

THE LUCAS LINE

A review of the lineage of Marcy Jane⁴ (or Massey) Lucas (Thomas³, Abraham², Thomas¹) should provavly start with a quotation from History of Clinton Co. by Beers (1881) as follows:

"The members of this family originally came from New Jersey, where they were among the earliest settlers of that colony, receiving with others land grants from the crown. The elder Lucas of those I shall mention removed from N. J. in the eighteenth century and settled in Ky. Thomas Lucas of his had 6 children, all sons, viz., Thomas, Abraham, Ebenezer, John, Caleb, and Francis. He left Kentucky in a very early day, and came to Ft. Washington, now Cincinnati, probably in 1785, where he remained for several years.... The family then came to Colombia, and from there to Lebanon, where the parents died....."

This article appears to be correct in most details. Inscription on the tombstone of Abraham Lucas in Steenbergem Cem. near Mt. Pulaski, Logan, Co., Ill., states that Abraham was born in 1761 in Morris Co., N. J. (Note his military records state Abraham was born in 1756.)

History of Washington Co. (Pa.) by Crumprine states that 15 to 20 families emigrated from Morris Co., N. J., to Washington Co., Pa., in 1773 and that these families were Presbyterians. These families were reportedly driven from their wilderness homes in 1774 by Indians but shortly returned. The first Presbyterian church was officially established in the "Ten-Mile Region" where these families settled in 1781. A Baptist church had been organized in the area as early as 1772 by previous settlers. It may have been that the Lucas family switched to the Baptist Church here in Washington Co. since they were later Baptists in Ohio.

The 1781 taxlist of Amwell Twp., Washington Co., Pa., lists our ancestors as follows:

1. Abraham Lucas--single man

2. Thomas Lucas--80 acres

The 1784-5 taxlist also lists both men and indicated that Abraham was still single. Abraham apparently married shortly afterwards. His 3 sons Joseph, Thomas, and James were probably all born in Amwell Twp., Washington Co., Pa., prior to 1790. Since Abraham Lucas and Thomas Lucas (undoubtedly his father) do not appear as heads of families in the 1790 Census of Penn., it is assumed that they had removed prior to that date for Kentucky.

List of Inhabitants in Washington Co., Pennsylvania, states that between 1776 and 1780 petitions were signed by the following men who were inhabitants of Washington Co.: Abraham Lucas, Abraham Lucas Sr., Abraham Lucas Jr., and Thomas Lucas. (Note that Washington Co. was a part of Westmoreland Co. from 1773 until 1781.) The presence of an Abraham Lucas Sr. in the county prior to its origin suggests that the Abraham Lucas of later Fayette Co., Pa., and the Abraham Lucas of Bullit and Nelson Co., Kentucky, may have lived previously inside present-day Washington Co., Pa. There appears to be a definite connection (but yet unknown) between the Nelson Co., Kentucky, Lucases of the early 1800's and our Lucases of Greene Co., Ohio, of the same time period.

Abraham Lucas, grandfather of Marcy Jane Lucas, was a Revolutionary War soldier. However, as "he has no education, cannot read or write and that for this reason he unable to recollect names and dates", he was unable to substantiate his service sufficiently to obtain a pension. Records do exist today which would have substantiated his claim for a pension had he had them then. The above quotation as well as the following is taken from his pension application on file in the National Archives:

"On the seventh day of March eighteen hundred and thirty six, personally appeared in open court before the county commissioners court in and for the county and state aforesaid (Sangamon Co. and Illinois), now sitting (?) Abram Lucas of Salt Creek in the county of Sangamon and state aforesaid, aged eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as now stated, that during the War of the Revolution (the year he cannot state) he volunteered in the company commanded by Capt. Brinton, which company was attached to the army commanded by General McIntosh, and as he now recollects to the regiment commanded by a son of General McIntosh, in the Red Stone country on the waters of the Monongahela River in the western part of the state of Pennsylvania--That he was then living on the waters of the Monongahela and he supposed the country was not laid off into counties--This was in the latter part of the fall or beginning of winter--After he volunteered they marched to and helped build Fort McIntosh on the Little Beaver Creek on the

west side of the Ohio River below Fort Pitt.....He well recollects that during the service aforesaid the orderly seargent Jonathan Harnett (or Hamett) was removed by Capt. Brinton and this depenent appointed in his stead....."

It is a historicaal fact that Ft. McIntosh was built by men recruited from the Redstone area. Service records also show that Abraham Lucas of Washington Co. served variously in Lt. Johnathan Harned's Co., Ensign David Ruble's Co., and Capt. George Sharp's Co. His pension application details many Indian skirmishes he participated in. Of great interest to us is the following record of his subsequent residences:

"That several years after the war, he removed to Mason County, Kentucky, where he was drafted during Hamar's Campaign and paid a substitute. After residing there for three or four years he removed to Green County, Ohio, where he again volunteered and marched against the Indians to his farms and where he continued to reside till about ten years since, when he removed to this county where he has since resided....."

Michael Mann, a clergyman of the Baptist church, certified he was "well acquainted with Abraham Lucas." This Michael Mann lived beside Abraham Lucas in Green County, moved with the Lucases to Logan Co. (then part of Sangamon Co.) about 1826, and remained a constant friend of the Lucases. Late in life Michael Mann married Sarah (Bowman) Lucas, a widowed daughter-in-law of Abraham Lucas.

Thomas and Abraham Lucas appear on the 1792 taxlists of Mason Co., Kentucky, and also on the 1794 taxlists. Abraham appears on the Mason Co. taxlists for the last time in 1795 and apparently removed to Ohio shortly thereafter. Both Ebenezer and John Lucas, brothers of Abraham, still resided in Mason Co., Kentucky in 1796 but both had removed prior to 1798. Abraham's brother John married Frances Raines in Mason Co. in 1790; his brother Ebenezer married Hethley Wood there in 1795.

Between 1795 and 1804 Abraham Lucas apparently lived respectively at Columbia (in the eastern part of present-day Cincinnati), at or near Lebanon, and on Caesar's Creek. It does appear quite probable that the family were living near Lebanon about 1800-2 when the parents of Abraham Lucas died. By 1804 apparently all the brothers of Abraham and Abraham as well had removed to Caesar's Creek.

Caesar's Creek drainage includes a considerable portion of southern Greene County and the adjacent northwestern corner of Clinton. Caesar's Creek crosses the Greene-Clinton County line at New Burlington and immediately swings south and west where it crosses the Clinton-Warren County line and shortly empties into the Little Miami River. It was along the Greene-Clinton County line that the Lucas families settled shortly after 1800.

The Caesar's Creek drainage lies entirely within the Virginia Military District. This territory was reserved by Virginia for bounty lands for her soldiers and was thus never ceded to the U. S. government. Most of the soldiers who received bounty land script entitling them to lands in the District never actually settled on their lands

but instead sold their script to speculators who in turn sold the land to the original settlers.

It was from one such speculator that Abraham's brother Caleb bought 150 acres in 1802, being located immediately south of New Burlington of today. Land owned by Abraham Lucas was on Anderson Fork of Caesar's Creek and crosses into three townships: Caesar's Creek and Jefferson Twp., Green County, and Liberty Twp in Clinton Co. The married sons of Abraham also lived on Anderson Fork.

Abraham Lucas bought 280 acres in 1804 and another 275 acres in 1806, both from John Anderson Miller of Kentucky, a land speculator. Land sales by Abraham included 124 acres to Jesse Kelsey in 1810 (Jesse was undoubtedly a brother-in-law), 208 acres to Abraham Ellis in 1807 (this deed witnessed by Solomon Wood), 100 acres to Henry Hiney in 1825, 110 acres to Thomas Lucas in 1807, and 50 acres to James Lucas in 1811.

The oldest organized church in Green County was the Caesar's Creek Baptist Church. It was organized in 1803 along the Jefferson-Silver Creek Township line. In 1822 Joseph Lucas, Michael Mann, and William Copeland received one acre of land on Anderson Fork (Green County) as trustees of the Regular Baptist Church on Indian Run. The above Joseph Lucas was a son of Abraham, Wm. Copeland was his son-in-law, and Michael Mann was a lifelong friend. The Regular Baptist Church is more commonly known today as the "Hardshell" or "Predestinarian" Baptist Church. This denomination, although small today in numbers, was of large influence in the 19th century. It is believed that, through contacts at church, that Benjamin or Berryman Bughan,

Wm. H. Baughan, and Solomon Wood of Fayette Co, met the Lucas girls they later married.

The 1820 census of Ohio indicates on which side of the Greene-Clinton Co. line Abraham and his children were living in 1820. His sons Joseph, James, and Thomas were residing on the south side in Liberty Twp., Clinton Co. Abraham Lucas and his son-in-laws William Copeland and John Turner as well as his esteemed friend Rev. Michael Mann were living in 1820 in that part of Silver Creek Twp., Green Co., that was later made into Jefferson Twp. In all probability, Abraham Lucas and his sons and son-in-laws lived within a two or three-mile area.

Abraham's five brothers were not far away either in 1820. The census shows that John was living in Caesar Creek Twp, Greene Co., that Caleb and Ebenezer were living in Chester Twp., Clinton Co., and that Thomas and Francis were living in Turtle Creek Twp., Warren Co. Although their graves have not been found nor any proof of time and place of death substantiated, the report that Abraham Lucas's parents died at Lebanon, Warren Co., shortly after 1800 appears probable.

Thomas and Sarah (Hoblitt) Lucas owned two tracts of land in Ohio which they sold before moving to Illinois. One tract of land was purchased from Abraham Lucas in 1826, consisted of 110 acres on Anderson's Creek, and was sold to John Abernathy on 7 Sept. 1829. This tract was in Greene Co. The deed states that Thomas and Sarah were "of Greene Co." in 1829.

The second tract of land was purchased from Jesse Kelsey in 1813. This tract was across the line in Clinton County, had formerly belonged to Abraham Lucas, consisted of 124 acres on Andersons Creek and was

sold in 1826 to John Strickle and John Fairfield. This was the farm on which Thomas and Sarah resided and where Marcy Jane Lucas was probably born, and spent her early days.

It was probably in 1825 or 1826 that the Lucases migrated to Illinois.

One record reports that the Lucases moved to Illinois in 1825, living 2 years near Athens (now Menard, then Sangamon Co.), thence to Fancy Creek in Sangamon county for a few months, thence to Logan Co. (then Sangamon Co. still) in 1827 or 1828. It is known that the migration had been made prior to 1830 to Logan Co. by all except Abraham's son Jabez who came later. Also migrating from the Greene-Clinton Co., Ohio, area to Logan Co. in the latter 1820's were the Copelands, the Woods, the Baughans, the Turners, the Hoblits, the Bowmans, the Shaleys, the Prices, and the Powers.

The Lucases and their friends settled generally in two areas of Logan Co. Abraham Lucas and Marcy, John Turner, Abraham's sons Thomas, Jesse, and John, his son-in-law Wm. Copeland, the family of his deceased son James, and his friend Michael Mann settled south of Mt. Pulaski. Most of them and their families are buried in the Steenbergen Cemetery located 3 miles south and east of Mt. Pulaski. Many of these lines later moved further south and east into Laenna and Lake Fork Twp.

The other group of Lucases and related families settled near Rocky Ford, located 1 mile south and 4 miles west of Lincoln. This ford is on Salt Creek, so named because of its saline spring. Settling in this region of Logan County were Abraham's son Joseph and his son-in-laws Solomon Wood, Ezekial Bowman, and Berryman Baughan.

Many members of these families are buried in the Lucas Chapel Cemetery located 1 mile west of Roely Ford on land originally owned by Solomon Wood, a son-in-law of Abraham Lucas. Although the cemetery was begun as early as 1837 by Solomon Wood as a family cemetery, it was given to the township as a community cemetery by a later owner, Peter P. Lucas, son of Joseph Lucas.

Thomas Lucas, father of Marcy Jane Lucas, died in 1831, and is probably buried in an unmarked grave in Steenbergen Cemetery. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to Abraham Lucas as administrator on 15 October 1831 by the Sangamon County court. The administrative bond was signed by William Copeland, Michael Mann, and John Turner. William Copeland was made guardian of the minor children. Thomas died owning two tracts of land totaling 160 acres and being located 4 miles south and 1 mile west of Mt. Pulaski.

Since the descendants of Marcy Jane (Lucas) Williams are better informed on their ancestor than I, this sketch should naturally stop at this point. Marcy Jane (also called Massey) was born 25 Dec 1813 in Clinton Co., Ohio, and married John Williams on 10 Feb 1830.

A study of the Lucas family starts with those lines having the surname of Lucas but quickly branched off into surnames carried by the wives of the Lucas ancestors and by the husbands of the Lucas girls.

One question out of many still unsolved is whether Mary (Kelsey) Lucas, nicknamed Marcy, is indeed the mother of Abraham's older children. Thomas Lucas was born between 1780 and 1790; his brother James was born during this same decade. However, there is reason to believe that their brother Joseph, born 11 May 1786, was the oldest child of

Abraham Lucas. If Marcy Kelsey Lucas was indeed the mother of Joseph and was indeed born in 1774 as her tombstone states, she would have been only 12 years of age when Joseph was born. However, inasmuch as her tombstone erroneously gives her name as Martha, it may also have given an erroneous birthdate. Family tradition makes no mention of an other wife; there may not have been one!

It is known that Marcy (Kelsey) Lucas's father was Thomas Kelsey. Thomas Kelsey died while living in Mason Co., Kentucky. In his will made 20 January 1811 he made bequeaths to his 12 children. The 12 children included 6 girls: Hannah McFarlin, Sarah Fix, Phoebe Davis, Maey wife of Abraham Lucas, Elizabeth Fraizier, and another Mary. (This latter name is probably in error or may refer to Mary wife of Abraham Lucas). The six sons were Thomas, Daniel, James, John, William, and Jesse. Several of the sons lived along side the Lucases in Greene, Clinton, and Warren County, Ohio.

It was originally thought that Marcy and Abraham probably first met in Mason Co., Kentucky, after Lucases removed there. However, it now appears that the Kelseys also lived in Washington Co., Penn., prior to moving to Mason Co., Ky. Both Robert and Thomas Kelso signed petitions in Washington Co., Pa., during the 1776-1780 period. Also, a Thomas Kelso purchased 350 acres of land in Washington Co., Pa., on 28 Feb 1785. It should be noted that Washington Co., Pa.; Mason Co., Kentucky; and Cincinnati, Ohio, all border the Ohio River or one of its tributaries. "Down the Ohio" was the principal route of travel about 1800. Further details on the Kelsey and Lucas families must await their being traced "back up the Ohio" and thence east to Morris County, New Jersey.

by Dr. John F. Vallentine