VIRGINIANS AND HOOSIERS

ABSHIRES, HUSTONS AND WRIGHTS, BEDFORD, FRANKLIN VIRGINIA AND UNION, HAMILTON COUNTIES INDIANA.

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PREFACE

This is one of a number of family-group studies of the ancestral families of my wife and myself. This method seems preferable to attempting to compress all these lines into one work.

Blank Appendix pages have been added for the use of others of these families to enter their lines and to note my mistakes. If there are none, this will be the first error-proof work of its kind. I am hopeful but not confident. While sure of substance, I fear mistakes in transcribing—particularly as to dates.

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Hollywood, Florida
January 1977
BACKGROUND.

These are the annals of the Virginia and Indiana ancestors of Tabitha Wright (1842-1874) wife of Squire Recompense Frazee (1839-1924) of Arcadia, Hamilton County Indiana, and great grandmother of Ilo Imogene Barker, wife of the compiler.

Tabitha’s ancestors, the Abshires, Hustons and Wrights, settled in Bedford County, Virginia, in mid 1700, on the Staunton River in an area that became part of Franklin County when the latter was formed from Bedford in 1785. There was considerable intermarriage among these families and in early and middle 1800 a number of them moved to Indiana, settling in many sections of the state.

The settlers of early Bedford were a mixed lot - English from the older settlements of eastern Virginia, Scotch-Irish and German from the Valley of Virginia and migrants from other colonies, New England, New York and Pennsylvania. Descendants of these settlers moved in large numbers to the Northwest Territory, Kentucky and the South-always in search of land.

There are two publications which deal with these three families— Our Kin-Ackerly-Parker, 1930 and Enoch Wright and wife Susan Abshire- Mrs. Kenneth Roehl of Lexington, Michigan-1971, both helpful but each with many errors. See also Chalkley’s Records Of Augusta County; Annals Of Bath County and Centennial History of Alleghany County- Oren F. Morton and Wingfield’s Franklin County Virginia-A History.
There are three accounts dealing with the Abshire family in Virginia prior to this one: Mrs. Roehl's Enoch Wright and wife Susan Abshire, by far the most comprehensive and helpful; An article in The Patriot Journal of North Wilkesboro N.C. 12 Mar. 1970-Some Abshires (Abshers) I Have Known by Mrs. W.O.Absher, dealing mainly with the N.C. Abshires and Barkers Of Virginia by the writer, with scant data on the Abshires. These accounts are in the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City and all three erred as to the early history of the family.

The name is variously spelled in the early records- Abshear, Absheer, Abshire, Absheir, Apshear and Apsheer. Nothing is known as to where they were prior to settling in Bedford County, Virginia. A Lewis Abshire is in the 1637 records of James City County but there seems to have been none of the name in Virginia by 1704, as no one of the name is listed in the Quit Rent Rolls of that year - the first reliable one taken in the state. Eve Aphinger(sic) was appointed administratrix of Peter Apinger(sic), Augusta County 17 Feb. 1760 and appraisal of the estate of Peter Absheir made 18 Aug. 1761. (Records Of Augusta- Chalkley Vol.3-pgs-61 and 64.) This is the only sound-name of Abshire in Augusta and it is speculated that Peter Absheir, if that was his name, was the father of three, possibly four, Abshires who settled in Bedford in middle 1700, based on the rarity of the name in the state, the numerous migrations from Augusta to Bedford and the appearance of the name Peter in

The 1782-85 tax rolls of Bedford lists Abraham, Christian and Lodowick Abshear apparently brothers, who lived in an area which fell in Franklin in 1785 when that county was formed from Bedford. Abraham, a Rev. War veteran has mistakedly been reported as a son of Lodowick. (It is noted that Lodowick appears in the records as Lodowick, Lute and Luke - see forward.)

The first tax roll of Franklin, 1786, lists Abraham, Christian, Jacob, Lodowick and Peter Abshire (sic). The 1787 returns- Abraham, Christian, Edward-under 21-, Jacob, Lute and Peter but not Christian, as he had gone to Burke County N.C. with a Jacob Abshire. About the same time William Abshire settled in Wilkes County N.C. (Mrs W.O. Absher). Probably Jacob and William were sons of Christian.

Abraham Abshire's 1832 pension application in Franklin indicated he was born in 1755 and had served four tours of duty with the Bedford militia in the Rev. War. The name of his first wife is unknown. He married (2) Susannah Vinson - Franklin marriage bond 14 Jan. 1801. His 1832 will was probated Franklin 2 Jan. 1843 in which he named wife Susannah, grand-daughter Betty Kingery, sons Thomas J. and George W. and "lawful heirs thirteen in number." Mrs. Roehl lists seven others as probable children of Abraham and this list seems correct. Three of his sons and a daughter went to Indiana- James went to Randolph County, Isaac,
Thomas J. and Susannah, wife of Enoch Wright, to Elkhart County. Another daughter, Elizabeth, wife of William Mills, "or their descendants" also went to Elkhart. (Roehl)

The Roehl account erred in saying that Abraham, the Rev. War veteran, was "doubtless the son of Lodowick Abshire...". This Abraham died in 1842. Abraham son of Lodowick appears in the 1850 census of Franklin - age 68 - wife Phoebe. See forward.

The 1820 census of Virginia lists John Absher, Patrick County; Austin Abshire, Tazwell and Abraham Sr., Abraham, Allen, Andrew, Edward, Isaac, Jacob, John, Luke Sr. and Peter Abshire of Franklin. The term "sr" did not necessarily indicate a father; in most cases it was used to distinguish the older man from another of the same name. In this case Abraham Sr. was the Rev. War veteran and Abraham was the son of Lodowick (Luke). Luke Sr. had a grand son by the name of Luke and was the father of those listed in the 1820 census except Abraham Sr. and Allen and Andrew - the latter two being Luke's grand-sons - sons of Peter.
This man's name appears in the records as Lodowick, Lordick, Luke and Lute and Mrs. W.O. Absher, in her account of the family in N.C., refers to him as Ludwig. Lute was a nick-name for Luke and Lordick simply a misspelling by the tax recorder. For some unknown reason he apparently used both names but was known as Luke among his children, as one named a son Luke and there was no Lodowick among his descendants.

As Lodowick Apshear he patented 140 acres on Maggoty Creek, 15 July 1773, which was his home place the rest of his life. This tract, first in Bedford, became part of Franklin in 1785. He appears as Lodowick Abshear in the Bedford tax rolls and as Lodowick, Lute and Luke Abshire in the later rolls of Franklin. As Lodowick Abshire he was the surety on the marriage bond of his daughter Elizabeth and John Wright, Franklin 8 Feb. 1800. The 1810-1820 census of Franklin lists him as Luke Abshire and as such he sold a slave to his son-in-law John Showalter, 3 June 1814. (DB-7-p-143).

His wife's name was Christina and, according to Mrs. Roehl, her descendants of Wabash County Indiana said her name was McGowdy. Mrs. Roehl was probably correct in believing that the name was McGrady, as there were no McGowns in Bedford nor Franklin but a number of McGradys in both counties.
On 5 April 1821 George Wright, Luke's son-in-law, and William Abshire, son, were named as administrators of Luke's estate. (WB-2-p-603) Sometime before the Jan. 1823 term of the Franklin Court, a suit was filed by the other heirs with the administrators as friendly defendants. Reason for the suit was simply to procure the necessary authority to make distribution to certain minor heirs. The suit named the wife, surviving children, two deceased sons and their children.

Preliminary to the hearing, Christina was summoned to appear at the Jan. Term to "administer on the estate of her deceased husband". This was not, as has been said, a call for Christina to administer the estate but only to attend the hearing. (Franklin CB 1822-24-p-84)

While the administrators had attended to the affairs of the estate, for some reason they had not made their administrators bonds. This they did at the time of the hearing. (CB-1822-24-p-84.) The court ordered appraisment of the estate and among the appraisers was Abraham Abshire - not Luke's son but the Rev. War veteran. (CB-1822-24-p-89)

On 3 Feb. 1823 the court ordered distribution of the estate - 10/12ths to the ten surviving children and 1/12th to the children of the deceased son Edward and 1/12th to the children of the other deceased son John. (OB-1822-24-p-91) The court neglected to provide for Christina's dower and in the March term 1823, the order was amended to do this. (Cb-1822-24-p-101)

The heirs named in this suit were Christina, wife and:
1. Peter. Marriage bond 19 Aug. 1787- Peter Abshire- Nelly Doran. Peter's will probated Franklin 4 July 1853, naming eight children, among whom were Allen and Andrew. Mr. David R. Abshire of Riverdale Ill., a descendant of Peter, has developed Peter's line in great detail.


5. Jacob. No marriage bond Franklin. Mrs. Roehl says he married Susannah Boon Noftsinger. Susannah was the widow of Daniel Noftsinger.


7. Elizabeth. Married John Wright- see forward.

8. Isaac.1850 census - Isaac age 80-living with son Ammon.


sation for services rendered my parents and myself." Tener (Christina) daughter of Philemon and Nancy Smith. Remainder of property to his brothers and sisters. (WB-4-p-389)

11. "Sarah Abshire, Luke Abshire, Daniel Wray and Fanny his wife ( late Fanny Abshire ), Abram Abshire and ____ Abshire children and distributees of Edward Abshire, deceased, who was the son of the aforesaid Luke Abshire, deceased...."

12."Edmond Abshire, Abram Abshire, William Abshire and ____ children and distributees of John Abshire, deceased, who was the son of the aforesaid Luke Abshire, deceased......"
Elizabeth Abshire, daughter of Luke and John A. Wright were married 11 Feb. 1800—marriage bond Franklin 8 Feb.—Lodowick Abshire surety. They were the parents of ten children, not twelve as said by Mrs. Roehl. John died 1839, survived by Elizabeth and, apparently, all his children. See Wright—forward.
HUSTON

Huston is a variation of the Scot name Houston, frequently spelled both ways for members of the same family. The first records in Virginia of the family here under consideration are in Augusta, with many records in Rockbridge and Rockingham and Rockbridge — both formed from Augusta. Sam Huston, president of Texas was from Rockbridge.

The persistency of the given name Jennet, or variations thereof, in three different groups of Houstons - Hustons suggests kinship among them. Jennet Houston was a 1783 tax payer of Caroline; Jennetta Huston was a party to the suit of Huston vs Huston, Augusta 1783 (Chalkley); Thomas Huston Sr. named a daughter Jennet in his 1813 will in Franklin and had a grand-daughter Sarah whose middle name seems to have been Jenneta, her grand-daughter name-sake was Sally Jennetta Frazee - see Wright forward.
THOMAS HUSTON SR.

Thomas Huston is recorded in the 1755 tax return of Augusta County as "in Bedford". He appears in the Bedford tax rolls of 1782-85 with 256 acres on the Staunton River, in an area which fell in Franklin in 1785. Thomas being a signer of a petition to create Franklin—Winfield's History of Franklin. His wife was Agnes, as shown by consent of Agnes and Thomas Huston to the marriage of their daughter Mary, Bedford 1784 and the sale by Thomas and Agnes Huston of a tract of land to Charles Rolston, Franklin 23 Feb. 1788 (DB-2-404). Evidently Agnes predeceased Thomas, not being named in his will probated Franklin 1810 (WB-2-p-49), which named children Jennet, James, Mary, Samuel, Margaret, Thomas and Rachel.

The Bible of Thomas Huston Jr. passed to his great-g-g-grand-daughter Imogene (Barker) Pullen who gave it to the Virginia Historical Society. This Bible has a register of the children of Thomas and Agnes Huston which parallels the list of children in Thomas Sr.'s will:

"Jane Huston January 176_ "
This was Jennet. No further information.

"James Huston October 1 1764"
James was surety on the marriage bond of his sister Mary, Bedford 1784. He bought 333 acres of land on Blackwater, Franklin, 1 April 1793 (DB-2-p-498) and sold them 20 June 1804. No further information.
"Mary Huston November 14 1766"
Marriage bond Bedford 10 April 1784 -
John McGinnis - Mary Huston, bearing consent of Mary's parents Agnes and Thomas - James Huston surety.

"Samuel Huston June 14 1768"
Marriage bond Franklin 31 Dec. 1790 -
Samuel Huston - Elizabeth Brown, dau. of Richard. Samuel and Elizabeth sold a tract of land on Maggoty Creek to Hiram Wright 1804. (DB-5-p-71)

"Elizabeth Huston May 4 1770"
Marriage bond Franklin 21 Feb. 1789 -
Jamey James - Elizabeth Huston. No information as to why she was not named in her father's will - possibly deceased.

"Margaret Huston February 1 1774"
Twin of Thomas Jr. No information.

"Thomas Huston February 1 1774"
See forward.

"Rachel Huston July 19 1775"
Marriage bond Franklin 3 Nov. 1800 -
Solomon Harkrider - Rachel Huston - Thomas Huston surety.

"Egness July 177_" (sic)
Agnes - presumably died young.
THOMAS HUSTON JR.

Thomas Huston Jr. born Bedford 1774 - marriage bond Franklin 8 June 1799- Thomas Huston - Tabitha Wright, "dau. of John"- William Wright surety.

The identity of Tabitha Wright has not been established other than she was daughter of John. There were four John Wrights in Bedford tax roll of 1782. One was John Wright whose will was probated Sept. 1803, listing ten children but no Tabitha - another his son John. A third John was born in Fauquier County 1747, lived in Franklin where he filed his application for service with the Bedford militia in the Revolution. (Archives File S 6449) There is nothing to indicate he was father of Tabitha other than his name.

There is nothing definite as to the other John Wright of 1782 Bedford but there are bits of evidence which permit speculation - nothing more and tortuous - that he was the father of Tabitha.

William Wright of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County had son John born 1735 and Winfield born 1742. (Overwharton Parish Register) These two lived in Spotsylvania County where a deposition was filed 14 Oct. 1767 by Winfield stating he and his brother John married sisters of John Grant. (Chalkley's Records Of Augusta- Vol 1-p- 360)

John Wright, son of William of Stafford had sons John, Winfield and William, named in his will probated Spotsylvania July 1791. (WB - E-p-1072) There are no
records of these three sons in Spottsylvania around or after 1791. In 1782, in addition to the four John Wrights, there were three William Wrights, one Winfield Wright and a John Grant in Bedford.

The only Tabitha Wrights in Franklin were Tabitha who married Thomas Huston and Tabitha wife of a Winfield Wright. Marriage bond Franklin 25 Dec. 1792 - Edward Lewis - Polly Wright, "dau. of Tabitha and Winfield (Wright)". Edward Lewis went to Green County, Ky. and absence of later records of Winfield in Franklin suggests he may have gone to Ky. also.

Was Tabitha who married Thomas Huston, the daughter of John, brother of Winfield, who named her for his sister-in-law Tabitha? Was the William Wright who was surety on the marriage bond of Thomas Huston, the brother of John and Winfield?

Thomas Huston Jr. was the executor of his father's will in 1813. He is said to have gone to Indiana when his daughter Sarah was three years old - she was born 1813. He appears in the census of Franklin County, Indiana - 1820 and in Union County 1830. (Union formed, in part, from Franklin 1821.) He was in the 1850 census, Union Township, Union County - Farmer - $4000.00 - born Va. age 76. Wife Tabitha born Va. age 76.

Thomas' grand-daughter Elizabeth (Wright) Frazee told the writer that Thomas and Tabitha lived on Duck Creek and had John, William, Agnes, Elizabeth, Sarah, Rachel and Samuel. The marriage records of Union County record the marriages of all these except Rachel.
Sarah Huston was born Franklin County, Virginia 26 Aug. 1813; married Matthew Wright, also from Franklin, in Union County, Indiana, 18 Oct. 1841 and was the mother of five children. She and Matthew lived on a farm in Hamilton County, Indiana, near the town of Arcadia. After the death of Matthew, 1885, Sarah lived with her son William until her death 27 March 1887. She and Matthew are buried in Cicero Cemetery, where their tombstones record their births and deaths. See Matthew Wright—forward.
WRIGHT

Wright is a generic occupation-surname, a worker or builder, from which came such names as Boatwright, Cartwright and Wheelwright. Records of this English name are found in all sections of early Virginia. Were it possible to establish the relationships, if any, among the Wrights of early Bedford County, it would not be feasible to record here the voluminous proof necessary to do so. There were four groups of Wrights in the area and era with confusion as to their various identities compounded by the frequent intermarriages among them.

It is thought by some that the Wright family with which this work is concerned came to the Valley of Virginia from New England in early 1700 and this maybe so, but proof is lacking. Morton in his histories of Bath and Alleghany says that Thomas and Peter Wright, sons of Adam Wright of New England settled in Covington, then Fort Young and a part of Augusta. Thomas died in 1755 with no issue and Peter's children did not go to Bedford.
Our Kin says that Thomas Wright came to Bedford from Augusta, and this seems true. The 1755 tax return of Augusta reported that Thomas Wright was "in Bedford." (Chalkley Vol. 3-p-417) In his will, probated Bedford 27 Nov. 1763, Thomas directed that "the tract of land where I did live, part of Randolph's Order" be sold. Randolph's Order seems to have been a huge tract of land in Augusta consisting of 118491 acres patented by Sir John Randolph with Beverley and others in "Orange County, beyond the great mountains on the River Shenando and known as the Manor of Beverley." (Valentine Papers, Vol 3-p-1474) Augusta was formed from Orange 1738.

Thomas stated in his will that he was an "unworthy member of the Church of England" which suggests that he was not from New England, yet two of his daughter's names were typical of New England and not of Virginia of those times—Abigal (sic) and Dorcas.

Thomas' will (WB-1-p-9) named wife Mary and children—Sarah, Dorcas, Catherine, John and Joseph. He lived near the town of Stewartville. It is noteworthy that there are no records in Bedford of the marriages of his children and two of his grand-children married as early as 1785, indicating he came to Bedford late in life and after his children were grown.

Thomas' son John lived in Bedford.
where his will was probated 26 Sept. 1803 in which he named wife Elizabeth and ten children. See Our Kin for records of his family.
According to *Our Kin* Joseph, son of Thomas and Mary Wright, married Elizabeth Kemp "in Maryland" but cites no authority for the statement. Joseph lived in Bedford, owning land there and in Franklin—the latter listed in his will probated Bedford 11 Sept. 1815 (WB-A-p-15). Evidently his wife predeceased him, not being mentioned in his will. Heirs listed were:

"My daughter Barsheba Simmons wife of Joel Simmons*. Marriage bond Bedford 13 Sept. 1806 - Joel Simmons - Barsheba Wright—"dau. of Joseph."

"My grandchildren Jane Meadow, Joseph Meadow, Judith Meadow and John Meadow, children of my daughter Nancy Meadow decd., one Negro girl Jugger"  

Nancy had other children than those named in Joseph's will who inherited land from Joseph under the residuary clause of his will. On 19 Oct. 1827 John Meador and wife Jinny, Jubal W. Meador and Bennet Meador and wife Judith gave power-of-attorney to John Turner to sell land they had inherited from their grand-father, they being then in Sumner County, Tenn. On 30 June 1829 John H. Meador of Allen County Ky. gave power to John Turner of Bedford to sell land which John had inherited from his grand-father. Turner sold the land for these heirs—"formerly owned by Nan-

"My daughter Patsey Mayes". Marriage bond Bedford 3 January 1802 - James Mays - Patsy Wright.


John Wright, one of the three oldest sons. See forward.

Joseph Wright, one of the three oldest sons. Marriage bond Franklin 28 Oct 1793 with Clary Drake. 1812 Franklin tax roll lists Joseph "on waters of Staunton" - 676 acres.

"Daughter Mary Greer". Marriage bond Bedford 2 Feb. 1788 - Martin Greer - Mary Wright.

"Daughter Agnes Mayes". Marriage bond Bedford 22 Oct 1792 - Samuel Mays - Agnes Wright.

Son Matthew Wright. Born 19 Oct. 1776. Married Nancy ______. Lived Bedford. See Our Kin
Son Rite(sic) Wright. Marriage bond Franklin 9 Feb. 1809 - Right(sic) Wright - Polly Scott dau of Jane. 1850 census of Franklin lists Wright(sic) Wright - age 70 - wife Polly age 60. Rite died 6 Dec. 1855 (Wingfield) and his will probated Franklin 4 Feb. 1856. (WB-9-p-337) His unusual given name appears frequently in the family over several generations.
JOHN A. WRIGHT

John, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Wright, is said to have lived at Republican Hill, presumably Republican in the southern part of Franklin. There were a number of John Anthony Wrights and no doubt John's middle name was Anthony. He recorded himself in his Bible "John A. Wright" and is referred to in the 1839 will of George Wright as "John A. Wright". (WB-5-357)


Late in 1800 William H. Wright of Indiana visited in Franklin and returned with John Wright's Bible which passed to John's great-g-g-g grand-daughter Imogene (Barker) Pullen, who gave it to the Virginia Historical Society. One entry in this Bible obviously refers to when John bought it:

"John Wright December 26 1810"

The Bible contains a family Register compiled in the standard form of the times and after the last
child was born.

"John A. Wright. John Wright and his wife Elizabeth married 11 Feb. 1800 and their first born child Polley was born 29th. of March 1801."

(Marriage bond 7 Jan. 1822- Nelson Abshire- Polly Wright- John Wright surety.)

"Nancy Wright was born October 17th day 1803."

(Marriage bond 13 Jan. 1825- Pendleton Wright- Nancy Wright- John Wright surety. Pendleton was son of George Wright who married Nancy's aunt, Poly Abshire. Pendleton went to Hamilton County, Indiana and is buried in Kinneman Cemetery- died 20 May 1864- age 63 years, 2 months, 20 days. (Cemetery Records Of Hamilton County- Brooks, 1951 Indiana State Library.)

"Skelton Wright was born 27th. December 1805."

(Census of 1850-Franklin- Skelton Wright age 45- wife Johanna age 27.)

"Right W. Wright was born January 30 1808."

(1850 census, Fall Creek Township, Hamilton County Indiana- Right Wright born Va.- age 42- wife Mary born Ohio- age 27-four children.)

"Matthew Wright was born 11th of April 1810."

See forward.
"John burrell Wright(sic) was born 18th. day of March 1812."

(The "burrell" was an insertion by someone other than the original recorder. "John Burrell Wright" appears in the 1850 census Fall Creek Township, Hamilton County, Ind. age 37, born Va.- Wife Anna age 32, born Indiana.)

"Ome Wright was born 3 day of May 1814."

(There are two marriage bonds for a Ome;- John Nunnally- Omey Wright- 7 July 1835 and John Nunnally- Omey Wright- 13 Mar. 1839.)

"Asa Wright was born 26 day of March 1816."

(Marriage bond, Franklin 10 Oct. 1841- Asa Wright- Folley Huddleston. 1850 census of Franklin- Asa 32- wife Mary(Polly) 22.)

"Rody Wright was born 1 day of February 1818."

(Marriage bond, Franklin 12 Feb. 1835- Ctey Meador- Rody Wright- Ammon Wright surety.)

"William H. Wright son of John and Betsey was born the 11th. day of December 1819."

The foregoing entries constitutes a standard form of "Family Register"- starting with the marriage entry and the birth of the first child, followed by entries listing only names and birth dates and closing with the birth of the last child, repeating the names of the parents, followed by an extended dash indicating completing the
list of the children.

Immediately following:

"February 13 day Jame Wright Washington was born in the year 1823".

"The name "Washington" is very dim and the entry easily misread as "James Wright"."

"Lewis Wright was born the 7th. day of July 1826"

"Poly Wright was born ___ (illegible) th. 1829."

"Teste: Gabriel Swanson."

Identities of these last three named are unknown to the writer.

William Wright, whose will was probated Franklin2 Jan. 1809 (WB - 1-p-368), was one of three William Wrights in the 1782 tax rolls of Bedford—one of these being William Jr.. In his will William name his sons George and James and grandson Enoch, the central figure of Roehl's book. William's son George married Polly Abshire, sister of John A. Wright's wife Elizabeth. Adding to this family mixture, George's son Pendleton married John A.'s daughter Nancy.

There seems little doubt that William had other sons than George and James. Roehl records William Wright Jr. as a "probable" brother and support of this found
in William Wright's will, dated 1825-probated 1 Feb. 1830-in which he named one executor "William Wright, son of James". In his will William Jr. named wife Catherine(Doran) and ten children, among whom were Miriam and Hiram Wright. John A.'s Bible has these entries:

"Miriam Wright married Duckwiler.
Died the 22 day of July 1837"
(Marriage bond, Franklin 1 Jan. 1827 - Joseph Duckwiler- Miriam Wright.)

"Hiram Wright Children"
"Mehala Wright was born the 27 May 1810"
"Catherine Wright was born the 10th April 1812."
"July Wright was born the 8th. July 1813."
"Costalow Wright was born 15 day April 1815."
"Calvin Wright was born the 24 March 1817".

On a separate page is a marriage entry - "Oatey Wright and Caroline Pearson married November th. 29 1855." On another page are these entries:

"Oatey Wright was born ___(illegible) th. 14th. 1828."
"Caroline Frances Wright was born February 20 1836."
"Mary Elizabeth Wright was born Sep-
tember the 16 1856."

"Sally Ann Wright was born April 8 1858."

"John Otey(sic) Wright was born January the 4 1860."

"George Robert Wright was born September the 8 1862."

The remainder entries are short and obscure:

"James Mitchell was born October the 18th day in the year Ninety four."

"Right Wright is (to) mind me and give Johnny Abshire......" Illegible.

"Meredith Pate October 30 1839."

"Ould Miss Polly James died on 18 day of January 1838." (Polly Abshire who married John James Franklin 1812 ?)

"Kitty Wright formerly Kitty Simmons died the 7 day of July 1839 Sunday."

"William (H.W.orN) was 6 day Novem..."
MATTHEW WRIGHT

Matthew, son of John A. and Elizabeth (Abshire) Wright, was born Franklin County, 11 April 1810; married Sarah Huston, Union County, Indiana 18 Oct. 1841; lived in Hamilton County, Indiana, near the town of Arcadia; died 20 Feb. 1865 and buried Cicero Cemetery. Sarah born Franklin, 26 Aug. 1813, died 22 March 1887 and buried Cicero—tomstones mark their graves.

Directory Of Hamilton County—1874—
Indiana State Library states:

"M.W. Wright, farmer, 2½ miles s.w. Arcadia. Born Va. 1810. Settled in Hamilton County 1841. Granger—Methodist"

1850 census of Hamilton County:
Matthew Wright 50—born Va farmer.
Sarah " 44 " Va.
Tabitha " 17 " Ind.
John T. " 15 " "
William " 13 " "
Joseph " 11 " "
Elizabeth " 7 " "

It is not known when Matthew went to Indiana. He may have gone to Union County where Sarah lived—there were a number of Franklin families in this county.
Matthew was of average height, blue-eyed and noted for his soft spoken and kindly manner. A picture of him in his older days reflects his benign nature. A picture of Sarah taken about the same time as that of Matthew, reflects the iron will characteristic of the Hustons. Her firm set mouth and chin were duplicates of those of her reputed cousin Sam Houston of Texas. The children of Matthew and Sarah:

Tabitha Wright—See forward.

John Thomas Wright, born 19 November 1843. His wife was Caroline Barker, a great aunt of Imogene (Barker) Pullen. Caroline died Greensburg Ky., where John had lumber interests, 15 Aug. 1882. John, a Union veteran, died at Soldier's Home, Marion Ind. 6 July 1920 bur. Cicero Cemetery. One son, Mondova Wright (1874-1915) and daughter Arletta Grace (1876-1933) who died in Los Angeles.

William H. Wright, born 5 June 1847; married Sarah Good and lived in Cincinnati, where he was a prominent business man. No children.

Joseph Perry Wright, born 3 April 1850; married Flora Nixon of Medora Ind.; died 25 May 1924 in Tennessee, where he had lumber interests; one daughter Florence, a school teacher who married in Tenn..

Elizabeth Wright, born 12 May 1853—one of twins—twin died when five days old. Was second wife of Squire R. Frazee, whose first wife was Elizabeth's sister Tabitha—See Tabitha Wright—forward.
TABITHA WRIGHT

Tabitha, dau. of Matthew and Sarah Wright, was born on her parent's farm near Arcadia 3 Oct. 1842; married Squire Recompense Frazee (1839-1924) 10 Feb. 1861; had a son who died in infancy and two daughters, one who died when sixteen; died 6 Mar. 1874 and buried Cicero Cemetery.

Tabitha, whose name was pronounced Tab'itha, had a trim but full figure, black hair, deep blue eyes, long black lashes and olive complexion and missed being beautiful only because of her firm Huston mouth and chin, evidence of her indomitable will. Adored by her husband, she restrained him in his impractical schemes, and as long as she lived they were in more than ordinary comfort on his splendid farm, given him by his father, worked by a tenant and their attractive home cared for by the "hired Girl."

Squire Recompense, whom the writer knew well, was one of a number of his family with his given names, which came into the family through a pre Revolutionary kinsman of Westfield N.J.- Recompense Squier. Samuel Maxwell Frazee (1790-1855) moved from Westfield to Butler County, Ohio where his son Caleb Maxwell Frazee (1812-1875) was born. Caleb lived for some years in Parke County, Indiana, where his son Squire Recompense was born, near the town of Bainbridge. In 1856 Caleb and his two sons moved to Hamilton County, where he had a farm near Arcadia, consisting of an entire section.

Squire was of average height, portly,
with blue eyes and ruddy complexion, who in later life, with his white hair, moustache and goatee, bore a striking resemblance to the present day Col. Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken note. Genial, humorous and a voracious reader, he was a graduate of Rockville Academy and well versed in Latin and the classics. His great passions in life were his love for Tabitha and his distaste for physical effort and Republicans. His brother Howard Frazee shared Squire's feelings about Republicans, vented by naming a son, born a short time after the assassination of Lincoln, Wilkes Frazee.

On the night of her death Tabitha called Squire and her sister Elizabeth to her bedside and exacted their promise that, one year from her death, they would marry. In her concern for her two little girls, Tabitha turned to the one she trusted most—her sister "Lizzie". Never was a trust more justified.

Squire and Lizzie were married April 11, 1875. He and Tabitha were married thirteen years—he and Lizzie forty-nine. Since Tabitha's death the space next to her grave had been reserved by Squire for himself, and here Lizzie saw to it that he was buried—he died 4 Sept. 1924. There was no space left for her and she was buried in Dunkard Cemetery, Arcadia. She died 3 May 1940.

There is no doubt that Lizzie married Squire because of Tabitha, of whom she said to the writer—"I loved my sister more than any one else in the world". In their make-ups Tabitha was a Huston—Lizzie a Wright. Lizzie was plain but of such character her looks were little noted by others. A woman of courage and dignity, her gentle nature was such she offered no objections to her husband's ventures
into undertakings for which he was not suited, and which dissipated his, her's and Tabitha's estates. She gave unlimited affection and care to her two step-daughters, who were devoted to her.

Around 1880, Squire, inspired by the fortune his brother-in-law William Wright had made in lumber, bought a large timber tract at Elkhorn, Taylor County, Ky. and set up a mill operation. Here his daughter Katherine was born and his sixteen year old daughter, "Lou", Lula Adelle, eloped with Benjamin Franklin Mann of Mannsville Ky., to Jamestown Tenn. where they were married 24 Sept. 1881.

The mill failed and Squire sold out at a heavy loss, returning to Arcadia, but not to his farm there, as he had sold this to obtain funds for his Kentucky venture. On Lou's insistence, she and her husband went to Arcadia, where Squire was post master during a part of Cleveland's first administration.

Around 1887 Squire bought a farm in south-west Missoui, in the Ozark country, near the village of Wheatland. Again on Lou's insistence, she and Frank went to Wheatland where he established a profitable hauling operation. Squire's widowed mother, Eliza (Gough) Frazee was with him in Missouri, where she died 19 Jan. 1890. Squire's daughter by Tabitha, Lillian Gertrude, also died there, 23 Dec 1888, as did his daughter by Lizzie, Sallie Jeanette, 27 Nov. 1889. These three were buried in Gardner's Cemetery, where tombstones mark their graves.

The farm venture failed, again Squire sold out at loss and returned to Arcadia, where he lived the rest of his days. Lou and her husband also returned to Arcad-
Squire and Tabitha's children:

Squire and Elizabeth's children:
Frederick Byron -b- 2 Sept. 1879 -d- 17 April 1948. Married twice- no children.
Katherine Beatrice- Elkhorn, Ky, 14 Sept 1881. Unmarried. For many years librarian at Seymour Ind. - d- Manchester Ind. 9 Jan. 1972- buried Dunkard Cemetery.
Sallie Jeanette -b- 29 July 1885

After the death of her husband, 19 Feb 1934, Pittsburgh Pa., Lou lived with her granddaughter Imogene B. Pullen in Relay Maryland, and died on a visit with Lizzie in Arcadia. Her tombstone notes her husband's death in Pittsburgh and his burial in Wellsburg, W.Va., where his daughter Sarah Eliza was living at the time of his death.

Lou's daughter Sarah Eliza Mann married (1) Earl E. Barker(1880-1939) and their daughter Ilo Imogene was born, Arcadia, 8 Mar. 1904. She married William E. Pullen, Indianapolis, 24 Feb. 1923. Their son John Thomas G. Pullen was born Liberty, Indiana, 20 June 1926; m- Lois Elva Morrison, Baltimore, Md., 24 Dec. 1950. Their son William E. Pullen was born Richmond, Va., 18 Jan. 1957 and their daughter Nancy Lindsay Pullen was born Richmond, 23 Mar. 1958.