

Absalom ‘Choctaw’ Brandenburg
(m. #1-Esther Frakes, #2-Susannah Wiseman)
Lived West Virginia; Clark, Hardin and McCracken Co., KY; Harrison Co., IN

Absalom “Choctaw” Brandenburg

b: ca 1786, Hampshire Co., W. VA (census, Rev. War records)
m: #1-15 Aug 1815, Corydon, Harrison Co., IN (marriage license)
m: #2-14 May 1838, Meade Co., KY (marriage record)
d: ca 1854, Ohio River at Paducah, KY (W. J. Moore, Nellie Cook, Detrick)
bur: probably Paducah, McCracken Co., KY (census)
occ: farmer, distiller, and plantation and meat inspector (W. J. Moore, Detrick)
fa: **Matthias Brandenburg** (his estate)
mo: **Hester Wolgamot** (*Early Times in Meade County, KY*)
military: Indian Scout and Kentucky Militia in the War of 1812 (Detrick, Moore)

Esther Frakes

b: ca 1795, unknown, KY (census)
d: ca 1836, Harrison Co., IN (birth of last child, John David Brandenburg)
bur: unknown
fa: **John Frakes** (Esther’s marriage license)
mo: **Mary [unknown] ?** (see my conclusions below)

Susannah/Susan Wiseman/Whiseman

b: ca 1814, Harrison Co., IN (census,106)
m: #2-**Jacob Wiseman**, after 1854, unknown (W. J. Moore, Detrick, Nellie Cook)
d: after 1860, Harrison Co., IN (106)
bur: Brown Cem., Heth Twp., Harrison Co., IN (Nellie Cook)
fa: **Abraham Wiseman** (106)
mo: **Sarah [unknown]** (106)

CHILDREN OF CHOCTAW’S FIRST MARRIAGE

* **1. Elizabeth Brandenburg**

b: 25 Jun 1816, Hardin Co., KY (family Bible)
m: **Simeon Kingsley**, 23 Apr 1833, Harrison Co., IN (family Bible)
d: 29 Apr 1872, Harrison Co., IN (family Bible)
bur: unknown

* **2. Louisiana Brandenburg**

b: 22 Jul 1819, Hardin Co., KY (B. A. Detrick)
m: **Rev. Rueben Binkley**, 3 May 1839, Harrison Co., IN (marriage license)
d: 4 Jan 1889, Harrison Co., IN (B. A. Detrick)
bur: Fairview Church Cem., Harrison Co., IN (tombstone)

* **3. Mary Brandenburg (twin)**

b: ca 1821, Hardin Co., KY (census)
m: **Thomas Hays**, 15 Mar 1838, Harrison Co., IN (marriage license)

- d: ca 1854, Harrison Co., IN (census)
bur: unknown
- * **4. Hester Brandenburg (twin)**
b: ca 1821, Hardin Co., KY (census)
m: **John Knapp**, ca 1841, Harrison Co., IN (B. A. Detrick)
d: ca 1854, Harrison Co., IN (B. A. Detrick)
bur: unknown
 - * **5. Sarah Ann Brandenburg**
b: ca 1823, Harrison Co., IN (census)
m: **George Edward O'Connor**, 8 Mar 1841, Harrison Co., IN (marriage license)
d: ca 1865, Harrison Co., IN (John David Brandenburg)
bur: unknown
 - * **6. Henry Brandenburg**
b: ca 1827, Harrison Co., IN (census)
m: **Elizabeth "Lizzie" [unknown]**, unknown, AR (census)
d: after 1880, Desha Co., AR (census)
bur: unknown
 - * **7. Green A. Brandenburg**
b: ca 1830, Harrison Co., IN (census)
m: **Josephine [unknown]**, unknown, AR (census)
d: ca 1900, Newport, Jackson Co., AK (census, cem. records)
bur: unknown
 - * **8. Catherine Ann "Kitty" Brandenburg**
b: ca 1834, Harrison Co., IN (B. A. Detrick, John David Brandenburg)
m: **Henry Clay Holiday**, 28 May 1859, Harrison Co., IN (m.record)
d: post 1870, probably Harrison Co., IN (census)
bur: Marsh Cem.?, Boone Twp., Harrison Co., IN where husband bur. (cem rec)
 - * **9. Caroline Brandenburg**
b: ca 1835, Harrison Co., IN (B. A. Detrick)
m: unknown
d: unknown
bur: unknown

CHILDREN OF CHOCTAW'S SECOND MARRIAGE

- 1. David Brandenburg**
b: ca 1841, Harrison Co., In (census)
m: unknown
d: unknown
bur: unknown
- 2. John Brandenburg**
b: ca 1844, McCracken Co., KY (census)
m: unknown
d: unknown
bur: unknown

3. Susan Brandenburg

b: ca 1847, McCracken Co., KY (census)
m: **Howard Lee**, 19 Jan 1868, Floyd Co., IN (marriage license)
d: 1850-1860, unknown (census)
bur: unknown

4. Lucy Jane Brandenburg (twin)

b: 25 Mar 1848, McCracken Co., KY (census, B. A. Detrick)
m: none - died as an infant (W. J. Moore)
d: ca Sep 1848, McCracken Co., KY (census, W. J. Moore)
bur: probably Paducah, McCracken Co., KY (census)

5. (Mary) Martha Ellen Brandenburg (twin)

b: 25 Mar 1848, McCracken Co., KY (census, B. A. Detrick, W. J. Moore)
m: **William Conrad**, 20 Nov 1871, Harrison Co., IN (marriage license)
d: 1916, Harrison Co., IN (W. J. Moore)
bur: possibly Brown Cem., Heth Twp., Harrison Co., IN (Nettie Cook)

6. Female Brandenburg

b: ca 1851, McCracken Co., KY (census records, B. A. Detrick)
m: **Major [unknown] Pfrimmer**, unknown (B. A. Detrick)
d: unknown
bur: unknown

7. Delia B. Brandenburg

b: ca 1853, McCracken Co., KY (census records, B. A. Detrick)
m: **[unknown] McIntire**, unknown (B. A. Detrick)
d: unknown
bur: unknown

8. Male Brandenburg

b: ca 1855, McCracken Co., KY (Nettie Cook, d/o Martha Ellen Brandenburg)
m: unknown
d: unknown
bur: unknown

The Absalom "Choctaw" Brandenburg Family

By Pat Bristley

Absalom "Choctaw" Brandenburg has often been confused with his brother, Samuel's son, Absalom Henson Brandenburg. Some genealogists thought they were the same person and said that Choctaw had four or five wives. **He only had two.** Absalom Henson, who lived in Estill County, Kentucky and later in Dallas County, Texas, was married three times, to Nancy Ann Barker, Cassandra P. Patton, and Mrs. Permelia Milligan. Absalom Henson died in 1872, which could have been one of the reasons that Choctaw reportedly died when he was over 90 years of age.

First, most of this family's census records were taken before the 1850 census, when the census first listed each family member's name (see census record at the end of this sketch). Therefore, there has been a lot of speculation about who Choctaw's children were, and there were possibly errors made in transcribing the records from one person to

another. In one case a record given below went from one person to another at least five times before it reached me - and could have been garbled along the way.

Choctaw could not have been “over 90” when his second wife, Susannah, gave birth to a baby boy, because she was born circa 1814 (census records) and if he was at least 90 when the baby was conceived (census records), Susannah would have been about 62 years old. 62-year-old women do not conceive children (except now in the days of scientifically-helped births). My conclusion is that Choctaw was 74, not 94, when he died, and somewhere along the way a handwritten “7” was mistaken for “9.” If his last child, reportedly a boy, was born last, the boy must have been born no later than 1855 (after the death of Choctaw), because the last two children listed as belonging to Choctaw (a girl who married a Major Pfrimmer, and Delia B. who married a man named McIntire, were not listed on Choctaw’s 1850 census record, so had to be born after that date. If there was a son, and he was born in 1855, it makes sense, as Susannah would have been 41-years-old in 1855.

I have not done any research in McCracken County, Kentucky, but Paducah, in McCracken County (where Choctaw supposedly lived) is on the far western end of Kentucky, right on the Ohio River, and across the river from Illinois. He probably did drown in the river, because that tradition comes from several different sources.

Choctaw reportedly was a frontier scout with Daniel Boone’s Company. This would have been quite possible as the Brandenburgs lived in the area near where Boone lived, when they first went to Kentucky. His War of 1812 service was found in several different places so it is assume it was correct. At one time he was a private in Gray’s 13th Regiment of Kentucky Militia. According to B. A. Detrick, he was also a private in Thomas Joyce’s Company of Kentucky Detached Militia between November 10, 1814 and May 30, 1815 (because the dates were given I assume that part at least is correct). He also supposedly did some of his service in New Orleans with the 3rd Regiment of Kentucky Militia. Usually militia in that war were signed up for a certain period of time, and then went home. Later they were called up again to do more service, so he could have been in several outfits during the war. The tradition that he was a frontier scout may have been untrue.

Choctaw married Susannah Wiseman on the 14 May 1838, in Meade County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Abraham Wiseman and his wife Sarah (last name not given). According to several sources, after Choctaw died, she moved back to Harrison County, Indiana, and married her widowed brother-in-law (and probably a cousin) Jacob (or Jake) Wiseman, by who she had a daughter, Elizabeth, who was born in Harrison County. Susannah (Wiseman) Brandenburg Wiseman died in Harrison County after 1860. She was born in Harrison County, circa 1814, according to census and family records.

Choctaw’s Sons

The four proven sons of Choctaw (the 1850 census), Henry, Green A., David and John all moved to Arkansas, because census and military records were found there for them. The following is information found about them:

Henry’s wife, Lizzie (Elizabeth) was born circa 1840 in Mississippi. He died after 1880 in Deska County, Arkansas.

Green A's wife, Josephine, was born circa 1840 in Arkansas. He died at Newport, Jackson County, Arkansas. Green A. Brandenburg was a first lieutenant in Company G, the 32nd Regiment, Arkansas Infantry in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

David was a private in Company G, 23rd Regiment, Arkansas Infantry, in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

John was a private in Company A, 34th Regiment, AR Infantry in the Civil War.

If Choctaw did have a fifth son, posthumously, he was probably born circa 1854 or 1855 in Paducah, Kentucky. Since according to Nettie Cook he was raised by Jacob Wiseman, he might have gone by the surname "Wiseman" although Choctaw was his natural father. The only mention of this son that I found, came from Nettie Cook, but I included him in the Family Group at the beginning of this sketch, because he may have really lived.

Choctaw's Daughters

The oldest children of Choctaw's were born in what is today Meade County, Kentucky. At the time they were born, however, it was part of Hardin County, Kentucky. Solomon O. Brandenburg, who started Brandenburg, Kentucky, also had daughters named Elizabeth, Louisiana, Mary and Hester, the same names as Choctaw's four oldest girls. Therefore, it is necessary to be careful not to mix the girls up.

Elizabeth, his oldest daughter, was probably named for his oldest sister, Elizabeth, who married Elijah Fitzgerald. Many people named their children after their siblings in those days, even as they do now. Choctaw probably also named three of his sons, Henry, David and John after his brothers.

Louisiana, his second daughter, was probably named for the new state of Louisiana, which became the 18th state in the United States in 1812. Choctaw also reportedly fought in Louisiana during the War of 1812, so that might have been another reason she was given that name.

As one of the first set of twin girls was named Hester, after Choctaw's mother, it is quite possible that the other twin, Mary, was named after Esther's mother.

Nowhere, are the four oldest daughters given in official records as the daughters of Choctaw, except for Mary, when she married Thomas Hays. The thing that ties the four to Choctaw is Elizabeth's husband, Simeon Kingsley, who was a witness for Louisiana and Mary's marriage licenses (see records below), and as Mary's twin was Hester, she too must have been Choctaw's daughter.

The four oldest girls were not living with Choctaw and his wife, Esther, in the 1830 census, when Elizabeth was 14, Louisiana was 11, and Mary and Hester were 9. It was probable that they were living with other relatives. Or in the case of Elizabeth, she may have been working in someone else's household as a servant. Possibly Louisiana was working as a servant too, as girls did not attend school for very long in those days, and an 11-year-old would have been able to do many common chores.

Some genealogists say that Martha Ellen's twin sister was named Mary Maria, but Mary and Maria are really the same name, and in the 1850 census, Lucy Jane **and** Martha Ellen were both given as 3-years-old, so it is my conclusion that they were twins. My further conclusion is that Martha Ellen's given name was really Mary Martha Ellen, and that is where the confusion came in. As Susan, Martha Ellen and Lucy Jane were all on Choctaw's 1850 census record, they were undoubtedly all his daughters.

Choctaw's last two reported daughters were a female who married a Major Pfrimmer and Delia A. who married a man named McIntire, according to the records of B. A. Detrick, who was born and lived in Harrison County, Indiana, before moving away. So far, I have found no other records for Choctaw's two supposed youngest daughters, but have included them in the Family Group that heads this sketch, as Detrick knew some of the early Brandeburgs of Harrison County, Indiana, who probably furnished him the information. Martha Ellen (Brandenburg) Conrad did not die until 1916, so he may have known her. Certainly, when he was doing research, many of Choctaw's grandchildren would have still been living, from whom he probably got much of his information.

Catherine and Caroline were not living with Choctaw in the 1850 census, when Catherine was 16 and Caroline was 14. They were probably working as servants at the time, or were living with older sisters in Harrison County, Indiana.

Choctaw's Sons-In-Law

Reverend Rueben Binkley was the son of John Binkley and Gertrude Catherine Kaufman. He was born 18 February 1816, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He died on 23 January 1907, in Harrison County, Indiana (Cheryl Proctor, Family Bible, Corydon Library, B. A. Detrick).

Johan/John Knapp was born circa 1815, in Baden, Germany. He died after 1870 in Harrison County, Indiana (census, B. A. Detrick).

George Edward O'Connor who was familiarly known as Edward, was born circa 1805 in Ireland. He died after 1870 in Harrison County, Indiana (census), B. A. Detrick). William Conrad was born in 1850. He died in Harrison County, Indiana in 1925 (census, B. A. Detrick).

Henry Columbus Holiday was born in Harrison County, Indiana, on 29 May 1828 and died in 1848. He was the son of James Holliday and Rebecca Frane. He was buried at Marsh Cemetery, Boone Township, Harrison County, Indiana. He and Catherine Brandenburg had one child, Benjamin B. Holiday, born 15 March 1863. (If he married Catherine in 1859, and had a child in 1863, he could not have died in 1849). He probably died in 1869 instead of 1849. "Someone copied the date wrong," stated Virginia Holtry.

My Sources

I used many sources to put together this family sketch, and am probably wrong on some of my conclusions, or the information I received was incorrect. (Sometimes, because I have done genealogy so long, I can see dates or relationships that can or cannot work, but where I have guessed at the answers. I have noted where they were only my conclusions.)

I used information from the Hardin and McCracken Counties, Kentucky, Censuses of 1810, 1820, and 1850, and the Harrison County, Indiana, Censuses of 1830 and 1840. I used records for the War of 1812 and a history of Kentucky for Choctaw's military service. I also used census and Civil War records from Arkansas for Choctaw's four oldest sons. I used marriage records from Meade County, Kentucky and Harrison County, Indiana.

I also received information from the Dr. William J. Moore papers found in Richmond, Kentucky, the Brandenburg book by E. Craig Brandenburg (found in Dayton, Ohio), and the B. A. Detrick papers found in Corydon, Harrison County, Indiana, and

John David Brandenburg of Atlanta, Georgia. All four men descended from Matthias and Hester (Wolgamot) Brandenburg.

Other information from descendants came from Cheryl (Miller) Proctor, a descendant of Louisiana (Brandenburg) Binkley (who also sent me a photograph of Louisiana in August 1999); one of Martha Ellen (Brandenburg) Conrad's descendants from the State of Washington; Virginia Holtry from Rapid City, Iowa; information originally from Betty O'Dea of Mauckport, Harrison County, Indiana; information originally from Nellie Cook, a daughter of Martha Ellen (Brandenburg) Conrad; and Thelma Murphy of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Marriage Records of Meade County, Kentucky, Vol. 11, Book B, Meade County, Kentucky, Courthouse, Brandenburg, Kentucky.

License and marriage date: 14 May 1838, James Taylor, minister, married Absalom Brandenburg to Susannah Wiseman.

Marriage Licenses of Harrison County, Indiana, Clerk's Office, Harrison County Courthouse, Corydon, Indiana:

11 Aug 1815: Absalom Brandenburgh to Esther Frakes, 15 Aug 1815 by John McAdams. Consent of father, John Frakes, Hardin County, Kentucky.

13 Mar 1838: Thomas Hays to Mary Brandenburg; consent of fathers, James Hays & Absalom Brandenburg, by Simeon Kingsley.

27 Feb 1839: Reuben Binkley, age proven by Simeon Kingsley, to Louisiana Brandenburg, age proven by Simeon Kingsley.

6 Mar 1841: George O'Connor to Sarah Ann Brandenburg; consent of father Absalom Brandenburg by Jacob Bean.

28 May 1859: Henry C. Haliday, age proven by Job Robinson; to Catherine Brandenburg, age proved by Job Robinson.

B. A. Detrick Papers, Corydon, Indiana, Library, on microfilm.

Absalom Brandenburg was a private in Thomas Joyce's Company Kentucky Detached Militia, during the War of 1812. He served from Nov. 10, 1814 until May 30, 1815. Most of the Brandenburg boys [the sons of Matthias] followed the river, and Absalom, and probably Jonathan, were in on the Aaron Burr Conspiracy, as were practically all the [Ohio] river men at the time. Absalom recruited a company of soldiers for that expedition. Burr and Biennehasset parted company on the river just below Mauckport, a place known as North Hampton, whose site has long since fallen into the river. Absalom was drowned in the Ohio River at the age of 94 [sic]. He was familiarly known as "Choctaw."

W. J. Moore Papers, Eastern Kentucky University Library, Richmond, Kentucky. Information from Nellie Cook, daughter of Martha Ellen (Brandenburg) Conrad of Boggs town, Indiana.

Nellie Cook said her mother, a daughter of Absalom, was a niece to Jacob Wiseman/Whiseman, and Jacob Wiseman was also her mother's stepfather. She said "Grandmother Brandenburg married her brother-in-law Jacob Wiseman of Mauckport; that the widow Brandenburg married Jake [Jacob] Wiseman and drew a Civil War pension from him. Believe he was Uncle Jake to mother, as she was a Wiseman-Bierly-Wiseman. She is buried at Brown Graveyard - no stone. Jacob Wiseman lived in Brandenburg [Kentucky] and kept Martha's brother who was born after Absalom was 90 [sic] years old."

Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 51, p. 151, sent to me by Mollie L. Murray, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The parts with "sic" in parenthesis means that the information was wrong.

Brandenburg, Absalom, Settled in Virginia on coming to America [sic-born in West Virginia]; later removed to Paducah, Kentucky, where he was a plantation inspector and meat inspector; founded and lived in Brandenburg, KY [sic-his brother, Solomon O., founded Brandenburg]; served in 1812 with the 3rd Regiment KDM [Kentucky Detached Militia] and fought at New Orleans; removed to Mauchport, Ind., where he engaged in making brandy and distillery products; and where he died and was buried [sic - he died in McCracken Co., KY]. He was married four times [sic - 2 times]. Written by Wayne Guthrie in the *Indianapolis Indiana News*, on 7 Oct. 1952. The information was contributed by Thelma Murphy, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Notes on the family from Betty O'Dea, Box 226, Mauckport, Ind., 47142, a descendant of Cornelius Conrad Frakes, the brother of Esther Frakes, Choctaw's first wife. She had the children of Absalom and Esther as: Elizabeth, Louisiana and Catherine. She sent the following to Virginia Holtry from the Corydon, Indiana, Library, on 11 January 1990: Catherine Brandenburg, daughter of Absalom and Esther Frakes was born in 1832 in Indiana. She married 28 May 1859 to Henry Columbus Holiday (see rest about Henry Holiday in information about sons-in-law of Choctaw).

Hardin County, Kentucky, Court Orders, Hardin Co., Courthouse, Elizabethtown, Book A, 1793-1804.

Solomon Brandenburg made [a] motion for a road from Elizabethtown to the Ohio River, a quarter of a mile below Flippino run.

Note: Some of those who signed the petition were Solomon's brothers Henry and Absalom, his brother-in-law William Ventrees, and Thomas Lincoln (the father of Abraham Lincoln.)

Early Times in Meade County, Kentucky, G. L. Ridenour, (Western Recorder, Louisville, KY, 1929), Allen Co., Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN, call #Gc-976.901-M465.

