

Bentley family
"B" music

April 5, 1973

Mrs. Ina Jean Bentley Gillam
406 South Chickasaw
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

Dear Mrs. Gillam:

I received your letter enquiring about the Bentleys of Fleming County, Kentucky with the enclosed census data, in which you stated that you had acquired my name from the Western Heraldry Organization. I have never heard of this organization and cannot imagine how they happened to have my name in a list they circulate.

My Bentleys are from New England. My grandfather was born in Vermont, where his family had lived since the time of the American Revolution. Prior to that time they had lived in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

I think the Kentucky Bentleys descend from a Virginia family. I know that the name occurs in the colonial records of York County, Virginia, and probably in other counties of that state.

Enclosed is a photocopy of an earlier letter I sent you on the subject, which is filed in the Bentley family file here. I am adding the data you sent in your current letter to this file also with the hope that it will be helpful to other Bentley researchers and perhaps someone seeing it will contact you with further information.

I'm very sorry to learn of your fire and hope that you didn't lose irreplaceable records on your families. That would be tragic.

Best wishes,

James R. Bentley
Secretary

March 31, 1973

Dear *Mr. Bentley,*

I am writing to you because your name appeared on the list sent to me by the:

Western Heraldry Organization
P.O. Box 19281
Denver, Colorado 80219

As a person interested in Research on the Surname BENTLEY in FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

I trace my ancestry to George D. Bentley born in Kentucky 15th October 1796 --died Fleming Co., Kentucky January 14, 1881.

Apparently his father was Michael Bentley and he had at least brothers William and Isaiah.

I am a descendant through Thomas H. Bentley son of George D. Bentley and Catherine Bishop Bentley.

I am enclosing two mimeographed sheets on census information I have collected on this family.

If you have any knowledge about this family further than what I have, I would certainly appreciate knowing about it!

I am also enclosing a brief story about Thomas Bentley of Kaskaskia-- during the time of the Revolutionary War. Has anyone information if he had descendants and if so, whom?

Please don't expect any more mimeographed information from me soon-- the entire upstairs of my house -- including the mimeograph burned on the 24th of December. Actually the address I am giving you is for a burned out house -- but I hope to rebuild there -- and still consider that as MY PERMANENT ADDRESS. The postman has orders to and is still delivering mail there.

Most of my genealogical material was downstairs -- but some -- including BENTLEY information BURNED. Another example why we better collect all we can while we can -- and get it distributed about so that SOMEONE WILL HAVE IT!!

Hope we can pool some information and save duplication of the same effort on the part of different people.

Sincerely,

Ina Jean Gillam
Ina Jean Bert ley Gillam
406 So. Chickasaw
Bartlesville, Oklahoma
74003

censtus records
GEORGE D. BENTLEY AND DESCENDANTS
1850

FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY 9th day of August
House number 318 Family number 331

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	51	M	Farmer	Kentucky
Catherine	45	F		Kentucky
Margaret R.	21	F		Kentucky
Bathshoba	23	F		Kentucky
Thomas H.	19	M		Kentucky
Richard	15	M		Kentucky
Eveline	17	F		Kentucky
Elisa H.	15	F		Kentucky
James H.	11	M		Kentucky
Ara C.	0	F		Kentucky
John D.	1	M		Kentucky

Household 372

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	25	M	Farmer	Kentucky
Mary J.	27	F		Kentucky

1860

15th day of June District No. 1 Fleming Co. P. O. Elizaville

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	62	M		Kentucky
Catharine	55	F	Housekeeper	Kentucky
Marsheby	34	F	House Assistant	Ky
James M.	21	M	Farm hand	Kentucky
Ara Catharine	16	F	House Assistant	Ky
John D.	11	M	Farmer	Ky

Household 60 48

RICHARD M. BENTLEY	25	M	Farmer	Kentucky
Jo Ann	23	F	Housekeeper	Kentucky

Household 13 9 P. O. Elizaville District No. 1 14th day of June 1860

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	35	M		Kentucky
Sarah B.	23	F		Kentucky
James H.	9	M		Kentucky
Mary J.	7	F		Kentucky
Nancy C.	3	F		Kentucky
William G.	1	M		Kentucky

17th day of July 1860 WENDELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS --Ross Township

Household 1941 1948

THOMAS BENTLEY	28	M		Kentucky
Cassander	24	F		Kentucky

1870

Fleming County, Kentucky P. P. Oakwoods, Ky, Centerville, District
House number 118 Family Number 33

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	72	M	Farmer	3000	800	Ky
Mary (wife)	45	F	married within the year (December)			
Cheba	42	F				
Jan D.	21	M				
Mary	20	F				

MRS. INA JEAN GILLAM
 406 South Chickasaw
 Bartlesville, Okla. 74003

1870 Continued

Descendants of George D. Bentley, Fleming County, Kentucky, continued

Household 149 Family number 144

		JAMES M. BENTLEY	30	M		350	Kentucky
		Isabel	26	F			Kentucky
		Ann E.	3	F			Kentucky
		Alfaretta	1	F			Kentucky
		Mary S.	3/12	F			Kentucky
142	142	RICHARD M. BENTLEY	35	M Farmer		500	Kentucky
		Jean	34	F			Kentucky
		Elizabeth E.	11	F			Kentucky
		Enelda	8	F			Kentucky
74	69	THOMAS H. BENTLEY	39	M Farmer		500	Kentucky
		Cassa A.	34	F			Kentucky
		Albert M.	9	M			Kentucky <u>**Illinois</u>
		Jno W.	8	M			Kentucky
		Lora A.	6	F			Kentucky
		Elizabeth C.	3	F			Kentucky
		Rebecca A.	2	F			Kentucky
		Jas. T.	4/12	M			Kentucky
219	215	GEORGE BISHOP BENTLEY	45	M Farmer	1000	1000	Ky
		Sarah	36	F			Kentucky
		Ja H.	19	M			Kentucky
		Mary J.	17				Kentucky
		Nancy C.	13				Kentucky
		Wm	10	M			Kentucky
		Elizabeth	9	F			Kentucky
		Margaret	7	F			Kentucky
		Mattie	4	F			Kentucky
		not named	5/12	M			Kentucky

1880

7th of June FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Centerville, Precinct No. 6

103	GEORGE D. BENTLEY	83	M Farmer	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Mary	54	F wife keeping house	Ky	Ky	Ky
104	JOHN BENTLEY	31	M	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Mary	30	F	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Hattie	8	F	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Robert	7	M	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Samuel	6	M	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Mary J.	1	F	Ky	Ky	Ky
105	J. M. BENTLEY	41	M Farmer	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Belle	36	F Wife	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Annie	13	F Daughter	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Alfaretta	10	F Son	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Ludie	10	F Daughter	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Cassie	5	F Daughter	Ky	Ky	Ky
	James	1	M Son	Ky	Ky	Ky

INTRODUCTION TO ONE THOMAS BENTLEY
ACTIVE IN KENTUCKY AREA
In The American Revolutionary Times

Compiled by Ina Jean Gillam 1972

This account is not meant to imply that this IS OR IS NOT OUR BENTLEY line! However, here is a very interesting Thomas Bentley from the time and area where my tracing back KNOWN Bentley ancestors becomes fuzzy. This story is so colorful that I feel one who is studying early Kentucky Bentley's should at least be aware that there was such a BENTLEY!

This information is taken from two volumes --both from the COLLECTIONS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY VOLUMES edited by Clarence Walworth Alvord -- the Virginia Series, Volume II KASKASKIA RECORDS 1778-1790 and the Centennial History of Illinois THE ILLINOIS COUNTRY 1673-1818.

Some time just previous to the outbreak of the American Revolution an Englishman established his permanent home at Kaskaskia. This was Thomas Bentley, whose early career is shrouded in obscurity. He came to West Florida from London, probably soon after the French and Indian War, and established at Manchac a store as a center for trading up and down the Mississippi. Not before the seventies did he transfer his headquarters to Kaskaskia; at least his name does not appear in the British records. From his first appearance in the Illinois he managed a successful and profitable business. In 1777 he married Marguerite Bauvais, a daughter of one of the richest and most important French families in the community, thereby establishing his position both financially and socially in the Illinois country

Rocheblave was the British commandant at Kaskaskia. Bentley soon became the leader of the opposition to Rocheblave. While it is obviously prejudiced testimony, it is interesting to note that in 1780 Rocheblave asserted that one man had been responsible for the fall of the Illinois country, and that one was Thomas Bentley. This statement reveals his firm conviction that Bentley had played the traitor to the British cause and had been instrumental in bringing the Virginians to Illinois.

The Virginia officers, who accompanied Clark to Illinois, evidently regarded themselves under some obligation to Bentley for, as soon as they had captured Vincennes in the spring of 1779, Captain Bowman and Clark's secretary, Jean Girault, wrote to the British authorities concerning his release. For such a man the Virginians would have had little regard; but their act is easily explained, if he had been the means of conveying the information to them that made their undertaking successful.

With Captain John Rogers in 1781 --on their way to the government (Virginia) were Messers Dodge, Dejean, & Bentley, with several Indians, of which Battist the Kaskaskaia Chife was One. In 1783 Bentley petitioned the Virginia Assembly for payment of money owing him.

The widow Margaret Bentley was petitioning for a part of Thomas Bentley's estate in 1787. Here is the information that she was not of age when Bentley married her. It seems she concedes Bentley never lived with her after release from prison, she says he never brought the matter into court, and it is therefore probable that her late husband pardoned her for the misunderstandings that they may have had. Although one sentence reads "to deprive of her rights a wife and children" I never find any children named.

Bentley family

*See
✓ misc.*

September 14, 1961

Mr. John C. Vanek
United Genealogists
69 West Washington Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

Dear Mr. Vanek:

As our staff is small, we are not able to undertake genealogical work of an extensive nature. Inasmuch as the Bentleys were in Louisville during recent days, there should be many records for you to consult in your efforts to locate George H. Bentley.

I have looked in the Louisville City Directories for 1916, 1917, and 1918. In the latter two listings is the name of a George H. Bentley, paper hanger in the employ of Snyder and Barnes, and a resident of New Albany, Indiana. At the present time there is no George H. Bentley either in our Louisville Directory or in the New Albany phone book. In the latter, however, is the name of W. Clinton Bentley, 317 E. 16th St. New Albany, Indiana. Inasmuch as this is the only listing for a Bentley, he may be a son of George H.

Inasmuch as Mrs. Caroline Kessack Bentley gave generously of her talents in behalf of the widows and orphans of the Roman Catholic Church, there may be some record of her in their files. I suggest that you write the Librarian at the Bishop's Residence, 1118 South Third Street, Louisville, Kentucky. If you would care for experienced genealogical assistance in finding Mr. Bentley, I suggest that you write one of these two genealogists: Mrs. Charles E. Craik, 418 Oxford Place, Louisville 7, Kentucky; Mrs. W.E. Satori, 317 Lotis Way, Louisville 7, Kentucky.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Dorothy Thomas Cullen
Curator and Librarian

ssc

UNITED GENEALOGISTS

69 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS

AUG 11 1961

August 9, 1961

Filson Club,
Louisville, Kentucky

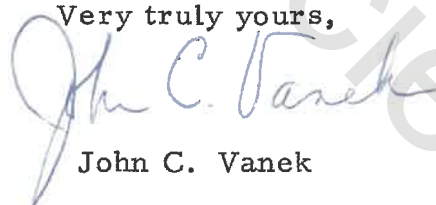
Gentlemen:

I send this communication to you at the suggestion of Dr. Oren A. Beatty, Hospital Director of the State Tuberculosis Hospital, District Two, Louisville.

I am endeavoring to locate one George H. Bentley in connection with the recovery of valuable unclaimed property rights. Our research discloses that the said George H. Bentley was born in or around Louisville in about 1877, the son of George and Caroline R. Kessack Bentley. The aforesaid Caroline R. Kessack Bentley died in the State Tuberculosis Hospital aforesaid on June 20, 1917. Mrs. Bentley was an artist of considerable reputation devoting her talents to the creation of pictures which were sold for the benefit of institutions maintained for widows and orphans by the Roman Catholic church in the City of Louisville.

I take the privilege of writing to you hopeful that you will check your records to ascertain if any information is contained therein pertaining to the said Caroline R. Kessack Bentley and/or her son, George H. Bentley. Enclosed is a self-addressed stamped envelope for the convenience of your reply and I include my thanks for your courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



John C. Vanek

JCV:me
enc

AUG 14 1972

406 So. Chickasaw
Bartlesville, Okla. 74003
August 9, 1972

Filson Club Library
118 W. Breckenridge
Louisville, Kentucky

Attention (If available)
Mr. James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts of
The Filson Club

Dear Mr. Bentley;

I have only been looking into my family history for the last year or so, and am still somewhat clumsy with my inquiries.

However, when I saw the reference to you, a Bentley, in a position of having early Kentucky history available, I could not help but wonder how much you know about the history of the Bentley's of early Kentucky.

I am enclosing some readings from Fleming County, Kentucky Census. I am sure that my great-great grandfather was George D. Bentley whose gravestone in Poplar Run Cemetery Elizaville, Ky. gives his birth date as October 15, 1796 and his death date as January 14, 1881. The 1880 Census says that both his father and mother were born in Kentucky. There was a Michael Bentley living in Fleming County Kentucky in 1820 who appears to be the same Michael Bentley that was in Nicholas County in 1810. Circumstantial evidence makes it appear that Michael is the father and other sons besides George D. are probably Isiah Bentley and William Bentley.

Bentley's from the Revolutionary War that appear in a number of references I have found are James Bentley and John Bentley who both served as Privates in the army of George Rogers Clark. I have corresponded with a man in California who has Bible records from the family of this John Bentley -- and they seem to rule out my line as descending from him. Some references to James Bentley give a partial list of children-- but not complete -- so that is still an unanswered line so far as I am concerned. Also there was a William Bentley Capt from Virginia who got land in Kentucky -but I have not found much definite about him. Also there is another line down in Pike County that seems to descend from a Daniel Bentley from North Carolina.

If you have suggestions as to the origin of my George D. and probably his father Michael -- I would certainly appreciate ANY help.

Sincerely,
Ina Jean Gillam
(Mrs.) Ina Jean Bentley Gillam
406 So. Chickasaw
Bartlesville, Okla.
74003

census records
 GEORGE D. BENTLEY AND DESCENDANTS
 1850

FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY 9th day of August
 House number 318 Family number 331

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	51	M	Farmer	Kentucky
Catherine	45	F		Kentucky
Margaret A.	21	F		Kentucky
Bathsheba	23	F		Kentucky
Thomas H.	19	M		Kentucky
Richard	15	M		Kentucky
Eveline	17	F		Kentucky
Eliza W.	15	F		Kentucky
James H.	11	M		Kentucky
Ara G.	6	F		Kentucky
John D.	1	M		Kentucky

*Sister to
 Richard Moore
 Bishop
 who became
 Governor of Ohio
 1878-1880*

*great grandfather
 of
 Mrs Ina Jean (Bentley)
 Gilliam
 406 So Chickasaw
 Bartlesville, Okla
 74003*

Household 372

(for Bishop)

GEORGE B. BENTLEY	25	M	Farmer	Kentucky
Mary J.	27	F		Kentucky

1860

15th day of June District No. 1 Fleming Co. P. O. Elizaville

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	62	M		Kentucky
Catharine	55	F	Housekeeper	Kentucky
Marsheby	34	F	House Assistant	Ky
James M.	21	M	Farm hand	Kentucky
Ara Catharine	16	F	House Assistant	Ky
John D.	11	M	Farmer	Ky

Household 60 48

RICHARD H. BENTLEY	25	M	Farmer	Kentucky
Jo Ann	23	F	Housekeeper	Kentucky

Household 13 9 P. O. Elizaville District No. 1 14th day of June 1860

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	35	M		Kentucky
Sarah B.	23	F		Kentucky
James F.	9	M		Kentucky
Mary J.	7	F		Kentucky
Nancy C.	3	F		Kentucky
William G.	1	M		Kentucky

17th day of July 1860 WENDELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS --Ross Township

Household 1941 1948

THOMAS BENTLEY	28	M		Kentucky
Cassander	24	F		Kentucky

1870

Fleming County, Kentucky P. P. Oakwoods, Ky, Centerville, District
 House number 148 Family Number 33

GEORGE D. BENTLEY	72	M	Farmer	3000	800	Ky
Mary (wife)	45	F	married within the year			(December)
Sheba	42	F				
John D.	21	M				
Mary	20	F				

1870 Continued
 Descendants of George D. Bentley, Fleming County, Kentucky, continued

Household 149		Family number 144						
		JAMES M. BENTLEY	30	M		350		Kentucky
		Isabel	26	F				Kentucky
		Ann E.	3	F				Kentucky
		Alfaretta	1	F				Kentucky
		Mary S.	3/12	F				Kentucky
142	142	RICHARD M. BENTLEY	35	M Farmer		500		Kentucky
		Jean	34	F				Kentucky
		Elizabeth E.	11	F				Kentucky
		Iselda	8	F				Kentucky
74	69	THOMAS H. BENTLEY	39	M Farmer		500		Kentucky
		Cassa A.	34	F				Kentucky
		Albert M.	9	M				Kentucky
		Jno W.	8	M				Kentucky
		Lora A.	6	F				Kentucky
		Elizabeth C.	3	F				Kentucky
		Rebecca A.	2	F				Kentucky
		Jas. T.	4/12	M				Kentucky
219	215	GEORGE BISHOP BENTLEY	45	M Farmer	1000	1000		Ky
		Sarah	36	F				Kentucky
		Ja H.	19	M				Kentucky
		Mary J.	17					Kentucky
		Nancy C.	13					Kentucky
		Wm	10	M				Kentucky
		Elizabeth	9	F				Kentucky
		Margaret	7	F				Kentucky
		Mattie	4	F				Kentucky
		not named	5/12	M				Kentucky

(Albert Morton Bentley)
grandfather of Ina Jean Bentley - Gillam

Should read Illinois ←

1880
 7th of June FLEMING COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Centerville, Precinct No. 6

103	GEORGE D. BENTLEY	83	M Farmer	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Mary	54	F wife keeping house	Ky	Ky	Ky
104	JOHN BENTLEY	31	M	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Mary	30	F	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Hattie	8	F	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Robert	7	M	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Samuel	6	M	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Mary J.	1	F	Ky	Ky	Ky
105	J. M. BENTLEY	41	M Farmer	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Belle	36	F Wife	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Annie	13	F Daughter	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Alfaretta	10	F Son	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Ludie	10	F Daughter	Ky	Ky	Ky
	Cassie	5	F Daughter	Ky	Ky	Ky
	James	1	M Son	Ky	Ky	Ky

August 15, 1972

Mrs. Ina Jean Bentley Gillam
406 South Chickasaw
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

Dear Mrs. Gillam:

It was nice to hear from you and to learn about your research on the Bentley family of Kentucky. We are filing your letter and its enclosures of census records on the Bentleys in our Bentley family file, where it will be available to other searchers.

I am enclosing for you a copy of a three page account of some of the Kentucky Bentleys compiled by the Fincastle Chapter of the DAR and filed in our Bentley file.

Also enclosed is some Bentley data copied from a few books here, which I hope will help you. If you have access to the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, you might search the indexes to each volume for the surname Bentley and see what turns up. If you can get to Lexington and the University of Kentucky Library, they have microfilm copies of many county records --wills, deeds, etc.-- which would be useful for your work. The Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort has other records, including the early tax lists of Kentucky which would help locate Bentleys in Kentucky.

My particular family is from New England and I am not descended from the Kentucky Bentleys, so I have no personal notes I can send. I do recall when I worked for Colonial Williamsburg, that the name Bentley occurred frequently in the colonial records of York County, Virginia.

I hope this information will be helpful to you and I wish you every success in your efforts to trace your Bentley family.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts

BENTLEY

Kentucky Vital Statistics 1852-1860, Register of the Kentucky Historical Society Vol. 48 (1950)

Fleming County Deaths

G. D. Bentley aged 40; d. Aug. 1857; b. Fleming Co. p. 173

Mary J. Bentley aged 29; d. June 1855 of consumption; b. Fleming Co.; parents Groves. p. 173

William Bentley aged 61; d. Aug. 2, 1855 of consumption; b. Ky. p. 173

John Bently aged 25; d. Oct. 1853 of consumption; b. Fleming Co.; parent Sarah Bently. p. 173

Mary E. Graves aged 35; d. Feb. 26, 1860 of consumption; b. Fleming Co.; parents George and Catherine Bentley. p. 177

Franklin County Deaths

Elizabeth Bentley age 75; d. Dec. 6, 1857; b. Fauquier Co., Va.; parents Elias and Letty Hitt. p. 362

Floyd County Deaths

Nancy J. Bentley aged 16; d. May 3, 1894 of cold; b. Floyd Co.; parents H. G. and Sally Bentley. p. 267

Fayette County Deaths

Washington Bentley aged 62; d. July 1852 of cholera; b. Va. p. 65

William M. Talley, Talley's Kentucky Papers. Dallas, 1966.

Nicholas County Marriages 1800-1815. p. 101

William Bentley to Nancy Fulton (?) June 15, 1814.

The name Bentley occurs frequently in the 1850 census of Lawrence County, Kentucky which was formed in 1821 from Floyd and Greenup Counties, according to the Register, Vol. 48, page 80.

Bentley

August 15, 1972

Mrs. Ina Jean Bentley Gillam
406 South Chickasaw
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003

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Bentley family

March 25, 1977

Mrs. Lora May Ray
RR 3, Box 155
Sullivan, Illinois 61951

Dear Mrs. Ray:

Your letter addressed to John R. Bentley at the Mormon library on Hurstbourne Lane has been given to me by the Mormons on the chance that you intended it for me.

There is a Bentley family in Virginia and I know that there were Bentleys in York County, Virginia in the late 17th century. I know little about these Bentleys and believe little has been written concerning them. A search of the Grayson County, Virginia records seems to be in order to locate your Bentleys.

My Bentley family is from New England and the information I have concerning them would be of no value to you.

I'm sorry not to have an answer for your problem, but wish you success with your search.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Secretary

Mrs. Lora May Ray
RR 3, Box 155
Sullivan, IL 61951

Nov.1,1976

John R. Bentley
% Genealogy Library at Stake Center
1000 Hurstbourne Lane
Louisville ,Ky. 40200

Dear Mr. Bentley;

A lady in Ohio sent me your name and address. I wondered if you had any data concerning my Bentley ancestors.

We'll gladly pay a reasonable fee for needed data. Inclosed is what little is known of my line.

We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Lora May

Mrs. Lora May Ray

What is known of OBEDIAH BENTLEY my ancestor
son of Jonathan & Sarah (Bedsalt) Bentley

Mrs. Lora May Ray
RR 3, Box 155
Sullivan, IL 61951

Obediah Bentley, born May 6, 1804 (Grayson Co., Va.?)
d May 5, 1884 Wilson Co. Ks. dates taken from headstone
buried Country Cem. 3 1/2 miles N of Neodesha, Ks. Cedar Twp., Wilson Co.

m- History of Dela. Co., Ind. 1881 by Helm p 206 (list of m 1827-1828)
Obediah Bentley to Rebecca Davis

Rebecca Davis, dau of ?

born ca. 1812 Ohio by census (was she born in Fayette Co., Ohio)?
died Sept. 30, 1888, 78y 18d buried in Pea Cem., Moultrie Co., Ill.
(she is the only Bentley with a headstone in Moultrie Co. - no
record of her death here) But believe she died at the home of
her dau. Sarah.

children;

Jonathan - b ca. 1829 Ind. -
Sarah S. Bentley, born Feb. 6, 1831 Delaware Co., Ind. (my ancestor)
m Hiram A. Royse - lived Moultrie Co., Ill.

Nancy Jane Bentley, born ca. 1836 Ind.
m 2-14-1861 James H. Lennox; m 2nd ? (lived Ks.)

Ethelinda Bentley - b ca. 1839 ?

Obediah Bentley, Jr. b 1837 d 1929 in Wilson Co., Ks.
m 7-29-1865 in Ill. Martha Jane Hilliard - lived Wilson Co., Ks.

Joseph Bentley, born ca. 1844 in Ind. m ?
Born Feb. 25, 1844 died May 20-1872 by headstone
He is buried with Obediah, He was not in 1870 census of Wilson Co. Ks.
but is buried there in 1872. Where was he and who had he married???

David Bentley, b ca. 1846 Ind., m in Kans. Angelia
d Aug. 26, 1881 34y ? m 2ld by headstone, buried with Obediah
lived Cedar Twp., Wilson Co., Ks.

Zachariah Bentley, b ca. 1849 Ind.
m 7-15-1869 Ill. Nancy J. Roney - lived Ks.

Oma Leticia Bentley, b ca. 1852 Moultrie Co., Ill.
m in Ks. ?

census report

1830 Census Delaware Co., Ind., Mt. Pleasant Twp.
With father (20-29) 1801-1810

1840 census of Delaware Co., Ind. Mt. Pleasant Twp.

Obadiah Bentley

- 1 female 1-4 (1836-1840)
- 2 female 5-9 (1831-1835)
- 1 male 10-14 (1826-1830)
- 1 female 20-29 (1811-1820) Rebecca
- 1 male 30-39 (1801-1810) Obediah
- 1 male 60-69 (1771-1780) Jonathan

1850 census (over)

What is known of Johathan Bentley - my ancestor

Mrs. Lora May Ray
RR 3, Box 155
Sullivan, IL 61951

Jonathan Bentley, b ca.1774/5 (1771 to 1780 by Delaware Co.,Ind. 1830 Census)
died after 1840 Where? No record in Delaware Co.,they tell me.
m Grayson Co.,Va. Dec.9,1795 (marriage register #1, p 40)

Sarah Bedsalt

b ca.1777? (1771-1780 by Delaware Co.,Ind. census of 1830 if that is her)

only two known ch.; Joseph and Obediah

Jonathan listed on 1810 tax list of Grayson Co.Va.
no Bentley's listed in 1820 Grayson Co.Va. census.
1820- Fayette Co.,Ohio census Jefferson Twp.

Jonathan Bentley

1 male 16-18 (1802-1804) Obediah
1 male 16-25 (1795-1804) ?
1 male 45 Up (before 1785) Jonathan
1 female 16-25 ?
1 female 45 Up- wife

Joseph household also there.
he,wife and 1 ch. and 1 male
16-18-

1830 census of Delaware Co.,Ind. Mt.Pleasant Twp.

Jonathan Bentley

1 female 5-9 (1821-1825)
1 male 20-29 (1801-1810)
1 male 30-39 9 (1791-1800)
1 male 50-59 (1771-1780) Jonathan
1 female 50-59 (1771-1780) wife

History of Delaware Co.,Ind. 1881 by Thos.B.Helm, Mount Pleasant Twp. p 266
Jonathan Bentley and his sons Joseph & Obediah came during the years 1826 and 1827.
Jonathan Bentley was one of the "good and lawful men" who constituted the 1st grand
jury of Delaware Co.,impaneled May 19,1828.

During the summer of 1831 ,the 1st school of the twp. was taught in a deserted
cabin on the Jonathan Bentley farm..

1840 Census of Delaware Co.,Ind.

Twp households listed- Obediah and Joseph

Jonathan beleived the male 60-69 living with Obediah(born 1771-1780) wife not
listed in 1840

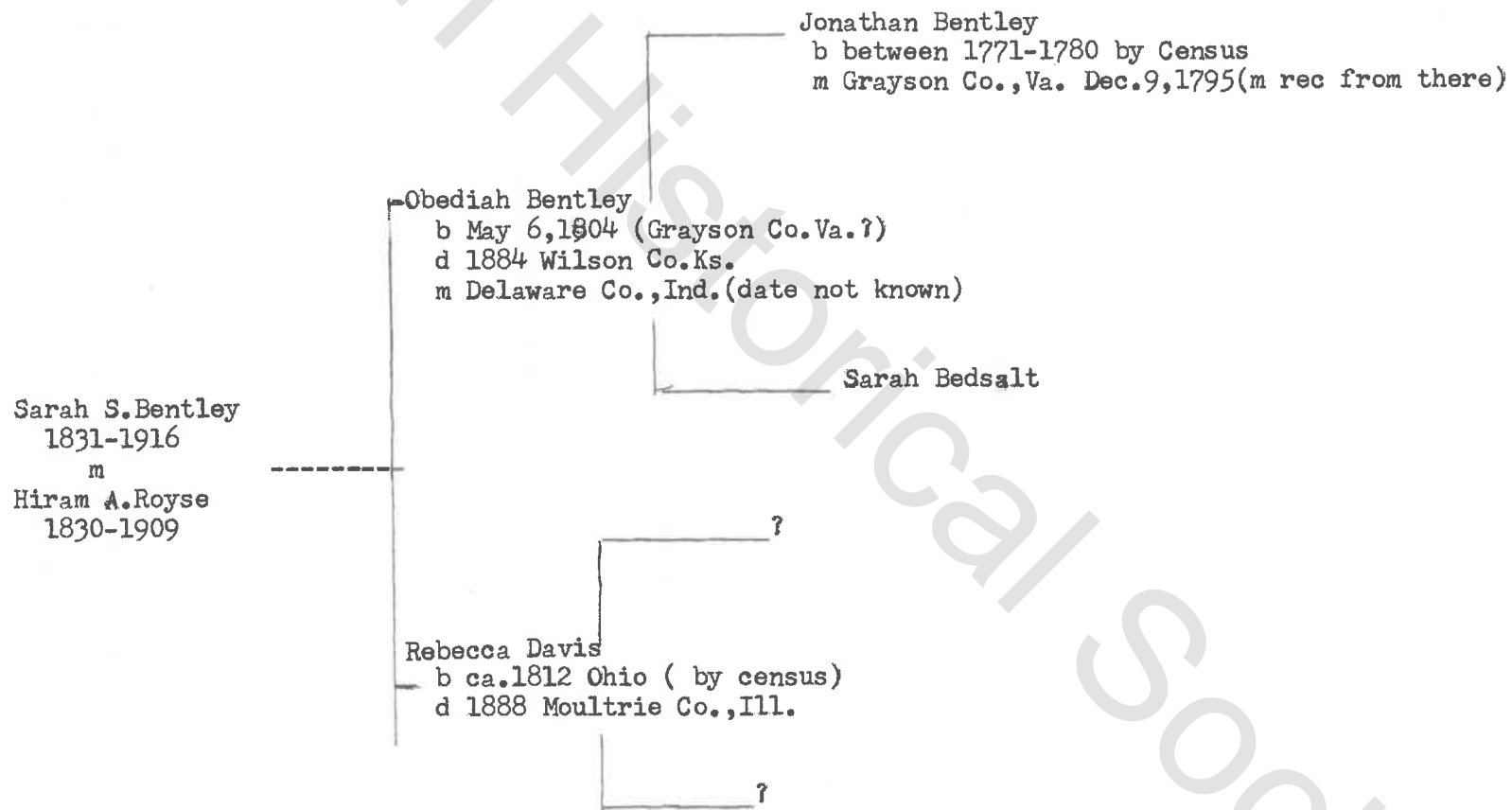
Jonathan Bentley not listed in the 1850 census of Delaware Co.,Ind.

A lady researcher says there is no will or estate settlement in Delaware co for
Jonathan. Where did he die???? Also no death record. Did he go and live with
another child some where else??

Was Jonathan born in Va.- who were his parents??

Chart of BENTLEY ancestors (known)

of Mrs. Lora May Ray
RR#3 Box 155
Sullivan, Ill. 61951



Bentley family

You seem to have consulted George H. S. King's excellent books on Richmond County already, so I didn't repeat that search.

I noticed the name Trice in your charts. Currently a Louisville man is compiling a book on that July 7, 1980 worked hard on it for several years fulltime. You might want to contact him to see if he has more on Trice prices. You probably would also want a copy of his book when it is

Mrs. Chris A. Foster
175 Pinecrest Avenue
Decatur, Georgia 30030

I. Trice
162 Breckinridge Square
Louisville, Kentucky 40220

Dear Mrs. Foster:

I hope this information will be of some help to you and I wish you every success. I located your letter of March 24th last Thursday, when looking through a stack of things on my desk, and apologize for the long delay. I really do try to answer more promptly.

Sincerely,

I am filing the data you sent in our Bentley family file where it can be consulted by other researchers. We don't have the Virginia data you sent in that source. We have a brief sketch of the Madison County, Kentucky Bentleys prepared by Mrs. Chenault. I enclose a copy. This is all I can locate here of her research.

James E. Bentley
Secretary

My Bentley family is from New England. My grandfather was born in Vermont and the family was up there since the time of the American Revolution. So it is a different family entirely.

I checked a few book in our library and find the following:

Amelia County Will Book I, 1735-1761

- John Bentley witness to will of Arthur Giles 1753. p. 29
- Samuel Bentley appraiser for Wm. Henrick's estate 1739. p. 3
- Samuel Bentley appraiser for estate of George Marchbanks 1741. p. 5
- Samuel Bentley witness to will of Edith Cobbs 1761. p. 57

Amelia County Will Book 2X 1761-1771 has the following Bentleys listed in the index: Efford, John, Judith, Samuel and William.

Kathleen Booth Williams, Marriages of Amelia Co., Va. 1735-1815 (Baltimore, 1979). Index lists Judith, Mary and Rachel Bentley. Text gives marriages of William Bentley & Judith Archer, 14 May 1782; John Bentley & Judith Cobbs, 11 Dec. 1760.

July 7, 1980

You seem to have consulted George H. S. King's excellent books on Richmond County already, so I didn't repeat that search.

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His name is Robert T. Trice
162 Breckinridge Square
Louisville, Kentucky 40220

I hope this information will be of some help to you and I wish you every success with your research on the Bentley family.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Secretary

I checked a few books in my library and find the following:
Amelia County Will Book 1, 1761-1771 has the following Bentleys listed in the index: Efford, John, Judith, Samuel and William.
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175 Pinecrest Avenue
Decatur, Georgia
March 24, 1980

Mr. James Bentley
Filson Club
118 Breckenridge St.
Louisville, Kentucky
40202

Dear Mr. Bentley,

In writing to you, I feel a twinge from the
twist of fate:

In 1955 Mrs. Della Bentley Dils (Mrs. Frank See)
wrote to my brother Preston Bentley in Thomaston, Georgia.
She had been struck by his name when she read
mention of a speech he made to the DAR. Preston
passed the letter on to my brother Melvin Reeves
Bentley, our family's budding genealogist, who was
only eighteen years old then.

Melvin got Mrs. Dils in touch with Mrs. Louise
Chenault of Louisville, Kentucky and the three of
them exchanged a lot of Bentley family research.

Mrs. Dils, of Covington & Florence, Kentucky would
meet Mrs. Chenault at the Filson Club to research.

According to these old letters, Mrs. Dils &
Mrs. Chenault were tracing the same Bentley
lines then as I am now.

On trying to contact these two ladies
again, hoping they were both still alive, I called
Mr. William A. Chenault in Louisville a few days
ago.

It was sad to learn that Mrs. Chenault
died in 1958 only a short time after writing
those lively, fact filled letters to my brother.

My brother Melvin has also died - in 1964 at the young age of thirty, and I have just raised my young children to this age where I can thank and take up the genealogical banner for my family.

On a very warm connection with Mr. Wilton Chevout he advised me to write the Filson Club where his late wife's papers have been preserved. He said the Filson club is not a private organization and someone would answer my letters.

When he gave me your name I was delighted, my nephew, brother, father, grandfather and great grandfather were all named James Bentley.

So I feel I've come full circle and have found a friend myself.

I am going to include on separate pages:

- (1) The information Mrs. Chevout's letters have afforded me as well as some gaps I have filled in on this line of Bentleys.
- (2) my own brief Bentley family history which I have proven.

I have not been able to document a connection between these two families.

However I have records of so many Bentleys all over Virginia in my files, that I am attempting to either prove a connection here or eliminate these people.

If you do have the records or books

which Mrs. Chevout left, I would appreciate, so much, any information you might forward me concerning her own Bentley or any other Bentley she collected records of.

Did Mrs. Dils also contribute her records to your files? I have written to her last known address.

On requesting this information I do not know what is involved. If there is a fee for this service please let me know. At least let me send you a check to cover cost of Zeroing.

Were you, by chance, also descended from this same Bentley line? I would like to know about your family.

If you're interested I will be glad to share with you any information I have collected in tracing various Bentleys all over Virginia.

Mrs. Chevout also had a Nelson line and Mrs. Dils a Reeves line which they were both tracing with my mother. One day, before I loose touch with some of your good people in Kentucky again, I would like to see what they finally determined on those two family names also. I have carried my Reeves & Nelsons back further than Melvin had and they might relate.

For now I am concentrating on Bentley's however and look forward to hearing from someone who may be another long lost cousin.

P.S. In including all the enclosed information for clarification and to prevent duplication.

Sincerely,
Claire Bentley Foster
(Mrs. Chris A. Foster)

The line Mrs Cheever and Mrs Dils were tracing

Daniel Bentley

married

Ann _____

born -
died -

b.
d.

Their children

(1) Ann Bentley
born - Nov 2, 1717
in North Fankom Parish
Richmond Co, Va.

(2) Samuel Bentley married
b. Dec 30, 1719
in North Fankom Parish
d. 1784-95
in Amelia Co, Va.
I have his will dated 12 July 1784
proved 23 April 1795

Mary about 1720
b.
d. June 2, 1780
in Amelia Co, Va.

(3) William Bentley
b. March 13, 1720/21
in North Fankom Parish
d.

(4) Sarah Bentley married _____ Broadney
b.
d. Samuel list her as his sister in 1784 will

I would certainly like to know about this
William Bentley born 1720

Daniel Bentley

married

Elizabeth

b.

b.

d.

d.

Their children

Alice Bentley

b. April 13, 1724
in North Farnham Parish

d.

Daniel Bentley

b. Feb 28, 1726
in North Farnham Parish

d.

one of these
could be mine

Also in North Farnham Parish, Richmond Co, Va.
Daniel Bentley son of John & Mary Bentley
b. 5 Feb 1743

This same Daniel could have married (1) Ann
(2) Elizabeth

I have ordered but not received the will of
Daniel Bentley 1721 Richmond Co, Va.

Mrs. Chevrolet thought in 1955 that she might have
descended from Daniel's third child William Bentley born 1720

Also in the North Farnham Parish Register is
Daniel Bentley born 5 Feb, 1743 to John & Mary Bentley
see above

This Samuel is the son of Daniel & Ann Bentley

Samuel Bentley
b. Dec 30, 1719
in North Fanklin Parish
Richmond Co, Va
d. 1784-85

married

Mary _____
b. about 1720
d. June 2, 1780
in Amelia Co, Va.

I have his will nullified in Amelia 12 July, 1784
proved in Amelia 23 April 1795

Their children

- (1) William Bentley
m. (1) Judith Archer
May 14, 1782
Amelia
m. (2) Lucy Gaines Turpin
 - (2) Peter Efford Bentley
b. Nov, 1759
d. July 3, 1837
in Madison Co, Alabama
m. (1) Lucy or Martha Markham
b.
d.
m. (2) Elizabeth Gay (descendant of Pocahontas)
b.
d.
I have names of all of his children by Eliz Gay
 - (3) Rebecca Bentley
b.
d.
m. William Winston
b.
d.
 - (4) Mary Bentley
b. Sept 24, 1746
in North Fanklin Parish
d.
m. Col. Edward Booker
Sept 30, 1761
Amelia Co.
b.
d.
 - (5) Rachel Bentley
b.
d.
m. Hyde Saunders
May 14, 1773
Amelia
b.
d.
 - (6) Kitty Bentley
b.
d.
m. Elerabelle (?) Anderson
b.
d.
son of Francis Anderson and Edith Wilson
- Their son Samuel Anderson is an heir in Samuel Bentley's 1784 will
- (7) John Bentley
b.
d.
I have his will nullified 23 Sept 1770
proved 25 Oct 1770
no children
m. Dec 1760
Amelia
Judith Cobles
b.
d.
I believe she married Joseph Eggleston April 17, 1776 after John died.

Mrs. Chensult said that her stepbrothers, mother-in-law was Katherine Bentley and she was a descendant of the Willcom Bentley who married Judith Archer.

Mrs. Chensult was trying to find and copy an old family tree that had been lost of this same Bentley line.

Mrs. Chensult seemed to think her Bentleys originated from the first Willcom Bentley who came to Virginia in 1624 at the age of 36.

I have gathered a lot of material on him also.

This is what I can assume Mrs Louise Chenault knew about her family in 1955. I'm sure she knew more but this is all I have from those old letters

William Bentley married Mary Calloway

b.

d. 1817

from Boonesboro
Mrs Chenault's great, great, great grandfather

↓ his son

John Bentley

married

Elizabeth Nelson

b. 1769

d.

Mrs Chenault's great, great grandfather

↓ his daughter

Sally Bentley

married

R. Hieronymous

Mrs Chenault's great grandfathers parents

↓ their daughter

Elizabeth Hieronymous

married

Johnson Ryan

Mrs Chenault's grandfathers parents

↓ their son

Robert Ryan

married

Mrs Chenault's mother

Mrs Chenault's father

↓ his daughter

Louise Ryan

married ①

Payne

3 children

b.

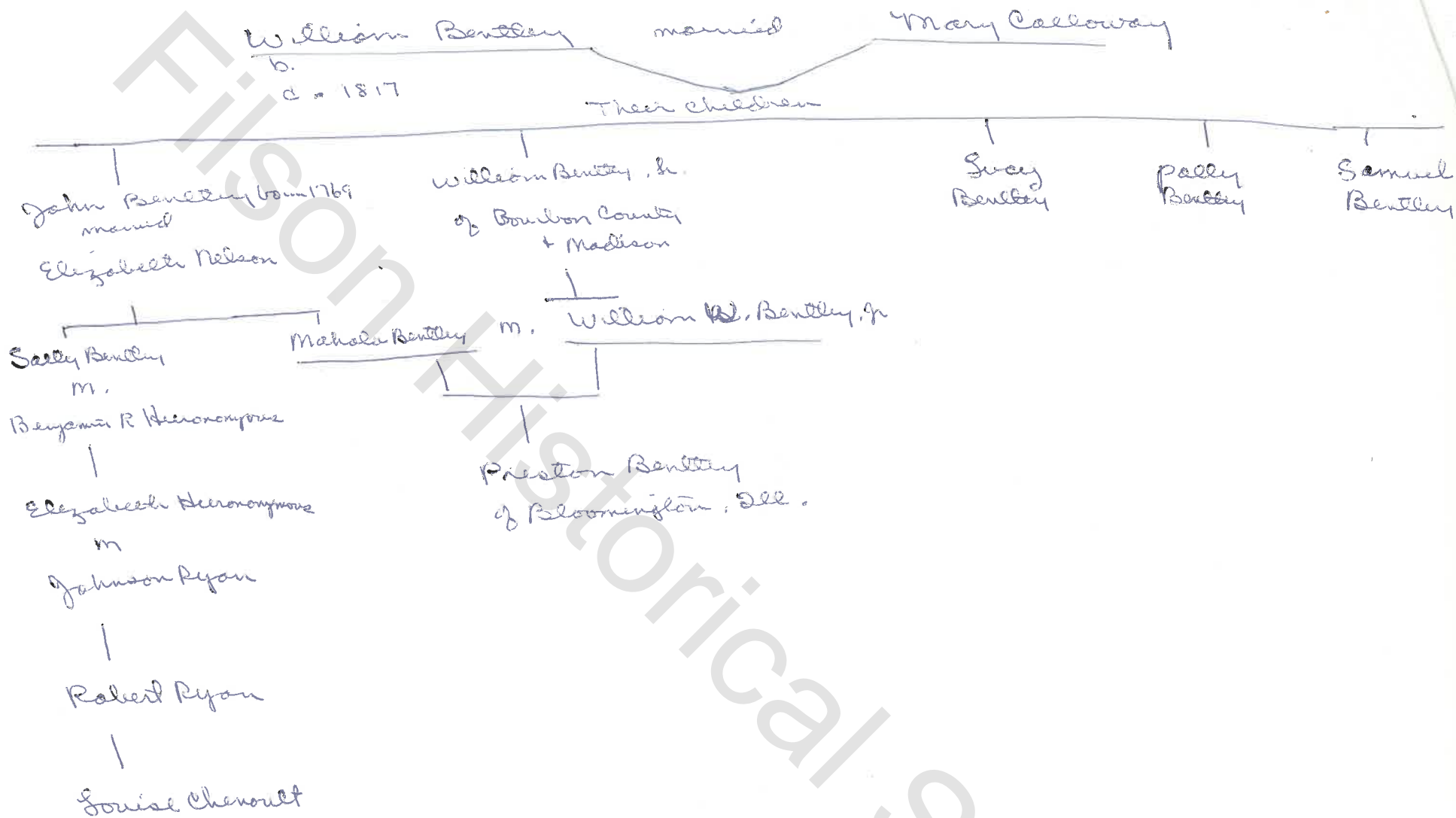
married ②

William A. Chenault

d. 1958

~~I don't know whether it was her mother or father~~

~~who descended from~~



my own proven family line -

Daniel Bentley married
 b.
 d.

I have his Estate Inventory,
 dated 14 April 1791, Sumnerberg Co, Va.

1 his son

John Bentley married
 b. about 1785
 d. between 1850-1860 in
 Crawford Co, Ga.

1 his son

Williamson Bentley married
 b. about 1813
 d. after 1860
 Sept 18
 1833
 Jones Co.
 Ga

1 his son

James Washington Bentley married
 b. Jan 11, 1841 Crawford Co, Ga.
 d. Nov 18, 1876 Upson Co, Ga.
 Dec 2
 1866
 Upson Co
 Ga

1 his son

James Walter Bentley married
 b. April 20, 1871 Upson Co, Ga
 d. Dec 14, 1952 Upson Co, Ga
 Dec
 1897
 Upson Co
 Ga

1 his son

James Synwood Bentley, Jr married
 b. March 1, 1904 Upson Co, Ga
 d. July 7, 1975 Upson Co, Ga
 Dec 7
 1924
 Upson Co
 Ga

Milly (Mildred) _____
 b.
 d.

she may be Milly Hammocks
 born 11 Jan, 1757 in N. Fannhom
 Parish to Robert & Anne Hammocks

Martha Moore

b. between 1785-1792
 d. after 1860 in Crawford
 Co, Ga.

Evelina Clements

b. about 1814
 d. between 1850-1860

Laura Jane Harrison

b. 1847
 d. Jan 7, 1923 Upson Co, Ga

Minnie Lee Trize

b. Aug 7, 1877 Upson Co, Ga
 d. Jan 22, 1967 Upson Co, Ga

Mellie Clarice Abernethie

b. Sept 16, 1907 Upson Co.
 d. Feb 27, 1974 Upson Co.

Their children

① James S. Bentley, Jr
 b. June 13, 1927
 m. 1951
 Gwen Richardson Mizeau

② Thomas Preston Bentley
 b. Feb-9, 1930
 unmarried

③ Melvin Reeves Bentley
 b. Sept 9, 1937
 d. Nov 30, 1967

④ Audrey Claire Bentley
 b. Feb-28, 1939
 m.
 1963
 Chris O. Foster

The lack of dates in the elder generations of my line may appear too sketchy to have been proven, but I have a published biography of John Bentley son - Elder Samuel Bentley a middle Georgia preacher, census records, deeds, wills of some of the brothers, and a very fortunate (for my genealogical purposes) law suit from Lunenburg County, Va.

Daniel Bentley's widow Milly, her son John, and daughter Anne Bentley Amos came to Wilkes Co, Ga after 1791. Daniel's only other child by Milly, Robert H. Bentley, remained in Lunenburg and when he came to age sued his mother in Wilkes Co, Ga for having removed her dower of slaves and therefore having taken his $\frac{1}{3}$ share of those slaves from Virginia. The law suit is dated 1815.

Among all these deeds, wills, inventories, and that one biography are found all the same names, dates, and places corroborating each other.

It could be that none of these ^{other} lines I am following are mine. But if I can find the missing links I might connect them.

Any details you can fill in on any of these Bentley's could be of great help to me.

I hope the following pages of information
I am including will make some sense to you.

If I gain no new information from this,
perhaps these notes will help someone else
who researches at the Wilson Club.

Thank you for your indulgence in
this very long letter.

Sincerely,

Claire Bentley Foster

Bentley family

November 28, 1978

Mrs. Mervyn Fish
1319 Vigo Street
Vincennes, Indiana 47591

Dear Mrs. Fish:

My Bentleys are from New England. My grandfather was born in Vermont and I know something of their history, but it is all in that area of the country.

There were Bentleys in Virginia and most people of Bentley ancestry in this part of the country seem to descend from them. You are correct that there were Bentleys with George Rogers Clark and a little is known about them, but not much.

All I can suggest is a search of the records in the counties where your ancestors lived. Virginia required marriage bonds and minister's returns from the mid-eighteenth century onwards and these generally survive, unless there has been a courthouse fire or flood. West Virginia followed the Virginia laws, since it was part of Virginia until 1863 and so did Kentucky. The marriage records, therefore, would prove a marriage between a Bentley and a Fish. Again wills and to a lesser extent deeds, court orders and suits may be helpful. I think that is the way for you to proceed in a search. If you have a Mormon branch library nearby you can gain access to microfilm copies of the appropriate county records through them. Also the Fort Wayne, Indiana library has a remarkable genealogical collection and it might be worthwhile to visit that institution to see what they have on the family and on the towns and counties they lived in.

Very little has been written about the various American Bentley families, unfortunately, so there are few printed genealogies to consult.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Secretary

If everybody Brightened Up
the Corner Where They Are
This dark old world would very soon
eclipse the "Evening Star"!

HELEN STEINER RICE

Nov. 25. 1978

Mr. Bentley

Sir: I am very interested in
locating my Bentley ancestors,
but how?

Both my father, W. H. Fish,
and his brother, David Fish, named
a child as follows:

My father: Bessie Bentley Fish, b. 1900, living.

My [↑]mother: Lester Bentley Fish b. 1893, deceased.

Their mother was Emily Fails of Ill.

Could her mother have been a Bentley?

The Fails came out of West Virginia,
then to Ohio, and later in lower Indiana.

I know there were two Bentley men
with Col. George R. Clark

Do you have any suggestions? Thank you.

Mrs. Mervyn Fish

BENTLEY FAMILY OF KENTUCKY.

Since the Bentley family of Kentucky has never been written up, this is intended as a short sketch to help anyone who is interested until a more complete history can be compiled. There were at least two different families of Bentleys in Kentucky in pioneer days, and although they have never been proved to be related, it is thought that they were, as the same family names appear in both families. The one family, whose original pioneer ancestors came from North Carolina, settled in Eastern Kentucky--Pike, Floyd and Letcher Counties. The other family, with which this article is concerned, settled in Madison County.

In 1779 William Bentley gave a deposition in a law suit in Madison County. This is the earliest that anything is known of these Bentleys at present, in Kentucky. As the name of William Bentley is on the monument erected by the D.A.R. at the site of old Fort Boonesborough, it must have been that he was among the early arrivals at the fort. William Bentley's wife was Mary Callaway, relative of Colonel Richard Callaway, one of the founders of Boonesborough. At present nothing more is known of William and Mary Callaway Bentley prior to their coming to Kentucky, except that they were born in Virginia.

William Bentley had a brother James, who settled in Fayette County, Ky. His wife's name was Rebecca, and he had seven children, among whom were Reuben, Washington, Bailey and Rebecca Keightley.

The Daniel Bentley, Revolutionary Soldier, who also lived in Madison County at this time, was evidently a cousin. He was born in North Carolina.

The death of William Bentley occurred in 1817, and his will is found in the court house at Richmond, Madison Co., Ky. It names his wife Mary, and children William, Samuel, John, Lucy and Polly. Lucy and Polly were not married at this time. William and Samuel were both married and had children, although these are not straightened out as to families as yet. Some of them were; Sinnett, Elisabeth, William, Jr, Polly, John, Samuel and others.

John, son of William and Mary Bentley, married Elisabeth Nelson (see Edward Nelson's Children). They had eight children as follows:

1. Mahala, born Feb. 20, 1799, Bourbon Co, Ky., married her cousin William W. Bentley, Jr. April 6, 1841, Madison Co., Ky. They had two children, Preston and Mary Jane. Mary Jane married John Wilkinson and had: Arabella William, Preston, Mahala, Sarah and John. All these families moved to McLean County, Illinois and Mahala died there December 13, 1899, nearly 101 years old.
2. Malinda, thought to have been born about 1801, Bourbon Co, Ky., married John Nelson (who might have been a cousin) August 26, 1826 in Madison Co, Ky. Nothing more is known of her.
3. Sally (Sarah), born October 3, 1803, Bourbon Co., Ky., married Benjamin Rector Hieronymus December 29, 1820 in Madison Co., Ky. They moved to Shelby Co., Ky where he died in 1848. She remarried there to Joseph Berkeley, and she died October 18, 1855 and is buried in Bridgeport, Franklin Co., Ky. Sally and Benjamin Hieronymus had the following children; William born October 5, 1821; Samuel born March 13, 1823; Mary Ann born April 24, 1825; Dewitt Clinton born September 30, 1829 (she married P.E. Mayhall), Elisabeth born February 3, 1830 (she married Johnson Ryan); Benjamin born June 14, 1832, died September 3, 1839.
4. Elisabeth (Betsy), born October 20, 1805, Bourbon Co., Ky., married Simeon

Burford Harris, Feb. 9, 1826 in Clark Co., Ky. They moved to Missouri where Elizabeth Harris died November 12, 1891. Their children were: John, Armilda, Pressley, Sussanna, Henry, Simeon, jr., William, Mary Elizabeth.

5. William, born about 1807, Bourbon Co., Ky., married Temperance Hays, October 10, 1827 in Madison Co., Ky. Death date unknown. Their child was Elizabeth who married Humphrey Jones.
6. Alvira, born about 1811 in Madison Co., Ky., married about 1833 in Ky. Horatio Peyton, her cousin. She died of scarlet fever with three of her small children about 1839. Her children were: Tom, and Elizabeth, who married her cousin Hector Louis Nelson. The names of the little ones who died are not known.
7. Daniel Boone Bentley, born October 15, 1809 in Bourbon Co., Ky., married Matilda Boston, his cousin, Feb. 2, 1834 in Madison Co., Ky. He died June 8, 1892 in Missouri. Their children were: Wallace, Virginia, Daniel, Cybin, Graham, Frank.
8. John, Jr., born December 10, 1814 in Madison Co., Ky. married Eveline Nelson December 5, 1840 in Madison Co., Ky., died May 26, 1871 and is buried in the Bentley cemetery near Boonesboro, Madison Co., Ky., with his father and mother. (See Bentley cemetery record). Their children were: Isabelle m. Tilman Bentley, her 2nd cousin, Leslie, Zachariah, George, Elizabeth, Xantippe, Algin, Mary Margaret, John, Grant, Sherman.

Compiled by: Louise Ryan Chenault (Mrs. William A.)
Chairman of Genealogical Records
Fincastle Chapter, E.S.D.A.R.
Louisville, Kentucky.

BENTLEY

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MAHALA BENTLEY HEARING HER 100TH YEAR.

This article taken from the Weekly Pentagraph, Bloomington, Ill. 12-20-1898

EARLY CHRISTMAS DAYS, A RETROSPECT OF LONG AGO

NOW THE FESTIVAL WAS CELEBRATED EARLY IN THE CENTURY IN KENTUCKY.

Mahala Bentley, who will be 100 years old next February 20, the mother of Preston W. Bentley, 519 W. Jackson.

"My father lived in Madison and Bourbon Counties Kentucky. They used to fire guns a great deal on Christmas Day, when I was quite small. Many of the people were quite poor and lived in little log cabins. Some of the people were well off and would get up big dinners on Christmas Day and have great frolics, and the men folks had to have a little whiskey. They all saw good times on Christmas; the people were much more friendly then they are now. They had dances and different plays and fun of all kinds. Girls were taught to dance when they were 12 or 13 years old. We used to dance eight-handed reels and six-handed reels, and all had partners. They had wild turkeys there, and for Christmas dinner would have roast turkey, chicken pie, and plenty of whiskey. All the neighbors would be invited in to eat Christmas dinner.

There was a Santa Claus then and we used to hang up our stockings, but we didn't expect many presents or big ones. A strand of beads or some little thing like that would be given. The big folks had Christmas trees, but the poor folks could not keep up with them.

I remember the first preaching I ever heard; it was a funeral. I was 8 or 10 years old before I ever went to church. I went to a camp-meeting when I was 7 or 8 years old. They people enjoyed Christmas more then than now; there was more fun and more to do. My uncle, Moses Nelson was a great fiddler, and he used to play the fiddle and teach the young people to dance. The girls were good dancers then.

At 19 or 20 years, I was a first rate weaver, and could make white counterpanes and tablecloths. I have made and sold many a yard of fine mixed jeans at \$2 a yard."

The contributor of his article is a great-great-niece of Mahala Bentley.

Contributed by: Louise Ryan Chenault (Mrs. William A.)
Chairman of Genealogical Records
Fincastle Chapter, M.S.D.A.R.
Louisville, Kentucky.

*Bentley
family*

November 3, 1969

Mrs. Frank H. Spearman
1701 Old Wire Road
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Mrs. Spearman,

I'm glad that my letter was even slightly helpful to you in your research. The genealogical account of the Hunter family sounds very useful to us, particularly because they were one of the "first families of Louisville," having landed at Corn Island. We would be very glad to receive a copy.

I am not familiar with the manuscript by Blanch Spurlock Bentley on the Bentley family at the Tennessee State Library. For that matter, I really know next to nothing about Thomas Bentley of Kaskaskia. My family is originally from New England; my Bentleys arrived in Massachusetts in the early seventeenth-century and stayed there until near the end of the last century when my great-grandfather moved his family West to Michigan.

I'm sure that a good biographical article on Thomas Bentley would be useful, particularly with the bi-centennial of the Revolution approaching when Clark, Kaskaskia and so forth will again be under scrutiny. Any new facts on the men involved in that episode will be very welcome and since The Filson Club has always been especially interested in George Rogers Clark, we would be especially glad to have any new information on Clark's associates.

Our best wishes to you in your efforts to untangle the lives of these early western settlers and we hope that you will indeed file the results of your researches with us. I would think that you might be able to produce a very useful article on these men when you have completed your researches.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts

May 13, 1931

Mr. Ira B. Hoke,
1312 1/2 N. Detroit St.,
Hollywood, California.

Dear Mr. Hoke:

We are in receipt of your letter of April 30th and three copies of your photograph of the Bentley cabin near Shelbyville. One of these we are forwarding to Mrs. E. B. Smith in Shelbyville as suggested by you.

You certainly have made a beautiful picture of the old cabin. Log houses and rock chimneys of this sort are rapidly disappearing and I dare say that as the years roll on pictures of this kind will increase in interest and value.

Sincerely,

Otto A. Rothert, Secretary

ED

August 21, 1980

Mrs. Shirley Burwell
Route 8, Box 168
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605

Dear Mrs. Burwell:

I'm afraid my Bentley family information is of no help. My grandfather was born in Vermont and his ancestors had lived in New England since the colonial period.

The Kentucky Bentleys seem to derive from a family in Virginia and there is little in print about them. I run into references about them from time to time while doing my work.

I wish I had something to send you, but I just don't.

I will put your letter in our Bentley family file here and perhaps that will bring it to the attention of another researcher who may have information about the Bentley family you are interested in.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Secretary

Rt. 8 Box 168
Lake Charles, LA 70605
Aug. 12, 1980

Dear Mr. Bentley,
Mrs. Patsy Ann Koerner sent me your name
and address as a possible exchange of information
on the Bentley family.

I am enclosing a copy of the census
records which is all that I have been able
to work with. My husband's ancestors are
underlined.

Jeremiah was a common name with
Bentleys as I have found several in
my reading. In fact there is one in
Dumpty Co., Tenn. but he is not the same.
If we have some connection I would
enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,
Shiley Burwell

Bentley Family

1850 Hancock Co. Ill
Dec. 7

p. 371

1460	Jeremiah Bentley	43	Farmer	N. C.
	Zina	37		Ky
	Jacob	20		Tenn.
	Sabrina	18		Tenn.
	Martha	16		Tenn.
	Hannah	14		Ill.
	Alice	12		Ill
	Louis H.	10		Mo
	Nancy J.	6		Ill.
	Sarah A.	2		"

1860 no Record

1870 Taney Co. Mo. Scott Township
16 July 1870

63	Jeremiah Bentley	65	Farmer	S. C.
	Binah	58		Tenn.
	Martha G.	36		Tenn
	Nancy J.	24		Tenn.
	Anna	20		Ill.

			son	Father	Mother
1880	Jeremiah Bentley	75	Farmer	Tenn.	S. C.
	Linah	68	wife	"	"
	Lewis H.	37	son Farmer	Mo.	Tenn
	Emily	32	wife	Mo.	Va.
	William C.	14	son	Kan.	Mo.

Jeremiah	11	son	Mo.	Mo.	Mo.
Anna	9	daugh	Mo.	Mo.	Mo.
Margaret	2	"	"	"	"

1900	David Burwell	54	Ohio	N. Y.	N. Y.
	Nancy J.	" wife 54	Mo.	Tenn.	Tenn.
	Martha Osborn	daugh 22 wd.	Ark.	Ohio	Mo.
	Sarah (sister to Burwell)	daugh 19	"	"	"
	Henry L.	" son 17	"	"	"
	William P.	" son 14	"	"	"
	Magie J. Osborn	gr. daugh 3	"	"	"
	John C.	" gr. son	"	"	"

William Proctor Burwell m Bertha Mae Smith wid of
 William Whit Roe of
 1922
 Knox Co. Ky.

child:

Demey L. Burwell m Shirley A. Verret
 1951

January 2, 1972

Mrs. John T. Snow
505 South Deans Duff Avenue
Clewiston, Florida 33440

Dear Mrs. Snow:

Your letter arrived Friday and I found it most interesting. I have been struggling to learn more about Rev. Ira Bentley for sometime and have found it difficult. I know nothing of his ancestry and little about his wives.

Ira Bentley was born circa 1785-1790 in Vermont, according to the 1850 federal census, which lists him as living in Kingsbury, Washington County, New York, aged 60 with his wife, aged 48, who was born in Vermont, also. Her first name is not given. He died between 1 August 1855 and 31 December 1855 and is buried in the Patten Mills, New York cemetery.

He was a Methodist minister and was sent by the Troy Conference of Methodists to Danby, Vermont in 1836 and also served in Huntington, Vermont. After 1824 he preached in Mt Holly, Vermont and did temporary duty in Rutland County in 1836. Later he preached at Patten Mills, Washington County, New York and at Parishville, St. Lawrence County, New York. In 1839 he was living in Whiting, Vermont.

Ira Bentley was married at least three times. Susanna Bentley, born 1787, died 20 March 1814, aged 27 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, St. Albans, Vermont. An infant son of Rev. Ira and Susanna Bentley died 20 November 1831 (perhaps 1813 is more correct or it was not a child of Susanna) and is buried in the Beers Cemetery, Monkton, Vermont.

Rosanna Bentley, wife of Rev. Ira Bentley, died 19 August 1832 aged 38 and is buried in Beers Cemetery, Monkton, Vermont.

This would indicate that Ira Bentley was free to marry Urana Peake of Bristol, Addison County, Vermont on 11 March 1833.

Ira Bentley's children were:

Levi Permit Bentley, born 1809, who married Julia Montague. Levi was in North Fairfax, Vermont in 1839 and in North Cambridge, Vermont in 1855. He is my ancestor.

William Bentley, who was in Upper Canada in 1855.

Lucius Bentley, in Fairfield, Vermont in 1855.

Martin L. Bentley, a preacher in Pennsylvania in 1855.

Lucia A. Bentley married James Austin, 9 December 1838, lived in Monkton Borough, Vermont in 1839 and in Whiting, Vermont in 1855.

Catherine E. Bentley married --- Hubbard, in Parishville, Vermont in 1855.

Laura Bentley married ---. Living in New Haven in 1839 and was dead by 1855.

Caroline Bentley married Allen Beach 26 December 1838.

My sources for this information are: Vermont Transcript, 2 December 1935; DAR Cemetery, Church and Town Records, New York, Vol. 55, p. 146; Letter of Ira Bentley, Whiting, Vermont to Levi P. Bentley, North Fairfax, Vermont, 9 March 1839. Photostatic copy owned by the Vermont Historical Society, given by James R. Bentley; Abby Hemenway's Historical Gazeteer of Vermont; the history of Danby, Vermont; the Montague Genealogy; and Vermont Vital Records.

I don't know where Ira Bentley lived in 1847, nor do I know anything about the Peakes. Your information is new to me. I hope this data will be helpful to you and that it may give you evidence to determine the answer to your problem. I hope you will keep me informed of your progress as I would like to have full information on this wife of Rev. Ira Bentley for my biographical data on him. I will be interested in knowing about the Peake book, too.

My very best wishes to you and thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

James R. Bentley
Curator of Manuscripts

7 August 1973

Mrs. Virgil Gano
309 E. Bow
Cherokee, Iowa 51012

Dear Mrs. Gano:

In a conversation with Mr. James Bentley, a member of our staff, he told me of your research on the Goodwin family and your last letter introduces the possibility of a relationship with the well known and well documented pioneer Kentucky family of Goodin. A few years ago one of our excellent historians and genealogists published an article on the Goodin family in The Filson Club History Quarterly, Vol. 27. I checked the index and there is no mention of a Samuel Goodin who married a McGinnis. As you have so little information about your ancestor, I feel a great deal of research must be devoted to locating him. It would be most helpful to know in what Indiana county he lived. Many Kentuckians migrated to Indiana and they lived, formerly, in the many Kentucky towns across the river from places in Indiana. I do wish I had a quick answer to your questions but many of these solutions are not easy to find. I hope Mrs. Ham will be able to help you. She is very busy and has just returned from Virginia.

Sincerely,

Evelyn R. Dale
Curator

ssc

July 31, 1973

Mrs. Virgil Gano
309 East Row Drive
Cherokee, Iowa 51012

Dear Mrs. Gano:

Your letter to J. Colgan Norman, Secretary of the Kentucky Society SAR, has been forwarded to me.

We have two books giving information on the Goodwin family. The largest is The Goodwin Families in America (Richmond, Va., 1898?). I checked the Indiana families listed here but found no S. Goodwin who seemed to fit your man. The other book is "Brief Sketches of the Families of...Edwin Goodwin..." by George H. D. Gibson, 1932, typed. Again no reference to your S. Goodwin.

We have no family file on the Goodwin family. We do have a McGinnis file, but it contained nothing about your Miss McGinnis.

I also checked the history of Clark County, Indiana without success.

I suggest you contact Mrs. Clyde W. Hamm, 3507 Pinecone Circle, Louisville, Ky. 40222. She is a professional genealogist and may be able to undertake some work for you.

Dr. Jillson's Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds was originally published by The Filson Club. It is an index to land records at the state capital. He gives the full name of the grantee, the location and size and date of the land grant. It is not a standard genealogical history, but if you have early Kentucky families and want to study their land grants the book might prove of some value.

Best wishes,

James R. Bentley
Secretary

cc: J. Colgan Norman

Jan. 3, 1985.

James Bentley
Kentucky Genealogist Dept. G
3621 Brownsboro Rd. 201B
Louisville, Ky. 40207

Dear Mr. Bentley:

On Jan. 7, 1983 I wrote to you asking if you were related to Joseph and Sarah Veach Bentley of Pulaski, Pa. (my great-grand parents). You said you were not, now I am wondering if I may have found one of your relatives and you would like the information. ???

WILLIAM PRESTON BENTLEY- born 9 May 1838 in Rush county, Indiana son of Levi and Mary (Cain) Bentley; his father was born in Boyle county, Ky. and his mother born in North Carolina. His parents died and he (William) was raised by his maternal grandparents who moved to Missouri. William married Susan Jane Britton

JOEL B. BENTLEY- born 4 Dec. 1840 in Trumbull Co. Ohio, son of James and Temperance Ann Bentley, father of Pa. and mother of Connecticut. Joel and brother Amos lived in Missouri. Joel married Elizabeth Foote.

I have more information on both of these Bentley's if you are interested I can send you copy.

I have been researching my Bentley line for eight years and some times find information not of my line. I have info on Ohio Bentleys "The Tribe of Benjamin" that I can send to you for copy fee or tell you where to get it if you do not have it.

My great-great-great grandfather JOSHUA BENTLY SR. lived in Maryland 1778 to 1805, he left the state then and that is the last I can find on him. Do you have his name in your files? To my knowledge, Joshua's grandson Joseph was the first to add the e to the name Bentley, some of Joseph's brothers used it, some didn't.

Hope one of us derive some good from this letter.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Jean Bentley Green
R.1. Box 213
Branch, Mich. ~~494~~ 49402

James Robert Bentley

LOUISVILLE - James Robert Bentley, 78, was laid to rest in the Rite of Episcopal burial in Cave Hill Cemetery on the afternoon of Saturday, April 18, 2020. Jim died peacefully at his home Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Due to restrictions in accordance with concerns for the current pandemic, only ten guests were allowed and there were no services other than graveside. In attendance were Mr. Coleman Groves, Mrs. GERALYN Groves, Mrs. Mary McCleod, and Mr. Walter Laughlin. Pall bearers in attendance were Mr. Terry Brown, Mr. Jessie Hagan, Mr. John McCleod, Mr. William Stanley, Mr. Tom Wilson, and Mr. David Zoeller all of Louisville, Kentucky.

Honorary bearers not in attendance were: Mr. Robert Burger, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Mr. John F. Dorman, Fredericksburg, Virginia; Mr. Glen M. Greer, Ave Maria, Florida; Mr. Robert Hitt, Morrill, Maine; Master Angus Siegel, Adelaide, Australia; Ms. Julie Daun, Carlsbad, California; Mrs. Karen McCarty, Atlanta, Georgia; and Miss. Judy White, Portland, Connecticut.

The graveside service was conducted by Fr. Paul W. Smith, Chaplain, Kentucky Society of Colonial Wars.

Jim was a native of Louisville; born at the old Baptist Hospital on Barrett Avenue on February 14, 1942. He was preceded in death by his older brother George William Bentley, his father Francis Getty Bentley, and his mother Katharine Elizabeth Wescott Bentley. Jim was raised in his parents' home on Breckinridge Lane in St. Matthews until 1947 when the family returned to Houghton Michigan to run the Bentley Lumber Company. In 1950, they returned to Kentucky purchasing a home on Old Six Mile Lane in Jeffersontown.

Jim graduated with honors from Eastern High School in 1960 and was awarded an academic scholarship to Centre College in Danville. While at Centre he pledged the Sigma Chi fraternity and formed numerous friendships which remained close until his death. He was graduated from Centre with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and English in 1964. Returning to Louisville to contemplate his options, a chance encounter in the stairway of the Filson Club led to his being hired as assistant to the Manuscript Curator where he spent the remainder of 1964 and 1965 reorganizing and cataloguing their extensive historical newspaper collection. In 1966, he was surprised to learn that he had been granted a fellowship to study at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. From 1966 through 1968 while undergoing Masters' studies he worked as a research assistant at Colonial Williamsburg. He was awarded his Master of Arts degree from William and Mary upon completion and acceptance of his thesis in 1971.

While at Colonial Williamsburg he received a letter from The Filson Club offering him the position of Manuscripts Curator which he accepted, beginning the second phase of a twenty-five-year career with that organization. He served The Filson as Curator from 1968 - 1983, Secretary 1972 - 1984, acting Director 1983 - 1984, and Director 1984 - 1992. During his tenure he was instrumental in the acquisition and preservation of the Brennan House, and in 1986 the acquisition, restoration, and enlargement of the Ferguson Mansion on South Third Street as the new, and current, home for The Filson; moving from its overcrowded facility on Breckinridge Street where it had resided since the mid-1920s. Jim's interest in history and genealogy began in his childhood and he



is considered among his peers and contemporaries as a genealogist on Kentucky families. His personal and academic interests extend into Vermont, Wisconsin, and Michigan as his ancestors were early and notable settlers of these states. His knowledge of art and art history was equally encyclopedic and as a teenager he had correspondence with famed art historian Bernard Berenson.

Jim was also instrumental in historic preservation. He was a founding member of the George Rogers Clark Society, a member of the advisory committee of the photographic archive at the University of Louisville, a member of the Historic Zoning Task Force of Jefferson County, the historic preservation and protection committee of the Board of Aldermen of Louisville, the Mayor's Commission on Amenities, a member for Jefferson County of the Kentucky Historical Commission, a Commissioner of the Historic Landmarks Commission, a Districts Commission of Louisville, the Jefferson County Historical Society serving as Director 1972 - 1973, Vice President 1974 - 1975, and President 1976 - 1978. He also served on the Historic Preservation Commission of Louisville, and the Louisville Historical League. He was a member of the Pendennis Club and a Life Member of The Filson Society.

From 1979 - 1986 he was editor and publisher of The Kentucky Genealogist.

Due to his significant family heritage, Jim was a member of numerous international genealogical and historical societies. In 1968 he held membership in the Sons of the American Revolution as a member of the library committee and as Registrar. Three ancestors sailed on the Mayflower and he was a member of the Kentucky Society of Mayflower Descendants. He served from 1978 - 1984, Deputy Governor General 1981 - 1984, and was a member of the Generation Project Committee 1979 - 1980. Jim was a member of the Vermont Historical Society, and the New England Society. His additional memberships include the New England Genealogical Society, the Society of Stukely Veterans, the Society of Descendants of Robert Bartlett of Ipswich, the Harleian Society, the Edmund Rice 1638 Association, the Order of Kentucky Colonels, Sigma Chi Clubs, the Charlemagne, and he was an Alden Kindred American. He was also a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Filson Society.

Jim was featured in Who's Who in America since 1976. In April, 2020 he resigned after forty-four years as Registrar of the Society of Colonial Wars. This milestone for a former officer having served the Society within his tenure is believed to have been the longest of any Registrar of the Society overall. He also served as Councilor to the Society from 1976. He will be succeeded as registrar by his friend, which would meet with his heartfelt approval.

At the time of his death he was engaged in completing his acceptance in the Society of Colonial Wars of 1812, and the Jamestown Society.

Godspeed James Robert Bentley

We will see you in the morning

It is requested that donations in Jim's memory be made to The Filson Society, 100 Breckinridge Street, Danville, Kentucky. Friends of the library

Pearson's
Funeral Directors Since 1848
(502) 896-0349

James Robert Bentley

CJ 4/26/2020

rt Bentley, 78, was laid
pal burial in Cave Hill
of Saturday, April 18,
his home Wednesday,



ccordance with con-
emic, only ten guests
ere no services other
ce were Mr. Coleman
s, Mrs. Mary McCleod,
Pall bearers in atten-
wn, Mr. Jessie Hagan,
liam Stanley, Mr. Tom Wilson, and Mr. David
ntucky.

ttendance were: Mr. Robert Burger, Cambridge,
Dorman, Fredericksburg, Virginia; Mr. Glen
da; Mr. Robert Hitt, Morrill, Maine; Master
ustralia; Ms. Julie Daun, Carlsbad, California;
ta, Georgia; and Miss. Judy White, Portland,

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Jim was also instrumental in historic preservation at the civic level. He was a founding member of the George Rogers Clark Press, a member of the advisory committee of the photographic archives at the University of Louisville, a member of the Historic Zoning Task Force for Louisville and Jefferson County, the historic preservation and protection committee for the Board of Aldermen of Louisville, the Mayor's Committee for Public Amenities, a member for Jefferson County of the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission, a Commissioner of the Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission of Louisville, the Jeffersontown Historical Society serving as Director 1972 – 1973, Vice President 1974 – 1976, and President 1976 – 1978. He also served on the Historic Homes Foundation of Louisville, and the Louisville Historical League. He was a former member of the Pendennis Club and a Life Member of The Filson Club.

From 1979 – 1986 he was editor and publisher of the quarterly journal *The Kentucky Genealogist*.

Due to his significant family heritage, Jim was a member of numerous international genealogical and historical societies and coteries: Since 1968 he held membership in the Sons of the American Revolution serving as a member of the library committee and as Registrar from 1970 – 1993. Three ancestors sailed on the Mayflower and he was a life member of the Kentucky Society of Mayflower Descendants. He served as Governor from 1978 – 1984, Deputy Governor General 1981 – 1987, and on the Five Generation Project Committee 1979 – 1980. Jim also held life memberships in the Vermont Historical Society, and the National Genealogical Society. His additional memberships include the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, the Society of Stukely Westcott Descendants, the Society of Descendants of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth Colony, the Harleian Society, the Edmund Rice 1638 Association, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Sigma Chi Clubs, the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, and he was an Alden Kindred American. He was a former member of the Society of American Archivists and of the Manuscript Society.

Jim was featured in *Who's Who in America* since the early 1970s.

In April, 2020 he resigned after forty-four years as Kentucky Registrar of the Society of Colonial Wars. This milestone is unmatched by any former officer having served the Society within the Commonwealth and his tenure is believed to have been the longest of any officer within the Society overall. He also served as Councilor to the Society from 1971 – 1976. He will be succeeded as registrar by his friend Jessie Hagan; a choice which would meet with his heartfelt approval.

At the time of his death he was engaged in completing the information required for his acceptance in the Society of Cincinnati, Society of the War of 1812, and the Jamestowne Society.

Godspeed James Robert

We will see you in the morning

It is requested that donations in Jim's memory be made to Centre College, Danville, Kentucky. Friends of the library fund.

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