

Items of genealogical interest in Washington Co., Virginia Chancery Ended Causes 1876-043

Images digitized from microfilm (reel 145); Library of Virginia, Richmond
[*Analysis & Comments*] 2013 by Diana Powell, www.ramblingroots.com

Mary G. Cunningham, Committee & c }
vs }
Sarah Jane Walden & others }

From the Complaint filed Feb. 1872 by Mary G. (Buchanan) Cunningham:

1. Mary G. Cunningham and Janet Buchanan were sisters, daughters of Samuel Buchanan
2. Janet Buchanan was of feeble mind
3. at least one additional daughter of Samuel Buchanan was alive in April 1869 (in addition to Mary G. Cunningham and Janet Buchanan)
[probably Nancy L. Buchanan who at age 52 and as a single woman married John Alexander Duff, widower, on 23 Feb. 1874. Nancy was identified as the daughter of Samuel Buchanan. Samuel Buchanan's 1860 Washington Co. household included 49 year old Jeannett and 40 year old Nancy, among others. Samuel's other known daughter, Elizabeth Buchanan Harris, died in 1846]
4. B.F. Brown was married to a kinswoman of Sarah Jane Walden
[B.F. Brown, age 35, millright, married Frances Jane Crow, 18, d/o Edward and Ann Crow, on 5 Nov. 1862 in Washington Co., Virginia. Frances Jane Crow's mother was Ann Hutton, who was the d/o Arthur Hutton and Eleanor Snodgrass, and granddaughter of James Hutton and Isabel Orr and great granddaughter of John Hutton and Jane Dixon.]
5. Robert S.C. Hutton was a kinsman of Sarah Jane Walden
[Robert S.C. Hutton was a son of Moses Hutton and Nancy Jinks/Jenkins. Moses Hutton's parents have not been identified. Both DNA testing and land records have established that he was not a direct male descendant of John Hutton and Jane Dixon, either as John's son or grandson. However, he was closely associated with John Hutton's known children. Moses may have been the son of John Hutton and Jane Dickson's eldest daughter Eleanor Hutton.]
6. Samuel J. Hutton was the "reputed" father of Sarah Jane Walden
[The insertion of the word "reputed" above the word "father" in the complaint is unusual and reveals there was some skepticism in the community that Samuel Hutton was Sarah Jane Walden's father. A careful examination of other records establishes that Sarah Jane was the daughter of Samuel C. Hutton's wife Isabella but not of Samuel. In fact Sarah Jane Hutton was born about 1824 at which time Samuel C. Hutton was about 12 years old. Note: the Bill of Complaint used the middle initial "J" in the single

reference to Sarah Jane's father Samuel Hutton. However it was Samuel "C" Hutton who married Sarah Jane's mother and who appears to have been presented to the community as Sarah Jane's father. For the purposes of the above discussion it is assumed they are one and the same person as no other Samuel or J___ Hutton of an appropriate age to be Sarah's father has been located on census or other records]

7. Sarah Jane Walden's children included: Joel R., James L., Mary C., Sarah E., Samuel L.J. and Almeda Walden

Discussion:

[This researcher believes that Isabella, wife of Samuel C. Hutton, was the same Isabella who was the daughter of James Hutton and Isabella Orr (see <http://www.ramblingroots.com/RYB-p/two-isabellas.htm> for a related discussion). Item #4 above lends some marginal support for this theory. If Sarah Jane (Hutton) Walden's mother, Isabella, was the daughter of James Hutton and Isabel Orr as surmised, then Sarah Jane Hutton was the first cousin, once removed, to Frances Jane Crow who married B.F. Brown. However, Sarah Jane Walden would have also been considered a second cousin, once removed, to Frances Jane Crow "if" Samuel J. [C.] Hutton was accepted by the community as Sarah Jane Walden's father. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing whether Mrs. Cunningham's statement that Samuel was Sarah Jane's "reputed father" also negated (in Mrs. Cunningham's mind) any family relationships Sarah Jane Walden might have claimed via Samuel Hutton. See <http://www.ramblingroots.com/RYB-p/hutton-samuel.htm> for additional discussion of Sarah Jane Walden's parents)

Although item #5 does not establish how Robert S.C. Hutton (and hence presumably his father Moses Hutton) and Sarah Jane Walden (and hence the descendants of John Hutton and Jane Dixon) were related, it does confirm that a relationship was believed to exist – regardless of whether it was through Sarah Jane's mother Isabella or Sarah Jane's reputed father, Samuel Hutton. It is possible the connection on Robert's side was through Robert's mother Nancy Jinks/Jenkins, but it is unlikely. Item #5 remains an intriguing, but inconclusive statement.]