

Analysis of Parentage of William Scritchfield

The suggestion was made that my GG Grandfather William Scritchfield, Greene Co., Illinois, who married Rachel Ray on 18 July 1848 in Fulton Co., Illinois was a descendant of Arthur Critchfield of Harrison Co., Indiana. This was definitely a possibility as my William Scritchfield was born in Indiana.

Arthur Critchfield had five sons who would be possible parents of my William, James S. Crutchfield (1778-1841), Terry Crutchfield (1787-1865), William Jesse Critchfield (1793-1856), James Critchfield (1794-1880), and J. John Crutchfield (1797-1871). The surname for these brothers was found to encompass a wide range of possibilities: Critchfield, Crutchfield, Cruchfield, Stritchfield or Strutchfield along with a few off the wall spellings.

James S. Crutchfield (1778-1841) married Elizabeth Murphy and was counted in census records in 1810 in Lincoln, Lincoln, Kentucky; 1820 in Harrison, Indiana; 1830 in Cooper, Missouri. He did not have a son in the right age range to be my William Scritchfield.

Terry Crutchfield (1787-1865) married Mary Jane "Polly" Smith and was counted in census records in 1810 in Lincoln, Lincoln, Kentucky; 1820 in Harrison, Indiana; 1830 in in Clay, Illinois; 1840 in Marion, Illinois; 1850 in Marion, Illinois. He did not have an unknown son of the right age, having only one son, John, b. about 1810 in Kentucky.

James Critchfield (1794-1880) married Charlotte Parker and did have a son named William who was born in 1839 in Bartholomew, Indiana.

J. John Crutchfield (1797-1871) married Barbara Lincoln and was counted in the census records in 1820 in Harrison, Indiana; 1830 in Blue River, Harrison, Indiana; 1840 in Blue River, Harrison, Indian. He did not have a son in the right age range to be my William Scritchfield.

That left William Jesse Critchfield (1793-1856) as the last possibility. W. Jesse Critchfield was married twice, first to Nancy Bumfield (1800-1829) who born him two children, only one of whom was known, Robert. W. Jesse Critchfield married 2nd Elizabeth Bass (1810-1862)

who bore him seven more children. Family trees in Ancestry.com list only one child to the first marriage, Robert but as shown below, census records show two male children.

The first census record to show two male children is in 1830 in Blue River, Harrison, Indiana where Jesse Cruckfield is listed with two males 5-9, one being Robert and one unknown up until now, and himself. His wife Nancy having died the year before no females are shown.

In 1835 Fulton, Illinois Jesse Scritchfield is listed with 3 males 0-9, John (3), Terry (1) and an unknown, 1 male 10-19, Robert (11) and himself 40-49 along with Elizabeth (20-29) and an older female (50-59) who is unknown.

In 1840 Fulton, Illinois Jessey Jeretchfield is listed with 2 males 5-9 (second marriage), 1 male 10-14 again the unknown until now, 1 male 15-19, Robert, and himself, 40-49 along with his new wife Elizabeth and a female 5-9, possibly an unknown daughter.

In the 1850 Census Farmers, Fulton, Illinois Jesse Critchfield Age 55, Elizabeth Critchfield Age 38, John Critchfield Age 17, Terz (Terry) Critchfield Age 16, Ira Critchfield Age 14, Henry Critchfield Age 12, Mary Critchfield Age 10, Sarah Critchfield Age 8, and Louisa Critchfield Age 0. Both of the males by his first marriage are gone.

In the 1855 Illinois census Township 11, Greene , Illinois Jesse Critchfield is shown with 1 male 10-19, 1 male 20-29, himself 50-59, along with 1 female 0-9, 3 female 10-19, and his wife Elizabeth 50-59. Greene Co., Illinois is the county my ancestor William Scritchfield moves to after 1860.

William Scritchfield married in Fulton Co., Illinois on 18 Jul 1848 to Rachel Ray as shown in the Illinois State Marriage Records. Online index. Illinois State Public Record Offices.

No census records can be found for William in 1850 or 1855 but in 1860 he is in Belleview, Calhoun, Illinois and in 1865 in Walkerville, Greene, Illinois where he remains in 1870 and 1880.

Finally Robert R. Critchfield, the known son of William Jesse Critchfield, in his last will and testament, signed 1/29/1898 in Oskaloosa Co., Kansas, does leave 1/6th part of his estate to his lost brother William Critchfield. He instructed his administrator to spend three years trying to contact William and if he was dead to pay to his descendants 1/6th of the estate and if no dependents or unable to contact William the 1/6th portion to go to the administrator.

Although no direct proof outside Robert Critchfield's will has been found that my GG Grandfather William Scritchfield is the son of William Jesse Critchfield and his first wife Nancy Bumfield, the fact that Jesse has an unknown son in the 1830, 1835, and 1840 census; that my William married in Fulton Co., Illinois; and that the known son of W. Jesse left a portion of his estate to William Critchfield is solid evidence that William Scritchfield was the son of William Jesse Critchfield.

It appears that William's brother Robert went west for the California Gold rush as he is shown in the 1860 census in Marysville, California and remains there until about 1880. He is shown back in Kansas in the 1895 Kansas census as a boarder. He died in 1900 and is buried in Jefferson Co., Kansas in the same cemetery as his half brother Terry Critchfield.