

# **Unearthed Lives: Family Research**

## **WILLIAM ROMULUS POWE REPORT**

**APRIL 30, 2018**

# Unearthed Lives: Family Research

## RESEARCH REPORT

### OBJECTIVES

The client had for many years tried to find the origin of his ancestor William Romulus Powe, who as a young man lived in Garrard County, Kentucky, at the same time as a William Powe, who was a Revolutionary War veteran. This older William Powe had a son, also named William Powe, who has often been confused with the client's ancestor because both migrated to Missouri at about the same time. However, records show they were distinct individuals and suggest that William Romulus Powe may have been a nephew of the Revolutionary War veteran.

The client's objective was singular:

1. To try and find the parents of William Romulus Powe and to document his relationship with the other Powes in Garrard County, Kentucky.

### KNOWN FACTS

The client had a great deal of information, having researched William Romulus Powe for many years.

- William Romulus Powe was married to Margaret Brown, a member of the Brown family into which the Revolutionary War veteran was also married (his spouse was Jerusha Brown).
- William Romulus Powe served in the War of 1812 and was at the Battle of New Orleans.
- The client had information that his William Romulus Powe might have been the William Poe of Richmond, Virginia, who served in the War of 1812.
- William Romulus Powe left Kentucky for Missouri well before the death of Revolutionary War veteran William Powe in 1839 and was not mentioned in his will.
- William Romulus Powe left Margaret Brown and several children in Missouri and moved to Indiana and Illinois, where he married a second time and had additional children. The names and birth dates of all children, as well as census records, were provided by the client.
- William Romulus Powe's children by Margaret Brown eventually

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migrated to the West Coast.

- Revolutionary War William Powe had a pension application and a will, but William Romulus Powe was mentioned in neither.
- Revolutionary War William Powe stated he was living in Orange County, Virginia, at the time of the war and enlisted multiple times, each time from that place. The assumption was that he was likely from this county or area of Virginia.
- Revolutionary War William Powe was said to have left Virginia for Kentucky because of gambling trouble and migrated at the same time as Arabia Brown and John Price.
- A John Powe appeared in Garrard County, Kentucky, at the same time as the Revolutionary War veteran William Powe. This John Powe disappeared prior to the 1810 census but was believed to have some relationship with William, possibly a brother. Speculation was that this John Powe might have been the father of William Romulus Powe, died, and left William Romulus Powe in the care of the William Powe family.
- YDNA testing suggested that the client was not related to any of the well-known Powe lines originating in Essex County, Virginia, and that migrated to North and South Carolina and Kentucky. However, the available documentary evidence is not conclusive so the question is still open.
- Poe families of colonial Virginia did not spell the surname with a 'w', but William Romulus Powe and Revolutionary War veteran William Powe and his sons spelled the name consistently with a 'w', unless the name was recorded by someone who did not know the spelling included a 'w', as on some early tax lists.
- Various pieces of information – too numerous to mention - gleaned over the years, including a previous family history that got sidetracked by the surname Poor (thinking it was Powe) in Garrard County, Kentucky, records.

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## RESULTS SUMMARY

Three months of research and discussion with the client added to his information but ultimately could not document the parents of William Romulus Powe.

- Revolutionary War veteran William Powe said he was living in Orange County, VA, at the time of the war, which seemed an obvious link from Kentucky to Virginia for William Romulus Powe, since the two men seem to be related. But the elder William Powe's parents could not be found.
- No connection between the only Poes in Orange County – William and Lydia Poe -- around the time of the elder William Powe's birth could be found in records, even though William and Lydia had sons named William and Jonathan.
- Revolutionary War veteran William Powe's service record indicated he served in various units of the Fifth Regiment, Virginia Militia, captained by men who could be found living in Orange and Caroline counties at the war's beginning. The Fifth Regiment was drawn largely from these counties and from Culpeper. A John Powe also served in this Regiment, under a captain who was from Orange County. This information suggested that the John Powe in Garrard County, Kentucky, was also from Orange County, Virginia.
- Other Poes – including some who migrated to counties adjacent to Garrard in Kentucky after the Revolutionary War -- served in the Second Regiment, Virginia Militia, which drew from other parts of Virginia and so were eliminated as having family ties to William Powe and John Powe of Garrard.
- Other early settlers of Madison and Garrard counties could be traced to Orange County, VA, (Arnold, Barbour, Hiatt, Wobley, Teter, Bourne, Herring, Banks, Conner), but there appeared to be no connection between them and the Powes prior to arrival in Kentucky.
- The elder William Powe first appeared in Madison County, Kentucky, when it was still part of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It soon became the Commonwealth of Kentucky and part of Madison was taken to create Garrard County. William Powe and the Brown family lived in the same place in both counties. John Powe arrived in Madison County a few years after William and his residence also "fell into" Garrard when

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it was created.

- John Powe was found in an 1802 court order in Garrard County, which removed from his care two mulatto children he had taken from North Carolina until such time as the court could decide what to do with them. However, no court order could be found to indicate what the final decision was.
- Neither William Powe nor John Powe appear to have had any money upon their arrival in Kentucky. William Powe may have received his first 50 acres as dowry in his marriage to Jerusha Brown. He was then successful enough to add to it over the years. John Powe did not own land for many years and finally secured 75 acres. In the tax list of the year before he disappeared (1808), he had rid himself of this land. No deed or transfer could be found. No will or probate records could be found. No spouse could be found.
- Extensive searches were done in Virginia and Kentucky records, but the conclusion was that Virginia records of the Poe family (or families) have many gaps and the various family lines have never been clearly delineated and documented.
- After additional investigation, it was found that YDNA testing was not as conclusive as it first seemed because the available documentation does not conclusively eliminate certain tested Poe families – like William and Lydia of Orange County, Virginia, - from the client's possible ancestry.

## THE REPORT

### **WILLIAM ROMULUS POWE**

The life of William Romulus Powe (about 1795-1866) has been documented from his service in the War of 1812 to his death in Illinois. His two marriages and his children by his first wife Margaret Brown and by his second wife Mary also have been documented.

William states in census records that he was born in Virginia. Although Madison County, Kentucky (part of which became Garrard) was in the Commonwealth of Virginia at the time of early settlers, it would have been part of Kentucky well before the time of William's birth (about 1795-96). Yet

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no evidence of William's origin in other parts of Virginia could be discovered.

The only connection William could be found to have with another Powe or Poe family was with that of Revolutionary War veteran William Powe (about 1755- 1839) of Garrard County, Kentucky. This William Powe married Jerusha Brown, whose relationship with William Romulus Powe's first wife Margaret Brown was likely as an aunt. A Frederick Brown posted bond for the wedding of William and Margaret, and it has been assumed that this means he was Margaret's father, but there is no proof for that (further discussion is in the Arabia Brown section of this report).

Although William Romulus Powe has often been confused with the son of William and Jerusha Powe (also named William), records clearly show them as different individuals. Oddly, William Powe Jr, born about the same time as William Romulus Powe, always stated he was born in Kentucky, which adds further to the question of whether William Romulus came to Kentucky after he was born in Virginia.

William Romulus Powe also could have some relationship to the John Powe who appears in both Madison and Garrard counties in 1794, a few years after the Revolutionary War veteran William Powe. If John Powe brought William Romulus Powe to Kentucky (one theory being John might be his father), the time of arrival is close to coinciding with William's birth, which might explain why William always stated he was born in Virginia since both John and the elder William were from Virginia.

William's use of the name Romulus began when he migrated to Missouri, possibly to distinguish him from William Powe Jr., who migrated to the same county in Missouri at about the same time. A search for the origin of the name Romulus – as a surname or as a paired connection with the name Remus (the twins of myth said to be founders of Rome) – revealed nothing to indicate that the name was anything more than a fanciful use by William or his parents. This idea is reinforced by the fact that William used fanciful rather than family names for his own sons. William did name a daughter Agnes Royston Powe, and there is a Royston family in Garrard County, but any prior relationship between Poes and Roystons could not be discovered.

William's military records indicate that he served out of Kentucky in the War of 1812 and participated in the Battle of New Orleans. There was nothing in the military records to indicate his place of origin in Virginia.

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## **WILLIAM POWE and JOHN POWE**

The most obvious research path for William Romulus Powe was through William Powe and John Powe, who arrived in Madison and Garrard counties in Kentucky after the Revolutionary War. William Powe is well-documented in records – tax lists, census, deeds, court records, and a will. William Romulus Powe married into the same Brown family as the elder William Powe, which suggests a double family connection. John Powe is more mysterious and for that reason has been assumed to have had some connection to William Romulus Powe, possibly his father.

## **William Powe**

1. William Powe stated in his Revolutionary War pension application that he served multiple times out of Orange County, VA, but he could not be connected in records with any Poe family that lived in Orange County at this time or around the time of his birth (1745-55).<sup>1</sup>
2. A William and Lydia Poe, who were from Caroline County, lived in Orange County prior to the Revolutionary War and then relocated to Culpeper County. They disappeared from records in 1763 after selling their land and household belongings. Although they were said to have relocated to North Carolina, it could not be determined what happened to them and no records could be located for them after this time. Neither could the elder William Powe could not be connected with them.<sup>2</sup>
3. It is documented that William and Lydia had sons named William Jr. and Jonathan who appear in Culpeper County records after the disappearance of their parents. Although some family historians have these two men moving to North Carolina or South Carolina, records continue to show a William and John Poe in Caroline County after the war.<sup>3</sup>
4. The sons of William Poe Jr. and his brother Jonathan Poe could not be determined with any certainty. Again family historians have the sons in North Carolina or South Carolina, but the necessary documentation linking them to William Jr. and Jonathan could not be found.
5. Unfortunately, there are many William and John Poes in Virginia and the Carolinas, and the naming tradition prevalent in colonial America did not reveal any clues about the elder William Powe's parents. He does not appear to have named a son after his father (unless his father was also William). He named one son Joseph, after the father of

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his wife Jerusha Brown, one son William after himself, and a third son Rice, likely after the neighboring Rice family. His other children were daughters.<sup>4</sup>

6. William Powe arrived in Madison County (then Virginia) in 1787. Tax lists show the following:<sup>5</sup>
  - 1787 William, no John
  - 1788 William, no John
  - 1789 William, no John (John Row is another family named Row)
  - 1790 *no William or John*
  - 1791 William, no John
  - 1792 William, no John
  - 1793 *no William or John*
  - 1794 William reappears and *John's first appearance*
  - 1795 William and John

The significance of the tax lists is that William disappears for two years but not consecutively. This is around the time of his marriage to Jerusha Brown, which took place in adjacent Lincoln County, and again the year before John arrives.

The question then becomes did William actually leave the county, was he living with someone else who paid his tax as an unnamed family member over the age of 21, or was he simply overlooked? Although William married Jerusha Brown in adjacent Lincoln County in 1789,<sup>6</sup> there are no records showing him living in Lincoln County. Thus there is no documentation to show where William was in 1790 and 1793, but it seems unlikely that upon his marriage and the arrival of his first child, Joseph, he would have been anywhere other than Madison/Garrard counties.

Nothing could be found to indicate a residence of William or John Powe in parts of North Carolina on the Kentucky and Virginia border during that period, from which John Powe was accused in 1802 of having (illegally) brought two mulatto children to Garrard County.

7. When Madison County became part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the part of Madison in which William Powe and the Browns were living fell into Garrard County in 1796, the tax lists show:<sup>7</sup>

1797 William Powe claims 50 acres, John none.

1779-1800 William and John continue to appear with John owning no

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land. By 1800, William has 131 acres.

*1801 John is finally credited with land, 75 acres, for the first time.*

1802-1806 William and John both appear, with William adding to his land. John does not.

*1807 John claims 0 acres. His 75 have either been sold or given away. No record could be found to show a sale or a deed transfer.*

1808 William appears as usual. *John is no longer listed.*

Additional tax records were checked through 1822. John did not reappear and William eventually owned 300 acres. William's sons William Jr. and Joseph began to appear in 1811.

### **John Powe**

Little more is known of John Powe than what is revealed by the tax lists in which he is recorded with William Powe in Madison and Garrard counties.

1. Deed records in Garrard County show John Powe's 75 acres was on Back Creek and Paint Lick Creek.<sup>8</sup> Like Sugar Creek where William Powe lived, Paint Lick Creek was a tributary of the Kentucky River and Brown family members also owned land there.
2. No death record or probate record indicating John Powe's death could be found in the years following his disappearance. There was also nothing to be found indicating he had moved to some other location.
3. If John Powe was William Romulus Powe's father, he would have been married around the time of William's birth spouse in 1795, but nothing could be found to indicate that John was married during his residence in Madison and Garrard counties since there are no census records listing family members by number or name.
4. No record could be found to indicate that John Powe moved elsewhere after he disappeared from Garrard County tax lists.
5. William Romulus Powe did not name a son John (unless there was a child who died and was never in records).

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6. A Revolutionary War military record for a John Powe (using the spelling Powe, not Poe) indicates he served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Militia under Captain George Stubblefield.<sup>9</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment was known for drawing heavily upon Orange County, VA, residents and is the same regiment in which William Powe served. Stubblefield was among those officers taking their oath of allegiance at the beginning of the war on the steps of the Orange County Courthouse.<sup>10</sup>

William Powe did not serve under Stubblefield, but in two of his many enlistments, he served under Captain George Waugh and Captain James Hawkins, both of whom were sworn in with Stubblefield at the Orange County Courthouse.<sup>11</sup> It seems reasonable to assume that both John and William Powe were living in Orange County 1776-1783.

7. Both William and John Powe, as well as Joseph, William Jr., and William Romulus Powe spell their surname with a 'w', although occasionally clerks recorded it as Poe. This suggests that Powe was the spelling adopted by this generation of the family. The Powe spelling does not seem to exist with any consistency prior to this and disappeared among the grandchildren of William Jr. and William Romulus Powe.
8. In 1802, the court of Garrard County took into its custody two mulatto children that John Powe was said to have brought from North Carolina. The ruling stated that the fate of the children would be determined at a later date but no other reference to this case could be found in court records. Nor could John's location in North Carolina be determined, though it may be that he was residing there prior to his arrival in Madison County in 1794.<sup>12</sup>

What can be concluded from the tax lists, geographical proximity of residence, Revolutionary War records, and spelling of the surname is that William Powe and John Powe of Garrard County were in some way related, though it cannot be shown definitely that they were brothers, which would make William Jr. and William Romulus first cousins.

### **ARABIA BROWN**

One other clue by association was said to have been Arabia J. Brown Sr., who migrated from Virginia to Madison County, VA (KY) after the Revolutionary War and was one of the first settlers in the area. He was a Revolutionary War veteran, but his pension application in 1832 indicates he

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was from Bedford County, which is nowhere near Orange County, VA.<sup>13</sup>

Brown was stationed at Boonesborough (then in Virginia, now in Madison County, Kentucky) at the time of the Revolutionary War, serving under Daniel Boone. This experience appears to have led him to return to settle in the area after the war. He and Absalom Brown hold the first deeds by Browns. He was married to Betsy Dooley.<sup>14</sup>

In 1780, Alexander Sinclair, a land speculator, received a 1,000-acre patent in Madison County on the Upper Dick's River and 700 acres on Sugar Creek.<sup>15</sup> He then sold 500 acres on Sugar Creek to Arabia Brown's brother-in-law, the Rev. Moses Dooley in 1787. Arabia soon bought land on Sugar Creek from Sinclair, as did his brother Absalom Brown (1787-88).<sup>16</sup>

Sugar Creek is the same location where William Powe resided during his life in Madison and then Garrard counties, yet it is apparent from Revolutionary War pension applications that Arabia Brown and Moses Dooley did not serve in the same regiment as the Powes and were from a location in Virginia nowhere near Orange County.

These findings show, then, that William Powe likely had no connection with the Brown family until his arrival in Madison County. In the earliest recording of William Powe (1787), he listed as living near **Frederick Brown** and **Joseph Brown**. William married Joseph Brown's daughter Jerusha, and Frederick Brown posted bond for the marriage of William Romulus Powe and **Margaret Brown**.<sup>17</sup>

**Frederick Brown** was named as the father of Nancy Brown who married Joseph Martin in 1810, and Rowland Brown posted bond.<sup>18</sup> In the same year, Frederick Brown was named father of Rowland Brown on his marriage to Phebe Grissom and Charles L. Brown posted bond.<sup>19</sup> These interactions reveal the children of Frederick Brown in 1810 to have been Nancy, Rowland, and Charles L. Brown. Frederick Brown was recorded in the 1810 census as having three daughters 16-25.<sup>20</sup> Among those may have been Margaret, who was married in 1817 to William Romulus Powe, but there is no proof that she was other than the marriage record bond.

William Powe's father-in-law Joseph Brown bought land on Paint Lick Creek in 1794.<sup>21</sup> This is the same location as the residence of John Powe. Based on ages in census and marriage records, Frederick Powe appears to have been a brother of Joseph's.

Another Powe-Brown marriage recorded among Garrard County's early

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settlers is Benjamin Brown to Polly Powe in 1800. Polly's age makes her too old to have been a child of William Powe but she may have been a sister.<sup>22</sup>

### **KENTUCKY POES**

No other Poes who settled in the 1780s when Kentucky was still part of the Commonwealth of Virginia spelled their name Powe.

Although these Poes – many of who received Virginia Land Patents or Rev. War Bounty Land Grants – have often been believed related to William and John Powe of Garrard County, a review of their backgrounds showed no connection by birth, association, or geographical proximity.

The William, Joseph, and John Poe of Bracken County, KY (1800 census) and the Benjamin Poe of Barren County, KY (1800 census) were descended from a Poe family that settled in Pennsylvania, not Virginia. The Pennsylvania Poes may also be found in Mason County, KY.<sup>23</sup>

The Franklin Co, KY, Poes (Benjamin, John, Jesse, Virgil) were from a Poe line from Benjamin Franklin Poe of Culpeper who died in Amherst County, VA. This line was said to have come from Samuel Poe of Essex County and includes the Marsom Poe mentioned in the section of this report on Virginia and North Carolina.<sup>24</sup>

### **WILLIAM & LYDIA POE of CAROLINE, ORANGE, CULPEPER COUNTIES, VA**

Since William Powe testified that he was living in Orange County, VA, at the time of his multiple tours of duty in the Revolutionary War and John Powe also served in the regiment from Orange County, this was an obvious place to search for the origin of the Garrard Powes.

The only Poes who appear to have resided in Orange County at the time William Powe would have been a child and young man were William and Lydia Poe, who are found in many deed records.

This William Poe appears to have been born around 1711 in Virginia. He purchased land in **Caroline County** in 1731.<sup>25</sup>

William Poe (designated as of Caroline County) received a join land patent with William Watson in Orange County (adjacent Caroline) in 1737. This land is often referred to in deeds by Watson's name, as well as Poe's. The land was on the Little Fork of the Rappahannock River on a branch of Battle Run.<sup>26</sup>

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William Poe is then mentioned in **Orange County**

1747: Inventory of the deceased Isaac Chapman, along with Francis Browning Jr. and Samuel Scott.

1748: Witness to indenture of Francis Browning Sr. and Jr. for 200 pounds tobacco to John Ashley of Battle Run.

William Poe in **Culpeper County** (these deeds reveal William did not move from Orange County so much as had his land fall into Culpeper at its creation from Orange in 1749).<sup>27</sup>

1749: William and Lydia Poe sell 100 acres to Cornelius Mitchell on the corner of Poe's land.

1747-9: **William Poe Jr.** and **John Poe** are mentioned as chair carriers for surveys.

1752: William Poe witnessed the deed of Anthony Scott.

1752: William Poe witnessed the deed of Mary Nicholson widow of Thomas.

1752: William Poe witnessed the will of John Spotswood, son of Alexander Spotswood of Orange County.

1753: William Beverly of Essex County to William Poe of Culpeper, lease of 200 acres where Poe lives, part of land called Wakefield – "for the lives of William Poe, Lydia his wife, and **William their son.**" John Gouge was a witness.

1755: William Poe and Lydia sold 150 acres on Battle Run to Robert Gouge.

1755: A deed in Virginia Northern Neck Warrants, 1710-80, notes that

**William Poe Jr.** and **Jonathan Poe** were "chain carriers of Francis Browning" for the surveyor Richard Young.

1758: Francis Browning passed 100 acres to his son Francis Browning Jr., witnessed by William Poe, Samuel Scott, Cornelius Mitchell, and Richard Corby.

1760: William and Lydia sold 165 acres on Battle Run to James Kennedy on the lower side of Poe's plantation, by Poe's and Watsons' 1737 patent. John Gouge listed as a neighbor.

**1763:** William and Lydia appear to have sold the remainder of their land and all of their household possessions and farm livestock and implements to James Buckhannon of Falmouth, merchant, including 100 acres where Poe lived from patent. William and Lydia are no longer found after this date, Oct. 23.

These deeds and other records show that William and Lydia Poe were from Caroline County but settled in Orange County upon receiving a land patent. The records of Culpeper County show that William's land "fell into" Culpeper when it was created in 1749 because mention continues to be made of his original patent on Battle Run, as well as his associates the Brownings and the Gouges. Most of this was previously documented at

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<http://poegen.net/VA/Studies/PoeWilliam.htm> but the original records were reviewed to ensure accuracy.

### **William Poe of Caroline County co-exists with William and Lydia**

It should be noted that a Powe family story has it that William Powe's reason for going to what became Garrard County, KY, was that he got into trouble for gambling in 1785.<sup>28</sup>

There are at least two references to a William Poe having been involved in the raising of thoroughbred horses and gambling. In a 1750 gambling case, in which William Poe was one of four men called to testify against Rodham Kenner II on a gambling charge. This story may be the basis for the legend about William Powe, who likely wasn't born yet at this time. The other story is that William and Lydia left Virginia because it had banned gambling and he lost his fortune invested in breeding thoroughbreds. This story could not be confirmed.<sup>29</sup>

This William Poe of Caroline County is mentioned several times in records in the 1750s. He does not appear to be the William Poe married to Lydia, who by this time was well established in Culpeper County.

This William Poe continues to be found in Caroline County records until 1794. He is noted as "surveyor" in 1776, 1777, and 1782, which may suggest he is William Poe Jr., who was noted as being a chain carrier in the late 1740s and early 1750s. It would be a natural progression from chain carrier to surveyor.<sup>30</sup>

### **Rev. War Claim by William Poe in Orange County**

A William Poe filed a service claim for impressed articles/goods during the Revolutionary War in Orange County, which indicates there was a William Poe living there during the war (Rev. War Claims 1775-1783, vol. IV, p. 186). This does not seem to be William married to Lydia, since they left the area after 1763. Possibly it is William Powe who went to Garrard, as he does not appear in Garrard until 1787. But there is no indicate of a William Powe owning land in Orange County during or after the war.<sup>31</sup>

### **Spotsylvania County**

The records of Spotsylvania County, VA, were searched because it is adjacent Caroline and many Caroline County residents are also found in Spotsylvania County records.

No Poes other than Marsom Poe (1725-1782), who was born in Caroline and died in Spotsylvania fit the time frame. His will names a son William but this

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individual migrated to Mississippi. Marsom has been shown to be the son of Samuel Poe.<sup>32</sup>

### **Bedford County**

Bedford records were explored because it was the origin of Arabia Brown and the Brown clan of Garrard County, KY.

No Poes were listed in the tax records, though Arabia Brown was. He was gone by 1786 and appeared shortly thereafter in Madison County (soon to be Garrard).

### **NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA**

There are Poes and Powes in these two states, but most appear too young to have fathered William Powe the Revolutionary War veteran of Garrard County, Kentucky, despite contention that his grandparents were William and Lydia and his parents William Powe and Menta Pike.

No evidence has been found to support the notion that William and Lydia left Virginia in 1763 to go to Caswell County, North Carolina, nor that a William Poe and Menta Pike existed, much less arrived in Garrard County, Kentucky, prior to William and John Powe. For one thing, neither Garrard County nor Kentucky existed at the time of William Powe's arrival in 1787, and this William Powe is proven to be the first and only Powe or Poe in what became Garrard County.

The other theory is that Marsom Poe of Caroline/Spotsylvania County, VA, had a son Thomas who moved to South Carolina and began spelling his name as Powe. Although there is a Thomas B. Powe (1740-1817) in Cheraw, South Carolina, and he did have a child named William, he is too young to have been William's parents and this William Powe went to Mississippi.<sup>33</sup>

### **DESCENDANTS**

The research also explored the descendants of William Powe Jr. and William Romulus Powe because they appeared in newspaper records to think they were related. To what degree could not be discovered.

### **SUMMARY**

William Romulus Powe first appears in War of 1812 service records as serving out of Kentucky. This is the same William Powe who married Margaret Brown in Garrard County, Kentucky, giving him a family connection with Rev. War veteran William Powe of the same county, who married Jerusha Brown, likely an aunt of Margaret's.

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Records in Kentucky and Virginia do not indicate who the parents of either William Powe may have been and what the family connection between them – other than marrying into the Brown family – may have been. John Powe, who appears to be of the same generation as the elder William Powe, seems likely to have been William's brother but this could not be proven by records. They did not live in exactly the same place in Garrard County, but they did live in the vicinity of Brown family members. Records show William Powe arrived in Kentucky (then Madison County) by 1787, with John making his first appearance in 1794.

The elder William Powe and John Powe served in the Revolutionary War out of Orange County, Virginia, but the only Poes living there at the time and previous to the war could not be connected to William and John. Powe is not the spelling of the name in Virginia, but William and John spelled it that way, as did their children and William Romulus Powe, whose relationship to them is unknown. William Romulus and the elder William's son William Powe Jr. both migrated to Missouri at about the same time, reinforcing a close family connection.

The Brown family of Madison and Garrard counties in Kentucky were found to have been from Bedford County, not Orange, and other records indicate that the Powes and Browns did not know one another prior to arrival in Kentucky. Other families living as early settlers in Garrard were found to have originated in Orange County, but they could not be connected to the elder William Powe or John Powe.

Searches were done of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kentucky records, but there was no pattern or document trail for the elder William Powe, even though there were records showing where in Virginia and Pennsylvania the Poes (without the 'w') who arrived in central Kentucky at the same time as the Browns and Powes originated.

William and Lydia Poe of Caroline, Orange, and Culpeper counties appear to have been the only Poe family living in Orange County around the time of the elder William Powe's birth in the 1750s, yet their known sons William and Jonathan Poe could not be connected with William or John Powe. Another William Poe, some 20 years younger, lived in Caroline County concurrent with when William and Lydia were living in Orange and Culpeper, but his family origin is not known.

The only Powes (with the 'w') after the Revolutionary War lived in South Carolina and one of them, Thomas, is a son of Marsom Poe, who died in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in 1782, proven by a will. Yet Thomas is too

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young to have been the father of William or John Powe of Kentucky, and the will does not name other sons of Marsom. Although Marsom is thought to have been a son of Samuel Poe of Essex County, VA, that has never been proven.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

- 1) a. Due to the lack of conclusive documentation about who the ancestors of some donors contributing to the Poe YDNA Project at Family Tree were thought to have been, the client's first step would be to find a proven (by documentation) male descendant of the elder William Powe to determine if he is a match. That would prove a common ancestor or show that William Romulus Powe was not related, which would be surprising indeed. [Client's note: several such descendants were identified but none have been willing to take part.]  
  
b. The second step would be to try and find a proven male descendant of the William Poe married to Lydia. A match in that case would prove that the client is not exempt from being related to the Poes of Essex County, which he is thought to have been based on YDNA testing that can't be confirmed.  
  
c. The third step would be to try and find a male descendant of the Pennsylvania Poes.  
  
d. The fourth step would be to try and find a descendant of the Irish Poes who are thought to have come directly to Virginia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but are not related to the Tidewater Virginia Poes.  
  
e. [Client's note: I have agreed to take part in the FTDNA autosomal test to identify possible Poe 'cousins' as results from a known relative have shown some promise.]
- 2) A focused search of all Orange County, Virginia, records that are unindexed or that might still be on microfilm at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. The first phase of this research would require a page-by-page search of these unindexed records looking for any references to Poes. The second phase would require paying a researcher in Salt Lake City (\$18 an hour) to search microfilmed records of Orange County for Poes. If these records are not indexed, then the expense would likely be too great to complete such a search.
- 3) There may be other family connections among the early settlers of Garrard County who were from Orange County that suggest William

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Powe's origin, but nothing was apparent in investigating those individuals during this project except marriages between families that occurred after a generation had lived in Kentucky.

- 4) A critical clue is the court record showing John Powe brought two mulatto children to Garrard County from North Carolina, but without knowing where in North Carolina he brought them from, it was impossible to know where look, though border counties with Kentucky were searched for Poes and Powes. Should additional evidence emerge showing some connection of the John Powe of Kentucky to a John Poe in North Carolina prior to 1794, there may be reason to delve deeper into North Carolina records.

### **Dr Leonard Butts**

With edits and comments by Leon J Lyell

1 May 2018

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## FOOTNOTES

1. Graves, William T. *Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters*, transcribed online. <http://revwarapps.org/>
2. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Virginia Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in Caroline, Orange, and Culpeper counties records.
3. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Virginia Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in Caroline, Orange, and Culpeper counties records.
4. Garrard County, KY, Will, Book K, p 59-60. Transcription of the will of William Powe, April 1839.
5. Madison County (VA then KY) and Garrard County, KY, Tax Lists 1787-1815.
6. Lincoln County, KY, Marriage Bonds William Powe to Jerusha Brown, March 1789.
7. 1797 Garrard County, KY, Tax List, shows William and John Powe relocation by creation of the county.
8. 1803 Garrard County, KY, Tax List, shows John Powe on Paint Lick Creek.
9. John Powe, Revolutionary War Military Record, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Virginia, Capt. George Stubblefield (3 pages), Fold3.com
10. Graves, William T. *Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters*, transcribed online. <http://revwarapps.org/>
11. Graves, William T. *Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters*, transcribed online. <http://revwarapps.org/>
12. Garrard County, KY, Court Order Books, 1802, p. 241.
13. Graves, William T. *Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters*, transcribed online. <http://revwarapps.org/>
14. Graves, William T. *Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters*, transcribed online. <http://revwarapps.org/> (attached to Arabia Brown pension application).

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15. Simpson, Fred Logan. Back of the Cane: Early Virginia Surveys in Today's Garrard County, KY, map of Alexander Sinclair land around Sugar Creek.
16. Simpson, Fred Logan. Back of the Cane: Early Virginia Surveys in Today's Garrard County, KY, description of Alexander Sinclair and sales to Browns and William Powe.
17. Garrard County, KY, Marriage Records, 1110, Oct. 30, 1817, Margaret Brown to William Powe, bond Frederick Brown, n.p.
18. Garrard County, KY, Marriage Records, 641, Sept. 8, 1810, Nancy Brown, p. 93.
19. Garrard County, KY, Marriage Records, 629, June 13, 1810, Rowland Brown, p. 93.
20. 1810 U.S. Census, population schedule, Garrard County, KY, p. 201.
21. Madison County, KY, Deeds Index, 1787-88, Absalom and Arabia Brown first Browns to purchase land (on Sugar Creek).
22. Garrard County, KY, Marriage Records, 131, March 19, 1800, Benjamin Brown to Polly Poe, p. 78.
23. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Kentucky Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in county records.
24. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Kentucky Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in county records.
25. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Virginia Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in Caroline, Orange, and Culpeper counties records.
26. Virginia Land Patents, Library of Virginia Digital Collection, Orange County, William Poe and William Watson, p. 333.
27. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Virginia Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in Caroline, Orange, and Culpeper counties records.
28. Campbell, T.E. *Colonial Caroline: A History of Caroline County, Virginia*, 1954, William Poe gambling charges 1750s.

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29. *Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Alexander Poe (1888-1952)*, Carol Ann Poe Hotz, 1998, 2010.

30. Poe, William. *Compiled Research on Virginia Poes*, copies and verified by this researcher in Caroline, Orange, and Culpeper counties records.

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33. Patillo, Edward. *Carolina Planters on the Alabama Frontier: The Spencer-Robeson-McKenzie Family Papers*. Thomas Powe family discussed, 88-89; 1816 Tax List, Wayne County, MS, William Powe in residence.