

James Hackley Wortham (1797-1856)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1990

Oct 17, 1990

Jerry

Hope this information is of some benefit to you. I just copied my field-notes concerning Charles, James Hackley's father. For many years he was the missing link that connected the Kentucky Worthams with the Virginia group. His father, Samuel died in Middlesex Co, VA in 1773. Charles and his sister Lucy were transported to Ky by guardian(s). But we still haven't uncovered enough evidence to determine what became of Charles' mother. The information which allowed me to say for sure that my Charles was the son of deceased Samuel was the names of a list of slaves in Middlesex Co which matched a list in Nelson Co which guardian James Gray actually went back to Virginia to procure and "bring out to Kentucky."

If you ever come across anyone needing Wortham information or someone doing Wortham Research, please send them my way. There are still many loose ends in the state of Ky alone which I am working on, not to mention Virginia, North Carolina, Tenn., Georgia, etc.

Or, if you encounter any more material on ANY Wortham please make me a copy. I have a lawyer friend who is supposed to be trying to get me biographical sketch material on James S., James Hackley's son who was an attorney in Grayson Co. Strangely enough, I have run up against uncooperative secretaries in Lexington when I attempted to gain more information on the other son, Woodford Vertrees W., the Pharmacist, but I will keep trying.

Let me know if you need anything more, or if any part of my material disagrees with what you have. I am very careful from whom I obtain information, because it is obviously impossible for me to check out everything which is sent to me. Consequently, if the information makes my charts, it is reasonably safe to say that it is fact. I detest information given just to impress. I have a very large file of SUSPECTED INFORMATION which I only use for leads when I have nothing else to work on. But regardless of how careful I try to be, I'm sure that discrepancies to creep into the best efforts.

Thanks again for your request. I always enjoy providing help for persons seeking Wortham material.

Tom Wortham

245 Montrose
Madisonville, KY 42431

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JAMES HACKLEY WORTHAM

James Hackley Wortham, the second of eleven children of Charles W. and Lucretia Hackley Wortham, was born Jan 23, 1797 in Nelson County Kentucky.

he grew up in Nelson County and in November of 1823 was married there to Martha Blackburn Rogers. When James was about 24, the young couple removed to Leitchfield in Grayson County, Kentucky where he entered the mercantile business. He is listed in a Grayson County History as being the first merchant in Leitchfield. In his old time account book, dated 1815, there appear the names of William and Charles Hank, uncles of Abraham Lincoln. For a number of years, he owned a general merchandise store on the West side of the public square where the Leitchfield Mercantile Company stood in 1939.

James and Martha had nine children, eight of whom were girls. Martha died on April 10, 1847. In 1848 James married Sarah W. Vetrees in Grayson County. To that union were born three children; two boys and one girl. One son, James Samuel became a very successful attorney in Leitchfield, while the younger son, Woodford Vetrees became a Pharmacist.

James Hackley also engaged in farming. He lived and reared his children on his country place, one-half mile East of Leitchfield. The old homestead burned during the middle 1930's.

Like three of his brothers, James entered the public service arena. In 1830, he was elected to serve in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

He was a member of the Beaver Dam Baptist Church which is located two and one-half miles East of Leitchfield.

He continued to operate his mercantile business up until his death on February 19, 1856, at which time the store was taken over by his nephew Charles Wortham, Jr.

Mr Wortham's obituary was written by D. Dowden and in part stated thathe was diligent in business, a kind affectionate and obliging husband, father and neighbor and unwavering in his Christian belief." He is buried in Moorman Cemetery, located on the southside of Highway 54 West of Leitchfield.

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9 November 1990

Tom Wortham
25 Montrose
Madisonville, KY 42431

Dear Mr. Wortham:

Thank you for the information on the family of James Hackley Wortham. Your record was far more complete than what I had. Are you certain that James Hackley Wortham & Martha B. Rogers were married in Nelson County, Ky. and not in Grayson County, Ky? In published volumes of Nelson County, Ky. marriages theirs is not listed. At the time of their marriage, 1823, the family of Martha B. Rogers had been residing in Grayson County for about 6 years. Also a James Wortham, aged 16-26, living by himself, was listed in the 1820 census of Grayson County and I thought this might be James Hackley Wortham, who would have then been age 23 &

single. In the 1850 Grayson County census a William A. Wortham, born circa 1831, was listed as living in the household of James Hackley Wortham. Could this possibly be James Hackley's son, who you list as John, and who died at the age of 20?

I have enclosed an ancestor chart of R. W. Wortham which was in the Owensboro library files. The chart was filled out in 1977 but in the 1990 Louisville phone book Robert W. Wortham is listed at the same address (phone 502-267-0481). I have also sent a few notes I had on the family of Hosea Stone Bishop, who married into the Wortham family.

Thanks again for the info. I hope to publish a book on the Rogers family and if I do I will state that the info on the family of James Hackley Wortham was contributed by you. Bye for now.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long

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