

George Washington Mahan (1806-1858)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1988

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Michael L. Mahan
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Dear Mr. Mahan:

I have completed the 10 hours of research you requested. I believe I have found a couple of new discoveries but I regret to report that I could find no document that gave absolute proof that George Washington Mahan (1806-1858) was the son of Alexander Mahan (born 1765-1775).

The records of Warren County, KY strongly suggest that Alexander Mahan was the father of the brothers, George W. & James M. Mahan. Alexander's family appears to have been the only Mahan family in the county after 1814 and immediately preceding the appearance of George W. Mahan in the county's tax records in 1829. The James Mahan of the 1810 Warren County census first appeared in the county's tax records in 1800. James & Alexander lived in different areas of the county; they are listed separately in the tax records and are 24 pages apart in the 1810 census. James owned land on Drake's Creek while Alexander owned land on Trammell's and Buck Creeks. James Mahan and his family apparently moved from Warren County about 1814. He last appears in the tax records in 1813 and afterwards no record pertaining to him and his family are found in the county (ex., none of his children married there).

Alexander Mahan came to Warren County, KY about 1806, the first year he is listed in the county's tax books. Since one Alexander Mahan married in 1803 in Mercer County, Ky. (to Margaret Hampton), which was close to the time the Alexander of Warren County would have been married (by 1806), I also checked the tax records of Mercer County, Ky. to see if an Alexander is listed there. In the 1794-1810 tax books of Mercer County no Alexander Mahan is listed, one John Mahan, during these years owned 200 acres on Harrod's Run in Mercer County.

The households of the Alexander Mahan of the 1810 & 1820 Warren County censuses match and they are most likely the same family. After arriving in the county, Alexander Mahan in the 1806 tax list is shown as owning two tracts of 200 acres on Buck Creek, which was entered and surveyed in the name of Jonas Smith. By 1811 his land is listed as being on the waters of Trammell's Creek (a tributary of Barren River, south of Bowling Green and near the

Allen County line). The 700 acre tract he is shown with in 1811 was also shown as being entered and surveyed in the name of Jonas Smith, and possibly includes some of the land earlier listed as being on Buck Cr. In the 1811 & 1813 tax lists of Warren County a Moses Mahan is listed immediately next to Alexander Mahan and he also is shown as owning land (200 acres) on Trammell's Creek. In the 1811, 1812 & 1813 tax lists a second James Mahan (in addition to the James on Drake's Creek) is also listed close to Alexander. Moses & this second James may be closely related to Alexander; they both disappear from the Warren County records after 1813. The location of the subsequent residence of Moses Mahan is a lead that should be investigated (ex., the 1820 census).

After 1813 Alexander Mahan is no longer shown as owning any land. During the years of 1815-1817 he disappears from the tax books of Warren County and at that time may have been absent from the county. The name of Alexander Mahan reappears in the Warren tax records in 1818. In the 1818, 1819, & 1820 tax books he is the only Mahan listed and he is shown as owning no land, no slaves and not even a horse. Alexander Mahan is enumerated in the 1820 Warren County census and at a court held in Warren County in October of the same year it was ordered that Alexander Mahan was to be exempted from all future county levies. In the following year's tax book and thereafter he is not listed again. No record after the latter could be found for Alexander Mahan. I believe he died between 1820-1823, he was then aged 45 to 60. The fact that he was indigent may explain the fact that no will, administrator bond, estate inventory or settlement, or equity suits., are found in the Warren County' records (checked the Warren County will books, order books, and circuit court records). In the Warren County Circuit Court records no equity suit involving the heirs of Alexander Mahan was found. I had hoped there would be some record of a guardian being appointed for George W. & James M. Mahan, but no record of it was found in the Warren County Order Books.

I feel certain that the mother of George W. Mahan was named Margaret. Margaret was born about 1790 in Kentucky, she is listed in the 1830, 1850 & 1860 censuses of Warren County. She may be the wife of Alexander Mahan, who was listed with him in the 1810 & 1820 Warren County censuses, her age corresponds to his wife's age as listed in these two censuses. Three years following the disappearance of Alexander Mahan from the Warren County tax records, in 1823, "Margaret Mahan" is listed in Warren's tax book. No male age 21 was listed with her and she had no land. Her age would suggest that she was a "Mrs.", and most likely she is the widow of Alexander Mahan. In Warren County on 16 April 1827 Margaret Mahan married Benjamin Ford (this is one of only three Mahan marriages performed in Warren County during the years of 1799-1850, the others being Washington Mahan to Mary Tygert 9 February 1832, consent given by her father, Samuel Tygert, and James M. Mahan to Fanny Young 5 August 1835, bond by John Young).

The Benjamin Ford that Margaret Mahan married was listed in the 1820 Warren County census only two pages following Alexander Mahan. Benjamin Ford in the 1829 tax list paid taxes on 140 acres on Barren River (the lands owned by George W. & James M. Mahan,

acquired only a few years afterwards, was also located on Barren River). Benjamin Ford died during 1829-1830, his wife, Mrs. Margaret Ford, is listed as paying taxes on the same 140 acres in the 1830 Warren tax book. In the 1830 Warren County census Mrs. Margaret Ford is listed (p.100), in her household are two males aged 20-30, who may well have been George W. & James M. Mahan. "Washington Mahan" is listed in the 1829 tax book but no Mahans are listed as a head of a household in the 1830 Warren County census. George W. was aged 23 in 1830 and his brother, James, was about 20. No one of their ages was listed in the home of Benjamin Ford in the 1820 census. In 1830 three other younger children are also listed in the household of Mrs. Margaret Ford, they may have been some of her Ford step-children (who were shown in 1820), only one of these, a girl under age 5, could have been her child by Benjamin Ford (in 1850 a Melvina Wilson, born about 1828, was living with Margaret, and may be the same girl in the 1830 census).

Mrs. Margaret (Mahan) Ford is listed in the 1831 & 1833 Warren tax lists, the 1832 book is missing; after 1833 she is not listed again in the tax lists. Mrs. Margaret Ford on 27 March 1833 married John Young in Warren County, KY, a copy of the original marriage bond is enclosed. John Young was born 23 August 1775 and died 26 February 1845. He has a monument at the Green River Union Cemetery, near Richardsville, in the north-central part of Warren County. In the same cemetery two of his sons also have monuments. James Young, born 24 August 1797 South Carolina, died 7 March 1878, his wife was Louise Hudnall, and Isaac G. Young, born 28 April about 1828 Warren County, KY and, died 20 November 1857. Mrs. Margaret Young does not have a marker in this cemetery (checked several volumes of published Warren County cemeteries for the Mahan-Ford-Young names, found no Mahans).

In the years 1820-1840 the John Young, who Margaret (Mahan) Ford married was the only John Young appearing in the Warren County records. In the 1820 Warren census he was listed one page from Alexander Mahan. In the tax records he is shown as owning 200 acres on Indian Creek. On 5 August 1835 Fanny Young, born about 1817 KY, a daughter of John Young, married James M. Mahan in Warren County. On 9 February 1845 John Young wrote his will and it was recorded in April 1845 in Warren County will book D, p.193 (copy enclosed). In his will he named his wife, Margaret, and one son, Isaac, who was still under age of 21. When Margaret married John Young she was about 43 years old and she did not have any children by this marriage.

Mrs. Margaret (Mahan-Ford) Young, the widow of John Young, was listed in the 1850 Warren County census (p.53, #732). She was enumerated only 30 households from James Mahan (p.55, #762) and 32 households from Washington Mahan (p.56, #764). she was listed as being aged 59 and born in KY; living with her was her stepson, Isaac Young, age 21, and Melvina Wilson, age 22. In the 1860 Warren County census Margaret Young was listed in the home of her stepson, James Young (born 1797). James Young's wife was a Hudnall and John, the oldest son of James & Frances Young Mahan, also married a Hudnall. Charles, another son of James & Frances Young Mahan, married a Runner. The Runner family lived in the Richardsville area of

Warren County and in the Warren censuses of 1810-1820-1840-1850 members of the Runner family were enumerated near the Mahans, Mrs. Margaret Young and no Mahans were listed in the 1870 Warren County census.

The preceding facts I believe make a convincing argument that Margaret was the mother of George W. & James M. Mahan. George W. also named his oldest daughter, Margaret, and James M., named his second daughter, Mary Margaret.

The published book of the 1860 Warren County, Ky. census was compiled by one of your cousins, Patricia E Reed, 441 Iroquois Dr., Bowling Green, Ky. 42101. Ms. Reed is a descendant of James M. Mahan (born 1810) and Frances (Fanny) Young. She said she had not done much research on this line but she believes that James was the son of Alexander Mahan though she has found no recorded proof. For future research I would suggest contacting her and possibly by pooling your efforts you may be able to come up with something. She lives in Bowling Green and if she is able to get out and about it would be much easier for her to do research there (for me it is a 260 mile trip).

I found one other record pertaining to an Alexander Mahan, in Campbell County, KY Alexander Mahan & John Henderson on 30 January 1796 proved by their oaths a deed of land from Alexander McConnel to Alexander Woodrow (Campbell County, KY order book A, p.30).

For the enclosed 10 hours of research at \$8.00/hr.) McDowell Publications requests a fee of \$80.00. Since I was unable to find documented proof of George W. Mahan's parentage I will not charge for my additional expenses (mileage, toll fees & copying). Please make check out to McDowell Publications and address to McDowell Publication, 11129 Pleasant Ridge Rd., Utica, Ky. 42376. Thank you for contacting us.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long
McDowell Publications