

79. PARSONS

1. **Richard¹ Parsons** was born in say 1710. He first appears as an adult in August 1732, when he entered a complaint in Goochland County, Virginia, against William Davis, for an assault against him; the complaint was soon dismissed.^[1] He died in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, between 22 December 1783 and 21 February 1785, the dates of execution and recording of his will.^[2] He married **Lydia Briggs** before 13 August 1743, when she released dower in a deed.^[3] From her own selection of a guardian at August term 1734, her birth is dated to ca. 1714–20.^[4] She was still alive on 22 December 1783, being named in Richard’s will.^[5]

It has been proposed that Richard was the son of Joseph and Sarah (Woodson) Parsons of Henrico County. Sarah has been identified as a great-grandchild of John Woodson, an early settler of the colony.^[6] Unfortunately, this Joseph Parsons does not mention a son named Richard in his will.^[7]

Lydia Briggs was the sister of George Briggs, and the major legatee of George’s will, made on 29 May 1734 and recorded 20 August 1734 in Goochland County. George also appointed his sister “Liddy” as the executrix of his will.^[8] Because she was still a minor at the time, she was not qualified to serve. Instead, at the same term of the county court, she chose Richard Parsons as her guardian. He was then granted letters of administration on George’s estate, and entered two bonds with Ashford Hughes and Isaac Hughes as his securities on both the guardianship and the administration.^[9] Only one prior reference to Lydia Briggs has been found: In his will of 14 March 1729[30?], recorded 16 June 1730, John Wright bequeathed a year-old heifer to Lidey Briggs, without specifying a relationship.^[10] George had entered 400 acres of vacant land on the west side of Muddy Creek in Goochland County, by patent of 20 June 1733,^[11] and by the terms of his devise Lydia brought this land into her marriage with Richard Parsons. They sold it in two 200-acre parcels by two separate deeds. The first of these deeds, made on 13 August 1743 to Nicholas Davies, establishes the later bound on their date of marriage.^[12] The second deed, on 17 December 1743 to John Alexander, specifies that the land had constituted one-half of George’s patent, which he had then devised to Lydia by his will.^[13]

¹ Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia Order Book 3, 1731–1735* (Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 2006), 132, 148, from 3:110, 118.

² Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:159-60. Unless otherwise noted, the recorded deeds, wills, and court orders of this county were consulted in the Circuit Court Clerk’s office, Chatham, Va., 18–20 Feb. 2015, along with other records to be specified below.

³ *Goochland County, Virginia, Deeds, 1741–1745* (Miami Beach, Fla.: T. L. C. Genealogy, 1990), 29, from 4:203.

⁴ Blomquist, *Goochland County Order Book 3*, 348-9, from 3:289.

⁵ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:159-60.

⁶ John Frederick Dorman, comp. and ed., *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, 4th ed., 3 vols. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2004–7), 3:727.

⁷ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Colonial Wills of Henrico County, Virginia, Part Two, 1737–1781* (Richmond, Va., 1977), 118, citing Brock Collection, BR Box 221, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.

⁸ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Goochland County, Virginia Wills and Deeds, 1728–1736* (Richmond, Va., 1983), 53, from 2:5.

⁹ Blomquist, *Goochland County Order Book 3*, 348-9, from 3:289.

¹⁰ Weisiger, *Goochland County Wills and Deeds, 1728–1736*, 19, from 1:193.

¹¹ Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 15:29, reel 13, online <<http://www.lva.virginia.gov>>, viewed 22 February 2015.

¹² *Goochland County Deeds, 1741–1745*, 29, from 4:201.

¹³ *Goochland County Deeds, 1741–1745*, 46, from 4:346.

Richard Parsons served as a constable of Goochland County in October 1732.^[14] He entered a patent for 80 acres on the branches of the north branch of Muddy Creek, also known as Little Muddy Creek, in Goochland County, joining Major Bowler Cock, James Terril, and Robert Yancey on 30 Jan. 1741[2], in the fifteenth year of George II.^[15] This was the land that Richard sold in April 1743, for which he later obtained his wife's consent.^[16] Richard and Lydia both appeared in the Goochland County court on 15 May 1744 to acknowledge their deed to John Alexander.^[17]

He received two patents, recorded consecutively for land in Lunenburg County on 10 January 1748[9?], in the twenty-second year of George II. By the first patent, he entered 180 acres on both sides of the Banister River near the mouth of Rocky Branch; by the second, 204 acres on both sides of Great Cherrystone Creek.^[18] He evidently sold the former 180-acre survey to William Adams of Louisa County, by deed of 19 December 1752.^[19] In his entry record book, Drury Stith showed that on 6 July 1748 Richard Parsons entered 40 acres on the south side of Mill Creek, joining Hugh Henry, and that at a council held on 14 June 1749 Richard Parsons was granted leave to take up 2,000 acres of land, including the place on which he lived, and one other survey on Mill Creek.^[20]

No fewer than four surveys were laid out for Richard Parsons in territory later incorporated in Pittsylvania County. Two of these surveys, made on 7 March 1747[8?] and 2 November 1748, were for two separate 400-acre tracts that were both located on both sides of Great Cherrystone Creek. A third survey was made in 11 April 1747 of 250 acres on both sides of Mill Creek. Another survey of 320 acres on the branches of Mill Creek, and middle branch of Banister River, on 19 October 1748, began at his own corner.^[21] As Richard Parson, he also entered 386 acres on both sides of Little Cherrystone Creek in Halifax County by patent dated 26 September 1760.^[22]

Richard had been present in Halifax County, Virginia, practically from the date of its formation. His deed to John Watson was proved by the oaths of Thomas Calloway, Merry Webb, and Joseph Fenn, witnesses, on 21 July 1752; unfortunately the text is now missing.^[23] Richard Parsons was ordered by the vestry on three occasions to "procession" and establish landowners' bounds at different points along the Banister River.^[24] He and William Adkins were ordered by the county court to lay off a road from the mouth of Snow Creek to Hickeys Road on 20 March

¹⁴ Blomquist, *Goochland County Order Book 3*, 142, from 3:118.

¹⁵ Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 20:129-30, reel 18, online <<http://www.lva.virginia.gov>>, viewed 22 February 2015.

¹⁶ *Goochland County Deeds, 1741-1743*, 29, from 4:203.

¹⁷ Ann K. Blomquist, *Goochland County, Virginia, Order Book 5, 1741-1745*, 369, 371, from 5:386, 388.

¹⁸ Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 28:487-90, reel 26, online <<http://www.lva.virginia.gov>>, viewed 22 February 2015.

¹⁹ Marian Dodson Chiarito, comp., *Halifax County, Virginia, Deed book 1, 1752-1759* (Nathalie, Va.: Clarkton Press, 1985), 2, from 1:15.

²⁰ Entry Record Book, 1737-1770, pp. 1, 97, 99, 123, Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk.

²¹ Pittsylvania County Survey Book, 1:10 (11 April 1747), 67 (19 Oct. 1748), 72 (7 Mar. 1747), 76 (2 Nov. 1748), Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk.

²² Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 34:771-2, reel 34, online <<http://www.lva.virginia.gov>>, viewed 22 February 2015.

²³ Marian Dodson Chiarito, *Plea Book 1, Halifax County, Virginia, 1752-1755* (Nathalie, Va.: Clarkton Press, 1988), 3, from 1:10.

²⁴ Marian Dodson Chiarito, *Vestry Book of Antrim Parish, Halifax County, Virginia, 1752-1817* (Nathalie, Va.: Clarkton Press, 1983), 15, 20-1 (19 Nov 1755); 34, 40 (16 Nov. 1758); 46, 51 (21 Dec. 1759, report pursuant to order of 16 Nov. 1758); 60, 70 (16 Feb. 1763).

1753, but there is no indication that they returned their report at the next term as directed.^[25] Richard also entered a petition to build a water grist mill on his own land at Little Cherry Stone Creek, which was granted on 16 January 1755.^[26]

In the early 1760s Richard Parsons made deeds in favor of two of his sons. He granted to Joseph Parsons 100 acres of land out of the survey on Little Cherrystone Creek that joined Curries's corner, by deed of 18 April 1764,^[27] and to George Parsons another 100 acres from the same survey that also bordered on Sutherlon's branch, by deed on 14 May 1764.^[28] On 18 December 1766, Jeremiah Hatcher and Margate, his wife, of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, made three separate deeds for a total of 1,616 acres, the same acreage that had been granted by patent to Hatcher on 5 or 6 June 1765. Two of the Hatchers' deeds were in favor of Richard Parsons, for 400 acres and 600 acres, but the 400-acre grant did not mention the patent and may have belonged to a separate survey. The remaining 616 acres were granted to John Adams of Halifax County.^[29]

The vestry of Camden Parish initially appointed Lewis Shelton a reader of the parish, to read prayers at Richard Passon's, in 1767, but in November 1768 ordered Shelton to read at Reuben Payne's instead.^[30] In the Pittsylvania County court, Richard Parsons was granted license to keep an ordinary—that is, a tavern—on 25 August 1769.^[31] He entered a bond to secure this license, with William Tunstall as his security, on two occasions, on 27 October 1769 and 30 November 1770.^[32] He does not appear again in the court orders in connection with an ordinary license. Under an act of the General Assembly passed in May 1777, oaths of allegiance were taken in Pittsylvania County; the list registered by Abraham Shelton bears the names of Joseph Parsons, Richard Parsons, and William Parsons. Samuel Parsons, John Parsons, and a second Joseph Parsons appear on the list of Reuben Pain, whose own oath (as "Reuben Payne, Esq.") was also registered by Shelton.^[33] Richard made two relatively small grants of land on 26 February 1778, one of 50 acres to William Short,^[34] and another of 100 acres to John Rowland.^[35]

The will of Richard Parsons, dated 22 December 1783 and recorded on 21 February 1785, mentions his wife and children. The fact that most of the children received nominal requests lends credence to the view that he named all of his living issue:

[p. 159] In the Name of God Amen I Richard Parsons of the County of Pittsylvania being old and weak in body but enjoying my usual reason and memory and calling to mind the mortality of man do make and ordain this my last Will and testament and manner and form following, to wit, First my desire is that my Soul assend and rest with god that gave it, and secondly my desire is that my body be decently buried Thirdly I give and bequeath to my well beloved daughter Hannah Madkiff and her husband Joseph Madkiff

²⁵ Chiarito, *Plea Book 1, Halifax County*, 18, from 1:65.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 112, 121

²⁷ Marian Dodson Chiarito, comp., *Halifax County, Virginia Deed Books 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6, 1759–1767* (Nathalie, Va.: Clarkton Press, 1986), 109, from 5:69.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 112, from 5:112.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 162, from 6:214 (John Adams), 217 (Richard Parsons, 400 acres), 219 (Richard Parsons, 600 acres).

³⁰ Mary Leigh Boisseau, *Vestry Book of Camden Parish, 1767–1820 (with Other Miscellaneous Records)* (Danville, Va., 1986), 1-4.

³¹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 1:134, 139.

³² Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 1:152, 155, 262, 263.

³³ Marion Dodson Chiarito, "Oaths of Allegiance—1777, Pittsylvania County, Virginia," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy* 23, no. 1 (Feb. 1985): 3-11, at 3 (act of Assembly), 7 (Reuben Pain's List), 9 (Abraham Shelton's List).

³⁴ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 4:472-3.

³⁵ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 5:4-6.

one shilling Sterling to them my said daughter Hannah Madkiff and her husband Joseph Madkiff and their heirs for ever Forthly I give and bequeath to my well beloved daughter Agnes Madkiff and to her Husband John Madkiff one shilling Sterling to them my s^d daughter Agnes Madkiff and her husband John Madkiff and their heirs for ever Fifthly I give and bequeath to my well beloved Son George Parsons one shilling Sterling to him my said Son George Parsons and his heirs for ever Sixthly I give and bequeath to my well beloved Son Joseph Parsons one shilling Sterling to him my said Son Joseph Parsons and his heirs for ever Seventhly I give and bequeath to my well beloved Son John Parsons on shilling Sterling to him my said Son John Parsons and his heirs for ever Eighthly I give and bequeath to my well beloved Son Samuel Parsons the land whereon he now lives to be divided by a line which my s^d Son Samuel and my Son William markd themselves to him my s^d Son Samuel Parsons and his heirs and assigns for ever Ninthly I give and bequeath to my well beloved Son William Parsons the Land whereon he now lives to be divided as above mentioned to him my s^d Son W.^m Parsons his heirs and assigns for ever Tenthly as the Land above mentioned is under a Morgage for which my Son Samuel Parsons is liable to pay s^d Morgage, if he does not; the my Will is that his part of the Land, that is to say the Land whereon he now lives is to be sold by my Exec.^{ts} to pay off s^d morgage Eleventhly I give and bequeath to my well beloved daughter Lyda Yates and her husband Stephen Yates all my Black Smiths tools to her my s^d daughter Lyda Yates and her husband Stephen Yates to them and their Heirs for ever Twelvthly and lastly as I and my wife is now living with my daughter Lyda Yates and her husband Stephen Yates and they using us with the greatest kindness my will and desire is that [torn] [p. 160] the s^d Lyda and Stephen Yates do have all the remainder of my Estate that is to say, my Cattle and my black Mare as also all my household furnature which is now in their possession but not til after my decease and the decease of my Wife. furthermore I revoke all former Wills by me made & do confirm this my last Will and Testament. I do appoint and constitute my loving Sons Joseph and W.^m Parsons Executors of this my last Will and Testament Witness my hand and Seal.

Richard Parsons signed his will by mark, with John Parks, Samuel Parks, and Rich^d Johnson as witnesses, on whose oaths it was sworn.^[36] A claim against Richard Parsons for £30–17–3½ was filed by the British firm of Spiers Bowman and Company. The claim alleged that he had entered a deed of trust of land at Warwick Store and had died “many years since in Pittsylvania.”^[37]

Children of Richard and Lydia (Briggs) Parsons, order uncertain, are:

- i. HANNAH² PARSONS, b. say 1738, living 22 Dec. 1783, m. JOSEPH MIDKIFF.^[38] On 19 Feb. 1754 Hannah Parsons, spinster, acknowledged herself guilty of having a bastard child and was assessed a fine of 50 shillings or 500 pounds tobacco, with Nathaniel Terry as her surety.^[39]
- ii. AGNES PARSONS, b. say 1741, m. JOHN MIDKIFF; both living Pittsylvania Co., Va., 18 Feb. 1788.^[40]
- iii. GEORGE PARSONS, b. say 1744, number 109 in “A List of the Poll taken at an Election of a Burgess at the Courthouse” of Halifax County, 28 Nov. 1764,^[41] living 20 Mar. 1787,^[42] prob. m. ANNE GRIFFITH, d. after 13 May 1780, dau. of William and Rachel (____) Griffith, who is named as “Anne Parsons” in her father’s will, dated 30 May 1780, but whose husband has not been identified as any other member of the Parsons family.^[43] George was listed as a tithable in 1767, with one poll and 100 acres of land.^[44]
2. iv. JOSEPH PARSONS, b. say 1746, d. 13 Aug. 1833, m. (1) MARGARET GRIFFITH; m. (2) SARAH THOMPSON.

³⁶ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:159-60.

³⁷ “British Mercantile Claims, 1775–1803,” *Virginia Genealogist* 24 (1980): 207-20, at 220, from report of John Dabney, T79/88, p. 29.

³⁸ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:159-60.

³⁹ Chiarito, *Plea Book 1, Halifax County*, 82, 85, from 1:320, 336.

⁴⁰ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 8:136-7.

⁴¹ Marian Dodson Chiarito, comp., *List of Voters for Elections of Burgesses, 1764–1769, Halifax County, Virginia* (Nathalie, Va.: Clarkton Press, 1986), 1.

⁴² Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 5:407, 414.

⁴³ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:118-9.

⁴⁴ Pittsylvania County Tithables, 1767–1785, p. 8, Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk.

- v. JOHN PARSONS, b. say 1752, d. Pittsylvania Co. between 28 April 1808 and 20 June 1808, from will and probate,^[45] m. before 2 Jan. 1784 SARAH ATKINS, dau. of William Atkins, who is named in William's will of that date,^[46] d. after 28 April 1808, when named in her husband's will.^[47]
- vi. SAMUEL PARSONS, b. say 1754, first listed as a tithable, 10 June 1773,^[48] d. Pittsylvania Co. 13 April 1816,^[49] m. REBECCA FARTHING, dau. of Richard and Gresell (____) Farthing,^[50] who d. Pittsylvania Co. 19 July 1824.^[51] Dower was ordered to be laid off to Samuel's widow on 16 Nov. 1819.^[52]
- vii. WILLIAM PARSONS, b. say 1756, first listed as a tithable, 10 June 1774,^[53] d. Pittsylvania Co. 22 Feb. 1818,^[54] m. before 15 Sept. 1794 MARY BLANKS, dau. of William and Naomi (____) Blanks,^[55] and survived her husband. She is named in his will, executed 22 Feb. 1818 and recorded 16 March 1818.^[56] Her dower interest is mentioned in a deed executed by their son Richard B. Parsons, 3 Nov. 1837.^[57]
- viii. LYDIA PARSONS, b. say 1758, living Pittsylvania Co. 21 Jan. 1805, when she joined a deed with her husband,^[58] m. STEPHEN YATES, b. say 1752, first listed as a tithable, 10 June 1774,^[59] d. Pittsylvania Co. 5 Sept. 1827.^[60]

2. **Joseph² Parsons** (*Richard*¹) was born in say 1746, and died on 18 August 1833 in Pittsylvania County.^[61] His first wife was **Margaret Griffith**, daughter of William and Rachel (____) Griffith of Camden Parish, Pittsylvania County, who is named as "Margit Parsons" in William's will, dated 30 May 1780.^[62] Margaret died in Pittsylvania County on 30 June 1824.^[63] Joseph married secondly, in Pittsylvania County on 24 August 1824, **Sarah Thompson**.^[64] She was living on 3 January 1826, when she was named in Joseph's will.^[65]

Joseph first appears as a tithable in 1767, when he was assessed for one poll and 100 acres of land.^[66] This apparently was the land that he had obtained by deed from his father, Richard Parsons, on 18 April 1764.^[67] By a deed of 26 May 1773, Joseph Parsons and his wife Peggy sold

⁴⁵ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:312-3.

⁴⁶ On that date, William Atkins named his daughter Sarah Parson in his will (Lela C. Adams, comp., *Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, Virginia Wills, 1767-1820* [Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1986], 51, from Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:136-7).

⁴⁷ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:312-3.

⁴⁸ Pittsylvania County Tithables, 1767-1785, p. 69, col. 4, Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk.

⁴⁹ Private death register, 1808-35, in William F. Sargent, "From an old document in possession of Jacob (Peter) Farthing—1920," *Bulletin of the VA-NC Piedmont Genealogical Society* 4 (1982): 99-100, at 99.

⁵⁰ Richard Farthing will (1807), Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:342-3.

⁵¹ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

⁵² Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 20:234, 256.

⁵³ Pittsylvania County Tithables, 1767-1785, pp. 95, 96 col. 2, Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk. Samuel Parsons also appears on this list.

⁵⁴ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

⁵⁵ On that date, William Blanks named his son-in-law William Parsons and wife Polly, his daughter, in his will (Adams, *Abstracts of Pittsylvania County Wills, 1767-1820*, 244, from Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 10:73).

⁵⁶ Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:485-6.

⁵⁷ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 41:5-6.

⁵⁸ Acknowledged 18 Feb. 1805 by Stephen Yates only (Pittsylvania County Deeds, 14:237-8).

⁵⁹ Pittsylvania County Tithables, 1767-1774, pp. 95, 96 col. 1, Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk.

⁶⁰ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

⁶¹ Sargent, "From an old document," 100.

⁶² Pittsylvania County Deeds and Wills, 11:118-9.

⁶³ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

⁶⁴ Kathleen Booth Williams, *Marriages of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1806-1830* (Danville, Va.: compiler, 1965), 119.

⁶⁵ Pittsylvania County Wills, 1:254-5.

⁶⁶ Pittsylvania County Tithables, 1767-1785, p. 8, Pittsylvania County Circuit Court Clerk.

⁶⁷ Chiarito, *Halifax County, Virginia Deed Books 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6, 1759-1767*, 109, from 5:69.

50 acres of land to James Medcalf. The land was located on both sides of Little Cherrystone Creek and had been part of the 386-acre survey that had been granted to Richard Parsons. Both of the grantors acknowledged the deed on the following day.^[68]

The names of Joseph and Margaret's sons are adduced mainly from deeds that Joseph "Sen'r" made in their favor, without her concurrence. He executed four deeds on 25 July 1801, granting David Parsons, Benjamin Parsons, and Samuel Parsons each 100 acres for £35, and John Parsons "jr" 120 acres for £42.^[69] On 10 April 1807, Joseph Parsons granted 40 acres of land to Thomas Parsons for £40.^[70] Another son, Joseph, is identified by the 1810 personal property tax list, which shows three men of the correct name: Joseph "Sr.," Joseph "Jr.," and Joseph "(son of Jos.)."^[71] One daughter has been identified: In 1841 Elisha Jones deposed that he was present at the marriage of John Midkiff and Mary Parsons at the home of her father, Joseph Parsons.^[72] These are the only persons who have been identified as actual or probable children of Joseph Parsons "Sen'r," partly because his will, written on 3 January 1826 and recorded on 20 January 1834, does not provide an exhaustive list of his heirs:

[p. 254] In the Name of God Amen I, Joseph Parsons Sen'r, of Pittsylvania County being of Sound mind though infirm of body, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say, first, I desire to give my Soul to God who gave it to me in trust for his use—Secondly I desire that all my Just debts shall be paid out of any part of my Estate. Thirdly I give the use and possession of my whole Estate Real and personal, to my wife Sarah Parsons, for and during her natural life and long longer. And at her death, I give the whole of my [*inserted: real*] Estate to my Grand Son Joseph Parsons, son of my son John Parsons, his heirs and assigns forever And whatever remains of my personal Estate at her death: it is my will shall be equally divided among all my children in equal proportions [p. 255] Lastly I appoint Thomas H. Wooding Executor of this my last will, hereby revoking all other or former Wills by me made In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of January 1826—

The witnesses were Thomas L. Williams, John Wooding, and Thomas H. Wooding, and the will was proved upon the oaths of the latter two. Thomas Wooding, however, refused to administer the estate, and John Parsons instead was granted letters of administration.^[73]

Known children of Joseph² and Margaret (Griffith) Parsons are:

- i. MARY³ PARSONS, b. ca. 1764 (aged 77 years, 10 May 1841),^[74] d. Patrick Co., Va., after 28 Nov. 1848,^[75] m. Pittsylvania Co. 10 Sept. 1782 John Midkiff,^[76] b. Pittsylvania Co. 11 Mar. 1762,^[77] d. Patrick Co. 18 July 1839.^[78]
3. ii. JOSEPH PARSONS, b. say 1768, d. 26 Aug. 1820, m. SARAH ADAMS.
- iii. DAVID PARSONS, b. say 1770, d. Pittsylvania Co. 19 June 1817,^[79] m. Pittsylvania Co. in Nov. 1791

⁶⁸ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 3:272-3.

⁶⁹ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 12:349-52, 356.

⁷⁰ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 15:354.

⁷¹ Netti Schreiner-Yantis, *A Supplement to the 1810 Census of Virginia: Tax Lists of the Counties for Which the 1810 Census Is Missing* (Springfield, Va., 1971), D-6.

⁷² John Medkiff pension application file no. W3852, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files, microfilm M804, roll 1706 (Washington: National Archives), frame 182.

⁷³ Pittsylvania County Wills, 1:254-5.

⁷⁴ John Medkiff pension file, frame 155.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, frame 186.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, frames 157, 160, 161, 165, 182; Catherine Lindsay Knorr, comp., *Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1767-1805* (Pine Bluff, Ark.: compiler, 1956), 56.

⁷⁷ John Medkiff pension file, frames 152, 161.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, frames 157, 161, 165, 185.

⁷⁹ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

- ELIZABETH BAILEY,^[80] who was living Pike Co., Mo., 5 Sept. 1835.^[81]
- iv. BENJAMIN PARSONS, b. 9 Mar. 1772, d. 26 June 1837,^[82] m. Pittsylvania Co. 20 Dec. 1790 SARAH/SALLY BURTON,^[83] b. 18 Nov. 1774, d. 5 Sept. 1825, said to be a daughter of Elisha and Elizabeth (Cunningham) Burton.^[84]
 - v. JOHN PARSONS, "Jr.," b. say 1774, d. Pittsylvania Co. before 16 Nov. 1840,^[85] m. Pittsylvania Co. 26 Feb. 1803 MISHEL PARSONS,^[86] his first cousin, b. Va., ca. 1785,^[87] dau. of Samuel and Rebecca (Farthing) Parsons (no. 1, vi.), d. Pittsylvania Co. before 17 Aug. 1852.^[88]
 - vi. SAMUEL PARSONS, "Jr.," b. say 1776, d. after 1810,^[89] m. Pittsylvania Co. 14 Dec. 1803 LUCY BAILEY, b. say 1775, dau. of Peter I. Bailey.^[90]
 - vii THOMAS PARSONS, b. say 1780, d. after 22 July 1820,^[91] m. (1) Pittsylvania Co. 25 Nov. 1805 SARAH PARSONS, his first cousin, b. say 1785, dau. of William and Mary (Blanks) Parsons (no. 1, vii.),^[92] d. Pittsylvania Co. 7 Jan. 1817;^[93] m. (2) Pittsylvania Co. 29 Dec. 1818 FRANCES CLEVER, b. say 1800, child apparently of ____ and Elizabeth (____) Clever.^[94]

3. **Joseph³ Parsons** (*Joseph², Richard¹*), born in say 1768, died in Pittsylvania County on 26 August 1820.^[95] He was married in Pittsylvania County, on 20 June 1791, **Sarah Adams**. Her birth is provisionally dated to say 1770, as she signed her own consent for this marriage.^[96] Alternatively, the 1850 census suggests that she was born as late as about 1776.^[97] Her parentage is not known. She died in Robertson County, Tennessee, before 30 September 1856.^[98] The names of their children are documented by two orders for the distribution of his intestate estate, and the deed of 28 February 1823 that resulted from the orders. Six of the children were under age, and had guardians appointed at other times.

The first order passed at a court continued and held for Pittsylvania County on 18 September 1821:^[99]

⁸⁰ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds of Pittsylvania County, 1767–1805*, 64.

⁸¹ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 39:259-61.

⁸² Donna Price, "Re: Benjamin Parsons and Sarah Forsyth VA/KY," PARSONS-L, 4 Mar. 2002, online <<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/PARSONS/2002-03/1015269994>>, viewed 25 Feb. 2015, including a transcript from Benjamin's family Bible, which bore an 1827 printing date.

⁸³ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds of Pittsylvania County, 1767–1805*, 64.

⁸⁴ Price, "Re: Benjamin Parsons."

⁸⁵ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 36:64, 65.

⁸⁶ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds of Pittsylvania County, 1767–1805*, 64.

⁸⁷ Dudley Farthing household, 1850 U. S. census, Pittsylvania County, Virginia, population schedule, Northern District, page 212, dwelling 610, family 610, microfilm publication M432, roll 968 (Washington: National Archives), shows Mishel Parsons, aged 70 years. The number is rounded, and in any case she must have been born somewhat later in order for her parents to give consent on her marriage bond.

⁸⁸ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 44:238-40 (23 Nov. 1840), 36:292-3 (30 Dec. 1840), 41:464, 465 (17 Aug. 1852).

⁸⁹ Schreiner-Yantis, *Supplement to the 1810 Census of Virginia*, D-6.

⁹⁰ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds of Pittsylvania County, 1767–1805*, 64.

⁹¹ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 23:297-8.

⁹² Knorr, *Marriage Bonds of Pittsylvania County, 1767–1805*, 64.

⁹³ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

⁹⁴ Kathleen Booth Williams, comp., *Marriages of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1806–1830* (Danville, Va.: compiler, 1965), 119.

⁹⁵ Sargent, "From an old document," 99.

⁹⁶ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds of Pittsylvania County, 1767–1805*, 64.

⁹⁷ Elizabeth Robertson household, 1850 U. S. census, Robertson County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 13, page 125, dwelling 1814, family 1814, microfilm publication M432, roll 894 (Washington: National Archives).

⁹⁸ Robertson County, Tennessee, Wills and Inventories, 16:287, FHL microfilm 425,202.

⁹⁹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 22:282, 284-5.

[p. 284] Shelton &c vs Parsons &c chy [*in chancery*] _ This cause by consent this day came on to be heard on the Bill & answers and was argued by counsel On consideration whereof it is decreed & Ordered that Richard Jones, Thomas B. Jones and David Shelton who are hereby apptd Commr^s. [*appointed commissioners*] for that purpose do assign to Sarah [p. 285] Parsons the Widow of Joseph Parsons dec^d One third part of the real [*inserted: Est*] and [*inserted: 1/3*] of [*inserted: the*] personal Est of said dect ~~and~~ in her hands unadministered to hold as her dower therein __ and that the said Comm^s. do sell the balance of the personal Est_ and also the land of which the said Jos. Parsons died seized_ containing 96 acr[*worn*] lying on little cherry stone creek in this County_ subject to the dower of the said Sarah Parsons the widow, On a credit of 12 months taking bonds payable to Daniel Shelton, Abner Harrison, Meredith Parson, Lucy Parsons, Susan Parsons and Mill [*worn*]^[100] Parsons each for one twelfth part of the purchase money ~~of~~ and that they take another bond payable to themselves for the benefit of the infant children of said Jos. Parson dec^d Viz: Welcome, Nathan, Absalom, Seluda, Bird and Elizabeth Parsons for the remaining 6/12^{ths} of the s.^d purchase money & repts [*receipts?*] &c_ And the infant heirs &c of s.^d dect are allowed 6 months after they respectively arrive at full age to set asid[*worn*] the said decree on good cause shewn.

The next order passed at a court continued and held for the same county on 20 March 1822. In the interim, one of the adult daughters had married, and another had died, leaving an infant child.^[101]

[p. 79] Shelton &.c vs Parsons &.c chy. The comms apptd [*commissioners appointed*] by an Intest decree pronounced in his cause at Sept Court 1821 this day made report in these words, to wit: "Agreeable to a decree &.c" which is OR [*ordered recorded*] and the court doth thereupon adjudge Order and decree that Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife, Abner Harrison and Letty his wife Meredith Parsons, Milly Parsons and Solomon Nichols and Susan his wife for themselves and Rich^d Jones who is hereby appt^d comm.^r on behalf of Welcome, Nathan, Absalom, Seluda, Bird and Elizabeth Parsons infant children of ~~said~~ Jos. Parson dec^d and Vaden, Washington Parsons the infant child of Lucy Parsons dec^d, the daughter of said Joseph dec^d__ Do convey to Thomas B. Jones the purchaser [*inserted: there*] of, the land in the pro.^s mentd [*mentioned*] _ by proper deed _ subject however, to the dower of Sarah Parsons the widow, as laid off by the comm.^{ts} & It is further ordered that the comm^s. [*inserted: apptd*] by the int decree_ hold the bonds taken to themselves for the benefit of the infant heirs of Joseph Parsons dec^d subject to the future Ord [*order*] of the court.

As thus directed, the adult heirs, together with the infants' guardian, did proceed to execute and record a proper deed in favor of Thomas B. Jones.^[102]

[p. 258] This Indenture made and entered into upon this 28th day of February, 1823. Between Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife Abner Harrison and Letty his wife. Meredith Parsons. Milly Parsons Solomon Nichols and Susan his wife. And Richard Jones all of the County of Pittsylvania of the one part and Thomas B Jones of the county aforesaid of the other part. Whereas in a suit lately depending in the County Court of Pittsylvania between Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife, Abner Harrison and Letty his wife complts [*complainants*] and Sarah Parsons widow and relict of Joseph Parsons dec.^d and Meredith Parsons. Lucy Parsons. Susan Parsons and Milly Parsons of full age and Welcome,^[103] Absolom, Seluda. Bird and Elizabeth Parsons infants by John Parsons their Guardian defts [*defendants*] in chancery on the 18th day of September 1821 It was amongst other things decreed and ordered that certain Commissioners in the said decree named and who were appointed for that purpose should make sale of a tract of Land in the Bill and said decree mentioned— and whereas the said Commissioners in pursuance of the aforesaid decree. on the first day of October 1821, having first advertised the time and place of sale. did expose the said land to sale by way of auction upon a credit of twelve Months. and Thomas B Jones being the highest bidder became the purchaser thereof at the price of three hundred [p. 259] and fourteen Dollars and eighty eight cents—The said lying on little Cherry stone Creek and containing by estimation ninety six acres be the same more or less, it being the tract of land

¹⁰⁰ The bottom stroke of another letter, below the baseline, is visible.

¹⁰¹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 24:78, 79.

¹⁰² Pittsylvania County Deeds, 25:258-60.

¹⁰³ The record omits Nathan's name here.

of which Joseph Parsons died seized and the same having been sold subject to the dower of the aforesaid Sarah Parsons widow of s.^d Joseph Parsons dec.^d and whereas by another decree pronounced in the said suit on the __ day of March 1822. It was ordered and decreed that Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife. Abner Harrison and Letty his wife. Meredith Parsons. Milly Parsons and Solomon Nichols (who intermarried with Susan Parsons) and Susan his wife. for themselves and Richard Jones (who by the last mentioned decree was constituted and appointed a Commissioner for that purpose) on behalf of Welcomb. Nathan. Absolom. Seluda. Bird and Elizabeth Parsons infant heirs of Joseph Parsons dec.^d and of Vaden Washington Parsons an infant child of Lucy Parsons dec.^d (who was a daughter of said Joseph Parsons dec.^d) should convey to the said Thomas B. Jones by proper deed. the land before mentioned and described subject to the dower of the said Sarah Parsons in the said land. as laid off by the Commissioners in the first recited decree mentioned all of which by reference to the Decree before recited and the report of the Commissioners remaining of record in the County Court of Pittsylvania. reference being thereunto had will more fully and at large appear—This Indenture therefore Witnesseth that the said Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife, Abner Harrison and Letty his wife. Meredith Parsons. Milly Parsons. Milly Parson. Solomon Nichols and Susan his wife and Richard Jones as well for and in consideration of the premises aforesaid as of the aforesaid sum of three hundred and fourteen dollars and eighty eight cents secured to be paid and appropriated agreeable to the above recited decrees have granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said Thomas B. Jones his heirs and assigns the tract of land herein before mentioned and described and which was sold at public auction as aforesaid—reserving to Sarah Parsons widow of Joseph Parsons dec.^d her life estate as dower in the said tract of land to wit—that part laid off and assigned to her by the commissioners as before mentioned. To have and to hold the said tract of Land. subject to the reservation aforesaid together with the appurtenances thereto belonging to the said [p. 260] Thomas B. Jones his heirs or assigns to the only proper use and behoof of the said Thomas B. Jones his heirs and assigns forever and the said Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife, Abner Harrison and Letty his wife. Meredith Parsons. Milly Parson & Solomon Nichols and Susan his wife for themselves and Richard Jones by virtue of the power vested in him for and in behalf Welcome Nathan, Absolom. Seluda. Bird. Elizabeth and Vaden Washington Parsons the said tract of land and appurtenances subject to the reservation aforesaid. against themselves and their heirs ~~and their heirs~~ and against all other persons claiming or to claim by through or under them. unto the said Thomas B. Jones his heirs and assigns shall well by these presents warrant and forever defend. In testimony whereof the said Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife. Abner Harrison and Letty his wife. Meredith Parsons. Milly Parsons. Solomon Nichols and Susan his wife and Richard Jones have hereunto subscribed their names and affixed their seals this day and year first herein Written—

Daniel Shelton (seal)

Nelly her × mark Shelton (seal)

Abner Harrison (seal)

Letty her × mark Harrison (seal)

Milly her + mark Parsons (seal)

Meredith Parsons (seal)

Susaney her + mark Nichols (seal)

Solomon his × mark Nichols (seal)

At a Court held for Pittsylvania
County on the 17.th Day of March
1823. This Indenture from Daniel
Shelton & Nelly his wife & others to Thomas
B Jones was presented in Court and
Acknowledged by the said D. Shelton

Rich.^d Jones (seal)

Milly Parsons & Richard Jones commissioner s.^d to be their act and Deed and ordered to be recorded as to them ___ and at another court held for said County on the 16th day of June in the year aforesaid was acknowledged by Abner Harrison to be his act and deed and Letty his wife being privily examined [sic] as the Law directs freely and voluntarily relinquished her right of dower in & to the Lands conveyed in this Indenture and ordered to be recorded as to them __ and at another court held for said County on the 21st day of July 1823 the same was acknowledged by Meredith Parsons and ordered to be recorded as to him

The court issued a few more orders for the guardianship of the minor heirs. Thomas B. Jones was appointed guardian of Seluda and Bird Parsons, orphans of Joseph Parsons, and entered a bond for \$200 with James Jones as his security, 16 June 1823.^[104] On 21 July 1823, an order was

¹⁰⁴ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 24:24, 37.

issued to deliver the monies in the respective portions of Absolom, Seluda, and Byrd Parsons to their guardian.^[105]

It appears that Sarah had removed to Robertson County, Tennessee, by 1830, when a household headed by Sally Parsons was enumerated in the census. The age of the oldest white woman, 60–69 years, meets our background expectations for Sarah (Adams) Parsons.^[106] The same woman seems to appear in the 1850 census as one member of a household of ten persons who were all described as “Pauper,” and listed in strict order of age. Another of the residents was Elizabeth Parsons, a 34-year-old woman who was also deaf and mute, and can be identified as the youngest daughter of Sarah (Adams) Parsons.^[107] The appearances elsewhere in the county of Abner Harrison and his wife Letty, and of V. W. Parsons (to be cited below, and nos. 3, ii. and iv.), lend further support to this identification of Sarah Parsons.

The sale of the personal estate of Sarah Parsons, deceased, was held in Robertson County on 30 September 1856. The purchasers included William Kiger, Amanda Franklin, John F. Mansker, John Osborne, John L. Fryer, Elizabeth Wolfe, and R. W. Lovin.^[108] James F. Craig, administrator, entered an account with further credits that was recorded in April 1859.^[109] Surviving papers in Sarah’s estate file, in addition to the original sale report, include receipts granted in 1859. On 25 March 1859, Manda Cheser received \$2.25 for nine weeks of service as a nurse, and John Ausborn received 50¢ for digging her grave.^[110]

Children of Joseph³ and Sarah (Adams) Parsons, based on the three documents transcribed above and probably all born in Pittsylvania County, are:

- i. NELLY⁴ PARSONS, b. say 1792, d. outside of Va. after 17 Oct. 1825,^[111] m. (bond, Pittsylvania Co. 22 July 1809) DANIEL SHELTON,^[112] b. say 1783, son of Benjamin and Rebecca (Watlington) Shelton,^[113] d. Pittsylvania Co. 10 Aug. 1825, having been wounded two days before.^[114] Meredith Parsons (no. 3, iii.) was tried for Daniel’s murder; more details and citations appear in Meredith’s entry.
- ii. LETTY PARSONS, b. say 1794, living Robertson County, Tenn., in 1850, age “50,”^[115] m. (bond, Pittsylvania 3 Jan. 1811) ABNER HARRISON,^[116] b. Va., ca. 1785, son of Christopher Harrison, a minor for whom a guardian was appointed 20 Jan. 1800,^[117] also living Robertson Co. in 1850, age “65.”^[118]

¹⁰⁵ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 24:66, 74.

¹⁰⁶ Sally Parsons household, 1830 U. S. census, Robertson County, Tennessee, population schedule, page 422, line 21, microfilm publication M19, roll 179 (Washington: National Archives).

¹⁰⁷ Elizabeth Robertson household, 1850 census.

¹⁰⁸ Robertson County Wills and Inventories, 16:287, FHL microfilm 425,202, “Tennessee, Probate Court Books, 1795–1927,” online, *FamilySearch* <<https://familysearch.org>>, updated 17 Jan. 2014, viewed 27 Feb. 2015.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 737.

¹¹⁰ Sarah Parsons (1856), Robertson County Estate Settlements, 1850–1900, alphabetically arranged, FHL microfilm 2,223,207, “Tennessee, Probate Court Files, 1795–1955,” online, *FamilySearch* <<https://familysearch.org>>, updated 24 Oct. 2014, viewed 27 Feb. 2015.

¹¹¹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 25:252, 263.

¹¹² Williams, *Marriages of Pittsylvania County, 1806–1830*, 139.

¹¹³ Daniel Shelton and Nelly his wife were listed second among the heirs and representatives of Benjamin Shelton, deceased, who made a deed of partition, 7 Jan. 1822 (Pittsylvania County Deeds, 24:313-4). For Benjamin’s marriage, see Catherine Lindsay Knorr, comp., *Marriage Bonds and Ministers’ Returns of Halifax County, Virginia, 1753–1800* (Pine Bluff, Ark.: compiler, 1957), 83.

¹¹⁴ Sargent, “From an old document,” 99.

¹¹⁵ Abner Harrison household, 1850 U. S. census, Robertson County, Tennessee, population schedule, District No. 8, page 59, dwelling 1097, family 1097, microfilm publication M432, roll 894 (Washington: National Archives).

¹¹⁶ Williams, *Marriages of Pittsylvania County, 1806–1830*, 73.

¹¹⁷ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 9:216, 223.

¹¹⁸ Abner Harrison household, 1850 census.

- iii. MEREDITH PARSONS, b. say 1796, d. after 20 Nov. 1828,^[119] m. Pittsylvania Co. 17 Mar. 1813 MARY WILLIAMS.^[120] A court was held in Pittsylvania County on 17 Aug. 1825 for the examination of Meredith Parsons, who was charged with the murder of Daniel Shelton. The court issued an opinion that he was guilty of the murder, and referred the case for further hearing before the Superior Court of Law.^[121] At this hearing, held 28 Sept. 1825, Meredith, described as “labourer late of the Parish of Camden and County of Pittsylvania who stands Indicted of Murder,” pled not guilty. A jury heard the evidence and found Meredith not guilty, whereupon he was acquitted.^[122] On 20 Nov. 1828, Meredith submitted to the execution of a debt judgment against him and notified the opposing attorney of his intention to seek the benefit of an act of the Virginia assembly for the relief of insolvent debtors.^[123]
- iv. LUCY PARSONS, b. say 1798, prob. d. Pittsylvania Co. 8 Dec. 1821.^[124] She left one infant child, *Vaden Washington Parsons*, but the name of the child’s father has not been determined. Sarah Parsons, also named as the mother of Betsy (no. 3, xii.), was appointed guardian of Vaden, as well as of Betsy, and entered a bond for \$150 with John Parsons as her security, 19 Mar. 1822.^[125]

V. W. Parsons, carpenter, b. Va., ca. 1822, and was living in Robertson Co., Tenn., in 1850, with Willie L. and Sarah B. Norfleet, both b. Tenn.^[126] On 17 February 1854, Vaden W. Parsons made his nuncupative will in the presence of William Mastin and S. M. Jamison. After the settlement of the bills accrued during his last sickness and “all our difficulties,” he desired that his goods should be divided equally between Anderson Newton’s wife and Nancy Ann Jones, and particularly that his gold watch should be given to Nancy, while another watch, retrieved from his trunk at the Union Hall in Nashville, be given to Mrs. Newton. Lastly, he appointed Mastin as his executor. The will and a grant of administration to Mastin were recorded on the first Monday in March 1854.^[127] It was found necessary to sell the bequeathed goods to pay Vaden’s debts, and Mastin’s report of this sale, carried out on 4 December 1854, was filed and recorded in February 1855.^[128] Mrs. Newton evidently was Vaden’s aunt, Seluda Parsons (no. 3, x.).
- + v. SUSAN PARSONS, b. 11 Jan. 1801, d. 16 Nov. 1869, bur. Prairie Twp., Lincoln Co., Mo.,^[129] m. (1) Pittsylvania Co. 6 Mar. 1822 SOLOMON NICHOLS,^[130] d. prob. Ky., 1829 or later;^[131] m. (2) by about 1834 FRANCIS ANSON, b. Md., 1 Dec. 1784, son of Philarius and Catharine (Fresh) Anson (see 157, 311. *Fresh*, no. 3), d. 15 May 1863, bur. Prairie Twp.^[132]
- vi. MILLY PARSONS, b. say 1803, living Pittsylvania Co. 17 Mar. 1823, unkm.

¹¹⁹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 27:271, 274, 280.

¹²⁰ Williams, *Marriages of Pittsylvania County, 1806–1830*, 119.

¹²¹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 25:220-1.

¹²² Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Common Law Order Book, 2:262-3, FHL microfilm 2,056,385. The jurors were John Pinnell, Benjamin W. T. Cabell, Samuel Edmundson Jr., Meredith Jennings, Peyton Lumpkin, Joel Willis, Josiah Atkinson, Spencer Carter, William Thomas, Daniel Sullivan, John H. Lanier, and Joseph Clift.

¹²³ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 27:271, 280.

¹²⁴ Sargent, “From an old document,” 99.

¹²⁵ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 23:75, 77.

¹²⁶ Willie L. Norfleet household, 1850 U. S. census, Robertson County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 7, page 51, dwelling 1268, family 1268, microfilm publication M432, roll 894 (Washington: National Archives).

¹²⁷ Robertson County Wills and Inventories, 15:484, FHL microfilm 425,202, “Tennessee, Probate Court Books.”

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, 697.

¹²⁹ Samuel Hensen, “Anson Cemetery,” *Gone But Not Forgotten*, comp. William L. Douglas Jr., 9 vols. (Troy, Mo.: author, n. d.), 2:3-4, at 3; Naomi Scranton Berrier, “200 Years of Yeadons and Pennebakers, 1765–1965,” typescript (Long Beach, Calif., 1974), 18A, 18B, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Ind.

¹³⁰ Williams, *Marriages of Pittsylvania County, 1806–1830*, 113; Berrier, “200 Years of Yeadons and Pennebakers,” 18A.

¹³¹ Sara. A. Evans, death certificate no. 15520 (1916), Missouri Secretary of State, *Missouri Death Certificates, 1910–1960*, <<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/archivesdb/deathcertificates/>>, viewed 26 Feb. 2015.

¹³² Hensen, “Anson Cemetery,” 3; Berrier, “200 Years of Yeadons and Pennebakers,” 18B.

- vii. WELCOME ALLEN PARSONS,^[133] b. ca. 1805, living Lola Twp., Cherokee Co., Kan., in 1880,^[134] m. MARY ADAMS, b. Va., ca. 1806, living Lola Twp. in 1870, when called "Adams Parsons."^[135] On 21 June 1821, being of full age for the purpose, Welcome A. Parsons, orphan of Joseph Parsons, chose John Parsons as his guardian.^[136] On 16 July 1821, with the consent of his guardian, Welcome Parsons entered into an apprenticeship agreement with McCoyel Graven of Pittsylvania Co. for four years, to learn the art or mystery of boot and shoe making.^[137] On 20 Jan. 1823, John was again appointed guardian of Welcome Parsons, orphan of Joseph Parsons, and entered a bond for \$75 with James Garland as his security.^[138]
- viii. NATHAN PARSONS, b say 1807, living 15 Sept. 1823, when John Parsons was appointed his guardian and entered a bond for \$100 with Rich^d B. Parsons as his security.^[139] On 18 Aug. 1820 it was ordered that Robertson Shelton, Rich^d. Jones, Coalman D. Bennet, John Robertson, and David H. Clark, or any three of them, settle and adjust the account current of John Parsons as guardian.^[140]
- ix. ABSOLOM PARSONS, b. ca. 1809, living Williamson Co., Ill., in 1860,^[141] m. (1) SARAH _____, b. Tenn., ca. 1810, living Williamson Co. in 1850;^[142] m. (2) Williamson Co. 15 July 1857 FERIDA JEFFETH,^[143] b. Ohio, ca. 1825, living Williamson Co. in 1860.^[144]
- x. SELUDA PARSONS, b. 16 Jan. 1812, d. 9 Mar. 1884, m. ANDERSON NEWTON, b. N. C., 3 April 1810, son of Henry and Nancy (____) Newton, d. 28 Aug. 1862, both bur. Jefferson Co., Ill..^[145]
- xi. BIRD/BYRD PARSONS, b. say 1814, living 21 July 1823.^[146]
- xii. ELIZABETH/BETSY PARSONS, b. Va., ca. 1816, living Robertson Co., Tenn., 1850, age 34y, deaf, dumb, and a pauper.^[147] Sarah Parson was appointed guardian of her daughter Betsy, along with the infant

¹³³ Welcome Allen Parsons household, 1840 U. S. census, Pettis County, Missouri, population schedule, page 37, line 7, microfilm publication M704, roll 228 (Washington: National Archives).

¹³⁴ W. J. Parsons household, 1880 U. S. census, Cherokee County, Kansas, population schedule, Lola Township, enumeration district 42, supervisor's district 1, page 474, dwelling 18, family 18, microfilm publication T9, roll 376 (Washington: National Archives).

¹³⁵ Welcome A. Parsons household, 1870 U. S. census, Cherokee County, Kansas, population schedule, Lola Township, Lostine post office, page 42, dwelling 40, family 44, microfilm publication M593, roll 430 (Washington: National Archives). Compare Wm. A. Parsons, 1850 U. S. census, Pettis County, Missouri, population schedule, District No. 68, page 126, dwelling 241, family 241, microfilm M432, roll 409 (Washington: National Archives).

¹³⁶ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 22:213.

¹³⁷ Pittsylvania County Deeds, 24:101-2.

¹³⁸ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 23:227, 231.

¹³⁹ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 24:120, 127.

¹⁴⁰ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 28:318, 323. Also see Donna Price, "Re: Parsons of the South-Pittsylvania/ Logan/Pike/Montgomery/Lincoln/Hickory," *Parsons-L*, 4 Dec. 2002, online <<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/PARSONS/2000-12/0975981924>>, viewed 28 Feb. 2015, against the identification of this Nathan Parsons with the one who later appears in Montgomery Co., Mo., and Dallas Co., Tex.

¹⁴¹ Absalom Parsons household, 1860 U. S. census, Williamson County, Illinois, population schedule, Township 10 South Range 1 East, no post office shown, page 1030, dwelling 1770, family 1594, microfilm publication M653, roll 239 (Washington: National Archives).

¹⁴² Absalom Parsons household, 1850 U. S. census, Williamson County, Illinois, population schedule, page 245, dwelling 463, family 475, microfilm publication M432, roll 133 (Washington: National Archives).

¹⁴³ Gay Roberson Hoffard and Joyce Stephens Smith, *Marriages on Record in Marion, Williamson County, Illinois Courthouse, 1839 through 1865*, vol. 1 (Johnson City and Carbondale, Ill.: authors, 1988), 63.

¹⁴⁴ Absalom Parsons household, 1870 census.

¹⁴⁵ Nancy Pickel, "Saluda Parsons Newton," memorial no. 115015663, online <<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?>>, added 6 Aug. 2013, viewed 28 Feb. 2015, with a photograph of the gravestone by the same contributor; *Portrait and Biographical Record of Clinton, Washington, Marion, and Jefferson Counties, Illinois: Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the Counties, Together with Biographies and Portraits of All the Governors of the State and Presidents of the United States* (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1894), 434, from a biography of their son, Dr. Joseph H. Newton, who was born in Robertson Co. in 1837. This biography only names the doctor's parents and paternal grandfather. For Henry's wife, see Henry Newton will, Robertson County Wills and Inventories, 8:411-3, FHL microfilm 425,199, "Tennessee, Probate Court Books."

¹⁴⁶ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 24:66, 74.

¹⁴⁷ Elizabeth Robertson household, 1850 census.

child of Lucy Parsons (no. 3, iv.), and entered a bond for \$150 with John Parsons as her security, 19 Mar. 1822.^[148]

¹⁴⁸ Pittsylvania County Court Orders, 23:75, 77.

22 February–30 March 2015

Austin W. Spencer