 1788 in Sumner County, Tennessee, and died 9 Apr 1835 in Christian County, Kentucky.

Children of Sarah Franklin and William McGee are:

- A. Mildred McGee, born 1816 in Christian County, Kentucky; died after 1848 in Trigg County, Kentucky. She married John Gourley, 10 Oct 1837.
- B. Mary Ann McGee.
- C. George W. McGee, born 9 Aug 1828.

Sarah Franklin's parents:

Absalom Franklin was born 4 Aug 1764 in Albemarle County, Virginia,⁴ and died 3 Sep 1838 in Christian County, Kentucky.⁵ He married Margaret Gullet, 26 May 1787 in Greene County Tennessee.⁶ Margaret was born 3 Mar 1766 in Virginia,⁷ and died 14 Sep 1847 in Christian County, Kentucky.⁸

The reconstructed 1790 census of Georgia: substitutes for Georgia's lost 1790 census

Compiled by Marie De Lamar and Elisabeth Rothstein

1. From FFRU, Volume 33, article entitled: "Descendants of Absalom Franklin"
2. Family bible
3. Family bible
4. Military pension # W 8830/family bible
5. Widows pension # 9.263/family bible
6. Military pension # W 8830/Kentucky
7. Family bible/widow's pension
8. Military pension # 9.263/Kentucky

Originally published as Substitutes for Georgia's lost 1790 census: Albany, Ga. : Delwyn Associates, 1976. Original version did not include index. "It has been the endeavor of the compilers of this book to place as many persons as possible in their county of residence in 1790. Wills deeds, tax digests, court minutes, voter's lists, newspapers, etc. have been searched to complete this listing".

Legal ads in *Augusta Chronicle* and the *Southern Centinal and Universal Gazette*: 1795. Abner Franklin, page 94.

Muster Roll 10 Oct 1793 Capt. Jno. Stoneyoffer's Company, Abnon[sic] Franklin, page 95.

Deed Book C 1786-1792, Deed Book H 1792-1793, Abner Franklin, page 98.

Witnesses and those owning adjoining land, Abner Franklin, page 100.

Jury list 1791 Abner Franklin, page 102.

1810 KY, Christian County - William McGee:⁹ 001-001 (William and Sarah are newlyweds)

William appears on the Christian County tax list in 1809, and does not own land. In 1813 he has 100 acres which he probably acquired from his father since the land owned by Hugh went down by 100 acres to William and 100 to James McGee. In 1816 William acquired another 33 acres. In 1819, another 61 acres. By 1822 he had an even 200 acres.

1820 KY, Christian County: William McGee: 10001-4001

1830 KY, Christian County: William McGee: 1001001-1330001

1850 KY, Christian County: Sarah McGee 60, Wm G.W. 21, Edmund David 43 farmer.

This Wm G.W., otherwise known as George Washington McGee must be the Wm W. McGee mentioned as one of the 7 heirs of William McGee in the 1837 suit.

1860 census of Christian County; Sarah McGee 67, George W. 27, Elizabeth 24, Tandy 10/12 and Edmund David 52.

The History of Christian County by Perrin¹⁰ contains a biographical sketch of George W. McGee in which it states that "G. W." was one of 10 children. One child, a daughter, is unidentified. The 1830 census of Christian County shows two sons and seven daughters. Priscilla is married by this time, making 2 sons and 8 daughters.

1. James J. McGee born about 1811 in Christian County, Kentucky.
2. Priscilla McGee born about 1813 in Christian County, Kentucky.
3. Margaret McGee born 10 Apr 1815
4. Mildred McGee born 1818
5. Polly\Mary McGee
6. Martha Ann McGee born 30 Mar 1824 in Christian County, Kentucky.
7. Rebecca Jane McGee born about 1824 in Christian County, Kentucky.
8. Sarah McGee.
9. George Washington McGee born 9 Aug 1828 in Christian County Kentucky

9. Some transcriptions report "William McGu"

10. Probably referring to: Perrin, William Henry; *Counties of Christian and Trigg, Kentucky: historical and biographical*; Chicago [Illinois] : F.A. Battey Pub., 1884; 318 pages

Book Review: *The descendants of Benjamin Franklin through the Bache, Lott, Birt line*

Author: Hessinger, Philip S., 1929- (Main Author)

Notes: Bibliography: leaves [23-24].

Includes Eyer, Marker, Saint Clair and related families.

Richard Bache (1737-1811) immigrated from England to New York, and in 1761 moved to Philadelphia. He married Sally Franklin (a daughter of Benjamin Franklin). Descendants and relatives lived in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Ohio and elsewhere.

Call Number - Location: 929.273 A1 no. 4850 - JSMB US/CAN Book

Format: Books/Monographs

Publication: West Caldwell, NJ: P.S. Hessinger, c1982

Physical: [27] leaves: facsim., geneal. tables, ports.

Earliest Franklin Progenitor: Benjamin Franklin, the Statesman.

My Impressions: This is quite brief, consisting of only 27 pages. It appears to be a well-researched, well-written book. It was printed using dot-matrix technology, and it perfectly legible. The pages are not numbered. Because it consists of the descendants of the Statesman, it contains very few references to any Franklins. Pages 2 and 3 (my numbering) read:

The Baches

Richard Bache was born in Settle, Yorkshire, England in 1737. He was a merchant and in business with his brother, Theophilact who had established himself in New York several years before Richard's arrival. Richard moved to Philadelphia in 1761 and the following year became engaged to a young lady Peggy Ross, who unfortunately passed away. On her deathbed, it is said that Peggy bequeathed Richard to her friend Sally Franklin. Peggy's wishes were well-received by Sally, or Sarah, and her mother Deborah. During these years Richard had suffered a series of business reverses and Dr. Franklin was less than enthusiastic about the idea of his only daughter marrying the near-bankrupt merchant. His letters to him from Europe openly stated:

"I have told you before that my estate is small, scarce a sufficiency for the support of me and my wife, who are growing old and cannot now bustle for a living as we have done.""Unless you can convince her friends of the probability of your being able to maintain her properly, I hope you will not persist in a proceeding that may be attended with ruinous consequences to you both."

Franklin tried to get Sally to come to England to take her mind off of Bache but in spite of her fathers intransigence, Sarah and Richard were married on 29 Oct 1767.

In later years Franklin came to accept Richard as his son-in-law and at the beginning of the American Revolution installed him as Controller and subsequently head of the newly created United States Post Office. When old and ill, Franklin trusted Bache sufficiently to give him Power of Attorney and consulted with him extensively on financial matters. A few years after his father-in-law's death in 1790, Richard Bache left Philadelphia with his family and retired to a country estate "Settle" on the Delaware River where he lived off of the inheritance from Benjamin Franklin. He died on 9 Jul 1811 at the age of 74 years.

Sarah Franklin Bache was born in Philadelphia in Sep 1744. In later years Mrs. Bache was well-remembered for her patriotic services during the American Revolution. She, along with other ladies of Philadelphia, bought linen and sewed it into shirts and other clothing for the destitute Continental Army. On other occasions she performed hospital duties, dressing wounds and administering medicines. She was referred to as an angel of mercy by many. She died on 5 Oct 1808.

From pages 16 and 17 (my numbering), quoting parts of the Will of Col. Louis Bache, Bristol, Pennsylvania, 1 Sep 1815:

I, Louis Bache of the Borough of Bristol in the County of Bucks, and State of Pennsylvania, being of sound and disposing mind, memory and discretion do make, publish, and declare this as my last will and testament, hereby annulling and revoking all former wills by me made...

I give to my daughter Elizabeth Bache all the rest of my plate including that marked with the Franklin crest...

I give to my son William when he arrives at the age of twenty-one years, the chain of his grandfather's watch and medal or gold chain left by Dr. Franklin to his grandfather, which has descended to me by will and a small family piece belonging to his grandfather. My son Theophylact to take the watch and medals or the chain whichever may be left by the choice of William...

I give to nephew William Bache, son of William Bache, the one-half pair scotch-pebble sleeve buttons late the property of Dr. Franklin, now in possession of his mother...

Mitchell Franklin Family

From *Tennessee Ancestors*, Volume 8 (3) December 1992, page 180. Note by Ben Franklin, Editor FFRU: I've added the "sic" notes to indicate spellings as found in *Tennessee Ancestors*.

The following Franklin Family information was submitted by Mrs. Judith L. Hughes, 2731 Club Valley Court, Jonesboro, GA 30236 and was copied from a Bible dated 1852, now in the possession of Edna Watson Brewer, 883 Highland Avenue, Cleveland Tennessee, a great-granddaughter of Mitchell Franklin.

Fanie L. Franklin was born Oct. 1st 1846
Daniel T. Franklin was born Dec. 30th 1848
Mary A. Franklin was born Oct. 17th 1850
Iven P. Franklin was born Oct. 29 1858
James Franklin was born Oct 25th 1860
Sarah Franklin was born March 28th 1868
Rebecha[sic] Franklin was born May 11, 1870
Celiney Franklin was born March 10, 1874
Celiney Franklin deseast[sic] April 13, 1875
Agness Franklin was born Feb. 28, 1877
Belle Franklin was born Jan. 24, 1879
George Raymond Franklin was born March 19, 1882
William T. Vandiver was born April 24th 1861
Elizabeth Vandiver was born Sept. 18, 1864
John M. Franklin
E. P. Youngblood was married Nov. 13
E. P. Franklin was born May 18, 1820
Deaths of my family
E. P. Franklin died April 11, 1865
J. P. Franklin died April 28, 1865
James Franklin died April 22, 1865

Marrages[sic]
Fanie L. Franklin was married to J. W. Dyson June 24, 1865
Tomas M. Dyson born May 10, 1866
Evin Pesron[sic] Dyson born Jan. 8, 1867
Mary E. Dyson born Nov. 26, 1867
[unreadable] born May 10, 1869
John Edmra Dyson born Nov. 29th 1871
Wallet Dyson born Dec. 12, 1873

Queries

I'm looking for information on James A. Franklin (born 1863; died 1928) and Elizabeth Lavada Franklin (born 1866; died 1932), who are buried in Yatesville, Georgia. They were married about 1885 and had 4-10 children. I need more info on the children and any ancestors. Known children: Alice Lavada Franklin, Lillie Arminda Franklin, Margie F.[?] Franklin, Mary A. Franklin, James Pruett Franklin, Janie Esther Franklin, Robert Chandler Franklin, Carolyn N. Franklin, Paul Allen? Franklin (my dad remembers an Allen, but could be mistaken)

Thanks for the help,

William E. "Wes" Stone <wesjenn93@mac.com>

Editors response

Yatesville is in Upson County. Remember that many records were and are kept by at the county level, so when you make a query, be sure to include the county.

To find the ancestry James A. Franklin, start with his death certificate. Death certificates were required throughout the United States by the time he died (1928). Specifically, in Georgia, death certificates were required by law for all deaths after January 1919. As with some other states, in Georgia the vital records are kept by both the state and the county, so a little investigation may save you some money.

Here are a few references to this family:

In 1910 Georgia, Upson County, Union Hill, ED 133, page 90, HH 36/37:

James A. Franklin, head, 48m, married 1 time, married for 25 years, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, retail merchant, groceries; Lizzie L. Franklin, wife, 43f, married 1 time, married for 25 years, 10 children/9 living, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Mary A. Franklin, daughter, 17f, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; James P. Franklin, son, 15m, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Janie E. Franklin, daughter, 12f, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Robert C. Franklin, son, 10m, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Carolyn N. Franklin, daughter, 5f, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Paul A. Franklin, son, 1 11/12[?], born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA. Address: Market Street.

In 1900 Georgia, Upson County, Redbone, Enumeration District: 102 page: 13A, HH 236/237:

James A. Franklin, head, 37m, born Jan 1863, married 16 years, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, farmer; Lizzie Franklin, wife, 33f, born Apr 1867, married 16 years, 6 children/6 living, born GA; Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Alice Franklin, daughter, 13f, born Aug 1886, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, at school; Lillie Franklin, daughter,

12f, born Aug[?] 1887, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, at school; Margie Franklin, daughter, 10f, born [blank month] 1890, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, at school; Mary Franklin, daughter, 8f, born [blank month] 1892, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Priest[?]/Price[?] Franklin, son, 5m, born [blank month] 1895, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA; Esther Franklin, daughter, 3f, born [blank month] 1897, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA.

1880 Georgia, Upson County, Red Bone, page 198D:

William P. Franklin, head, 65m, born SC, Fa: SC, Mo: SC, farming; Arminda Franklin, wife, 60f, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, keeping house; William C. Franklin, son, 30m, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, farming; Arminda E. Franklin daughter, 23f, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, at home; James A. Franklin, son, 17m, born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, works on farm; David Franklin, brother, 72m born GA, Fa: GA, Mo: GA, at home.

1870 Georgia, Upson County, page 135:

William Franklin, 55m, white, born GA; Arminda Franklin, 49f, white, born GA; Willie Franklin, 21m, white, born GA; Willis Franklin, 17m, white, born GA; Amanda Franklin, 15f, white, born GA; Ida Franklin, 11f, white, born GA; James Franklin, 6m, white, born GA.

1860 Georgia, Upson County, Georgia Militia District 555, Thomaston P. O., page 600:

William E. Franklin, 45m, born GA; A. H. Franklin, 39f, born GA; J. R. Franklin, 18m, born GA; S. A. Franklin, 15f, born GA; William C. Franklin, 12m; W. C. Franklin, 10m; A. E. Franklin, 7f; A. L. Franklin, 3f.

1850 Georgia, Upson County, 86th District, page 319, HH 490/490:

William Franklin, 37m, farmer, RE\$1,600, born GA; Araminda Franklin, 29f, born GA; John R.[?] Franklin, 10m, born GA; Mary F. Franklin, 8f, born GA; Sarah Franklin, 6f, born GA; William C. Franklin, 4m, born GA; Willis C. Franklin 3/12m, born GA; James Bundy/Bandy, 21m, student, born GA.

Franklin Fireplace page 303, quoting from page 409 of *History of Lamar County* [Georgia] Sponsored by Willie Hunt Smith Chapter, U. D. C.; Augusta Lambdin, editor; Published Barnesville, Ga. : Barnesville News-Gazette, 1932; 516 pages, 47 page of plates

Franklin Family

From family records and traditions, it seems that the Franklins of America descended from three brothers¹¹

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11. Here we have yet another instance of the infamous “three brothers” myth. Note how it is described as “part of records and traditions.” Any time you see this type of vagueness, beware! Whatever follows is guaranteed to be a fabrication and here is why: if a researcher actually does go to the bother of tracking down records and recording traditions, they are proud of the fact, and will list the sources by name.

See “Three brothers came to America”, a common genealogical myth that seems to occur in many, many families, part of the article “Myths in Your Family Tree” by Kory L. Meyerink, AG, MLS: *Ancestry Magazine* November/December 2002, Vol. 20 No. 6.

This particular instance of the myth claims that the Statesman’s immigrant ancestor (actually his father, not just some unspecified ancestor), Josiah Franklin had two brothers who also immigrated. This is incorrect. Josiah had only one brother who immigrated, Benjamin Franklin, silk dyer, after whom the Statesman was named. He settled in Boston. It also implies that all of the Franklins in America sprang from one family in England. Incorrect. Looking at the 1880 census in Pennsylvania, for instance, many hundreds Franklins originally came from Prussia (!).

who came from northern England in Colonial days. One made his home in North Carolina, another in Virginia, and the third was the ancestor of Benjamin Franklin in Pennsylvania.

David Franklin, a Revolutionary soldier, the ancestor of the Lamar County family, was a descendant of the North Carolina pioneer. He first lived in Morgan County, Georgia, on Hard Labor Creek, but later moved to DeKalb County, where he died about eight miles from Stone Mountain.

His son, John Franklin, born in Morgan County, married Frances Pruitt. Their children were: William Pruitt Franklin, married Arminda Haseltine Chandler; John Franklin; Martha Franklin (Mrs. Jack. Craft, of Elbert County), and Nancy Franklin (Mrs. Bandy).

William Pruitt Franklin moved to Upson County with his widowed mother, settled near Antioch Church and died at the old Franklin homestead. This house, now owned by the third generation of Franklins, was one of the two finest houses in Upson County in the early days. The children of William Pruitt and Arminda Chandler were:

John Robert Franklin, Mary Frances Grooves, Sara Ann McKenzie,¹² Ida Leonora Garner,¹³ William Crawford Franklin, Willis Craft Franklin, James Allen Franklin, Amanda Elizabeth Murdock.¹⁴

For fifty years after the War Between the States there was not a death in the family. J. A. Franklin and his brother-in-law, F. M. Garner, were two of the three commissioners who built the present Upson County Court House.

John Robert Franklin, Confederate soldier and head of the Lamar County family, married Elizabeth Andrews Williams in 1864.¹⁵ Their twelve children were:

(1) William Jesse Franklin, (2) Mary Lena Franklin, (3) John Edgar Franklin, (4) Phineas Milton Franklin, (5) Orville Dwight Franklin, (6) Robert Andrews Franklin, (7) Elizabeth May Franklin, (8) Myrtis Franklin, (9) Benjamin Franklin, (10) Alexander H. S. Franklin, (11) Omer White Franklin, (12) Thomas Jefferson Franklin.

-----end of *Franklin Fireplace*, page 303-----

I am looking for any information about Hugh McKenzie Franklin, son of Samuel and Nancy (Erwin) Franklin, born about 1864 or 1865 who lived in Burke County, North Carolina. In 1850, my Samuel Ausborn Franklin is listed on the Watauga County census with his father, Isaac Franklin. Are they in Burke County in 1860 and which children are listed?

Hugh McKenzie Franklin married Ida Smith and had two sons, Robert Alexander Franklin and Hugh Waightsill Franklin.

Samuel Franklin died 7 Apr 1915 and his wife, Nancy (Erwin) Franklin died 22 Aug 1909. They are both buried at Salem Methodist Church Cemetery, Burke County, North Carolina. He may have been living with

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12. Sara A. Franklin married William D. McKinzie/ McKenzie on 31 Nov 1865 in Upson County, Georgia.
 13. Ida L. Franklin married F. M. Garner on 25 Dec 1877 in Upson County, Georgia.
 14. A. B.[sic] Franklin married J. B. Murdock on 5 Jan 1882 in Upson County, Georgia.
 15. John R. Franklin married Elizabeth A. Williams on 6 Oct 1864 in Upson County, Georgia.

one of his children. If you do find him in 1910, please let me know
Thanks for any help.
Susan Marks <marksr1@ftc-i.net>

Editor's Response:

I wouldn't have recognized the Isaac in Watauga County, North Carolina as a match because the 1880 says that Samuel's father was born in Virginia, and this Isaac says he was born in North Carolina. I see that Samuel is still alive in 1900, but I didn't find him in the 1910.

1910 North Carolina, Burke County, Quaker Meadow Township
page 164A, HH 9/10: Ellis Franklin, head, 49m, married two times, married 21 years, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farmer, general farm; Barbe E. Franklin, wife, 41f, married one time, married 21 years, 6 children/6 living, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Robert M. Franklin, son, 20m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farm laborer, working out; Theodosia Franklin, daughter, 18f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farm laborer, farm; Lilly May Franklin, daughter, 15f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Milo[?] A. Franklin, son, 12m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Joseph A. Franklin, son, 10m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Claudia J. E. Franklin, daughter, 7f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

page 164B, HH 12/13:

Marshall S. Franklin, head, 35m, married one time, married 18 years, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farmer, general farm; Lannie/Laurie[?] B. Franklin, wife, 34f, married one time, married 18 years, 7 children/5 living, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Frank O. Franklin, son, 16m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farm laborer, home farm; Walter A. Franklin, son, 14m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farm laborer, home farm; Lucy A. Franklin, daughter, 9f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Eulis W. Franklin, daughter, 5f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Ruth M. Franklin, daughter, 4/12f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

page 166A, HH 40/41:

Lee Franklin,¹⁶ head, 45m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farmer, general farm; Samuel Franklin, father, 80m, widower, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Robert Franklin, nephew, 18m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farm laborer, home farm.

page 166A, HH 40/42:

Elizabeth Poteet, head, 26f, widow, 5 children/4 living, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Lloyd Poteet, son, 8m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Gray B. Poteet, son, 6m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Ovy[?] M. Poteet, daughter, 4f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Rosa L. Poteet, daughter, 2f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

page 166A, HH 41/43:

Paul A. Franklin, head, 25m, married one time, married 4 years, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farmer, general farm; Hettie Franklin, wife, 25f, married one time, married 4 years, 2 children/2 living, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Theodore E. Franklin, son, 3m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Worth L. Franklin, son, 2m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

page 167A, HH 58/61:

Abel A. Franklin, head, 32m, married one time, married 14 years, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, farmer, general farm; Hettie V. Franklin, wife, 31f, married one time, married 14 years, 4 children/4 living, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Dellie E. Franklin, daughter, 12f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Charlie E. Franklin, son,

16. This "Lee Franklin" is probably Levi Franklin.

9m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Iris L. Franklin, daughter, 6f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Robert T. Franklin, son, 4m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC.

1880, North Carolina, Burke County, Morganton, page 249A:

Sam Franklin, head, 50m, born NC, Fa: VA, Mo: VA, farmer; Nancy Franklin, wife, 48f born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, keeps house; William Franklin, son, 20m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, works on farm;

Huldy Franklin, daughter, 18f born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, works on farm;¹⁷ Hugh McKenzie Franklin, son, 16m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, works on farm; Levi Franklin, son, 14m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, works on farm; Sidney C. Franklin, son, 12m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC, works on farm; Barbara Franklin, daughter, 10f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Marshall Franklin, son, 8m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Abel Franklin, son, 6m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Tyrrell Franklin, son, 4m, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC; Eliza Franklin, daughter, 8/12f, born NC, Fa: NC, Mo: NC;

1870 North Carolina, Burke County, Lovelady, page 323, HH 109/108:

Samuel Franklin, 35m, farm laborer, PP\$200, born NC; Nancy Franklin, 36f, keeping house, born NC; Isaac F. Franklin, 15m, at home, born NC; Jemima Franklin, 13f, at home, born NC; William Franklin, 11m, at home, born NC; Hulda E. Franklin, 9f, born NC; Jennie¹⁸ Franklin, 7f, born NC; Levi Franklin, 5m, born NC; Sidney Franklin, 3m, born NC; Marshal Franklin, 1m, born NC.

The 1860 version of this family is found between two other Franklin families:

1860, North Carolina, Burke County, No Township listed, Morganton P.O., page 414A, HH 731/731:

Levi Franklin, 57m, farmer, RE\$500/PP\$122, born NC; Barbara Franklin, 52f, born NC; Levi Franklin, 25m, farmer, born NC; Henry Franklin, 20m, farmer, born NC; Isaac Franklin, 16m, farmer, born NC; Sidney C. Franklin, 12m, born NC; William Franklin, 9m, born NC.

page 414B, HH 732/732:

Samuel Franklin, 28m, farmer, RE\$100, born NC; Nancy Franklin, 24f, born NC; Isaac F. Franklin, 5m, born NC; Jemima C. Franklin, 4f, born NC; William P. Franklin, 1m, born NC; Huldah Franklin, 7/12f, born NC.

page 414B, HH 733/733:

Isaac Franklin, 54m, born NC; Hannah Franklin, 58f, born NC; John E. Franklin, 22m, born NC; Elizabeth Franklin, 18f, born NC; Joseph G. Franklin, 17m, born NC; Levi A. Franklin,¹⁹ 16m, born NC; Mary Sanford, 8f, born NC.

1850, North Carolina, Watauga County, Watauga, page 139, HH 467/471:

Isaac Franklin, 45m, farmer, born NC; Hannah Franklin, 47m, born NC; George W. Franklin, 22m, farmer, born NC, attended school within the year; Samuel Franklin, 18m, farmer, born NC, attended school within the year; Dorcus M. Franklin, 16f, born NC, attended school within the year; John Franklin, 12m, born NC, attended school within the year; Joseph Franklin, 10m, born NC, attended school within the year; Levi Franklin, 7m, born NC.

17. Although most enumerators do not list female children as being employed in anything other than housework, Huldy is listed as “works on farm”

18. It seems like the “Jennie Franklin”, female age 7, is a match for “Hugh McKenzie Franklin”, male. Both of these children are listed between Huldah and Levi, what could have happened is that the enumerator heard “Jennie” when the respondent said “Hugh McKenzie” or just “McKenzie”... Editor.

19. FFRU Volume 41, Cover photo is of Levi Alexander Franklin, born 3 Feb 1844, probably Watauga County, North Carolina.

I'm inquiring about the descendants of Hattie Franklin, a daughter of Theodore Columbus Franklin by his second wife (my cousin) Rhoda Ellen Edwards. I would be most grateful for any help you can give me and will be glad to reciprocate if that is possible.
Elton Edwards <elton2@triad.rr.com>

Editor's Response:

What you're asking about is not strictly Franklins, and is very recent. Because many of these people are still alive, it's more like "missing persons" inquiry rather than family history, so I'm constrained by what people can legally share with me. These people are your second, third or fourth cousins, so contacting them through family sources is probably more effective than asking an unrelated stranger. I will proceed on the assumption that you have tried this and have not been successful.

First, we find a submission by Michael Witsell <mwitse@earthlink.net> in AWT, which gives me the rest of the information to properly identify your kinfolk (name+place+dates are the minimum). See:

<http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=mwitse&id=I775>

Information about Frank Ramseur's lineage is found here:

<http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:1325691&id=I2188>

...what we don't get with this information is the fact that these Ramseurs are from Lincoln County, North Carolina. (See 1880 North Carolina, Lincoln County, ED: 102; Page: 325C).

Using this information, we find Hattie and her sibs in 1910 North Carolina, Union County, Buford Twp, District 119, page 178. In 1910, she's living with the James H. Edwards family (her uncle), which I assume (you being an Edwards) is no surprise to you. Her father died in 1904, and mother in 1905, thus the children would no longer be living in their parents' household.

We would not expect to find her in the 1920, because Mr. Witsell says she died in 1916. I didn't find her or Frank Ramseur in the 1920 or 1930.

If you wish to explore Theodore's ancestry further, one of the best sources that I know of is FFRU, Volume 6. It clearly exposes the progenitor's false claims at kinship to the Statesman, and describes your Theodore thus:

“(D) Theodor Franklin married Ellen Fox. Had 9 children, the youngest, Paul, whose son T. Earl is a judge in Morganton, a strong Democrat and helped with information on this material.”

...as you can see, this author was not aware of the second marriage, your Hattie.

I am looking for information on Walter Franklin, born 19 Oct 1861 Wildwood, Centerville Twp, Saint Croix County, Wisconsin. He married Bertha Douthitt there and they moved to Westboro, Taylor County, Wisconsin in 1899. They had 10 children, Charlie, Pearmelia (my grandmother) also known as Pearl, Ruby, Vernon, Daniel, Geneva, Kenneth, Walter Jr. and Lowell. Walter died 21 Apr 1913 at Westboro. I think his parents were Albert W. Franklin and Maria W. Stevenson. Would appreciate any help with this family as I have been stuck here for years.

I have Walter's obituary and have checked census records. Also, have Bertha's obituary and he is mentioned

there. It says they were married in Illinois in 1888 and went to Taylor County, Wisconsin around the turn of the century. I also found some information posted by one of his grandsons, but he is no longer living. I have tried contacting him. I am stumped and don't know where else to look.

Thanks in advance for any information anyone can provide.

Chloie Luckow <cluckow@wolfnet.net>

Editor's Response:

I see you've posted this same query several times in the past few years. What records have you been searching?

I just wanted to check to see if you'd done the basics, and I don't mind re-posting, updating or correcting a query. I found him in 1910 and 1900, but not before. Where was he in 1880? Do you have his death certificate yet? See: <http://www.vitalrec.com> if you haven't. Good luck!

You'd be surprised by how many requests I get from people who say they can't find any information, but they also have checked neither the census, nor death certificates, nor any other source record, so I'm not sure why they thought they'd be finding anything.

I have an Erastus Morgan Franklin, born 1797; died 1875, in my family. He was married to Susannah Woomeer, born 1808; died 1877. They lived in Pennsylvania some time after their marriage. One of their children was Eliza Jane (Franklin) Hollen, born 1833; died 1914, of Glasgow, Pennsylvania. Any info on him or his family? Thank you,
Suzanne Frye <nanofab@comcast.net>

Editor's Response:

1850, Pennsylvania, Cambria County, White Township, page 5, HH 65/68:

Erastus Franklin, 52m, farmer, RE\$300, born MA; Susan Franklin, 41f, born PA; Joseph Franklin, 20m, laborer, born PA; John Franklin, 16m, born PA; Jane Franklin, 11f, born PA; Erastus Franklin, 8m, born PA; Jared Franklin, 7m, born PA; William Franklin, 5m, born PA; George Franklin, 1m, born PA.

1860, Iowa, Van Buren County, Village Township, page 269, HH 180/180:

R. Franklin, 64m, farmer, RE\$1,000/PP\$200, born MA; Susan Franklin, 55f, born PA; Erastus Franklin, 19m, farming, born PA; George W. Franklin, 11m, born PA, attended school.

1870, Iowa, Wapello County, Green Twp, page 132A, HH 179/174:

Erastus Franklin, 78m, day laborer, born MA; Susanna Franklin, 65f, keeping house, born PA; George Franklin, 20m, apprentice to carpenter, born PA; Jackson Hicks, 37m, farmer, RE\$3,000/PP\$600, born IN.

1880, Iowa, Van Buren County, Village Township, page 349:C

George Franklin, head, 31m born PA, Fa: MA, Mo: PA, farmer; Rebecia Franklin, wife, 46f, born PA, Fa: PA, Mo: PA, keeping house; Ray Franklin, son, 4m, born IA, Fa: PA, Mo: PA; Henry Holland, stepson, 26m, born PA, Fa: PA, Mo: PA, school teacher; Ida Holland, stepdaughter, 15f, born IA, Fa: PA, Mo: PA; John Holland, stepson, 13m, born IA, Fa: PA, Mo: PA.

I am hoping someone is working on this Franklin line. I am looking for the family of Mortimer C. Franklin who was born abt 1829 in New York. He was the son of John Franklin and Betsey Miller. Both parents were born in NY.

Mortimer (I have seen his name in a census as Martin) married Julia _____ could be Hampton (there was an I. Hampton at home with them in the 1870 census)

Julia and Mortimer had Cora age 15 in 1870 born New York and Rollin age 8 in 1870 born New York. By 1870 they had left New York and were in Ross, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. If you have any info on this family I would like to hear from you. Thank you,
Nana (NAY-na) Rutherford Redell <nredell@charter.net>

Editor's Response:

1850, New York, Allegany County, Allen Township, page 229, HH /125:
Martin C. Franklin, 21m, farmer, RE\$1,000, born NY; Julia Franklin, 23f, born NY, married within the year.

1860, New York, Allegany County, Allen Township, page 876, HH 54/59:
Mortimer Franklin, 31m, farmer, RE\$1,500/PP\$406, born NY; Julia Franklin, 33f, mistress, born NY; Cora Franklin, 6f, born NY.

1880, New York, Allegany County, Angelica

...note that this census includes the Father and Mother birthplaces. In Allegany County, there is the following:

page 102C:

William M. Franklin, head, 54m, married, born NY, Fa: RI, Mo: NY, retired miller; Sarah A. Franklin, wife, 48f, married, born NY, Fa: VT, Mo: VT, keeping house; Charles A. Franklin, son, 25m, single, born NY, Fa: NY, Mo: NY, bank clerk; William W. Franklin, son, 11m, single, born NY, Fa: NY, Mo: NY, at home ; Mabel B. Franklin, daughter, 1f, single, born NY, Fa: NY, Mo: NY ; Mary Ann Taghart, other, 19f, [marital status blank], born NY, Fa: Ireland, Mo: Ireland, servant.

page 110D:

William Franklin, head, 70m, married, born NY, Fa: RI, Mo: RI, farmer; Nancy F. Franklin, wife, 43f, married, born NY, Fa: NY, Mo: NJ, keeping house ; Delia F. Franklin, daughter, 40f, single, born NY, Fa: NY, Mo: NY, at home ; Adeline S. Korts, sister-in-law, 38f, widowed, born NY, Fa: NJ, Mo: CT, dress maker .
...there is a slight possibility that the William above is John's brother, guessing based on the birthplaces...

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