Lottie Melissa Rhudy and her Ancestors

October 1, 2016

Objective

The objective of this research project is to document the maternal line of Lottie Melissa Rhudy for four generations, using evidence to link each of the generations and to identify each family member. Lottie Rhudy was born in Missouri 10 July 1893 to James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd; she married Arden Brown and she died in 1980.

Introduction

The initial information for this research project came from an email from Donna Johnson, the granddaughter of Lottie Melissa Rhudy. The information in the email was based on family information and the personal knowledge of Donna Johnson. In the email, Donna stated, "Here's all I know from memory: Lottie Melissa Rhudy Brown (my grandmother) b 7/10/1893, parents were James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd. She married Arden Brown and she died in 1980. I believe they had a plantation in Virginia at one time and travelled by covered wagon to Missouri when Lottie was a young girl."[1]

[1] Donna Johnson, [private email], e-mail, 10 January 2012, "Donna's Family Information."

Summary of the Results

The objective was successfully accomplished using multiple sources to verify each generational link to go back four generations from Lottie Melissa Rhudy. Each of the children in the families were documented as well. Here are some of the highlights from the results:

- Located Lottie Melissa Rhudy with her parents, James and Mary Rhudy, in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Census records.
- Found the 1980 death certificate for Lottie Melissa Rhudy, confirming Mary Shepherd's maiden name.
- Obtained the 1890 marriage certificate for James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd who were married in Maysville, DeKalb, Missouri.
- Identified Mary Jane Shepherd in the 1870 and 1880 U.S. Census records with her parents, Jacob and Harriett Shepherd.
- Found a history of DeKalb County Missouri which lists all twelve of Jacob and Harriett Shepherd's children.
- Acquired the 1916 death certificate for Jacob Shepherd who died in Missouri.
- Located the death certificate for Harriett Shepherd who died in 1917 in Missouri.
- Found death certificates for many of Jacob and Harriett Shepherd's children which list her maiden name as Harriett Combest.
- Identified Harriett Combest in the 1850 U.S. Census with her parents, William and Gilla Combest.
- Obtained the 1822 marriage bond for William Combest and Gilla Jasper who were married in Pulaski County, Kentucky which identifies William's father as Samuel.
- Located several land deeds for William and Gilla Combest in Pulaski County, Kentucky.
- Acquired the 1855 Letters of Administration appointing Wyatt J. Combest as administrator of William Combest's estate, along with other probate documents.
- Located the book, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants*, which lists each of William and Gilla Combest's children along with many of their birth, marriage, and death dates.
- Found additional documents for each of William and Gilla Combest's children, several of which confirm Gilla's maiden name as Jasper.
- Located Samuel Combest in the 1803 through 1820 Pulaski County, Kentucky tax lists.
- Identified Samuel Combest in the 1820 U.S. Census in Pulaski County with children who match the ages of Samuel's children as listed in *Samuel Combest and His Descendants.*
- Obtained a copy of Samuel Combest's will which names his wife as Sarah and lists each of his children, including the married names of his daughters.
- Found Sarah Dick's father, John Dick's, Revolutionary War Pension File which records her birth date and gives further evidence she was married to Samuel Combest.

First Generation: James Winton Rhudy married to Mary Jane Shepherd

One of the first sources to check in genealogical research is the census records. These will often place individuals together in families and include ages, occupations, and places of birth. Some census records provide additional information including data on immigration, military service, and education.

When the 1910 U.S. Census was taken, Lottie Rhudy, age 16, was living with her parents, Wint and Mary Rhudy, in Irwin, Woodward, Oklahoma.[2] In the original information provided, Winton was James Rhudy's middle name, so this record still fits the family. Lottie's information and each of the dates and names listed on the census, including the middle initials, match up with the family information provided. However, this census states that Lottie was born in Missouri, not in Virginia as the family tradition stated. Family traditions are often based on truth, but they get changed over time so careful research is required to verify the facts. James was born in Virginia, so it is possible that he was the one that grew up on a plantation in Virginia.

Table 1. 1910 U.S. Census for the James Winton Rhudy Family

Date/Locality	**1910 Irwin, Woodward, Oklahoma**					
ED, Sheet No.	Enumeration District 283, Sheet 2A					
House, Family #	House #42, Family #42					
Family Member	**Sex**	**Age**	**Relation**	**Occupation**	**Birth Place**	**Birth Place of Parents**
Wint J. Rudy	M	44	Head	Farmer	Virginia	VA, VA
Mary Rudy	F	44	Wife		Illinois	MO, KY
Baysil E. Rudy	M	18	Son	Laborer	Missouri	VA, IL
Lottie Rudy	F	16	Daughter		Missouri	VA, IL
Hettie Rhudy	F	15	Daughter		Missouri	VA, IL
Lee R. Rhudy	M	11	Son		Missouri	VA, IL
Emma Rhudy	F	2	Daughter		Oklahoma	VA, IL

[2] 1910 U.S. Census, Woodward County, Oklahoma, population schedule, Irwin, enumeration district (ED) 0283, 2A, dwelling 42, family 42, Wint J. Rhedy; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed January 2012); National Archives microfilm T624, roll 1276. DOCUMENT 1.

Lottie's four siblings are also enumerated on this census, Baysil E., Hettie., Lee R., and Emma. One helpful question asked on the both the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Censuses was the number of children born to a mother and the number of those children who were living. There is a nine-year gap in the ages between Lee and Emma Rhudy, but Mary stated that she had given birth to five children, all of whom were living, so the 1910 Census shows the complete family at that time. The family owned their own farm with a mortgage on it. This indicates that in future research, land records for James Winton Rhudy could be found in Woodward County, Oklahoma.

Ten years earlier, the family was in Camden, DeKalb, Missouri during the 1900 U.S. Census.[3] This census asked the month and year of each person's birth, which provides more specific evidence to when they were born. The census also shows that the family was just renting the home they lived in at the time.

Table 2. 1900 U.S. Census for the James Winton Rhudy Family

Date/Locality	**1900 Camden, De Kalb, Missouri**					
ED, Sheet No.	Enumeration District 65, Sheet 1B					
House, Family #	House #16, Family #16					
Family Member	**Sex**	**Birth Date**	**Relation**	**Occupation**	**Birth Place**	**Birth Place of Parents**
James W. Rudy	M	Mar 1866	Head	Farm Laborer	Virginia	VA, VA
Mary J. Rudy	F	Jan 1866	Wife		Illinois	MO, KY
Elmer B. Rudy	M	Jul 1891	Son		Missouri	VA, IL
Lottie M. Rudy	F	Jul 1893	Daughter		Missouri	VA, IL
Hattie R. Rudy	F	Jan 1895	Daughter		Missouri	VA, IL
Robert L. Rudy	M	May 1898	Son		Missouri	VA, IL

[3] 1900 U.S. Census, DeKalb County, Missouri, population schedule, Camden, enumeration district (ED) 65, 1B, dwelling 16, family 16, James W. Rudy; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed January 2012); National Archives microfilm T623, roll 852. DOCUMENT 2.

The Marriage of James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd

To substantiate the family tradition that Mary's maiden name was Shepherd, a record of their marriage was sought. Because their oldest child, Elmer, was born in Missouri, it was likely that they were also married there. A search in the records of Missouri for James Winton Rhudy produced a copy of their marriage license and certificate, dated 4 September 1890.[4] James was recorded as "Wint" on the certificate and he was from King City, Gentry, Missouri; Mary J. Shepherd was from Maysville, De Kalb, Missouri.

The Deaths of James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd

The death information for James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd was located on Find A Grave, which has pictures of their tombstones from the Fargo Cemetery in Fargo, Ellis, Oklahoma. As listed on the tombstones, James' birthdate was 20 March 1866 and his death date was 9 March 1937.[5] Mary Jane Shepherd Rhudy's birthday was 31 January 1866 and her death date was 28 April 1951.[6]

Oklahoma does not have a death index for those who died after 1908, so James Rhudy's death certificate was ordered directly from the Vital Records Section, State Department of Health for Oklahoma. However, the Department of Health replied that they searched all counties from 1908 -2016 and there was no record of his death.[7] One explanation for this might be understood by a note on the Oklahoma's Department of Health website which stated, "Because death records

[4] "Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002," database with images, *Ancestry* (http:// ancestry.com/ : accessed March 2012), entry for Wint Rhudy, 4 September 1890; original data: Missouri Marriage Records. Jefferson City, MO, USA: Missouri State Archives. Microfilm. DOCUMENT 3.

[5] "Find A Grave", *Find A Grave* (http://findagrave.com : accessed January 2012), database with images, "James Winton Rhudy," Memorial #78796952. DOCUMENT 4.

[6] "Find A Grave", *Find A Grave* (http://findagrave.com : accessed January 2012), database with images, "Mary Jane Shepherd Rhudy," Memorial #78796963. DOCUMENT 5.

[7] Letter, 20 July 2016, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Division of Vital Records, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in personal possession of this author.

were not required for identification as they are today, not all records prior to 1940 were placed on file consistently."[8]

Another possibility is that James died in a different state; however, James and Mary Rhudy were living in Oklahoma during the 1930 U.S. Census before he died in 1937 and the Find A Grave documentation shows that James was buried in Oklahoma.[9] Mary was still living there in 1940, so it is most likely James died in Oklahoma.[10]

In order to explore the possibility that James died in another state and was just buried in Oklahoma, the Social Security Death Index was also checked, but there were not any entries for a James Rhudy dying at that time period. According to a brief history of Social Security, the Social Security Act was signed into law in 1935 with the first taxes to get collected in 1937.[11] Since James Rhudy would have been 68 when the law was passed, he likely never filed for a Social Security number.

Because Mary's death, which occurred in 1951, is within the past 75 years, written permission from a direct descendant must be submitted to Oklahoma's Department of Health. If desired, this can be done during future research on this family. A preliminary search for obituaries did not find any for James or Mary Rhudy. By the 1930s, obituaries were very common and future research in some of the Woodward or Ellis County newspapers, such as the *Woodward Daily Press* or the *Northwest Oklahoman Ellis County News* could be very productive.

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[8] Oklahoma State Department of Health, https://www.ok.gov/health/Birth_and_Death_Certificates/Death_Certificates/#who accessed : July 2016.

[9] 1930 U.S. Census, Woodward County, Oklahoma, population, McNeal, enumeration district (ED) 8, 2B, dwelling 46, family 46, James W. Rhudy; digital images, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed January 2012); National Archives microfilm T626, roll 1929. DOCUMENT 6.

[10] 1940 U.S. Census, Woodward County, Oklahoma, population, Woodward, enumeration district (ED) 77-23A, 14A, house number 1205, famly 317, Mary J. Rhudy; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed July 2013); National Archives microfilm T627, roll 3341. DOCUMENT 7.

[11] Social Security Administration, https://www.ssa.gov/history/briefhistory3.html : accessed July 2016.

The Children of James Winton and Mary Jane Shepherd

The next step was to document the birth, marriages, and deaths of each of the children of James and Mary Rhudy in hopes that some of those records would further verify that James Rhudy and Mary Shepherd were the parents of this family and that Mary's maiden name was Shepherd. In 1883, the Missouri General Assembly created legislation to establish statewide registration of births and deaths, but the reporting was not mandatory so the law was repealed until 1910.[12] The Rhudy children were born during the time when reporting births was not mandatory, but Missouri birth records were still searched in case they were among those births submitted; none of them were listed.[13]

There are other records which record the names of the parents, such as marriage licenses and death records, so they were searched next. One example of a document which proves that James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd were the parents of this family is the 1944 "Application for Social Security Account Number, Form SS-5" for Robert Lee Rhudy which records both of their full names.[14] It also documents his birthdate of 1 May 1898. Table 3 below lists each of the children, names specific documents found for each of them, and how the names of their parents were recorded on those documents.

[12] Missouri State Archives. "Missouri Birth and Death Records, Pre 1910", database with images, www.sos.mo.gov : accessed January 2012.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Lee Rhudy, SS no. 447-22-2435, 10 January 1944, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland. DOCUMENT 8.

Table 3. The Children of James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd (See Family Group Sheet for References)

Name of Child	Birth Date/Place	Marriage Date/Place Spouse	Death Date/Place	Documentation which Lists the Parents
Elmer Basil	18 July 1891 Missouri	not married	27 June 1939 Oklahoma	**Census:** James & Mary Rhudy **WWI Draft Regist.:** J.W. Rhudy **Find A Grave:** James Winton Rhudy & Mary Jane Shepherd
Lottie Melissa (direct line)	10 July 1893 Missouri	18 June 1919 Chicago, Cook, IL Arden Brown	10 February 1980 Wichita Falls, Wichita, TX	**Census:** James & Mary Rhudy **Marriage Certificate:** not listed **Death Certificate:** James W. Rhudy, Mary Shepherd
Hettie Ruth	25 January 1895 Missouri	26 July 1917 Fargo, Ellis, OK Carl W. Hendren	18 January 1982 Barger, Hutchinson, TX	**Census:** James & Mary Rhudy **Marriage Certificate:** not listed **Death Certificate:** James W. Rhudy & Mary Jane Shepherd
Robert E. Lee	1 May 1898 Missouri	25 December 1925 Ellis, Oklahoma Mary Irene Newcomb	30 November 1972 Oklahoma	**Census:** James & Mary Rhudy **WWI Draft Regist.:** Mary J. Rhudy **Marriage License:** not listed **SS Application:** James Winton Rhudy, Mary Jane Sheppherd
Emma Jeanette	15 August 1907 Oklahoma	6 March 1937 Woodward, OK George R. Kysar	13 May 1991 Oklahoma	**Census:** James & Mary Rhudy **Find A Grave:** James Winton Rhudy & Mary Jane Shepherd

The marriage record for Lottie M. Rhudy matches the family information which was provided initially; it states she was married to Arden W. Brown, 18 June 1919 in Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[15] Unfortunately, Lottie's parents are not recorded on her marriage license. The death certificate for Lottie M. Brown shows that she died 10 February 1980 at the age of 86 in Wichita Falls, Wichita, Texas, and that she was buried in the Eldorado Cemetery in Eldorado, Kansas.[16] Her death certificate also states she was born 10 July 1893 to James W. Rhudy and Mary Shepherd and at the time of her death she was widowed. The informant on the certificate is Mack Brown, son. As seen in the table above, each of the children have documentation which establish their parents as James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd.

[15] "Illinois, Cook County Marriages, 1871-1920," database, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org : accessed 4 May 2016), Arden W Brown and Lottie M Rhudy, 18 June 1919; citing Chicago, Cook, Illinois, 831394, Cook County Courthouse, Chicago; FHL microfilm 1,030,700.

[16] *Ancestry*, (https://Ancestry.com : accessed February 2012) death of Lottie M. Brown, 10 February 1980, Wichita Falls, Texas Department of State Health Services. Texas Death Certificates, 1903–1982. DOCUMENT 9.

First Generation: Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Research

Multiple documents confirm the family information which was provided at the beginning of this project. The 1900 and 1910 U.S. Censuses show James and Mary Rhudy with their five children. Three of the children, Elmer Basil, Robert Lee, and Emma Jeanette, stayed and died in Oklahoma. The other two children, Lottie Melissa and Hettie Ruth, moved to Texas where they later died. The death certificates of Lottie and Hettie, both name their parents as James Rhudy and Mary Shepherd. Mary's maiden name was also confirmed in 1890 marriage license and certificate for James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd.

In future research, application can be made to the Oklahoma State Department of Health for the death certificates of Mary Rhudy and those of her children who died in Oklahoma. By Oklahoma law, "death records filed are not open for public inspection."[17] The newspapers at that time likely published obituaries which should be searched for both James and Mary Rhudy. Also, the Woodward County, Oklahoma land records at the Family History Library could be searched for James Winton Rhudy who owned in land there in 1930.

The objective of this research project was to document the family of Lottie Melissa Rhudy and extend her maternal line. The census records and other original records found for each child clearly established that Lottie's parents were James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd. The research could now shift to extending Lottie's line by finding the family of Mary Jane Shepherd.

[17] Oklahoma State Department of Health, https://www.ok.gov/health/Birth_and_Death_Certificates/ : accessed May 2016.

Second Generation: Jacob B. Shepherd Married to Harriett Combest

At the beginning of this research project, nothing was known about the parents of Mary Jane Shepherd. The marriage license for Mary Jane Shepherd and James Rhudy does not record Mary's parents; however, a link on her Find A Grave entry lists her parents as Jacob B. Shepherd and Harriett Combest Shepherd. These links on Find A Grave are considered to be an authored source instead of an original record. This means someone compiled information to create this record so all of the information needs to be documented.

As mentioned earlier, one source which documents a family is the census, especially starting in 1880 when the relationship of each person to the head of household was stated. In the 1880 U.S. Census, Jacob B. and Harriett Shepherd were living in Sherman, DeKalb, Missouri with eight children.[18] Notice in the table below that Mary was age 14, placing her birth around 1866 which matches the information found on Mary Shepherd Rhudy's headstone. Also, in 1880 Jacob and Harriett were living in Sherman, DeKalb County, Missouri, which is only 11 miles from Maysville where Mary Shepherd was living when she married James Rhudy. The 1880 U.S. Census helps to confirm that Jacob and Harriett Shepherd were the parents of Mary Shepherd Rhudy.

[18] 1880 U.S. Census, DeKalb, Missouri, population schedule, Sherman, enumeration district (ED) 196, 250A, dwelling 38, family 39, Jacob Shepherd; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed September 2015); National Archives microfilm T9, Roll: 685. DOCUMENT 10.

Table 4. 1880 U.S. Census for the Jacob Shepherd Family

Date/Locality	**1880, Sherman, DeKalb, Missouri**
ED, Sheet No.	Enumeration District 196, Sheet 250A
House, Family #	House #38, Family #39

Family Member	**Sex**	**Age**	**Relation**	**Occupation**	**Birth Place**	**Birth Place of Parents**
Jacob Shepherd	M	51	Self	Farmer	MO	WV, TN
Harriett Shepherd	F	45	Wife	Keeping House	KY	KY, KY
James M. Shepherd	M	24	Son	Farmer	MO	MO, KY
Emma Shepherd	F	18	Dau		MO	MO, KY
Mary Shepherd	**F**	**14**	Dau		**MO**	**MO, KY**
Jacob Shepherd	M	12	Son	Helps on farm	MO	MO, KY
Rufus Shepherd	M	10	Son	Helps on farm	MO	MO, KY
Hattie Shepherd	F	7	Dau		MO	MO, KY
William Shepherd	M	4	Son		MO	MO, KY
Ira B. Shepherd	M	2	Son		MO	MO, KY

Ten years earlier, during the 1870 United States Census, Jacob and Harriett Shepherd were also living in Sherman.[19] Two of the older children who were not in the 1880 U.S. Census were enumerated in this census. Jacob also was recorded as having $3,000 worth of real estate, so in future research, the land records for DeKalb County, Missouri should be researched.

Table 5. 1870 U.S. Census for the Jacob Shepherd Family

Date/Locality	**1870, Sherman, DeKalb, Missouri**
Page No.	Page #17
Dwelling, Family #	Dwelling #121, Family #121

Family Member	**Sex**	**Age**	**Birth Place**	**Occupation**	**Value of Real/Personal Estate**
Jacob Shepherd	M	41	MO		$3,000; $1,250
Harriett Shepherd	F	36	KY		
Wyatte Shepherd	M	18			
Jackson Shepherd	M	16			
James M. Shepherd	M	14			
Emma Shepherd	F	8	MO		
Mary Shepherd	**F**	**4**	MO		

[19] 1870 U.S. Census, DeKalb, Missouri, population schedule, Sherman, 17, dwelling 121, Jacob Shepherd; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed September 2015); National Archives microfilm M593, roll 774. DOCUMENT 11a.

Jacob Shepherd	M	2	MO		
William Shepherd	M	1/12	MO		

Part of performing thorough research is to find the family in each possible census because census questions often varied from year to year. This allows the potential for additional information to be discovered about the family. The 1900 U.S. Census shows Jacob and Mary Shepherd were living in Washington, DeKalb, Missouri, and it notes their year of marriage as 1851.[20] As mentioned before, the 1900 U.S. Census asked the number of children born to a mother and the number of those children who were living. Harriett stated she had twelve children, but only ten were living. Ten of the children are enumerated in the census records, but that still leaves two children who are missing.

Table 6. 1900 U.S. Census for the Jacob Shepherd Family

Date/Locality	**1900 Washington, De Kalb, Missouri**					
ED, Sheet No.	Enumeration District 75, Sheet 6					
Dwelling, Family #	Dwelling #112, Family #113					
Family Member	**Sex**	**Birth Date**	**Relation**	**Occupation**	**Birth Place**	**Birth Place of Parents**
Jacob Shepherd	M	Jun 1829	Self	Farmer	MO	VA, TN
Harriett Shepherd	F	Aug 1834	Wife		KY	KY, KY
Emma	F	Nov 1861	Dau		MO	MO, KY
Jacob O.	M	Apr 1868	Son	Farmer	MO	MO, KY
William Shepherd	M	Dec 1875	Son		MO	MO, KY
Ira G. Shepherd	M	Mar 1878	Son	Farm Laborer	MO	MO, KY

[20] 1900 U.S. Census, DeKalb, Missouri, population schedule, Washington, enumeration district (ED) Number: 0075, 6B, dwelling 112, family 113, Jacob Shepherd; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed 4 September 2015); National Archives microfilm T623, roll: 852. DOCUMENT 12.

The *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri* names all of Jacob and Harriett's children, including the two children missing from the census, Archie and Eloch.[21] Apparently, they died as young children, therefore they never appeared in a census record. At that time in Missouri history, civil birth records were sparse, so fortunately, this history also detailed birthdates for Jacob Shepherd and each of the children. This history was compiled/authored by The Goodspeed Publishing Company back in 1888 and no sources are listed in this book. This means that the information in the book may or may not be correct, so additional sources should also be used.

The Marriage of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest

Another important clue found in this history is that Harriett Combest, mother of Mary Jane Shepherd, was "of Andrew County. She is the daughter of William and Gilla Combest, Kentuckians by birth, who moved to Andrew County, Mo., in 1840."[22] Logically then, Harriett was already living in Missouri when she was married, so the marriage record for Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest should be first searched for in DeKalb and Andrew Counties around 1851, the date mentioned in the 1900 U.S. Census. According to *Research in Missouri* by Ann Fleming, "Marriage licenses were not officially required until 1881; however, many earlier marriages were recorded at local courthouses."[23] This implies that a search of the county records should be tried, although it might not be successful.

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[21] *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri: From earliest time to the present; together with sundry personal, business and professional sketches and family records, besides a condensed history of the state of Missouri, etc.* (Saint Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888), 585; digital, *Missouri Digital Heritage* (http://cdm.sos.mo.gov/cdm/ref/collection/mocohist/id/33004 : accessed 4 September 2015.

[22] *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri.:* 585.

[23] Fleming, Ann Carter. *Research in Missouri.* 3rd ed. Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2015. Print. NGS Research in the States Ser.

Both of these counties have filmed the courthouse marriage records, but a page-by-page search in both DeKalb and Andrew Counties for the years 1849-1851 did not produce any marriage record for Jacob and Harriett.[24] In addition, searches on FamilySearch, Ancestry and FindMyPast for their marriage did not produce their marriage record. There is a marriage index found on Ancestry which shows that Jacob and Harriett were married in 1851, but this index comes from a variety of compiled sources such as pedigree charts and family history articles so it is not considered an original source. In future research, newspapers for the area of Andrew and DeKalb County, Missouri, could be searched for published notices of local marriages during the year 1851.

The Deaths of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest

To confirm that Jacob Shepherd married Harriett Combest, a search for their death certificates was performed because often at this time period death certificates would name the spouse. The Missouri Digital Heritage site has death certificates for both Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest. Jacob Shepherd died 2 December 1916 in St. Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri and he was born 9 June 1829 in Missouri.[25] Although his death certificate specifies him as married at the time of death, it did not give the name of his spouse. His death certificate names his parents, Enoch Shepherd and Lavina Milham, both from Virginia. In future research each of these lines could be furthered documented and extended. A combined headstone for Jacob and Harriett

[24] "Marriage records, 1841-1915, Marriage index, v. 1-2 1841-1915," *FamilySearch,* Original Data: Andrew County (Missouri). Recorder of Deeds, "Marriage record, v. A 1841-1875," Family History Library microfilm 1006183; "Marriage records, 1845-1928," *FamilySearch,* Original Data: DeKalb County (Missouri). Recorder of Deeds, "Marriage record, v. A 1841-1875," Family History Library microfilm 1005506.

[25] ""Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1964," *Missouri Digital Heritage* (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/ : accessed August 2015), database with images, "Certificate for Jacob Shepherd," File No. 40028. DOCUMENT 14.

Shepherd was located in the Union Chapel Cemetery in DeKalb County, Missouri which includes both of their birth and death dates, and it reads, "Harriett his wife." [26]

The death certificate for Harriett Combest Shepherd was filed under "Harett Sheppard." She was born 6 Aug 1834 and she died 14 March 1917 in Shuman, DeKalb, Missouri.[27] It does not identify her spouse, but it does confirm that she was widowed at the time of her death and that her maiden name was Combest and her married name was Shepherd. The informant for the certificate was W. H. Shepherd, who was most likely William H., her son.

Her death certificate records her parents as William Combest and Haritt Combest which conflicts with the information given in the *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri*. The history states, "She is the daughter of William and Gilla Combest, Kentuckians by birth, who moved to Andrew County, Mo., in 1840."[28] It is most likely that the history is correct and the death certificate is wrong. Sometimes when filling out a death certificate, the informant, who might be mourning at the time, does not fill out the form correctly. It is likely that W.H. Shepherd recorded the name of his own mother (Harriett) instead of the mother of the deceased (Gilla). More evidence is needed from researching the next generation to prove that Gilla is the name of Harriett's mother.

The Children of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest

Thus far in the research, we have multiple sources which provide evidence that Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest were married – the census record specifying their year of

[26] "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave* (http://findagrave.com : accessed September 2015), database with images, "Jacob B. Shepherd," Find A Grave Memorial# 40713125. DOCUMENT 15.

[27] "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1964," *Missouri Digital Heritage* (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/ : accessed September 2015), database with images, "Certificate for Harett Shepard," File No. 9757. DOCUMENT 16.

[28] *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri.:* 585.

marriage as 1851, their death certificates, and their headstone. Documents from the lives of each of their children confirm the census records and further prove that Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest are the parents of this family. For example, the death certificate of John Rufus Shepherd, dated 4 Apr 1923, states that his parents are Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest.[29] The census and the *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri* places each of the children together in the family. As seen in Table 7 below, in almost every case, the death certificates which were located for the children identify Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest as the parents.

Table 7. The Children of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest ***(See Family Group Sheet for References)***

Name of Child	Birth Date/Place	Marriage Date/Place Spouse	Death Date/Place	Documentation which Lists the Parents
Wyatt	2 May 1852 Missouri	20 Feb 1872 DeKalb, Missouri Caroline Carroll	22 Oct 1928 King City, DeKalb, MO	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage Certificate:** parents not listed **Death Certificate:** Jacob Shepherd & Caroline Carrol
Jackson Valentine	29 Jan 1854 Missouri	20 Mar 1889 Helena, Andrew, MO Sarah Vaughn	1 Mar 1934 St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage Certificate:** parents not listed **Death Certificate:** Jake Shepherd & Harriett Combest
James Madison	4 Feb 1856 Missouri	21 May 1882 DeKalb, Missouri Elizabeth VanBebber	28 Jul 1940 Wabaunsee Co, KS	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed
Archie	15 Aug 1859 Missouri	Died as an infant	5 Sep 1859 Missouri	**History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest
Emma Davis	25 Oct 1861 Missouri	14 Jan 1930 Buchanan County, MO Frank Hayter	1 Mar 1950 St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed

[29] "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1964," *Missouri Digital Heritage* (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/ : accessed September 2015), database with images, "Certificate of John Rufus Shepherd," File No. 12311. DOCUMENT 17.

				Death Certificate: Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest
Eloch	31 Aug 1863 Missouri	Died as a child	Jul 1865	**History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest
Mary Jane (direct line)	31 Jan 1866 Missouri	4 Sep 1891 Maysville, DeKalb, MO James Winton Rhudy	28 Apr 1951 Fargo, OK	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed Find A Grave
Jacob O.	20 Apr 1868 Missouri	Sarah Eliza 30 Jun 1920 Buchanan, MO	13 Sep 1856 Union Star, DeKalb	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Death Certificate:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest
John Rufus	23 May 1870 Missouri	15 Jan 1896 Albany, Gentry, MO Nellie Comstalk	4 Apr 1923 King City, DeKalb, MO	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed **Death Certificate:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest
Harriett Ann	4 Jan 1873 Missouri	8 Apr 1896 Maysville, DeKalb, MO Almon J Babbitt	9 Jan 1954 St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed **Death Certificate:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combess
William Higgins	6 Dec 1875 Missouri	21 Jan 1902 Missouri Martha Belle Patton	Jan 1968 DeKalb, Missouri	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed SSDI
Ira Benton	17 Mar 1878 Missouri	9 July 1902 DeKalb, Missouri Emma Jane Carrel	6 Dec 1946 Maysville, DeKalb	**Census:** Jacob and Harriett Shepherd **History of DeKalb:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combest **Marriage License & Certificate:** parents not listed **Death Certificate:** Jacob Shepherd & Harriett Combess

Second Generation: Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Research

Mary Jane Shepherd and her siblings were living with their parents, Jacob and Harriett Shepherd during the 1870 and 1880 U.S. Censuses. Many of the death certificates of the children list their parents as Jacob Shephard and Harriett Combest which clearly verifies the second generational link. Major progress was also made in this research project in finding the children of

Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest. The children's death certificates also provided the names of their own spouses, which helped locate many of their marriage records.

Future research in the census records for each of Jacob and Harriett's children has the potential of locating their descendants. Area newspapers of Andrew and DeKalb County, Missouri, should be searched for marriage notices published during the year 1851 to document the date of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest's wedding. Also, Jacob Shepherd's death certificate names his parents, Enoch Shepherd and Lavina Milham, so each of these lines could be furthered documented and extended.

Third Generation: William Combest Married to Gilla Ann Jasper

As mentioned previously in this report, the *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri* stated that Harriett's parents were William and Gilla Combest of Kentucky who moved to Andrew County, Missouri in 1840.[30] According to Harriett's death certificate and the census records, she was born in 1834 and married in 1851. During the 1850 U.S. Census she would probably still have been living with her parents in Missouri. That census was located and it shows that Harriett Combest, born about 1834 in Kentucky, was living in Platte, Andrew, Missouri in 1850 with William & Gilla Combest, both of whom were born in Kentucky. [31] Although the 1850 U.S. Census did not record the relationship of each person to the head of the household, it is likely that the eight other children listed are Harriett's siblings.

Table 8. 1850 U.S. Census for the William Combest Family

[30] *History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri.* 585.

[31] 1850 U.S. Census, Platte, Andrew, Missouri, Roll: M432_391; Page: 82B; Image: 171, Family Number: 694, William Cambest; database with images, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com : accessed 12 September 2015); National Archives Microfilm Publication M432. DOCUMENT 18.

Date/Locality	1850, Platte, Andrew, Missouri
Page No.	Page #82B
Dwelling, Family #	Dwelling #710, Family #694

Family Member	Sex	Age	Birth Place	Occupation	Value of Real Estate
William Cambest	M	49	KY	Farmer	$2,500
Gilla Cambest	F	46	KY		
Elizabeth Cambest	F	18	KY		
Harriett Cambest	F	16	KY		
John Cambest	M	14	KY		
William Cambest	M	12	KY		
Mary A Cambest	F	10	MO		
Samuel Cambest	M	8	MO		
Gilla Cambest	F	5	MO		
Wyatt Cambest	M	25	KY	Farmer	$1,000
Andrew Cambest	M	22	KY	Farmer	$2,000
Jemima Brown	F	42	KY		
George Brown	M	10 mon	MO		

The Marriage of William Combest and Gilla Jasper

The next step in the research process was to search for a marriage for William Combest and Gilla to learn her maiden name. The best place to begin searching was in Kentucky since the 1850 U.S. Census states that not only were they both born in Kentucky, but their first children were also born there. According to the census, William was born about 1801, Gilla was born about 1804, and their oldest possible child recorded on that census was born about 1825. This would suggest that the marriage took place around 1820-1825.

The Pulaski County, Kentucky "Marriage Bonds: 1799-1863" shows an entry for William Combest and Gilly Jasper dated 10 August 1822.[32] It also includes information which states, "Consent of fathers, Samuel Combest & Andrew Jasper, 'my dau Gillia.'" This comes from a

[32] "Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (http://FamilySearch.org : accessed July 2016), image 58; Original source Pulaski, Kentucky, "Marriage Bonds: 1799-1863." DOCUMENT 19.

microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, of the register of marriage bonds created by the Clerk of Court for Pulaski County. This register is typed, which means it was created later from an original. In future research, the original should be searched for in the "Marriage Bond Books, 1799-1901" found at the Kentucky State Archives.[33] Since a marriage record such as the marriage bond was recorded at the time of the event, it is considered primary or first-hand information. This means that the names of both William and Gilla's fathers are almost certainly accurate.

According to the Newberry Library's "Kentucky: Consolidated Chronology of State and County Boundaries," Pulaski County, Kentucky, was created 1 June 1799 from Green and Lincoln Counties.[34] On 27 September 1839 in Pulaski County, "William Combest and Gilla Combest his wife" deeded 200 acres on Wolf Creek to William Weddle.[35] Women during this time usually did not sign deeds when the husband was purchasing land, but when the land was sold, the woman had to legally give her consent. This came from a woman's "dower" right which meant she had, "a right to property [she] brought into the marriage as well as to life usage of one-third of their husbands' estate."[36] In accordance with this, the land deed for William Combest included a section written by the justice of the peace which reads, "Gilla Combest being by us privily Examined Separate and apart her said Husband did voluntarily relinquish her rite of in

[33] Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, https://kdla.on.worldcat.org/search?queryString=pulaski+marriage : accessed September 2016.

[34] Long, John H., editor, et al, "Kentucky: Consolidated Chronology of State and County Boundaries," (http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/KY_Consolidated_Chronology.htm#Consolidated_Chronology : accessed September 2016) Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, 2007.

[35] Pulaski County (Kentucky), Clerk of the County Court, "Deeds, v. 9 - 10 1835-1840," page 480, entry for William and Gilla Combest, Family History Library film #804640. DOCUMENT 20.

[36] Women and the Law," Harvard Business School, (http://www.library.hbs.edu/hc/wes/collections/women_law/ : accessed September 2016.)

and to the Land hereby Conveyed."[37] This land deed further documents that Gilla was the wife of William Combest and they lived on Wolf Creek in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

Several other land deeds for William Combest, as well as other documents refer to Andrew Jasper. (See Research Log Generation 3 for details.) Andrew Jasper was also listed as Gilla's father on the marriage bond and in future research this line could be explored further.

The Deaths of William Combest and Gilla Jasper

There was an entry for William Combest's death in 1855 on Find A Grave, but no picture of the headstone was available.[38] This is not surprising, as not all headstones from that period have survived. This Find A Grave entry also lists William's parents as Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick and it includes an excerpt from the book *Samuel Combest and His Descendants*. This excerpt states:

> William Combest died in Andrew County, Missouri, near Platte, in 1855. Through much help from relatives it was possible to locate and verify information and headstones, indicating that he is buried in a small private plot or cemetery on a farm he owned at the time of his death in 1855. [39]

Because this book contains information compiled by the authors and no original sources are referenced in the book, it is important to find other original records which document William Combest's death.

In 1855, there was no requirement for civil registration of deaths, but the various counties were recording probate information. On 14 March 1855, Letters of Administration were created

[37] Pulaski County (Kentucky), Clerk of the County Court, "Deeds, v. 9 - 10 1835-1840," page 481, entry for William and Gilla Combest, Family History Library film #804640. DOCUMENT 21.

[38] "Find A Grave", *Find A Grave* (http://findagrave.com : accessed September 2015), database with images, "William Combest," Find A Grave Memorial# 34827468. DOCUMENT 13.

[39] Smith, H. Jane, and Patricia J. Olmstead, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants*, Elgin, Illinois : H.J.B. Smith & P.O. Olmstead, 1990, 36-38.

for Wiatt J. Combest as administrator for William Combest's estate in Andrew County, Missouri.[40] According to the 1850 U.S. Census, Wyatt Combest was living in the same household as William Combest and therefore, is likely William's son. This 1855 probate confirms that William Combest died before 14 March 1855.

No other family names were listed in the Letters of Administration. However, in 1869 Andrew J. Combest was in court regarding the end of his guardianship for "Samuel Combest and Gilla Combest, heirs of William Combest, deceased."[41] Table 9 below lists the children of William Combest – Andrew Jackson Combest was the second oldest son of William, and Samuel and Gilla were William's two youngest children. At the time of William's death in 1855, Gilla would have been age 10 and Samuel, age 12. Gilla Jasper Combest, their mother, was still alive at that time so the children most likely still lived with her, but the customs of that time would often appoint a male relative as guardian to oversee financial matters "when property or money was involved."[42]

A photo of the headstone for Gilla Jasper Combest was located on Find A Grave showing that she died 2 April 1894 and was buried in Saint Joseph, Buchanan, Missouri.[43] She would have been eighty-nine years old when she died.

The Children of William Combest and Gilla Jasper

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[40] Andrew, Missouri, Letters of Administration, William Combest; "Missouri, Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988," database with images, *Ancestry* (ancestry.com: accessed September 2015); Letters of Administration, Vol B, 1848-1859; Administrators Records, Vol B, 1869-1902. DOCUMENT 22.

[41] "Missouri, Andrew and Cole County Probate Records, 1826-1945," images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1961-47273-13415-53?cc=2060218 : September 2015), Andrew > Estate files 1858 Combest, Samuel & Gilla; minors of Wm > image 2 of 6; citing Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City. DOCUMENT 23.

[42] Russell, Judy G. "Guarding the Pension," *The Legal Genealogist*, https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2016/06/07/guarding-the-pension/ : accessed September 2016.

[43] "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave* (http://www.findagrave.com : accessed September 2015), image, "Entry for Gilla Ann Jasper Combest," Find A Grave Memorial# 14867383. DOCUMENT 24.

To provide further evidence for the generational link from Harriett Combest to William Combest and Gilla Jasper, records for each of the probable children listed in the 1850 U.S. Census were sought. Birth and death records in Missouri were not required until 1910, and many of the siblings were born in the 1820s and 1830s so they likely died before 1910. As mentioned earlier in this report, Harriett Combest's death certificate listed her parents and William Combest and Harriett Combest.

As seen in Table 9 below, other death certificates provide evidence that the mother's name on Harriett's death certificate was incorrect. For example, the death certificate for Samuel W. Combest, dated 15 November 1928 in Andrew County, Missouri, shows Samuel's parents as William Combest and J. Jasper.[44] It is probable that the informant on the death certificate thought Gilla was spelled with a "J" instead of a "G." The death certificate of Elizabeth [Combest] Milham, dated 21 October 1914, lists her father as William Cumbest and the maiden name of her mother as Jasper.[45] Both of these death certificates confirm that William Combest married Gilla Jasper.

[44] "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1964," Missouri Digital Heritage (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/ : accessed July 2016), database with images, "Certificate of Samuel W. Combest," Certificate #35938. DOCUMENT 25.

[45] "Missouri Death Certificates, 1910 – 1964," Missouri Digital Heritage (http://www.sos.mo.gov : accessed July 2016), image, "Certificate of Elizabeth Milham," Certificate #31892. DOCUMENT 26.

Table 9. The Children of William Combest and Gilla Jasper ***(See Family Group Sheet for References)***

Name of Child	Birth Date/Place	Marriage Date/Place Spouse	Death Date/Place	Documentation which Lists the Parents
Wyatt J.	9 Dec 1825 Kentucky	11 Oct 1852 Andrew Co., MO Mary Shepherd	8 Jul 1863 Andrew Co., MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Marriage record:** parents not listed **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper
Andrew Jackson	1828 Kentucky	Kriton Bonzer 15 Jun 1880	After 1 Jun 1880	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper Find A Grave: no spouse or death date
Sarah "Sally"	9 Nov 1830 Kentucky	(1) 17 Aug 1845 Andrew Co., MO Nimrod Shepherd (2) Cousin of Shepherd (3) 27 Sep 1868 Andrew Co., MO Anderson R Bowles	8 Sep 1891 Nodaway Co., MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Marriage records:** parents not listed **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper
Elizabeth	6 Jan 1832 Kentucky	15 Mar 1860 Andrew Co., MO John Milham	21 Oct 1914 DeKalb, MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Marriage record:** parents not listed **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper **Death Certificate:** William Cumbest & Jasper
Harriett (direct line)	6 Aug 1834 Kentucky	1851 Missouri Jacob Shepherd	14 Mar 1917 Shuman, DeKalb, MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Marriage record:** parents not listed **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper **Death Certificate:** William Combest & Harriet Combest
John	27 Sep 1836 Kentucky	Not married Died at age 17	1 Jan 1854 Andrew Co, MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Find A Grave**: no spouse or death date
William C.	Jun 1838	According to Census records and *Samuel Combest and His Descendants*, he did not marry	After 1900 Of DeKalb, MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Find A Grave**: no spouse or death date
Mary Ann	10 Sep 1840 Missouri	31 Jan 1856 Missouri Oris B. Saunders	5 Apr 1923 Missouri	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Marriage record:** parents not listed **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper

Samuel Wiley	3 June 1843 Platte Co., Mo	1 Dec 1871 Sophia E. Nugent	15 Nov 1928 Andrew, MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper **Death Certificate:** William Combest & J. Jasper
Gilla	Oct 1845 Missouri	1871 John Talbot	1903 St. Joseph, MO	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** William Combest & Gilla Jasper **Find A Grave:** William Combest Gilla Ann Jasper

Third Generation: Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Research

The records for this generation have some variations on who Harriett Combest's mother was, though there are reasonable explanations as to why. There is enough evidence from William and Gilla's marriage bond, the census, William's probate, and the death certificates of the children, Samuel and Elizabeth, to determine that the parents of Harriett Combest were William Combest and Gilla Jasper. Eight of William and Gilla's children have also been identified in the 1850 U.S. Census and other documents. The marriage bond confirmed that William Combest's father was Samuel Combest and Gilla Jasper's father was Andrew Jasper.

In future research, the original of that marriage bond should be searched for in the "Marriage Bond Books, 1799-1901" found at the Kentucky State Archives. Also, further research on Andrew Jasper as the father of Gilla in the census, land, and probate records of Pulaski County, Kentucky could extend that line further.

Fourth Generation: Samuel Combest Married to Sarah Dick

Two sources name William Combest's father as Samuel, the first being William's marriage bond, and second is the family history written about Samuel entitled, *The Descendants*

of Samuel Combest.[46] According to the history, both Samuel and his wife, Sarah Dick, were born in Chester District, South Carolina. The book also tells us, "In the year 1799, on the 26th of December, Samuel Combest wed Sarah 'Sallie' Dick. It is assumed their marriage took place in South Carolina since Samuel was still in Chester County one month prior to this date."[47] The history lists their ten children with birth dates and some marriage and death dates. As previously explained, these histories contain information compiled by the authors which may or may not be correct. Due to the fact that no sources were cited in *The Descendants of Samuel Combest*, the people, dates, and places all need to be verified.

Samuel Combest's death information was on Find A Grave showing that he died in Russell County, Kentucky on 25 July 1844.[48] The creator of Samuel's Find A Grave entry also included two images from papers found in the Samuel D. Combest Family Bible; Samuel D. is the son of Samuel and Sarah. These Bible pages have the birth information for Samuel Sr., his wife Sarah, and their ten children (See Table 11 below). Since civil registrations of births and deaths were not often recorded in the 1800s, this Bible record may be the only source which records their exact birthdates. Effort was made to locate who has the Bible today, but no further information was found. (See "Research Log for Generation 4" for more details.)

The Descendants of Samuel Combest mentions that Samuel's first son, John, was born in 1801 in Kentucky.[49] To verify more information about Samuel in Kentucky, a page-by-page search for him was performed in the 1800 U.S. Census in both Chester, South Carolina and Pulaski County, Kentucky, but no entries for Samuel were located in either location. A possible

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[46]"Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954," image 58; Original source Pulaski, Kentucky, "Marriage Bonds: 1799-1863." DOCUMENT 19; Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants,* 12.

[47] Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants,* 7.

[48] "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave* (http://www.findagrave.com : accessed September 2015), image, "Entry for Samuel Combest," with images from Samuel D. Combest Bible added by Richard Hollis, Find A Grave Memorial #34733838. DOCUMENTS 27a-b.

[49] Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants,* 12.

explanation for this could be that Samuel and Sarah were living with her parents in Kentucky. The authors of *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* explain more, "Leaving their native state of South Carolina, their destination was Kentucky, where Sallie's parents, John and Peggie Wylie Dick, had settled on Fishing Creek, Pulaski County, Kentucky."[50] To confirm this information, a search of the 1810 U.S. Census found John Dick living in Somerset, Pulaski, Kentucky.[51]

In 1810, Samuel still did not appear in the census for either Chester, South Carolina, or Pulaski County, Kentucky. Tax records are a great substitute if a person cannot be found in the census records. Unfortunately, according to the catalog at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, tax lists do not exist for Chester County for this time period.[52] However, an examination of the Pulaski County Tax Lists, beginning in 1799 document that Samuel Combest first appeared in 1803 not owning any land, and then in 1804 he was taxed on land on Fishing Creek.[53] From 1804 through 1818, Samuel was taxed on land located on Fishing Creek or Pointer Creek, and then in 1820 he was taxed for land on Wolf Creek.[54] As seen in Illustration 1 below, Pointer Creek is a tributary to Fishing Creek so it is likely that naming either creek in the tax records referred to the same land.

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[50] ibid.

[51] Ancestry.com. 1810 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Somerset, Pulaski, Kentucky; Entry for John S. Dick, Roll: 8; Page: 138; Image: 00130 Provo, UT, USA: *Ancestry*; original data: Third Census of the United States, 1810. (NARA microfilm M252). National Archives, Washington, D.C. DOCUMENT 28.

[52] "SCArchCat," *South Carolina Department of Archives and History* http://rediscov.sc.gov/scar/ : accessed September 2016.

[53] *Tax books, 1799-1875*, Pulaski County (Kentucky), *FamilySearch*, entry for Samul Combess, image 138, 191 (https://familysearch.org : accessed September 2016), original data Tax Assessor, Pulaski County, Tax books, 1799-1875, (Frankfort, Kentucky : Kentucky State Historical Society, 1952-1953. DOCUMENT 29.

[54] *Tax books, 1799-1875*, Pulaski County (Kentucky), *FamilySearch*, entry for Samuel Combest images 191, 1047 (https://familysearch.org : accessed September 2016), original data Tax Assessor, Pulaski County, Tax books, 1799-1875, (Frankfort, Kentucky : Kentucky State Historical Society, 1952-1953. DOCUMENT 30.

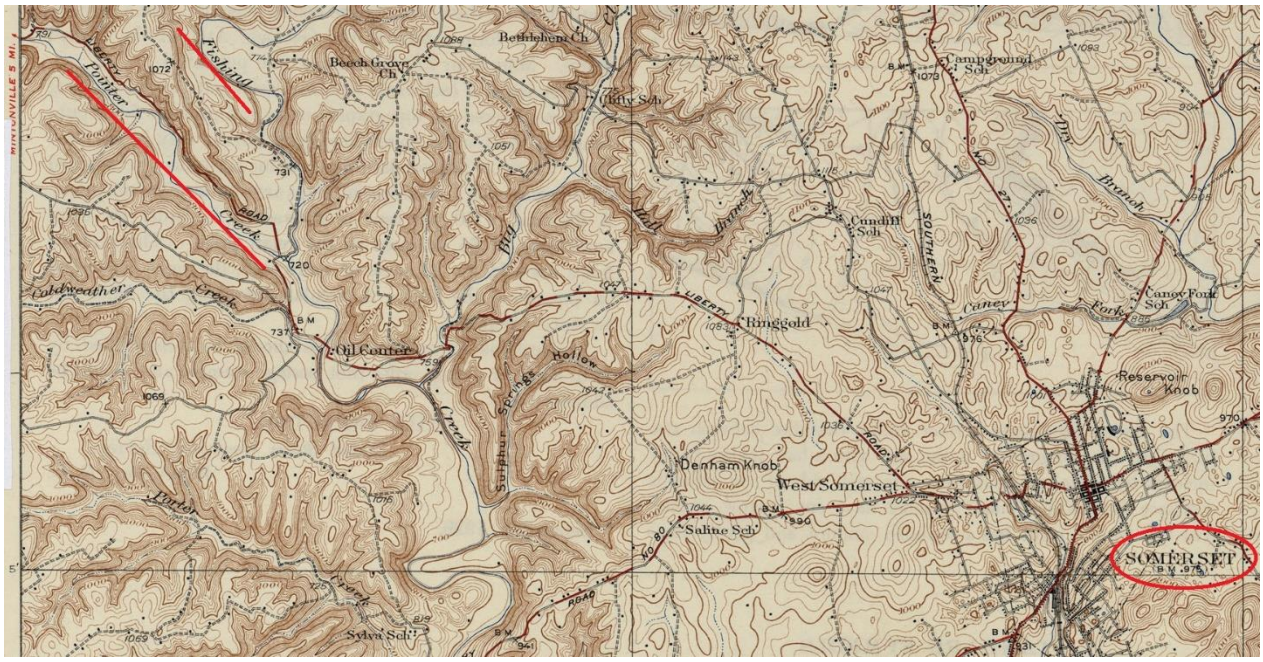

Illustration 1: 1929 Topographical Map of Somerset, Kentucky showing Fishing and Pointer Creeks.[55]

During the 1820 U.S. Census, Samuel Combest was recorded in Somerset, Pulaski, Kentucky with other household members as shown in Table 10 below.[56] Before 1850, the U.S. censuses only recorded the name of the head of the household, and all others in the house were just counted in age groups. Illustration 1 also shows that Somerset was located reasonable close to Fishing and Pointer Creek.

[55] Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, "Kentucky Historical Topographic Maps," University of Texas Libraries, http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/topo/kentucky/txu-pclmaps-topo-ky-somerset-1929.jpg : accessed September 2016.

[56] 1820 U.S. Census, Pulaski County, Kentucky, population schedule, Somerset, 58, Samuel Combest; digital image, *Ancestry* (http://ancestry.com : accessed September 2016); National Archives microfilm: M33, roll 27. DOCUMENT 31.1820. (NARA microfilm publication M33, 142 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. DOCUMENT 31.

Table 10. 1820 U.S. Census for the Samuel Combest Family

Date/Locality	**1820, Somerset, Pulaski, Kentucky**											
Page Number	**58**											
Head of Household	**Free White Males**					**Free White Females**					**Total Free White**	**Total Slaves**
	0 to 9	**10 to 15**	**16 to 25**	**26 To 44**	**45 +**	**0 to 9**	**10 to 15**	**16 to 25**	**26 To 44**	**45 +**		
Samuel Combest	3	1	3		1	1	2		1	1	13	

Below is a table of how Samuel Combest's household matches up with the 1820 U.S. Census. The ages listed are based on the birthdates from the Samuel D. Combest Family Bible.[57] The genders and ages from the census fit Samuel's 1820 household so well that it is highly probable this is the family being researched. The only person in the household who doesn't fit in the family is a female who is age 45 or over, but this could easily be Samuel or Sarah's mother.

Table 11. How The 1820 Census Matches the Ages and Genders of Samuel Combest's Household.	
Three Males 0 to 9 Archibald, age 2 Thomas, age 5 Alexander, age 9 **One Male 10 to 15** Samuel, age 12 **Three Males 16-25** James, age 16 William, age 18 John, age 19 **One Male Over 45** Samuel, age 48	**One Female 0 to 9** Margaret, age 7 **Two Females 10-15** Mary, age 10 Nancy, age 14 **One Female 26-44** Sarah, age 42 **One Female 45 and Over** Unknown – possibly Samuel or Sarah's mother

[57] *Find A Grave*, "Entry for Samuel Combest," Find A Grave Memorial #34733838. DOCUMENT 27a-b.

The Marriage of Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick

As highlighted previously, *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* noted that Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick were married 26 December 1799, most likely in South Carolina.[58] In order to substantiate this date and Sarah's maiden name, searches were made for their marriage in both Chester County, South Carolina, and Pulaski County, Kentucky, but this located no records. South Carolina is unusual in the fact that they did not require records of marriages like most states did at the time.[59] The Family History Library in Salt Lake City only has one book specifically for Chester County marriages for that time period, but there was no record of their marriage in that book.[60] Statewide resources available online and at the Family History Library were also searched, but without success. The "Marriage Bonds: 1799-1863," created by the Clerk of the County Court of Pulaski County begins in 1799, but there was no entry for Samuel Combest or Sarah Dick. In future research, church records in Chester, South Carolina could be searched because, depending on the religion, they can be a good source for marriage information. Up until the Revolutionary War, the Church of England was the official church for South Carolina. After the War, it became the Anglican religion.

But with no marriage records located for Samuel and Sarah Combest, research next turned to finding other documents which would prove their marriage. The 18 July 1844 will for Samuel Combest was located and in it Samuel said that he wanted his "estate to be turned into money...with as much of the principal if any as shall be amply sufficient for the support of my

[58] Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants*, 7.

[59] Holcomb, Brent, *Guide to South Carolina Research and Records*, 23, Brent Holcomb, Columbia, South Carolina, 1986.

[60] Barbara R. Langdon and Shirley P. Langdon, *Chester County marriages, 1778-1879, implied in Chester County, S.C. probate and equity records*, Columbia, South Carolina : Langdon & Langdon, 1985.

wife Sally."[61] According to *Name Your Baby: Origins, Meanings, Nicknames, Famous Namesakes*, Sally is a common nickname for Sarah, so the will of Samuel Combest documents that Sarah was the first name of Samuel Combest's wife.[62] Samuel Combest was born in 1772 which makes him an age that it was possible he fought in the War of 1812. If he received a pension from that war, his pension file could list the name of his wife, but searches in both the service records and the pension record did not produce any records for Samuel.[63] The next possibility for identifying Samuel's wife is in the land records.

Further confirmation of Sarah's first name comes from a land deed in Pulaski County, dated 23 August 1821, where "Samuel Combest and Sarah his Wife of the County of Pulaski" sell 124 acres on the headwaters of Pointer Creek to Andrew Jiles for $150.[64] In this deed, Sarah also had to release her dower rights: "the said Sarah ... she freely and voluntarily relinquished her right of dower to the Land in said Indenture." This solidly confirms Sarah's first name, but at this point in the research, records which had direct or explicit evidence that Sarah's maiden name was Dick could not be located, so more indirect evidence was needed. Often indirect evidence is found when several records are considered together to show a relationship.

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[61] "Kentucky Probate Records, 1727-1990," database with images, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-20820-15624-75?cc=1875188 : May 2014), Russell > Will records, 1826-1854, Vol. 1 > image 131 of 291; county courthouses, Kentucky, entry for Samuel Combest. DOCUMENT 32.

[62] Lareina Rule, *Name Your Baby: Origins, Meanings, Nicknames, Famous Namesakes*, 108, Bantam Books: New York, 1986.

[63] "War of 1812 Service Record Index," Fold3, https://www.fold3.com/browse/276/ : accessed September 2016; "War of 1812 Pension Files" Fold3, https://www.fold3.com/browse/247/h5iT6dgqRPSBO3rkk : accessed September 2016.

[64] FamilySearch, Deeds, 1799-1901; index to deeds, 1799-1934 Image #751, entry for Samuel Combest, Deeds, https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4F-43MJ-7?i=750&cat=111383 : accessed August 2016. Original Data Deed Book 4, page 449, FHL microfilm #7896972. DOCUMENT 33.

According to *The Descendants of Samuel Combest,* Sarah's father, John Dick, died in 1832 in Kentucky.[65] If he left a will, it might have mentioned his daughter Sarah, by her married name of Combest, but there are no probate records for John Dick in the years before and after 1832. The next place to search for records on John Dick in Pulaski County would be the tax records. It was found that in 1803 John Dick lived on Fishing Creek, where Samuel Combest also owned land in 1804.[66] This fits the account that Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick followed Sarah's parents to Pulaski County, Kentucky.

Other indirect evidence comes from the naming patterns found in families. Often the mother's maiden name would be used for a middle name for one or more of the children, especially for one of the sons. Samuel and Sarah's son, Samuel D., named his own son (the grandson of Samuel and Sarah) Samuel Dick Combest as recorded in the Samuel D. Combest Family Bible.[67] It is likely that the initial D. in Samuel D.'s name also stood for Dick.

Giving a child the same first name as a grandparent is another naming pattern often used during the 1800s. Samuel and Sarah named their first son John and their third daughter Margaret. *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* named Sarah Dick's parents as John Dick and "Margaret 'Peggie' Wylie," which means Samuel and Sarah used both of her parents' names for their own children.[68] With these several sources of indirect evidence it almost certain that Sarah Dick is the name of Samuel Combest's wife.

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[65] Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants,* 5.

[66] *Tax books, 1799-1875,* Pulaski County (Kentucky), entry for John Dick, image 139, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org : accessed September 2016) original data Tax Assessor, Pulaski County, Tax books, 1799-1875, (Frankfort, Kentucky : Kentucky State Historical Society, 1952-1953. DOCUMENT 34.

[67] "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave*, "Entry for Samuel Combest," Find A Grave Memorial #34733838. DOCUMENT 27a-b.

[68] Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants,* 2.

The Deaths of Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick

The Find A Grave records for Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick Combest state that Samuel died 25 July 1844, and Sarah died 12 February 1852, but it does not have a photo of their headstone or other evidence to document those dates.[69] The will that Samuel wrote was dated 18 July 1844, and on 12 August 1844, Samuel D. Combest appeared in the Russell County Court to sign an executor bond. These bonds were required during that era of those who add been appointed executors of someone's will to guarantee they would carry out the will as directed. Sometime between the date of the will and the date of the executor bond, Samuel Combest died. Thus, it is likely that the date of 25 July 1844 that is found on Find A Grave and in the book, *The Descendants of Samuel Combest*, is correct.[70]

In order to learn any possible birth information about Sarah Dick, more research needed to be done on John Dick. Because *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* indicated that Sarah was born in 1778, John likely would have been of the age to serve during the Revolutionary War. If he fought in the War it might be possible to find service pension records for him which might list his children. Fold3 has a file for John Dick of Chester District, South Carolina, which shows that his widow, Peggy Dick of Pulaski County, Kentucky, had a Certificate of Pension issued 4 December 1841.[71] Because she did not have a record of their marriage, she filed the page from their family bible as evidence of the ages of her children. This bible page lists Sarah's birth as 20

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[69] "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave*, "Entry for Samuel Combest," Find A Grave Memorial #34733838. DOCUMENT 27a-b; "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave* "Entry for Sarah Dick Combest," Find A Grave Memorial #3473388.

[70] "Find A Grave," *Find A Grave*, "Entry for William Combest," Find A Grave Memorial #34733838. DOCUMENT 27a-b; Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants,* 8.

[71] "Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files," database with images, *Fold3,* (https://www.fold3.com : accessed September 2016), John Dick, pension number W.8668, 31 images; citing *Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, compiled ca. 1800 - ca. 1912, documenting the period ca. 1775 - ca. 1900,* M804 (Washington, D.C.: National Archive), roll 0809. DOCUMENTS 35a-c.

November 1778 and statements by Peggy Dick place the family living in Chester District, South Carolina about the time of Sarah's birth.

The Children of Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick

In the 1844 will of Samuel Combest, mentioned earlier, he not only specified what should go to his wife, but he also left money to his ten children as follows:

- I want my three daughters Nancy Roberts, Polly Osborn, and Margaret Bowmer to have one dollar each.
- I want my sons William Combest, James Combest, Willie Combest to have ten dollars each.
- I want my son Samuel Combest to have forty dollars.
- I want my three sons namely, John Combest, Alexander Combest, and Archibald Combest to have twenty dollars each.[72]

This validates the list of Samuel and Sarah's children from the Samuel D. Combest Family Bible and from *The Descendants of Samuel Combest*.[73] It also provides married names for each of Samuel's three daughters. This will and various other documents verify the information in the table below.

Table 10. *The Children of Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick* ***(See Family Group Sheet for References)***

Name of Child	Birth Date/Place	Marriage Date/Place Spouse	Death Date/Place	Documentation which Lists the Parents
John	8 Mar 1801 Pulaski Co., KY	21 Feb 1823 Pulaski Co., KY Jane Spencer	12 Nov 1846 Pulaski Co., KY	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick Marriage Bond Register: Samuel Combest signed the bond
William (direct line)	2 May 1802 Pulaski Co., KY	10 August 1822 Pulaski, KY Gilla Jasper	Bef. 14 Mar 1855 Pulaski Co., KY	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick **Marriage Bond:** Samuel Combest, father

[72] "Kentucky Probate Records, 1727-1990," *FamilySearch*, entry for Samuel Combest. DOCUMENT 32.
[73] Smith, *Samuel Combest and His Descendants*, 5.

James	27 Jan 1804 Pulaski Co., KY	(1) 5 Apr 1827 Pulaski Co., KY Nancy Bowmer (2) Illinois Mary Hobson	15 Feb 1866 Shelby Co, IL	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick **Marriage Bond Register:** parents not listed
Nancy	18 Jan 1806 Kentucky	16 Mar 1824 Of Casey Co., KY Ashel Roberts	22 April 1885 Kentucky	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick
Samuel D.	19 Apr 1808 Pulaski Co., KY	(1) 8 Dec 1831 Nancy Hammond (2) 9 Sep 1863 Lucy Ann Roy	4 Jan 1897 Pulaski Co., KY	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick **Both Marriage Bond Register:** parents not listed
Mary Eveline "Polly"	8 Jan 1810	5 Jun 1829 Pulaski Co., KY Levi Asher Osborn	22 May 1876 Butler, IL	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick
Alexander	3 Nov 1811 Kentucky	1 Nov 1835 Russell Co., KY Mariah Louis Bowmer	Bet Jun & Aug 1867	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick Not in Pulaski marriage bonds
Margaret	27 Nov 1813 Kentucky	16 Jul **1839** Kentucky John F. Bowmer	**12 Mar 1875** Casey Co, Kentucky	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick **Death Register: Father is Combest**
Thomas Wiley	23 Dec 1815 Kentucky	(1) 29 Sep 1836 Pulaski Co., KY Sarah Hammond (2) Martha Patsy Hammond (3) Mary Roy	1869 (will) Casey Co., KY	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick **Marriage Bond Register: parents not listed**
Archibald	16 Mar 1818 Kentucky	(1) 5 May 1839 Pulaski Co., KY Angelina West (2) 25 Nov 1855 Russell Co., KY Mary Ann Roy	14 Apr 1875 Clay City, Clay, IL	***Samuel Combest & His Descendants*:** Samuel Combest & Sarah Dick

Fourth Generation: Conclusion and Recommendations for Future Research

Both William's marriage bond and Samuel's will directly state that Samuel Combest is the father of William. *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* names Sarah Dick as Samuel's wife, and in his will, Samuel referred to his wife as Sally which is a nickname for Sarah. Also, in the 1821 land deed from Samuel Combest, Sarah is referred to as Samuel's wife, but more indirect evidence was used to establish Sarah's maiden name as Dick.

The first indirect evidence came from the fact that both John Dick and Samuel Combest were living on the same creek in the 1803 and 1804 Pulaski County tax records. The second indirect evidence came from the naming patterns. Samuel and Sarah Combest named their son Samuel D. Combest, who named his son Samuel Dick Combest. They also named two of their children John and Margaret after her parents. The final evidence of Samuel Combest's marriage to Sarah Dick came from the Revolutionary War Pension File for John Dick which establishes Sarah Dick living in Chester District, South Carolina and then documents that the pension file was filed for in Pulaski County, Kentucky.

In future research, the church records in Chester, South Carolina could be searched to document the marriage of Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick which was supposed to have occurred in 1799. Also, all of the documents in Samuel Combest's probate and the Chester, South Carolina land and census records could be searched to identify possible brothers and family of Samuel. This could in turn help extend that line back further. With all of the documents found on John Dick, future research could identify Sarah Dick's family and extend her line back as well.

Project Conclusions and Summary of Suggestions for Future Research

At the beginning of this research project, the only known information about Lottie Melissa Rhudy's ancestors were the names of her parents, James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd. The objective of this research project was to document Lottie's maternal line by going back four generations, using evidence to link each of the generations and to identify each family member. This objective has been successfully achieved using multiple sources which contain

supporting evidence to establish each generational link, including the maiden names of each of the women. Many records were also found which document the births, marriages and deaths of each of the children in these families.

In Generation One, the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Censuses showed Lottie living with her parents, James and Mary Rhudy, and four siblings. Sources showed that three of the children, Elmer Basil, Robert Lee, and Emma Jeanette, stayed and died in Oklahoma. The other two children, Lottie Melissa and Hettie Ruth, moved to Texas where they later died. The death certificates of Lottie and Hettie, both named their parents as James Rhudy and Mary Shepherd. Mary's maiden name was also confirmed in the 1890 marriage license and certificate for James Winton Rhudy and Mary Jane Shepherd.

For Generation Two, Mary Jane Shepherd and nine of her siblings were living with their parents, Jacob and Harriett Shepherd, during the 1870 or 1880 U.S. Censuses. Two other siblings were identified in a history of DeKalb County. Many of the death certificates obtained on the children named their parents as Jacob Shephard and Harriett Combest – this clearly verifies the second generational link. Significant progress was also made in documenting the children of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest.

During research on Generation Three, it was determined that two of the records had discrepancies on who Harriett Combest's mother was, though there were reasonable explanations as to why. William and Gilla's marriage bond, the census, William's probate, and the death certificates of the children, Samuel and Elizabeth, provided evidence that the parents of Harriett Combest were William Combest and Gilla Jasper. Eight of William and Gilla's children have also been identified in the 1850 U.S. Census and other documents. William and Gilla's marriage

bond confirmed that William Combest's father was Samuel Combest and Gilla Jasper's father was Andrew Jasper.

Finally, in Generation Four, the generational link of Samuel Combest as the father of William was directly stated in both William's marriage bond and Samuel's will. *The Descendants of Samuel Combest* named Sarah Dick as Samuel's wife, and in his will, Samuel referred to his wife as Sally which is a nickname for Sarah. Also, in the 1821 land deed from Samuel Combest, Sarah was referred to as Samuel's wife. It was necessary to utilize more indirect evidence to establish Sarah's maiden name as Dick.

The fact that both John Dick and Samuel Combest were living on the same creek in 1803 and 1804 was verified in the Pulaski County tax records. The second indirect evidence came from naming patterns when Samuel and Sarah Combest named their son Samuel D. Combest, who named his son Samuel Dick Combest. They also named two of their children John and Margaret after her parents. The final indirect evidence of Samuel Combest's marriage to Sarah Dick came from the Revolutionary War Pension File for John Dick which established Sarah Dick living in Chester District, South Carolina. The pension file also confirmed that this same Dick family moved to Pulaski County, Kentucky.

The time period covered during this project extends through three centuries – Samuel Combest was born during Colonial America times in 1772 and Lottie Melissa Rhudy died in 1980. This project only followed one of Lottie Rhudy's family lines back, and in each of those other lines, research could be performed on the spouse's line to extend lines that were not addressed in this project. Because of the vast scope of this project, there were many clues found and there are still ample records which could be searched in future research to further discover the family of Lottie Melissa Rhudy.

Summary of Suggestions for Future Research

- Find land records for James Winton Rhudy in records of Woodward County, Oklahoma. For the 1930s, The Family History Library in Salt Lake City only has a numerical index based on range and township; other land records would need to be researched at the Woodward County Courthouse.
- Apply to the Oklahoma State Department of Health for the death certificates of Mary Rhudy and her children, Elmer Basil, Robert Lee, and Emma Jeanette Rhudy.
- Check sites such as Newspapers.com, Newspaper Archive, and Genealogy Bank for published obituaries for both James and Mary Rhudy.
- Search the land records around 1870 for Jacob B. Shepherd in DeKalb County, Missouri. The Family History Library has an index and the deeds for the years 1836 through 1934.
- Research the census records for each of Jacob and Harriett's children to identify their descendants. These census records can be searched for free on FamilySearch.
- Search area newspapers of Andrew and DeKalb County, Missouri, for marriage notices published during the year 1851 to document the date of Jacob Shepherd and Harriett Combest's wedding.
- Research further on Andrew Jasper as the father of Gilla in the census, land, and probate records of Pulaski County, Kentucky to extend that line further. The census records are free on FamilySearch and the Family History Library has Pulaski County deeds from 1799 through 1901. Search for probate records for Andrew Jasper on both FamilySearch and Ancestry.
- Based on Jacob Shepherd's death certificate which names his parents as Enoch Shepherd and Lavina Milham, document and extend each of these lines.
- Find the original marriage bond for William Combest and Gilla Jasper in the "Marriage Bond Books, 1799-1901" found at the Kentucky State Archives.
- Search church records in Chester, South Carolina to document the marriage of Samuel Combest and Sarah Dick which was supposed to have occurred in 1799. The Anglican church would have been very dominant at that time. The FamilySearch Wiki has great information on where the various church records are located today.
- Review all of the documents in Samuel Combest's 1844 probate to identify possible brothers and family of Samuel.
- Search the Chester, South Carolina land and census records to further identify the family of Samuel Combest which could in turn help extend that line back further. The Family History Library has a collection of deeds for Chester from 1785 through 1867.
- Review all of the Revolutionary War Pension File found on John Dick to identify Sarah Dick's family and extend her line back.