

Bradford Worthington (1804-1881)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1986

9 August 1986

Arthur Glenn Worthington
Box 107
Mt. Sterling, Ill. 62353

Dear Mr. Worthington:

Your great-grandfather, Bradford Worthington, is listed in the 1826 and 1827 tax lists of Muhlenberg County, Ky. You said Bradford was born about 1805 or 1806, he must have reached his 21st birthday in the year of 1826 by the fact he first appears as a tithable of the age of 21 in that year which indicates he would have been born in 1805. No deeds were recorded by Bradford Worthington in Muhlenberg County and his name does not appear in the indexes of that county's order books.

Several clues strongly suggest that Bradford was the son of Andrew Worthington, who appears in the tax records of Muhlenberg County from 1799 to 1835. Andrew Worthington was born between 1770-1775 and married about 1795.

In 1799 Muhlenberg County was formed from Lincoln County. In the 1792-1799 tax records of Lincoln County, Ky. the following. Worthingtons are listed:

1792 no Worthingtons listed
1793 Benjamin Wetherington, James Wetherington
1794 Andrew Worthington, Benjamin Worthington, James Worthington, Joseph Worthington
1795 Benjamin Worthington, James Worthington, Joseph Worthington
1796 Andrew Worthington, Benjamin Worthington, James Worthington, Joseph Worthington,
William Worthington
1797 no Worthingtons listed
1798 no tax book
1799 no Worthingtons listed

Andrew, Benjamin, James and William Worthington appear in the tax records of Muhlenberg County after it was formed in 1799. Andrew Worthington's marriage may have been recorded in Lincoln County, Ky. (The marriage records of Lincoln County are not in the Owensboro library and I have not yet been able to check for Andrew),

Andrew Worthington appears in the 1810 and 1820 censuses of Muhlenberg County,. Ky.

1810 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census:

Andrew Worthington	1 male 0-10	1 female 0-10
	1 male 10-16	2 females 10-16
	1 male 26-45	1 female 26-45

(note: two other Worthingtons are listed in the 1810 Muhlenberg County census, William "of Island", born 1761, and William's son Rev. Thomas, born 1786).

1820 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census:

Andrew Worthington	1 male 0-10	2 females 10-16
	1 male 10-16	1 female 16-26
	2 males over 45	

(note: three other Worthingtons are listed in the 1820 Muhlenberg County census, the William and Thomas of the 1810 census and a younger William, probably the son of Andrew).

Andrew Worthington is not listed as a head of a household in the 1830 census of Muhlenberg County, he however must have been 'residing there then because he is listed in that years tax list of the county. If, as it appears, Bradford Worthington, is the son of Andrew, Andrew in 1830 may have been living with Bradford's sister and his daughter, Polly Ray. In the 1830 census of Muhlenberg County in the household of Amos Ray, husband of Polly Worthington Ray, is a male aged 50-60, which would be the same age category of Andrew Worthington. In the same household is a male aged 30-40, this would be Amos Ray, who is listed aged 40-50 in the 1840 Muhlenberg County census.

1830 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census:

Amos Ray	3 males 0-5	1 female 0-5
	1 male 30-40	1 female 30-40
	1 male 50-60	

(note: three Worthingtons are listed in the 1830 Muhlenberg County census, William "of Island" age 60-70, Rev. Thomas age 40-50, and William L age 30-40 - ? son of Andrew).

1840 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census:

Amos Ray	2 males 0-5	1 female 0-5
	2 males 5-10	1 female 5-10
	2 males 10-15	1 female 40-50
	1 male 40-50	

(note: three Worthingtons are listed in the 1840 Muhlenberg County census, the same three as in the 1830 census).

Andrew Worthington last appears in the Muhlenberg County tax records in 1835. He would have then been about age 60. No will or estate records were recorded in Muhlenberg

County for Andrew Worthington, in the 1835 tax list he is shown as owning no land. From 1802 through 1826 the tax records show Andrew owning from 300 to 700 acres, after 1826 he paid no taxes on any land, Andrew Worthington's wife may have died between 1810-1820. In the 1810 census a female is listed in Andrew's household who was about the same age as Andrew, but she is not listed in his household in the 1820 census. The 1810 and 1820 censuses suggest that Andrew Worthington may have had about six children, who were born in the years of:

male	born	1795-1800	(? William born c1797)
female	born	1795-1800	
female	born	1795-1800	(? Polly Ray born c1799)
male	born	1800-1810	(? Bradford born 1805)
female	born	1800-1810	
male	born	1810-1820	

William Worthington born about 1797 appears in the 1820, 1830, 1840 and 1850 censuses of Muhlenberg County. He married twice, both times in Muhlenberg County, first to Esther Pitt on July 3, 1818 and second to Elizabeth Stringer on November 2, 1837. Among the names of William's sons were: Andrew, William Bradford (? named after his brother Bradford, brn c1805), and Amos (? named after his brother-in-law, Amos Ray). Polly Ray, known sister of Bradford Worthington, is listed in the 1830, 1840 and 1850 censuses of Muhlenberg County. Polly married Amos Ray about 1824-1825, it is not listed in the marriages of Muhlenberg County. Polly Worthington Ray named one of her sons Andrew, possibly after her father. Other possible daughters of Andrew Worthington are the following, who were married in Muhlenberg County:

Rachel Worthington	Thomas Files	21 Oct 1813
Rebecca Worthington	Henry Williams	20 Dec 1822
Permelia Worthington	Silas Fuqua	2 Jan 1840

The above were not daughters of (Judge) William Worthington, born 1761, of Island, Ky., or of his son Rev. Thomas Worthington, born 1786, and thus appear likely to be related to Andrew.

In the 1850 census of Muhlenberg County three Worthington households were enumerated, those of Rev. Thomas born 1786, William born c1797 and his son William B. born c1825. Their listings, as well as that of Mary ("Polly") Worthington Ray, appeared as follows:

1850 Muhlenberg County, Ky. census:

#116	Worthington, Thomas	64	m	farmer	Ky.
	Rebecca	54	f		Geo.
	Marcus L.	21	m		Ky.
	Thomas M.	20	m		Ky.
	Samuel G.	18	m		Ky.
	Elizabeth K.	16	f		Ky.
	William F.	15	m		Ky.
	Martha A.	12	f		Ky.

	Aaron W.	10	m		Ky.
	Ann M.	8	f		Ky.
	Alfonzo B.	8	m		Ky.
	George V.	6	m		Ky.
#208	Worthington, William	52	m	farmer	Ky.
	Elizabeth	38	f		Ky.
	Andrew	18	m		Ky.
	Cassandra	15	f		Ky.
	Joseph	10	m		Ky.
	Lucinda	8	f		Ky.
	Rebecca J.	6	f		Ky.
	Amos	3	m		Ky.
	Barie A.	2	f		Ky.
	Joshua	5/12	m		Ky.
#209	Worthington, William B.	25	m		Ky.
	Margaret	19	f		Ky.
	Sarah	10/12	f		Ky.
#249	Ray, Mary	50	f		Ky.
	Andrew	20	m		Ky.
	Elijah .	18	f		Ky.
	Mary J.	16	f		Ky.
	Amos B.	13	m		Ky.
	James A.	11	m		Ky.
	John J.	8	m		Ky.

In the 1799-1850 tax lists of Muhlenberg County 14 Worthingtons are listed, they and the years in which they appeared are as follows:

- Benjamin 1799-1806 (By 1815 Benjamin was in Illinois. Benjamin and wife Mary of Illinois Territory on August 14, 1815 sold to Ralph Vickers 200 acres on Pond Run in Muhlenberg County, Muhl.Co. deed book 4 page 253. Benjamin of Illinois on September 4, 1827 sold to David Short land in Muhlenberg County, Muhl.Co. deed book 6 page 453).
- James, Sr. 1799-1806
- James, Jr. 1799-1806 (James Sr., James Jr. and Benjamin are all last listed in 1806).
- William 1799-1835 (Judge William born 1761, died 1848 in Mississippi).
- Thomas 1799-1850 (Rev. Thomas, 1786-1853, son of Judge William Worthington and Mary Meason).

- Samuel 1818-1825 (born 1790, son of Judge William Worthington and Mary Meason).
- Isaac 1819-1825 (born 1792, son of Judge William Worthington and Mary Meason).
- Elisha 1828-1831 (born 1808, son of Judge William Worthington and Mary Meason).
- Marcus 1850 (born c1829, son of Rev. Thomas Worthington and Rebecca Hart).
- Andrew 1799-1835 (born 1770-1775)
- William 1819-1850 (born c1797, ? son of Andrew Worthington).
- William B. 1848-1850 (born c1825, son of William Worthington, born c1797, and Esther Pitt).
- Isaac 1848-1850
- Bradford 1826-1827 (born 1805, ? son of Andrew Worthington).

Rev. Thomas Worthington died January 27, 1853 (he or no other Worthington recorded a will in Muhlenberg County). Following Thomas' death his three children by his first marriage to Mary Elinor Barnes brought suit in the Muhlenberg County circuit court against Thomas' widow, Rebecca, and the children of his second marriage, petitioning the court for a division of Thomas Worthington's lands (Muhl.Co. order book G). They, did not carry through with the petition and the suit was dismissed. The petitioners as named in the suit were: Joseph L. Gregory and wife Emily, James Henry and wife Caroline, and William B. Lawton and wife Matilda. Matilda Worthington born about 1814, married William B. Lawton September 28, 1837 in Muhlenberg County, died after 1850. Caroline Worthington born May 9, 1815, married James Henry, November 17, 1835 in Muhlenberg County, died November 30, 1882. Emily Barnes Worthington born May 4, 1817, married Joseph L. Gregory, October 6, 1836 in Muhlenberg County, died November 18, 1881. Matilda Lawton, Caroline Henry and Emily Gregory all appear in the 1850 Muhlenberg County census. Only one of the children of Thomas Worthington by his second marriage to Rebecca Hart married in Muhlenberg County, Elizabeth K. married Peter Hendricks on September 10, 1853. Whereas the three children of Thomas Worthington by his first marriage remained in Kentucky, his second wife, Rebecca, and her children according to the History of Muhlenberg County (Otto A. Rothert, John P. Morton & Company, Louisville, Ky., 1913, p21) removed to Mississippi.

On my trip to Greenville I spent four hours checking for Worthingtons in the will, deed, order books, circuit court records and library sources, Also I spent another three hours

researching at the Owensboro library and organizing the material. For my research time I request \$15.00. When I get access to the early marriage records of Lincoln County, Ky. I will check for Andrew Worthington. Also in the future I will keep Andrew Worthington and his family in mind and if I make any discoveries you will be hearing from me. Thank you for contacting me.
Bye for now.

Yours truly,
Jerry Long

1701 Alexander Ave.
Owensboro, KY 42301

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Aug 9, 1986

Mr. Jerry Long
1701 Alexander Ave.
Owensboro, Ky. 42301

Dear Jerry:

I am glad you found what you did in Greenville, Ky. It will be most usefull to me as very little is known about my great grandfather Wm Bradford Worthington before he came to Ill. The most positive thing that we know for sure was that my grandfather (son of Bradford) Peter Franklin Worthington did write letters to his first cous. Amos Ray died returning from New Orleans 1840. Eliz Ray dau. of Amos & Polly Ry. Eliz married Ed McEven (Ewen) and all three are buried at New Prov. Cem. 3 mi. east of Hanson, Ky. Family stories claim Bradford had a brother, Wm, sisters Mary (Polly_ & Susie (Sarah). There is a Wm Worthington buried at cem. Just west edge of Sacramento, Ky. A lot of Worthingtons there. Polly at New Prov. There is a Sarah Whitaker at Worthington Cem. At ?Saro. I have doubts about that Sarah belongs to my direct family.

If I understand you, I owe you \$15.00, but I believe you said that you had 5 hrs. of work for me at \$5.00 per hr. Please find cashier's check & five dollar bill. Please do not delay in asking for more money if I have under paid you.

My wife & I get so short of time to do the research needed when we get to Ky. Then we run off to Miss. Thinking there might have been some clues. Made good use of Greenville (Alex Percy) library.

Hoping to meet you in person sometime

Sincerely
Arthur Glenn Worthington

Box 107

Mt. Sterling, Ill. 62353

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Bradford William Worthington was born 4 May 1804 Muhlenberg County, KY and died 26 May 1881 Brown County, Illinois. He was buried at the Perry Cemetery, Cooperstown, Brown County, IL.

Worthington Reunion

<https://eworthington.tripod.com/worthingtonreunion.htm>

Bradford Worthington was born May 4, 1804, in Kentucky. As a young man he migrated to Brown County, Illinois (then Schuyler County). There he purchased a tract of land in Cooperstown Township, four miles east of Hersman and built a log cabin on it. Bradford lived and worked on this farm, along with his sons all of his life. During the Black Hawk War he joined the Illinois Volunteers, serving under Capt. Hart Fellows. He was honorably discharged at Rushville, Illinois, on the 12th day of July A.D. 1831. For this service the government gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining the tract he already owned.

In 1833 Bradford married Lucinda Hills, daughter of Robert N. and Elizabeth Angel Hills. They were the parents of six children: Matilda, Elizabeth, William J., Robert, Jonathon, and Lucinda. Robert and Lucinda died in infancy. Lucinda Hills, died at the age of 30 years. In 1846, he married Elizabeth Dunbar, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Huffman Dunbar. Nine children were born to this union; Henry, Andrew Jackson, Almarinda Jane, Thomas J., Peter Franklin, Bradford (Brook), Francis Marion, Lucy Ann, and Amos Landow. Elizabeth, wife of Bradford, died in 1870 and he died in 1881. They were buried in the Perry Cemetery, Cooperstown Township, Brown County.

"Bradford Worthington was a self-made man. He earned the respect of all with whom he had any dealings. The children attended the Hill School and Cross Roads Church. The family enjoyed the quiet peaceful life they lived. There was always work to be done and each shared his responsibility. Besides school and church there was occasional entertainment in the school or home. In the hustle and bustle of today's living, it makes some of us long for some of the quiet every day living of those days long past. Bradford and his two wives have certainly left a large family to posterity." *Goldie Brown Ancelet*

The Worthington Family Reunion is held each summer to celebrate the life of Bradford, and his descendants. Please join us in at the reunion and share your family tree, histories, and photos. We are currently working on a Worthington Family History Project. If you are unable to attend, but would like to participate, please mail, or e-mail, your family information to Eileen Worthington or Joyce Brewer.