

William F. Richards (c1840-)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1997

August 1, 1997

Mr. Jerry Long
Kentucky Room
Owensboro Public Library
450 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, Ky 42301

Dear Jerry:

A couple of years ago I corresponded with you regarding your John Powell who had married Mary Richards in Owensboro I was trying to make a connection to a particular line of my own family. I never dreamed it would, turn out to be as strange as it became today.

In case you never researched John Powells first wifes' family, it goes like this.

Cordelia Crabtree, daughter of Colson and Nary Anna (Banks) Crabtree married in Daviess county about 1869 (don't have the marriage date yet) to William F Richards They were to have two daughters.

1) Mary Sara, born March 11, 1870 married your John Powell, and died in a buggy accident April 19, 1888. No children born Your John went on to marry again and have a son Louis.

2) Willie Pearl Richards, born Feb 11, 1872, married on Nov 10, 1889 Robert L Green. **THIS IS MY LADY.**

Either William F Richards died, or this couple was divorced before 1878. Because in 1878 Cordelia Crabtree Richards married a widower. Clark Coombs in Owensboro, and he had one daughter by his first marriage, Harriet. They put these three children together, and went on to have four more children together.

Willie Pearl Richards and her husband Robert L. Green had two sons:

- a) Clark T. Green, born Aug 27, 1890, died July 6, 1892 at age 22 months.
- b) Leroy Green, born Oct 8, 1892.

In 1904, Robert and Willie Pearl (according to stories we were told,) left Owensboro when their only living son, Leroy was only twelve years old. He did not want to go with them, and was

given permission to live with his Grandparents, Clark Coombs and Cordelia Crabtree Richards Coombs) Willie Pearl, according to bible records I received just today, died in 1906.

Leroy Green was raised by his Grandparents, Clark and Cordelia Coombs. The BAD PART of all this -- for some reason, he took the Coombs name, without, as far as we can find ever being legally adopted.

Leroy was married three times: The third time, to my Mothers: sister, Ardena Coin.

Leroy and Ardena had two daughters. Even Ardena never knew, nor did anybody in this entire family, until I received these old bible records today, that Leroy Coombs was in reality, Leroy Green. He married Ardena under the Coombs name, and gave that name to his two daughters: Leroy and Ardena lived out their lives together in Owensboro, both dying in the 1950s within three years of each other of bad heart problems, leaving these two young girls, just teenagers at the time.

I need HELP! FOR A FEE to you: Please write back and give me some costs:

This is what I need:

Possible marriage of Coleson Crabtree and Mary Anna Banks in Daviess county about 1847-48: (I found them in the 1850 census, Owensboro, page 84, with Cordelia, age one year.)

Marriage of Cordelia Crabtree to William F. Richards about 1868-1869: (I found them in the 1870 census of Owensboro, page 90: with your John Powells wife, Mary S, age 1 year)

Need to find William F. Richards and Cordelia in the 1880 census showing the daughter Willie Pearl, age about 8)

Marriage of William Pearl Richards to Robert L. Green on Nov. 10, 1889 (Proof by page and book number)

A Richards family in the 1850 census in Owensboro with a con William F, age 9 or 10:

Would you be willing to help me with this, and if not, could you please send me the name of someone else who would work for a fee: I would be eternally grateful:

Best wishes,
Jeanne Porreca
8 Beaumont Place
Lima, Ohio 45805

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7 August 1997

Jeanne Porreca

8 Beaumont Place
Lima, Ohio 45805

Dear Ms. Porreca:

Enclosed are copies of the marriage records, for Colson Crabtree to Mary Anna Banks (7 October 1847); Robert Green to Willie Pearl Richards (10 November 1889); and William F. Richards to Cordelia Crabtree (7 December 1865).

William F. Richards, born c1840, was not listed in the 1850 or 1860 censuses of Daviess County, KY. He was also not found in the adjoining counties of Hancock, Breckinridge, Ohio & McLean County for those years. From the 1860 Kentucky census, index (lists only household heads) I found a William F. Richards, age 20, born Tennessee listed in Cumberland County (KY), his occupation was listed as a ferryman. A copy of the original census page listing is enclosed.

William F. Richards was not enumerated in the 1880 Daviess County, KY census. His wife Cordelia Crabtree Richards Coombs was however. William F. Richards apparently had either died or divorced [Cordelia] between 1872 (the birth of their child, Willie Pearl) and 1878 (remarriage of Cordelia Crabtree Richards). Any divorce would have been recorded in the Circuit Court of the county. I checked the index to the Daviess County Circuit Court suits and found none listed for William F. & Cordelia Richards.

I checked all available listings for Daviess County cemeteries and did not find William F. Richards listed. Also I could not find him listed in the following records: index to Owensboro obituaries, Daviess County wills. Daviess County administrator bonds, or in some Daviess County death records kept for the years of 1875 & 1876 (only years for 1870's that we have any death records). Since no divorce suit for William F. & Cordelia was not recorded in Daviess County I would surmise that William F. Richards died between 1872-1878. I could think of no other sources that might confirm his death during this period.

For the enclosed copies and my research time I will request a total of \$5.00. Good luck.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long

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