

Analysis of Data Generation 5 to 6

Assignment: To prove the parents of Mary Ellen Hicks are William Hicks, Jr. and Rebecca [West] Alcorn.

Information: Mary Ellen Hicks appears as “Mary Hicks” on the death certificate of her daughter, Martha Baker Swango, along with Martha’s father, John Baker.¹ Mary Ellen Hicks, born circa 1824, appears named as the wife of John E. Baker in the 1850 census in Gallatin County, Kentucky.² The marriage of Mary Ellen Hicks and John E. Baker in Jessamine County, Kentucky, took place on 19 December 1842.³

John E. Baker was killed on 14 August 1864 as seen in the deposition of his great granddaughter, Dr. Elizabeth Kaspar.⁴ Dr. Kaspar possesses a number of family mementos left to her by her mother, Catherine Edith Baker Kaspar. Among them is a framed photograph of a white bearded man and a woman.⁵ It was taken, presumably, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, as is evidenced by the clothing and hair styles, which were customary for the era. On the back of the frame, and attached to it, is an aged piece of paper, on which is written “Uncle Rice Hicks and Aunt Harriett Dad’s mother’s brother and his wife [signed] Julia”. In another handwriting, obviously made later, are the markings “A. M. Baker” written over “Dad’s” and “Mary Ellen Hicks” written over “mother’s”.

Rice Hicks appears in the 1850 census in Gallatin County, Kentucky, as age 16, a son of William Hicks, 60, and his wife Rebecca.⁶ Rebecca is the Rebecca Alcorn shown in the marriage bond dated 10 January 1815, Fayette County, Kentucky.⁷ Rice Hicks marries Harriett Ann Swango on 6 April 1859 in Gallatin County, Kentucky, per their marriage license and marriage certificate.⁸ Thus, this is the “Harriett” identified in the photograph.

The signature can be identified as Julia Baker, a granddaughter of Mary Ellen Hicks, and the daughter of Alexander Marshall (“A. M. Baker”) Baker. The 1920 census in Louisville, Ward 3, Jefferson County, Kentucky⁹ shows Alexander Baker, his wife, Mary, and his daughter Julia, then 23. Alexander Marshall Baker appears, as well, in the 1860 census along with his sister, Martha, in Gallatin County, Kentucky.¹⁰

The death certificate of Rice Hicks, dated 19 April 1915, shows his death in Jessamine County, Kentucky.¹¹ His father is correctly identified as “William Hicks”, but his mother is listed as “Rebecca West”. The informant confused her middle name for her surname. The War of 1812 Pension Application for William Hicks (Jr.)¹² indicates “Rebecca Alcorn” as the widow of William Hicks, and combined with the early Marriage Bond, proves that Rebecca was the wife of William throughout the marriage, and was, indeed, the mother of Rice.

Julia is identified in the graves of Resthaven Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky¹³ as “Baker, Mattie Julia, 1894-1987, daughter of Alexander”. Many of the Baker family are buried here.

Julia, born in 1894, would have been 21 at the death of her great uncle, Rice Hicks, and was therefore one of his contemporaries living in the same state relatively near him.

Despite the fact that the 1840 census in Jessamine County, Kentucky¹⁴ does not show the names of the members of the household of William Hicks, there are two females listed in the 16 to 20 age bracket, the same age bracket as Mary Ellen Hicks would have been in 1840.

Conclusion: The photo identification of Mary Ellen Hicks' brother as Rice Hicks, along with great aunt Harriett, agrees with all of the pieces of evidence that confirm the accuracy of this identification: The parents of Mary Ellen Hicks are William Hicks, Jr. and Rebecca Alcorn.

¹ Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1953; Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009

² Kentucky, Gallatin County. 1850 U. S. census, population schedule. Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009. From National Archives microfilm publication Roll: M432_200; Page: 204A; Image 553

³ "Marriages of Jessamine County, KY 1799-1850" Compiled by Bill and Kathy Vockery

⁴ Deposition of Dr. Elizabeth Kaspar, 808 Jamie Lane, Macomb, Illinois 61455.

⁵ Attached photographs showing framed picture from front and back, with inscription written on back, property of Dr. Elizabeth Kaspar.

⁶ Kentucky, Gallatin County. 1850 U. S. census, population schedule. Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009. From National Archives microfilm publication Roll: M432_200; Page: 183A; Image: 507

⁷ Digital Image of original marriage bond of William Hicks [Jr.] and Rebecca Alcorn, dated 10 January 1815, Fayette County, Kentucky; <http://www.hill-ky.org/images/Hicks/HICKDC01.jpg>: 2009

⁸ Digital images of original marriage license and marriage certificate of Rice Hicks and Harriett Ann Swango, dated 6 April 1859 and [illegible] April 1859; <http://www.hill-ky.org/images/Hicks/HICKDC04.jpg>: 2009

⁹ Kentucky, Jefferson County, Louisville, Ward 3. 1920 U. S. census, population schedule. Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009. From National Archives microfilm publication Roll: T625_579; Page: 15A; Enumeration District: 80; Image: 924

¹⁰ Kentucky, Gallatin County. 1860 U. S. census, population schedule. Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009. From National Archives microfilm publication Roll: M653_368; Page: 0; Image: 42

¹¹ Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1953; Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009

¹² Digital Images of War of 1812 Pension Application, Gallatin County, Kentucky; <http://www.hill-ky.org>: 2009

¹³ Resthaven Cemetery; Metro Louisville – Jefferson County Kentucky GenWeb: 2009; <http://www.kyinfofolk.com/jefferson/cems/resthavencemetery.html>,

¹⁴ Kentucky, Jessamine County. 1840 U. S. census, population schedule. Digital Images. *Ancestry.com*. <http://www.ancestry.com>: 2009. From National Archives microfilm publication Roll: 116; Page: 236