

Nancy Catherine (Shadwick) Graves (c1852-1924)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 2003

e-mail from Jerry Long to Carol Arrington, 8 September 2002:

I have recently published a book on "The Family of William Boucher and Milly Faris". William Boucher & Milly were married in Madison County, KY on 1 March 1791. William was born about 1765 in south-western Virginia and died in Hancock County, KY on 30 June 1848. After living in Madison County several years later lived in Daviess & Hancock Counties, KY, where they have many descendants. The book is hard bound, with a black cover & gold letters, has 441 pages and has an all name index. I am requesting \$49.00 (or \$52.00 for mail orders). Send inquiries to Jerry Long (j-long@prodigy.net), 2906 Redford Dr., Owensboro, KY 42303.

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6/30/03

Dear Jerry

Thanks for trusting me with your book. I felt like an idiot when I realized I had forgotten my check book. I also forgot to get you to sign it. I have had a chance to look through it now and I am impressed with how well you presented the material. I like to know exactly what source is being used to prove or support different facts and you have handled that really well.

I wish I could be satisfied about my Great grandmother Nancy Catherine Shadwick. On page 73 you list her as a daughter of Isabelle Beauchamp but on 323 my page lists her as a daughter of Martha Boucher. I am never sure how to handle possible illegitimate births. I listed all the facts that I had about her birth and just decided that there were more reasons to believe she was Martha's daughter than Isabelle's. I would be interested in your opinion in your opinion of my reasoning. OK or faulty?

Her death certificate gives her birth date as May 28, 1856
but her tombstone says May 28, 1855.

1900 Census gives her birth date as May 1858

1880 census she is age 27 birth 1853 or 54

1860 census she is age 8 birth 1852 or 53.

Research wisdom states the date closest to the actual event is most likely to be accurate. Her brother James Bell was born Dec 15, 1854

Her brother William Warren was born Nov 22, 1856. This makes a birth in May of '54 '55 or '56 very unlikely if not physically impossible.

James was 5 and William was 3 in 1860 so their dates match the census.

The death certificate names James Shadwick her father and Martha Butcher as her mother. James and Martha married Feb 22, 1854.

There is no documentation for the death of Isabel Beauchamp Shadwick but her daughter Liza Jane was born about 1848. I can't find them in the 1850 census so don't know if she was counted in that.

So is Nancy Catherine the youngest child of the first wife or the oldest child of the 2nd wife born pre-marriage?

There are 4 pieces of evidence for Martha and one piece that could go either way. Because her name is on The death certificate and there seems to have been a real effort to place Nancy's birth within the marriage, I have decided to accept Martha Boucher.

Thanks for all your hard work. I have to get busy now filling in some of my blanks.

Sincerely
Carol Arrington

3778 Lark Court
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

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e-mail from Jerry Long to Carol Arrington, July 2003:

Carol:

I received your letter. Thanks for your purchase.

I apologize for the delay in replying. I wanted to check out a few more things in the hopes of finding something that would prove the parentage of Nancy Catherine (Shadwick) Graves. I did not fully realize the question about who her mother was. From the information I had I thought it was pretty clear-cut.

I have an ancestor chart compiled by your mother in 1974. She lists Nancy Catherine's (1850-1924) mother as Isabell Beauchamp Shadwick. Nancy Catherine was her grandmother and I thought she may have personally known facts that proved her relationship to the other children of James Shadwick.

The 1860 census proves that Nancy Catherine was born previous to the marriage of James Shadwick & Martha Boucher - this is shown by both her age of 8 and the birth order of the children. Later census reports make her younger but the birth order as proven by other records show that these later censuses have to be wrong. Also where there is a conflict between census reports a general rule is that the older the source is the more accurate it generally is. Her birth thus has to be between 1850-1853.

I suspect that James Shadwick's wife, Isabell, died during this same period of 1850-1853. The 1850 census would have helped to prove this point but regrettably his family was apparently missed in this census. They should have been in Daviess County - James is listed in the 1850 Daviess County tax list (he is then shown as owning 125 acres on Panther Creek).

All in all I still have to trust your mother's interpretation that her grandmother was born to James Shadwick's first marriage. The one fact that does indicate she was a child of Martha Boucher was Nancy Catherine's death certificate. I have been through thousands of death certificates and a frequent error I have found in cases where there are multiple marriages is that the name of a step-mother" is given as the mother. This is understandable because the stepmother is the only mother the grandchildren have had personal contact with. Because I have seen this error so many times I did not put much credence in the listing of Nancy Catherine's mother on her death certificate.

I am sorry I cannot offer some more definitive proof.

Best wishes,
Jerry Long

2906 Redford Dr.
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Climb Your Family Tree, Genealogical Newspaper Columns In The Hancock Clarion, Hancock County, KY, by Dorothy Hendry [Watkins], Cook & McDowell Publication, Owensboro, KY, c1980, Volume I, p.95:

Hancock County Delinquent Tax List for 1830 -
"Richard Boucher, removed to St. Louis"

[note: Richard was listed in 1829 Hancock tax list, was absent in 1830, and reappears in the 1831 list]

Daviess County, Kentucky Marriage Book A

pA4 Richard Butcher to Miss Fanny Richardson, 17 Feb 1831, by Stephen F. Ogden, M. F. Minister [note Could not find original in loose marriage documents at Daviess County Courthouse.]

Hancock County, Kentucky Marriage Book 1B

p.18 Richard Boucher to Sarah Anderson, 17 Oct 1839, by Henry W. Hughes, N. G., both of full age.

1840 Hancock County, Kentucky Census

p.6 Boucher, Richard 1 male 30-40 2 females 5-10
1 female 40-50

1850 Hancock County, Kentucky Census

p.282 #229	Oliver, James	57	m		VA
	James Lewis	24	m		KY
	Elizabeth	19	f	[nee; Boutcher]	KY
p.287 #318	Boucher, Richard	45	m	farmer - RE \$720	KY
	Sally	50	f		VA
	Martha	15	f		KY

Hancock County, Kentucky Deed Book 5

p.353 17 Oct 1851, Alexander Bivens, & wife Catharine, sold a tract of land to Richard Boucher.

p.354 4 Feb 1852, Charles C. Cavender, & wife Riller, sold 14 acres, to heirs, of Richard Boucher, deceased, which Boucher had contracted to purchase. Heirs listed were: Elizabeth, wife of James L. Oliver, and Martha Boucher.

Hancock County, Kentucky Order Book 4

p.198 26 Jan 1852, James Lewis Oliver was appointed administrator of the estate of Richard Boucher, deceased.

Hancock County, Kentucky Marriage Book 1B

p.60 James L. Oliver to Miss Elizabeth Boucher, 2 July 1850, by James E. Stone, minister of Baptist Church. Richard Boucher, father of young lady gave consent in writing.

p.82 James Shadwick to Martha Boucher, 22 Feb 1854, by James E. Stone, minister of Baptist Church. Married at residence of Silas Richardson [who married Lydia Shadwick, a sister of James; another sister of James Shadwick, Margaret, married Dudley Bevins, son of Alexander Bevins & Nancy Ann Boutcher]. Witnesses included James L. Oliver & Alex Bevins.

1852-1861 Hancock County, KY Vital Statistics

7/10 Dec 1853 Joseph Oliver, born to James L. Oliver & Elizabeth Boucher.

14 Sep 1853 James T. Oliver died, age 18 months, parents: James & Elizabeth Oliver.

1860 Daviess County, Kentucky Census

p.714 #472	Shadwick, James	45	m		KY
	Martha	25	f	[nee Boutcher]	KY
	Costen B.	14	m		KY
	Elizabeth	16	f		KY
	E. J.	12	f		KY
	Nancy C.	8	f		KY
	James B.	5	m		KY
	William W.	3	m		KY
	Lydia M.	1	f		KY

[Note: James Shadwick, son of Thomas Shadwick & Barbara Harrell., was born ca 1815 Nelson County, KY, married first Isabell Beauchamp, 31 July 1835, Spencer County, IN]. James L. & Elizabeth Boucher Oliver were not found in the 1860 & subsequent censuses of Hancock or Daviess Counties, KY.

1870 Daviess County, Kentucky Census, p.163 Knottsville Precinct, #256

#256	Shaddock, James	56	m		KY
	Martha	26	f	[nee Boutcher I	KY
	James B.	16	m		KY
	William	14	m		KY
	Lydia M.	10	f		KY
	Mary A.	9	f		KY
	Lucindy	7	f		KY
	Benjamin	1	m		KY

1880 Daviess County, Kentucky Census, p.337, Yelvington Precinct, #176

Shadrack, James	67	widowed - farmer	KY-KY-VA
Mary A.	19	daughter	KY-KY-KY
Lucinda M.	15	daughter	KY-KY-KY
Ben	12	son	KY-KY-KY
Elizabeth	58	sister	KY-VA-VA

1852-1861 Hancock County, KY Vital Statistics

22 Feb 1854 James Shadwick married Martha Boucher. Groom age 38, widower, residence Daviess County, born Nelson County, KY. Bride age 20, first marriage, born & residence Hancock County.

1852-1861 Daviess County, KY Vital Statistics

15 Dec 1854 James Bell, born to James Shadwick & Martha Ann Boucher.
22 Nov 1855 William W., born to James Shadwick & Martha A. Boucher.
20 Jul 1861 M. A., female, born to James Shadwick & M. A. Butcher.

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History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, p865:

BENJAMIN SHADWICK was born in Nelson County, Ky., May 13, 1824. His father, Thomas Shadwick, was a native of Virginia and an early settler of Nelson County. His early education was limited to the log-cabin subscription schools, he having to work on the farm. His parents came to Daviess County in 1824, and he has always lived here with the exception of six years spent in Hancock County, just across from Blackford. He now owns a farm of 156 acres three miles northeast of Yelvington. He was married in August, 1850, to Martha Oliver. Four children were born to them, only three now living – Milly, Thomas and Barbara. Mrs. Shadwick died in August, 1860. In 1861 Mr. Shadwick married Elizabeth Edwards. They have eight children – Lydia, Benjamin, Nancy, Josephine, Mary, Palestine, Elizabeth and Horace D.S.