

PART ONE:

GENERATIONS ONE TO FOUR

1. WILLIAM¹ BEEZLEY, perhaps a son of Major Beesley of Prince William and later Frederick County, was born in the early part of the Eighteenth Century, perhaps as early as 1720. His place of birth is not known, and efforts to connect him with other Beasley families in Essex, Orange, and Caroline Counties, Virginia remain inconclusive. Perhaps he was descended from an earlier William Beasley, who had patented land in Westmoreland County, together with one Edward Hawley, on 25 Mar. 1665 (see Appendix 1).

Very little is known of William's life. Both William and Major appear only fleetingly in the extant county records. Both were landowners of some means in Frederick County and perhaps earlier in Prince William County. No land grant has yet been discovered for William or Major in either county, but both are often referred to in other Northern Neck grants as owning land adjoining other grantees.

The earliest reference to a Beesley in this part of Virginia pertains to Major Beesley, who, on 29 Nov. 1736, appears as a landowner with holdings adjacent to Mann Page, Robert Carter, and Marquis Calmeze in Prince William County on a grant to Lord Fairfax.¹ He appears again, this time in Frederick County, on 8 May 1745, testifying in a civil suit brought by Marques Calmes against Garret O'Neal over the ownership of personal property. Major stated that, as "Garnishee in this Cause ... declared he had no more of the Deft's Estate in his Hands than a Large Barrow, two Ducks & a Drake" at the time the attachment was served.² That the two references pertain to the same man is supported by the appearance of Marques Calmes or Calmeze in both instances.

Major Beesley remains a shadowy figure. He appears to have died at an indeterminate time after this lawsuit, but he left no known probate record. It also remains unclear whether "Major" was his given name or a military rank. It was probably his given name, since he appears in these records with others who have no apparent military titles.

By 1751, William Beezley or Beasley, possibly Major's son, appears under his own name in Frederick County, together with James Beasley, relationship unknown but perhaps a brother, who evidence suggests was a rough local character. James engaged in a long-running feud with one John Evans that brought him occasionally into court. In 1743, he brought suit against Evans for trespass.³ The following year Evans apparently assaulted James, leading him to file new charges while continuing the trespass claim. Later James Findlay brought assault charges against James, but details of the case are not recorded.⁴

By comparison William lived a more peaceful existence during his years in Frederick County and is recorded only as a witness and adjoining landowner. On 15 Apr. 1751, William witnessed with Abraham Lindsey a deed between Edmond Lindsey and Edmond Lindsey Jr. for a tract of land on a branch of the "Shanando" [Shenandoah] River.⁵ On 10 Feb. 1762, Leonard Eckstine, "assignee of William Beasley," obtained 164 acres at Opeckon adjoining Lewis Neil and Thomas Helmes. Markers were William Beasley and Edmund Lindsay.⁶ The following year on 27 Jun. 1762, his land and that of Thomas Helm adjoined a grant of Lewis Neill.⁷ On 2 July of the same year, William's land, along with that of George Neavill, Patrick Rice, John Warford, and John Madden, adjoined a grant made to Joseph Reeder.⁸ On the same day, he was listed with Thomas Helm, Richard Chapman, and Joseph Reeder as having land adjacent to John Warford's grant. On 27 Dec. 1764, Peter Luke, assignee of Capt. Charles Smith, obtained a grant on the Opekon from a survey that adjoined the heirs of John Neill, deceased, as well as William Beasley, Thomas Helm, Lewis Neill, Meredith Helms, and Cuthbert Bullet.⁹ In 1766, John Warford and wife Alice, now of Loudoun County, leased their tract to William Bilbro, and again it was described as adjoining William Beasley and Thomas Helms.¹⁰ Bilbro sold another tract of seven acres in the same area to Jacob Searly at the same time, with both Beasley and Helms listed as adjoining owners.¹¹ All of these references suggest they pertain the

¹ Gertrude E. Gray, *Virginia Northern Neck Grants 1694-1742*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), 122, citing Grant Book E: 34.

² Frederick County, Virginia Court Minutes, 8 May 1745 in *Frederick Findings*, vol. 8, no. 2 (Summer 1995): 86; vol. 7 no. 1 (Spring 1994): 28.

³ James Beasley v. John Evans, in John David Davis, *Frederick County, Virginia Minutes of Court Records, 1743-1745*. (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2001), 29.

⁴ *Ibid*, 35. See also James Beesley vs. John Evans, assault case continued 1744, Frederick County Court Orders, Book 1, in *Frederick Findings*, vol. 3 (Winter 1990):

17. See also James Finla v. James Beezley, trespass, assault and battery, parties agree and case is dismissed, *ibid*, vol. 3 (Summer 1990): 145.

⁵ Frederick County Deed Book 6: 62, cited in Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Books 5, 6, 7, 8, 1757-1762*. (Nokesville, VA: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1990), 43.

⁶ Peggy Shomo Joyner, *Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys, Frederick County, Virginia 1747-1780*. (VA: Peggy Shomo Joyner, 1985), 49.

⁷ *Ibid*, 113.

⁸ *Ibid*, 128.

⁹ *Ibid*, 97.

¹⁰ Frederick County Deed Book 11: 130.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 11: 171.

same William Beesley or Beasley, and the repeat occurrence of the names of his neighbors reflects a well-established neighborhood of Reederes, Helmses, Lindsays, Neills, and Warfords.

William was apparently living as late as 14 Aug. 1785, when the heirs of Joseph Reeder, namely Elyah Reeder and his wife Jemimah of Fauquier County, Jacob Reeder, Stephen Reeder, Thomas Lake and Elizabeth his wife, Thomas Hubble and his wife Mary, and William Grove and wife Elenor, all of Loudoun County, agreed to provide a lease to a tract of land in Frederick County to Josiah Hubert. The land was located “on the drains of the long marsh and Opeckon” and adjoined George Nevell, John Maddin, William Beasley, and John Warford.¹²

Following this date, William disappears, and there is no record of him or his possible heirs. He left no will or known probate record. There is reason to speculate, however, that he had children, in spite of the absence of direct documentary evidence. Isaac Beesly, a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner, claimed he was born in 1753 in Loudoun County and stated that he knew this fact based on “a record of his father” whose name was not specified. One of Isaac’s sons, possibly the eldest, was named William. There are no Beesleys in the Loudoun County deeds or court minutes at this time, but the presence of William in neighboring Frederick County, and the fact that others in William's acquaintance lived in Loudoun, is suggestive of a relationship. John Beezley, who spent time in Monongalia County where Isaac served during the Revolutionary War, named his eldest son William and another son Isaac. In the absence of other more identifying records, the relationships must remain conjectural.

Possible children of William Beesley or Beasley, born in Virginia, possibly Loudoun or Frederick County:

2. i. [?] JOHN² BEEZLEY, b. say 1750; m. SARAH? [].
3. ii. [?] ISAAC BEESLEY, b. 1753; m. [].

2. JOHN² BEEZLEY (?William¹) was born about 1750, almost certainly in Virginia and possibly in Loudoun County, where his probable brother, Isaac Beesly, a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner, was born. He died after 9 Aug. 1812 but before 18 Jan. 1813, when his will was probated in Champaign County, Ohio.¹³

Little is known of John Beezley’s early life. He lived in northern Virginia and perhaps moved from Loudoun to Monongalia County before 1774. Perhaps he moved for a time to as far as Kentucky in the 1780s, but efforts to link him to the well-known family of Beasleys of Bryan Station have proved unsuccessful and seem increasingly unlikely on the basis of other evidence.¹⁴ (See Appendix I for a discussion of other early Beezley families in Virginia).

The earliest record of John remains his service in Lord Dunmore’s War in 1774, when he served as a Private in the regiment of Captain Zackquill Morgan of Monongalia County.¹⁵ Listed with him were Isaac “Prekit” or Prickett, Sergeant, and fellow Privates Josiah Prickett, Jacob Prickett Senior and Jacob Prickett Junior. What became of him immediately after this date remains uncertain, though it is likely that he performed additional military service in western Virginia during the Revolutionary War. In her book *Glimpses into the Past*, a history of Columbia Township in Hamilton County, Ohio, Ramona Kaiser asserts that John, whom she calls “Captain Beasley,” was a veteran, but she gives no details and cites no evidence.¹⁶

¹² Amelia Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Book 21, 1785-89*. (Nokesville, VA: Amelia Gilreath, n. d.), 81.

¹³ John Beezley will, 9 Aug. 1812, Champaign County, Ohio Will Book 1: 16. John's alleged birthplace in Virginia is supposed from the fact his son William was born there. His grandson John, son of William, listed Virginia as the birthplace of his father, yet Jane (Beezley) Graham, another grandchild, lists Pennsylvania. Isaac was a family name passed down for several generations among John's descendants, and an Isaac Beesley, who received a pension for his Revolutionary War service, stated that he was born in Loudoun County in 1753. Perhaps John and Isaac were brothers. Isaac served near Prickett's Fork in Monongalia County during the Revolution, which has particular significance to John's life. See Isaac Beesley pension, R-710, Revolutionary War Pension Records, National Archives micropublication M-, roll. In 1820, Isaac was enumerated on the 1820 census in Lewis County, Virginia, and nearby were Isaac Beesley Jr. and a John and William Beasley [*sic.*], all of age to be Isaac's sons (1820 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, p. 146-147, National Archives micropublication M-33, roll 133). John and William were perhaps the sons of Isaac Beezley Sr., who lived in Harrison County, Virginia.

¹⁴ A John Beasley is often mentioned as having played a prominent role at the Battle of Bryan Station. See Virginia Webb Howard, *Bryan Station Heroes and Heroines* (Lexington, KY: Bryan Station Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1930). It notes that John Beasley was captured, sent by the Indians to Detroit and later Canada, but returned to Kentucky (p. 30). He claimed land near Boonesborough on 20 Dec. 1779 (Commissioner's Certificate Book 1, p. 91 cited in *ibid.* p. 142). A Jephtha Beezley lived in the same region. Twila Birnie Shafer has asserted: “After the Battle of Blue Licks, John Beasley attempted to escape the Indians by swimming the Licking River below the ford. He was captured by them and kept for several months in captivity. A Virginia friend who knew the Indians saved him from the tomahawk. After his release, John settled at Massie's Station, now known as Manchester. He died in 1815, aged about fifty-five. He married a widow named Prickett and of this union three sons were born” (Twila Birnie Shafer and Dr. Francis Beasley Odell, *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio* [No publication place: 1946], 33). There are obviously some similarities to the John Beezley of this sketch, most notably the name of his wife. These authors place him as a son of John Beasley and Jane Cagwell of Orange County, Virginia, and assert further that he was the brother of Charles Beasley. No independent proof has been discovered to link him otherwise to this John, and it seems probable in the light of Isaac Beesley's pension that the authors have confused their sources. John Beezley does not appear ever to have lived at Massie's Station.

¹⁵ Warren Skidmore and Donna Kaminsky, *Lord Dunmore's Little War of 1774: His Captains and Their Men Who Opened Up Kentucky and the West to American Settlement*. (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2002), 35.

¹⁶ Ramona Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*. (Madeira, OH: Madeira Press, 1940), 22.

He was possibly identical to the John Beesley who served at Pittsburgh (Fort Pitt) during the Revolution, though no other details of his service are known.¹⁷

In 1782, John was perhaps the person of this name recorded in Berkeley County, with one poll and no slaves.¹⁸ Berkeley was located in northern Virginia on the Maryland border near Loudoun County. No other evidence for John has been found in either place. On 23 Jun. 1787, John Beesley, probably the same man, obtained a land office treasury warrant for a sizeable grant of land in Monongalia County. The grant itself has not been discovered, but on the basis of other deeds, it may have included as many as 10,000 acres.¹⁹ Two men, William Robeson or Robertson and Nathaniel Reeves, later claimed to be assignees of portions of this tract, which, coupled by the fact that this John makes no appearance in the Monongalia court records, suggests that he had moved from the area by the 1790s and sold his grant to others.²⁰

John was married twice. The name of his first wife is not known with certainty, though it would appear from the gravestone of daughter Jane that her name began with S, since Jane's grave states she was the daughter of J & S Beezley.²¹ Perhaps her name was Sarah or Sabra, as both of these names were perpetuated among John's descendants. John married her about 1770, almost certainly in Virginia. She was apparently dead by 1790, and together they had several children.

About 1788, John married (2) RACHEL [] PRICKETT, widow of a Mr. Prickett, probably Jacob Prickett Junior, who had served in Captain Zackquill Morgan's regiment during Lord Dunmore's War of 1774.²² Rachel had lost her first husband in an Indian raid, and she had been left alone to raise three sons, Nicholas, Isaac or Isaiah, and John. She predeceased John and died either in Clermont or Champaign County, Ohio before 1812. The 1787 census of Monongalia County, Virginia, records the names of Jacob Prickett and John Beasley living in close proximity. John was taxed on three horses and five head of cattle; Jacob had no livestock.²³ Monongalia County was a large county at that time, hilly and sparsely populated, located on the Ohio River in what is now West Virginia.

Not long after marrying Rachel, John desired to move to the Ohio Country, where plenty of free land was available for Revolutionary veterans. Almost certainly he sailed with his family by raft down the Ohio River to Cincinnati, where he prospected for land and settled. They arrived in Columbia Township, Hamilton County, Ohio as early as 1790 and chose to settle on the west side of the Little Miami River near the present town of Plainville in a part of Ohio known as the Symmes Purchase. Named from the original purchaser, John Cleves Symmes, the Symmes Purchase comprised a narrow strip of land between the Great and Little Miami Rivers, extending northward from the Ohio River through portions of present-day Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Greene, Clark, and Champaign Counties, and ending in part of present-day Logan County. No record of a land purchase exists before 1796, and it is possible that John squatted for a time before formally purchasing the tract.

Ramona Kaiser gives a more detailed account of John's settlement, though she does not include her source. She asserts that "Captain Beasley" first came to Fort Washington, and later "pushed up the valley with his family and a small party of adventurers." She adds: "On their way to the rich, fertile valley of the Little Miami, they were in constant threat of Indian surprises; but the brave little party went ahead until they reached the 'Miami Rapids.' Here the party decided to settle."²⁴

With the help of his sons and stepsons, John built a blockhouse of logs near a place called Armstrong's Mill. Kaiser again provides more details: "Captain Beasley immediately started to build his house out of sturdy timber, long seasoned by time. When completed, it was one of the most well built frame houses in the Valley: later it being subject to many severe floods. It still stands today [1940] on Wooster Pike, greatly altered from its original plan, but as strong and sturdy as ever. In the original house, portholes had been made, in order to ward off Indian attacks."²⁵

In 1792, John and Rachel were admitted as members to the Columbia Baptist Church, the earliest extant record of them in Hamilton County.²⁶ The tradition of Baptist Church membership would persist for many years among their descendants.

¹⁷ John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginia in the Revolution*. 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), 54.

¹⁸ Augusta B. Fothergill and John M. Naugle, *Virginia Tax Payers 1782-87*. ([?]: The Authors, 1940), 9.

¹⁹ John Beesley's grant, Warrant #17241, 23 Jun. 1783, is referred to by a claim later made by Dennis Springer as a defendant in a trespass case brought by David Scott in Monongalia County on 9 Sep. 1800. Springer claimed part of the same tract on Dunkard Creek that was disputed by Scott. See Melba Pender Zinn, *Monongalia County, (West) Virginia: Records of the District, Superior, and County Courts*. (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1990), 2: 205-206.

²⁰ See Robert Moody v. John Nicklin, Monongalia County District Court, 5 Apr. 1806. In the case, Moody claimed a portion of land entered by Robert Ferrell, assignee of Nathaniel Reeves, who in turn was the assignee of John Beesley (Zinn, 3:50). The grant was referred to again in Thomas Wilson v. heirs of William Buchannon, April, 1819, wherein Buchannon claimed to be assignee of William Robeson/Robertson, who in turn was assignee of John Beasley for 154 acres (*Ibid*, 8: 132-133).

²¹ Tombstone of Jane Beezley, Beezley Metz Cemetery, Noble County, Indiana.

²² Her marriage is inferred from John's naming of his stepsons in his will. Isaiah Prickett, son of Nicholas (John's step-son), moved with his brother Jacob to Fulton County, Illinois. He reported in a biographical sketch that his family came originally from Virginia, and that his unnamed "grandfather was killed by Indians, having his career cut short before he had reached the prime of his life" (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Fulton County, Illinois*. (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1890), 212.

²³ Monongalia County Tax List A [ca. 1786], in Nettie Schreiner-Yantis, *The 1787 Census of Virginia* (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 2:1315.

²⁴ Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*, 22.

²⁵ *Ibid*.

²⁶ Marjorie Byrneside Burress, *Early Rosters of Cincinnati and Hamilton County* (Cincinnati?: The Author, 1984), 49; the name is recorded erroneously in the list as "Brasley", but Beasley is offered as an alternative.

The 1790s were turbulent years in southern Ohio, and the early settlers faced opposition to their settlement from the Native American population. Four years after John's arrival, a party of Indians attacked his house in a famous battle that has been enshrined in local memory, perhaps with some distortion in the telling. John D. Shane, a local settler, provided possibly the most complete narrative version in an account preserved among the Lyman Draper Papers at the Wisconsin State Historical Society:

Old John Beasley had 3 stepsons, Pricketts, and 3 his own sons, all pretty well grown. [He] built a blockhouse at Armstrong's Mill, opposite where the railroad now runs along, sometime in 1793. About April 1796, Mr. Beasley went out (having heard the dogs bark) in his shirt, drizzly morning, perhaps for something more. When he got to the door, the Indians shot and missed. He ran in, got his gun, and ran up the stairs to shoot. He was taking aim to fire, when he was shot in the arm, through the port hole, the ball entering right in among the tendons of the arm and lodged in the skin, passing diagonally to the inside of the right arm. A large [illegible] sycamore, the Indian was behind, and he could see his breast just enough to shoot. [He] had seen the Indian's gun, and he hadn't moved, after he fired yet, when Beasley pulled his trigger. The Indian was not found till some years after, his gun and blanket were found up the run a piece, and Beasley said he knew he shot him. The bark of the tree was not grazed, the things were bloody, and he was shot right through. They found a piece of his breast. The boys had kept their guard properly and generally up stairs, but now they were down, and they made so much noise going after them, they (the Indians) thought the house was full of men, and fled.²⁷

The Draper Papers contain two variants of the same story. Joseph Sampson recalled that "John Beasley was shot in his own door" the same day that he (Sampson) had been out scouting.²⁸ James Bousby, another early settler, dated the incident to the summer of 1794, rather than April 1796, and erroneously names the shot man as Isaac Beasley, rather than John:

In the morning he got up and went back and forth, till he could see if he saw anything of them, yet moving so they couldn't fire. As many as 7 or 8 guns were fired at him, all missing, as he ran to the door. His wife, hearing the guns, supposed he was dead and was pushing it too, but he prevailed, and he got in, and then got his gun, and ran upstairs to shoot. Here he was seen through the chink and shot in the arm, the bullet entering above the wrist and coming out at the elbow. By this time his sons, 7 or 8, were up and fired at the Indians, who fled. One was supposed to be killed, but never found. Beasley's was about half a mile from Frazer's Station, where I lived.²⁹

Ramona Kaiser gives two additional accounts of Indian troubles involving the Beezleys, both of which may have occurred after the above event. One story involved an unnamed daughter of John, who was apparently an expert marksman. Kaiser writes:

One day, shortly after the completion of the Beasley home, the Captain's young daughter looked from her window and spied an Indian lurking about the big elm tree to the north of the present site of the old Plainville tavern. By his actions, she determined that he meant no good; and so she quietly picked up her father's rifle, aimed it through the north port hole; and with one decisive shot, the Indian fell to the ground.³⁰

Like his daughter, John was also adept with a gun and is also recorded as making an important shot, though he did it with little provocation:

On one occasion, Captain Beasley was just returning to his home an evening in 1795, having gone to the spring, located at the foot of Indian Hill near the present site of the public school, to bring home water for the family. He was surprised to see an Indian close by at the spring. Annoyed at seeing the savage so close to the settlement's water supply, he aimed his rifle and fired. The bullet met its mark, for the Indian fell into the spring and died. This caused such comment, that thereafter the spring was known as 'Indian Spring.'³¹

John established himself in Hamilton County and seemed little deterred by the troubles with the Indians. On 16 Apr. 1796, he registered a crop mark for his livestock, which the court recorded as "a crop off each ear and a half penny the underside of same and a swallow fork in the left."³² On 20 May 1796, John purchased from John Cleves Symmes a tract of land on the north bank of the Little Miami River in Columbia Township for \$100 in certificates. It contained 119 acres, one rood, and five square perches.³³ Witnesses included Hannah Willis, E. Schenck, and Susan Ridley. Later that same year, John's name appeared on the Columbia Township Tax Assessor's Report, though no other Beasleys or Beezleys appear with him.³⁴

²⁷ John D. Shane interview, Lyman Draper Papers, vol. 13, Series CC, 75-79, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, WI.

²⁸ Joseph Sampson notes in *ibid*, vol. 13, Series CC, 95-96.

²⁹ Joseph Bousby account in *ibid*, vol. 14m Series CC, 13-16.

³⁰ Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*, 22.

³¹ *Ibid*, 22-23.

³² John Beazly's crop mark is recorded in Virginia Raymond Cummins, *Hamilton County, Ohio Court and Other Records*. (Cincinnati: General Printing Co., 1967), 2: 16.

³³ John Cleves Symmes to John Beasley [sic], Deed of Sale, 20 May 1796, Hamilton County, OH Deed Book A: 558.

³⁴ Columbia Township Assessor's Tax Report for 1796 in L. B. Hamlin, "Taxpayers of Columbia Township," *Quarterly Publication of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*, vol. 14 (1919): 3-16. See also Robert D. Craig, *Columbia Township, Hamilton County, Ohio Tax List - 1796* (Cincinnati, OH: The Author, 1963).

For a number of years John operated a mill, which he probably used for grinding grain and sawing timber. Mills were a lucrative source of income for early settlers, as they had a built-in market of local customers. Often there was competition for ownership of the local mill. Ramona Kaiser writes that John Armstrong and his father Nathaniel Shepherd Armstrong had attempted to buy John out, but he refused to sell. Consequently, the Armstrongs bought a different tract of 100 acres and built a mill of their own, which became known as Upper Mill.³⁵

The following year on 3 Nov. 1797, John purchased from William Goforth a tract of 49 acres in Columbia Township for \$124.50.³⁶ Like the previous, it was located on the north bank of the Little Miami River and adjoined the property of Paul Knapper, a settler from Pennsylvania whose daughter Elizabeth would later marry John's son William. Philip Mason and Tabitha Armstrong served as witnesses. That same day, John and wife Rachel sold to Goforth another tract of 49 acres on the Little Miami for the same price.³⁷ The deed affirmed that the tract had been part of the grant he had obtained from John Cleves Symmes. Rachel signed the deed by making her mark.

In 1800, Hamilton County was divided into several new counties, including Clermont County to its east. Although John's holdings in Columbia Township remained in Hamilton County, his son William and stepsons moved to the new county. According to the 1880 *History of Clermont County, Ohio*, John and Isaiah Prickett, together with William Beasley [*sic*], settled near Withamsville in Union Township. It further notes that "at this time, the latter [John] was an old man, and both the Pricketts deceased many years ago."³⁸ Almost certainly the article confuses John with his son William, who was not very old at the time. In 1804, Isaiah and Nicholas Prickett, and John's son William Beezley, obtained parcels of land from Churchill Jones, who had received a bounty land in Clermont County.³⁹ The elder John remained in Hamilton County and was taxed in Columbia Township in 1810.⁴⁰

Toward the end of his life, John purchased a new tract of land in Champaign County on 13 Apr. 1812. At the time of the purchase he gave his residence as Hamilton County, and his new land was located in Section 10 of Township 15, Range 13.⁴¹ The tract was still part of the so-called Symmes Purchase between the Miami Rivers. He would remain on this farm for the rest of his life. Judging from his will, he was clearly a prosperous pioneer and farmer by frontier standards and left his heirs comfortably well off at the time of his death.

John wrote his will on 9 Aug. 1812, using the standard legal language of the time:

In the name of God Amen. I John Beezley being weak in Body but of sound and perfect mind and Memory Blessed be Almighty God for the same - Do make and Publish this my last will and testament in the manner and form following that to say first I give and bequeath to John Pricket my step son one hundred and fifty dollars moveable property. I do also give and bequeath to Nicholas Pricket my second step son one hundred dollars moveable property. I also give and bequeath to Isaac Pricket my third step son one hundred and fifty dollars in moveable property, and I also give and bequeath to Gitta Davis seventy five dollars in Money payable in April one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, and seventy five payable in one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. I also give and bequeath to William Beezley, Joseph Beezley, Thomas Beezley, and Isaac Beezley, and also Jane, Sarah, and Rachael in Equal portion Each, one hundred dollars in paid to - William Beezley and Eighty is due to Joseph Beezley for which he is to Receive a Certificate for one hundred and sixty acres, and also Isaac and Sarah is to Receive forty dollars, of the first payment from Armstrong, such's to be taken out of her part, that is to be Divided. John Mederas [Morris?] is Receive fifty dollars out of the above payment from Armstrong. And I do hereby appoint Nicholas Pricket and William Beezley Executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this ninth of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, Signed sealed, Published and declared in the presence of us.

The will was witnessed by John Warren, Robert Crosley, and William Christy, and was probated in Williams County, Ohio on 18 Jan. 1813.⁴² The estate took many years to finally settle, due in part to a dispute with William and John Armstrong of Hamilton County over \$700 and the deaths of William and Nicholas before the matter was resolved. John Osborn of Warren County was eventually appointed Administrator *de bonis non*, and the estate was finally settled in 1827.⁴³

Children of John Beezley by his first wife (Sarah?); the birth order is uncertain, but they are listed in the order that they appear in the will. All were apparently born in Virginia, although this assertion cannot be proved:

- i. [?] GITTA³ BEEZLEY, b. say 1771; she m. [] DAVIS. No record of her marriage has been found, and no appropriate record land or probate record has been discovered that would identify her husband. She was possibly a Prickett, a daughter of Rachel Prickett, John's second wife.
4. ii. WILLIAM BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1774-75; m. ELIZABETH KNAPPER.

³⁵ Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*, 17.

³⁶ William Goforth to John Beasley [*sic*], Deed of Sale, 3 Nov. 1797, rec. 4 Mar. 1802, Hamilton County, OH Deed Book E-2:14.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 429-431.

³⁸ *History of Clermont County, Ohio* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1880), 443.

³⁹ Churchill Jones Military Warrant No. 1134, cited in Alma Aicholtz Smith, *The Virginia Military Surveys of Clermont and Hamilton Counties, Ohio 1787-1849* (Cincinnati, OH: The Author, 1985), 115.

⁴⁰ "Hamilton County Index to Tax List for 1810," in Burriss, *Early Rosters of Cincinnati and Hamilton County*, 42.

⁴¹ See Ellen T. and David A. Berry, *Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio, 1800-1840* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 22.

⁴² John Beezley will, Champaign County Will Book 1:16, County Clerk's Office, Urbana, OH.

⁴³ John Beezley estate, Clark County, OH probate file A-348, County Clerk's Office, Springfield, Clark County, OH.

- iii. JANE BEEZLEY, b. 16 Feb. 1776; d. 11 Nov. 1847, Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana, unmarried. She moved to Indiana with her nephew Paul and sister-in-law Elizabeth, and lies buried near other family members in the Metz Cemetery.⁴⁴
5. iv. JOSEPH BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1778; m. [].
6. v. THOMAS BEEZLEY, b. say 1780; m. MARY [].
- vi. SARAH BEEZLEY, b. say 1782; of age but unmarried in 1812; there is no record of her marriage in Hamilton or Champaign counties.
- vii. ISAAC BEEZLEY, b. say 1784; no record, apparently died without issue.
- viii. RACHEL BEEZLEY, b. say 1786; of age but unmarried in 1812; there is no record of her marriage in Champaign or Hamilton counties.

3. ISAAC² BEESLEY (?*William*¹) was born, by his own account, in 1753 in Loudoun County, Virginia. His Revolutionary War pension preserves this year as his birth date; the record notes: “he has a transcript in his Bible taken from his fathers which purports him to be that age.”⁴⁵ No Beesley or Beasley has been found among the records of Loudoun County for this time period, however. As was stated earlier, he probably lived at least for a time in the neighboring county of Frederick, where one finds William Beasley at exactly the correct period.

Little is known of Isaac’s life. From his pension application one learns that he was drafted as a private in the militia under the command of Capt. Dudley Evans in March 1778 for a term of six months. At that time he was apparently living in Monongalia County in what is now West Virginia. He marched to Fort Pitt where, coincidentally, a John Beesley, his probable brother, was also stationed. From there, he descended the Ohio River to the mouth of Big Boon Creek, where Fort McIntosh was located, defended by a “six-pounder” cannon. Here the troops had skirmishes with several Indian parties. After six months Isaac was discharged, but he was induced to re-enlist because of the “frequent interruptions of the savages upon the settlement that year.”⁴⁶ During this second stint in the militia, he served under Captain Morgan and was attached to Col. John Gibson’s regiment. He marched with his unit into the Ohio territory as far as the Tuscarawas, hoping to drive the Indians from their previous position. He helped build Fort Laurens on the Tuscarawas River in 1779. He saw action against the Indians on a number of occasions, and at one time was in a battle surrounded by the attackers with his unit losing fourteen men.

After being discharged in April 1779, Isaac returned to Monongalia County and volunteered as a private and Indian spy under the command of Captain Springer, his unit being attached to the regiment of Col. Morgan. He was stationed at Pricket’s Fort on the Monongahelia River, conducting “spying excursions” on the water-sod Duncard Creek, Buffalo Creek, Burgaman Creek, and Fishing Creek in Monongalia, Tyler, and Harrison Counties. After being discharged in November 1779, he took some time off, but returned to active service in April 1780, re-enlisting as an Indian spy and again stationed at Pricket’s Fort. That year proved to be particularly violent, according to Isaac’s own account, and in July, a party of Indians attacked the settlement of Dunkard Creek, killing two children and stealing some horses. Isaac joined a party of soldiers who overtook the raiding Indians at Fishing Creek, killing five and rescuing the stolen horses. After serving seven months, he was discharged, but he remained in the vicinity of Pricket’s Fort for the next two years, raising a crop of corn. In May 1782, continuing problems with the Indians induced him to volunteer again as an Indian spy for a period of six months. As before, he was stationed at the fort and followed the same spy route. On one occasion an Indian party surprised Isaac and his companion, James Coon, while they were spying on Benaman Creek. Coon was shot in the left arm, while another ball struck Isaac’s hunting shirt, passing through it but leaving him uninjured. The two men attempted to flee their attackers, but the loss of blood from Coon’s injury caused him to fall and be scalped. Isaac made his escape back to the fort. He was discharged from further service in September 1782.

Little is known of Isaac’s life subsequent to the Revolution. He is not recorded on the 1787 tax list in Monongalia County, and he does not appear on the federal census of Virginia in 1810. In his pension application, he claimed to have lived variously in Monongalia and Harrison Counties, and at the time [1833] was a resident of Lewis County. He also spent time in Hardy County, for on 4 Feb. 1808 he purchased from Jacob and Mercy Cozad of Greene County, Ohio a tract of 120 acres on Stone Coal Creek in Harrison County, Virginia for \$240, the deed listing him as a resident of Hardy County.⁴⁷ In 1820, Isaac was recorded on the federal census in Lewis County in a household with a male under 10, a male 10-16, and male 18-26, a male over 45, a female 10-16, a female 16-26, a female 26-45, and a female over 45.⁴⁸ He was recorded a final time on the 1830 census, still in Lewis County, living alone, aged 60-70, with son William nearby.⁴⁹ He was still living as late as 20 Nov. 1833 in Lewis County, however, when he applied for his pension.

⁴⁴ Tombstone, Beezley-Metz Cemetery, Noble County, Indiana.

⁴⁵ Isaac Beesley pension, #R710.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ Jacob and Mary Cozad to Isaac Beezley, Harrison County Deed Book 8:65. The deed was witnessed by Archibald B. Wilson, Elias Stillwell, John Bailey, William Cozad, Joseph Newell, and Lemuel E. Davison.

⁴⁸ Isaac Beesley household, 1820 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, p. 147, line, National Archives Micropublication M-33, roll 133.

⁴⁹ Isaac Beasley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, p. 231, line 24, National Archives Micropublication M-19, roll 191.

The name of Isaac's wife is not known. He possibly married twice; the marriage records list an Isaac Beasly marrying Mary Burk on 30 Aug. 1814, while his son Isaac Jr. had married Judith Booherm later that same year in December 1814.⁵⁰ The fact that he was alone on the 1830 census enumeration suggests that he had outlived his wives. The names of his children can only be surmised, based on their proximity to Isaac. Ann is proved as his daughter by her marriage record, in which it states specifically that she is Isaac's daughter:

7. i. WILLIAM³ BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1788; m. HANNAH TAYLOR.
- ii. ANN BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1790; she m. AARON LAMBERT on 5 May 1808 in Harrison County, Virginia.⁵¹
- iii. REBECCA BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1792; she m. BENJAMIN TAYLOR on 22 Aug. 1809 in Harrison County, Virginia. He was perhaps the Benjamin Taylor, aged 63, living in District 30, Lewis County, in 1850 with wife Elizabeth, who was perhaps a second wife.⁵² He had children, but which may have come from his marriage to Rebecca, are not known.
- iv. JOHN BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1794, possibly earlier; living in Lewis County in 1820 aged 26-45. There is no record of his marriage.
- v. ISAAC BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1796, possibly earlier; he married JUDITH BOOHERM in Dec. 1814 in Harrison County, Virginia.⁵³ He was not the Isaac Beazly in Page County, Virginia in 1840, as this individual was too young.

4. WILLIAM³ BEEZLEY (*John², ?William¹*) was born about 1774, perhaps slightly later, in Virginia. He died on 12 Jan. 1825 at Lagonda, Clark County, Ohio, and was aged fifty-one.⁵⁴ He was buried in Tuttle Cemetery (also known as Byrd Cemetery), where his tombstone stood for many years but is no longer extant.⁵⁵

William married ELIZABETH KNAPPER/KNEPPER about 1796, probably in Hamilton County, Ohio. She was born about 1777 and was baptized on 5 Dec. 1778 in Goshenhoppen Church, Philadelphia County (now Montgomery County), Pennsylvania, the daughter of Paul Knapper/Knoepper and his wife Margaret (Hollebusch).⁵⁶ (See Appendix II for the genealogy of the KNEPPER family, and Appendix III for the Hollebusch/Hulpusch family).

Paul Knapper's land adjoined that of John Beezley in Columbia Township in 1796. He died intestate, and his estate appeared for probate on 5 Jun. 1797 in Hamilton County, Ohio with his widow Margaret as administratrix.⁵⁷ On 18 Oct. 1810, Elizabeth's brother Jacob and other heirs of Paul "Nepper" sold 87 acres of land on the Little Miami River to Nathaniel Sheppard Armstrong for \$348.25. All of the heirs signed the document, including Jacob Knapper; Nicholas Prickett (John Beezley's stepson who had married Catherine Knapper, Elizabeth's sister); John Reed; Isaiah Prickett; William Bezeley, Catharine Prescott (her mark); Elizabeth Bezely (her mark); Margaret Prescott (her mark); Jane Reed (her mark); Margaret Nepper (her mark); and Zeba Nepper (her mark). The signatures were witnessed John Jones and Joseph Beezley, John's brother.⁵⁸

William was taxed in Hamilton County in 1799, but he apparently had moved to Brown County, Ohio, where he made little impression in the local records.⁵⁹ His son John, who was born in 1797, claimed to have been born in Brown County, and it was later asserted by some of his descendants that William lived for a time in this county, settling with Daniel Boone. Here, according to one account, he built a gristmill on the Miami River, following the occupation of his father.⁶⁰ Brown County deeds do not support this contention, and the record may confuse his ownership of a later gristmill.

Almost certainly about 1801, William moved to the newly created Clermont County in the company of his stepbrothers John, Isaiah, and Nicholas Prickett, and settled near Withamsville in Union Township.⁶¹ Three years later William and Nicholas purchased a tract of land from Churchill Jones, who been granted the land as part of a bounty land warrant.⁶² In

⁵⁰ Wes Cochran, *Harrison County Marriages, 1785-1894* (Clarksburg, WV: The Author, 1985), 34, 394.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 23.

⁵² Benjamin Taylor household, 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Lewis County, p. 39, Household #525, Dwelling #527, National Archives Micropublication M-432, roll 956.

⁵³ Cochran, *Harrison County, WV Marriages*, 34.

⁵⁴ *History of Clark County, Ohio* (Chicago: W. H. Beers, 1881), 633.

⁵⁵ A photograph of the tombstone, taken on 27 Nov. 1926 by A. A. Mogg for C. F. Beezley of Chicago, a great-great grandson, is housed in the Beezley file in the Clark County Historical Society Library, Springfield, Ohio. The inscription is also cited in the *History of Clark County, Ohio*, 633.

⁵⁶ The record reads: "1778, Dec. 5, born Elisabetha, daughter of Paul Knoepper. Witnesses, Henrich Ziegler and wife." Elizabeth's sister Anna Catharina, who would marry Nicholas Prickett, was baptized 25 Sep. 1776. See *Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc. from the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 3:128.

⁵⁷ *Abstract of Book 1 and Book A, Probate Record 1791-1826, Hamilton County, Ohio*, 44-45, 47. Securities of the estate were Christian Waldsmith and Nicholas Prickett. An inventory of the estate was exhibited on 14 Sep. 1797 by Margaret Knapper, widow, and Nicholas Prickett.

⁵⁸ Heirs of Paul Nepper to Nathaniel Sheppard Armstrong, Deed of Sale, Hamilton County Deed Book 1:200, cited in Cummins, *Hamilton County, Ohio Court and Other Records*, 2:109.

⁵⁹ Hamilton County, Ohio Tax List for 1799 recorded in Accelerated Indexing Systems, *AIS Search to 1819*. (Bountiful, Utah, Accelerate Indexing Systems, n.d.), microfiche.

⁶⁰ A Beezley Family History of unknown authorship, photocopied page supplied to John D. Beatty by Patricia Morris in 1986. No page number is evident from the page; the booklet appears to be a short pamphlet prepared by descendants of Capt. William Beezley, a son of William's son John.

⁶¹ *History of Champaign County, Ohio*, 443.

⁶² Churchill Jones Land Warrant 1134 in Smith *Virginia Military Surveys in Clermont and Hamilton Counties, Ohio*.

April 1804, William and Nicholas appear on a list of voters in Ohio Township.⁶³ During the September term of the court in 1806, Henry Fitzpatrick and William Beasley were allowed \$2 each for killing a wolf.⁶⁴ William continued to reside in Clermont County and was taxed there in 1810.⁶⁵

The outbreak of the War of 1812 was a cause of concern for the settlers in the Ohio Valley, for it posed an increased threat of Indian attacks encouraged by the British. To help promote local defense of the area, William enlisted as a Private in Captain William Lindsey's Company of Mounted Ohio Militia, which was part of Adams' Regiment of Ohio Militia. He served only a month, from 25 Aug. to 25 Sep. 1812, and received \$19.06 in compensation for his service.⁶⁶ He appears to have offered no other service, perhaps because the war had little impact in that portion of southern Ohio where he lived.

In 1814, William and Nicholas moved with their families to Champaign County to a place called Lagonda near the present town of Springfield (now in Clark County). On 5 Dec. 1814, the two men purchased from William Ward a tract of thirty acres in the southwest corner of Section 24, Township Five, Range Nine, for \$1,400.⁶⁷ According to a county history, the tract contained a water source called Buck Creek that was suitable for building a mill. "The purchasers, being energetic and possessing some money, set about to improve the property. A sawmill was built, and a long-felt public want was supplied. This sawmill was in most respects similar to those of later years. It had, however, connected with it a churn, which was operated by a rod attached to the upper part of the saw frame. When the saw was in operation, the churning process worked nicely. Mr. Beesly erected a carding and fulling mill, and became somewhat noted for enterprise. He built a dwelling for himself and family, and several houses for the use of the employees about him."⁶⁸

William and his family were free-will Baptists, following in the tradition of William's father. Together with Nicholas he was a founder of a Baptist church in Springfield Township on 15 Jun. 1816, which met at the home of James Buckles. According to the above history, "the organization built a log church a few rods from the site of the Union Meeting House, and on the opposite of the old Columbus road. Here they continued to worship for a number of years previous to 1840."⁶⁹

William was enumerated with his family on the federal census of 1820 in the town of Springfield, Clark County, Ohio (Clark had been created from Champaign County two years earlier). William's household included a male under 10, a male 10-16, a male 16-26, a male (himself) 26-45, two females under 10, three females 10-16, and a female 26-45.⁷⁰ His stepbrother Nicholas Prickett lived next door, while his son John Beezley lived two doors away.

William died in Clark County on 12 Jan. 1825, according to his tombstone, though the date of the settlement of his estate suggests that the actual year may have been 1826.⁷¹ He died intestate, with his eldest son John and son-in-law Andrew Wood, together with Silas Henkle, serving as administrators. On 24 Jan. 1826, these three, along with John Driscoll, John Tuttle, and John Bishop, posted a bond of \$1,000 so that the first three could serve as administrators.⁷² A month later on 15 Feb., Wood filed an inventory of the estate, showing the personal items sold, the names of the purchasers.⁷³ Wood and other local men purchased various farm implements, including horse collars, axes, wagon irons, a grindstone, a cart, saddlebags, a saddle, several beehives, and several saws, including the mill saw. Livestock included two calves, thirty-two geese, two bulls, two heifers, one cow, and a yoke of oxen. Other equipment from the mill included a wool-carding machine, cotton carding and spinning machinery, and a billey and jenny used for spinning. Widow Elizabeth managed to purchase most of the household items, including Windsor chairs, a spinning wheel, a dresser-cupboard, and a bedstead, although a table and clock were sold out of the family. In August 1828, Wood submitted a statement to the court listing the specific debts that he had paid as William's administrator.

William's death left Elizabeth with sole responsibility for the care of several minor children. Together with her son Paul, son-in-law Andrew Wood, and Silas Henkle, she posted bond of \$1,600 in the Clark County Court of Common Pleas on 14 Mar. 1826 in order to serve as their legal guardian.⁷⁴ The bond names specifically the younger children and gives their birth dates:

⁶³ *Ibid.*, 404.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, 77.

⁶⁵ Ronald V. Jackson, *Ohio Tax Lists, 1800-1810*. (Bountiful, UT: Accelerated Indexing Systems, n.d.).

⁶⁶ William Beezley pay voucher, Voucher No.37777593, War of 1812 Service Records, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, DC.

⁶⁷ William Ward to William Beezley and Nicholas Prickett [*sic*], Deed of Sale, Champaign County, Ohio Deed Book 1:156, Champaign County Registry of Deeds, Urbana, OH.

⁶⁸ *History of Clark County, Ohio*, 616.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

⁷⁰ William Beezley household, 1820 U.S. Census, Clark County, OH, page 8A, line 12, National Archives micropublication M-33, roll 88.

⁷¹ Tombstone of William Beezley.

⁷² William Beezley estate, Clark County, OH probate file A-295, County Clerk's Office, Springfield, OH.

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

Elizabeth Beezley hath by the court of Common Pleas for said county been appointed guardian of Rachel Beezley aged sixteen years on the tenth day of August last, Jane Beezley aged fourteen years on the twelfth day of June last, Isaac Beezley aged twelve years on the 10th day of June last, and Usabra Beezley aged nine years on the first day of June last, minor heirs of William Beezley dec'd.⁷⁵

Nicholas Prickett died soon after William. According to a history of Fulton County, Illinois, "About 1826, Nicholas visited Vermillion County, Ill. with the intention of buying land and locating, but was taken sick and died at the home of his friend, Ack Morgan."⁷⁶

During the June term of the Court of Common Pleas in Clark County, the heirs of William and Nicholas petitioned to divide their estates. Oliver Armstrong, assignee of Andrew N. Wood and wife Elizabeth, and Hezekiah Graham and wife Jane acted as petitioners, versus the defendants, including Elizabeth Beezley, guardian of Isaac and Usabra Beezley; John Beezley; Paul Beezley; Conrad Runyan and wife Catherine; and James Paden and wife Rachel. Also named were the Prickett heirs: Catherine Prickett guardian of Nicholas Prickett, J. Prickett, Isaiah Prickett, and William Prickett; George Gett and wife Rachel; Caleb Tuttle and wife Mary; John Kingore, assignee of John Tuttle and wife Margaret; John Piper and wife Jane; and John Prickett.⁷⁷

Elizabeth survived her husband for many years. In 1829 and 1830, she sold much of her property in Springfield Township to Oliver Armstrong, including the mill property that William and Nicholas had purchased in 1814.⁷⁸ In 1830, she was enumerated on the federal census in Morefield Township, Clark County.⁷⁹ Her household included a male 15-20, a female 15-20, and a female (herself) 50-60. Her son-in-law Andrew Wood lived next door, her sister Catherine Prickett lived two doors away, and son-in-law Hezekiah Graham lived three doors away.

Elizabeth sold her remaining property to her son Isaac on 2 Oct. 1833, it being the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 25 in Township, Range 10.⁸⁰ Shortly after this date, she came to Indiana in the company of her son Paul and lived with him in Noble County. On 25 Jun. 1838, her son-in-law Joseph H. Harrison mortgaged his eighty-acre farm in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, to Elizabeth for \$150. The deed states that both were residents of Clark County, Ohio, but this appears to be erroneous.⁸¹ She died on 24 Feb. 1841 (or 1844?) and was buried in the Metz Cemetery in Washington Township, Noble County.⁸² Years after her death, son Isaac, daughter Catharine Runnion, and son-in-law Conrad Runnion filed a lawsuit to foreclose on the mortgage against the children of Joseph Harrison and their own siblings John, Rachel Paden, and Elizabeth Woods over the payment of this note, noting that Paul Beezley and Jane Graham, two other siblings, had already assigned their interest in the mortgage to Isaac.⁸³ Accordingly, the mortgage was foreclosed at the sum of \$313.75.⁸⁴

Children, surnamed BEEZLEY:

8. i. JOHN⁴ BEEZLEY, b. 22 Oct. 1797, Hamilton County, OH; m. ELIZABETH ELLSWORTH.
9. ii. PAUL BEEZLEY, b. 15 Jan. 1801, Hamilton County, OH; m. MARY PLUM.
10. iii. CATHERINE BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1804, Clermont County, OH; m. CONRAD RUNNION.
11. iv. ELIZABETH BEEZLEY, b. 1804-1806, Clermont County, OH; m. ANDREW N. WOOD.
12. v. RACHEL BEEZLEY, b. 10 Aug. 1809, Clermont County, OH; m. JAMES PADEN.
13. vi. JANE BEEZLEY, b. 11 Jun. 1811, Champaign County, OH; m. HEZEKIAH GRAHAM.
14. vii. ISAAC BEEZLEY, b. 13 Jun. 1813, Champaign County, OH; m. SAREPTA McMILLIN.
15. viii. USABRA BEEZLEY, b. 1 Jun. 1816, Champaign County, OH; m. JOSEPH H. HARRISON.

5. JOSEPH³ BEEZLEY (*John², ?William¹*) was born about 1778 in Virginia. He died after 1850 in Vermilion County, Illinois.⁸⁵

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ *Portrait and Biographical Album of Fulton County, Illinois*, (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1890), 212.

⁷⁷ Notice of the court record appeared in the *Western Pioneer*, 29 Aug. 1829.

⁷⁸ Elizabeth Beezley to Oliver Armstrong, Deeds of Sale, Clark County Deed Book F., 281 (12 Jun. 1829); F:285 (31 Dec. 1829); F:288 (29 Jun. 1830), Registry of Deeds, Springfield, OH.

⁷⁹ Elizabeth Beasley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Clark County, Ohio, Mooresfield Township, p. 157, line 18, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 128.

⁸⁰ Elizabeth Beezley to Isaac Beezley, Deed of Sale, Clark County Deed Book L: 38.

⁸¹ Joseph H. Harrison to Elizabeth Beezley, Deed of Mortgage, Kosciusko County, IN Deed Book 1:459, Recorder's Office, Warsaw, IN.

⁸² Tombstone of Elizabeth Beezley read by the author, April 1985. The stone is broken and worn, and in 1985 was imbedded in the ground. The 1841 date could also be read as 1844.

⁸³ Isaac Beezley et al. vs. William Harrison et al., Kosciusko County Court of Common Pleas, 3 Feb. 1855, County Clerk's Office, Warsaw, IN.

⁸⁴ Deed of Foreclosure, Kosciusko County Deed Book 20:294.

⁸⁵ Joseph Beezley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Vermillion County, Illinois, 377, Household #755. National Archives micropublication M-. Joseph gave his age as 72, birthplace unknown.

Joseph was named as an heir in his father's will of 1812, receiving \$100 as a joint heir, and an additional \$80 in certificates.⁸⁶ In July 1817, he brought suit against James Bishop for slander in the Champaign County Supreme Court but recovered no damages. The nature of the slander is not known, but a number of witnesses had testified on his behalf, including friend William B. Ragan and son Nathaniel Beesley.⁸⁷ He does not appear on the 1820 census in Ohio or Illinois.

Joseph appears to have been both a blacksmith and a farmer. He moved to Vermilion County, Illinois perhaps as early as 1821. A history of that county states that "Beasley's blacksmith shop" stood in Danville at a very early date on what later became Mrs. Schmitt's block. The shop was later sold to Leander Rutledge, who converted it into a factory for making furniture.⁸⁸ On 11 Nov. 1825, he received patents for government land in Section 22 of Township Nineteen Range 11 East, and he continued to hold the land in 1833, when he was taxed.⁸⁹

In 1830, Joseph was enumerated for the first time in Vermilion County, living near his son Nathaniel.⁹⁰ His household included a male 5-10, a male 10-15, two males 15-20, two males 20-30, a male (himself) 50-60, a female 5-10, a female 10-15, a female 15-20, a female 40-50, and a female 90-100. He was not evidently recorded in 1840, but in 1850, he was listed again in District 21 of Vermilion County, aged 72, with Daniel, 42, Priscilla, 38, and William, 8. He did not report a place of birth, either for himself or his apparent son, which suggests that Daniel's wife Priscilla may have been the one who gave information about the family to the census taker.⁹¹ Joseph and Daniel were both listed as farmers, though the family reported no property value, suggesting that they lived in impoverished circumstances.

Children, probably born in Ohio:

16. i. NATHANIEL⁴ BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1801; m. [1] SARAH HAYS; m. [2].
17. ii. JOHN BEEZLEY, b. 13 Feb. 1803; m. RACHEL MINER.
 - iii. NANCY BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1806; m. her cousin Nicholas⁴ Beesley (Thomas³, John²) on 26 Aug. 1827 in Vermilion County, with her brother John posting bond (see the Nicholas Beesley section). She later married [2] JOSEPH W. BURGETT in Polk County, Iowa on 18 Dec. 1850.
18. iv. DANIEL BEEZLEY, b. 1808; m. PRISCILLA [].
19. v. RACHEL BEEZLEY, b. 1816; she m. [1] WILLIAM C. VANNORT; [2] JESSE EATON.
20. v. EUNICE BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1815; m. ISAAC A. BROWN.
21. vi. JOSEPH BEEZLEY, b. 1819; m. MARY JANE TAYLOR. He witnessed the marriage of his sister Rachel to William C. Vannort on 3 Sep. 1835 in Vermilion County.⁹²
22. vii. MARY BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1820; m. JOHN GLAZE.

6. THOMAS³ BEEZLEY (*John², ?William¹*) was born about 1780. He died before 17 Mar. 1832, intestate in Vermilion County, Illinois.⁹³

Almost nothing is known of the life of Thomas Beesley. He was living at the time his father made his will in 1812 and received a \$100 share, along with his brothers and sisters.⁹⁴ He does not appear on tax lists in Ohio, nor does he appear on the federal census of Ohio or Illinois in 1820. Evidence from his estate shows that he married MARY [] and had four children, perhaps in Ohio. Mary was living in 1828, but her date of death is not known.

⁸⁶ John Beesley will, Champaign County, OH Will Book 1:16.

⁸⁷ Joseph Beesley v. James Bishop, July term, 1817, Champaign County, OH Supreme Court Minute Book, 55, County Clerk's Office, Urbana, OH.

⁸⁸ *History of Vermilion County, Illinois* (Chicago: H. H. Hill and Co., 1879), 327.

⁸⁹ Joseph Beesley Land Patent, Vermilion County, Illinois Deeds, Recorder's Office, Danville, Illinois, and reprinted in Charlotte A. Volkel et al., *Tax and Land Records, Vermilion County, State of Illinois* (Danville, IL: Illiana Genealogical Publishing Co., n.d.), 6.

⁹⁰ John Beesley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 105, line 13, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 23.

⁹¹ Joseph Beesley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, o. 361, Household #755.

⁹² *Marriage License Abstracts of Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852* (Danville, IL: Illiana Genealogical and Historical Society, 1983), 77.

⁹³ Thomas Beesley estate, Vermilion County, Illinois Probate Court 1826-30, transcribed in "Vermilion County, Illinois Probate Record Abstracts 1826-1830," *Illiana Genealogist*, vol. 24 (Spr. 1988), 39-40.

⁹⁴ Champaign County, OH Will Book 1:16.

Some time during the 1820s, Thomas settled in Vermilion County, Illinois. The exact date of his death remains unknown, but it took place before 17 Mar. 1828, when “Joseph Beezley (the elder) [was] selected by Joseph Beezley, a minor heir in the estate of Thomas Beezley above the age of 14, to be his guardian.”⁹⁵ Joseph was the boy's uncle.

Another record dated 18 Mar. 1828 names as heirs his widow Mary and children William M., Nicholas, Sally, and Joseph.⁹⁶ Son Nicholas served as administrator of the estate. A record of his estate settlement is included in the estate packet of his father in Clark County, Ohio, and includes a deposition of November, 1832 made by William B. Ragan of Washington Township, Warren County, Ohio, who had claimed that Thomas Beezley had given brother William Beezley a receipt for \$40, which he was to pay Ragan out of John Beezley's estate.⁹⁷ Nicholas requested that Andrew Wood and Silas Henkle be present to give depositions about the above debt.

Children, probably born in Ohio:

23. i. NICHOLAS⁴ BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1803; m. NANCY BEEZLEY.

24. ii. WILLIAM M. BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1805; m. [].

25. iii. SARAH BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1807; m. JESSE WRIGHT.

26. iv. JOSEPH BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1812; m. ELIZABETH LEWIS.

7. WILLIAM³ BEESLEY/BEAZLEY (*Isaac², ?William¹*) was born about 1788, according to the age he reported on the 1850 census. He died after 1850, apparently in Lewis County, Virginia (now West Virginia).

Little is known of William's life. On 23 Oct. 1811, he married HANNAH TAYLOR in Harrison County, Virginia.⁹⁸ Her parentage is unknown, but she was perhaps a sister of Benjamin Taylor, who married William's sister Rebecca.

William was recorded on the federal census of 1820 in Lewis County, in a household that included a male 26-45. In 1830, he lived near his father in a household with a male under 5, a male 40-50, two females under 5, a female 5-10, a female 10-15, two females 15-20, and a female 30-40.⁹⁹ He appears again in 1840, this time in a household with a male 5-10, a male 15-20, a male 50-60, two females 10-15, a female 15-20, two females 20-30, and a female 40-50.¹⁰⁰ In 1850, he was enumerated in District 30 of Lewis County as William Beasley, aged 63, born in Virginia, a farmer, with real property worth \$300. Wife Hannah was 59, and living in their household were Sarah, 30; Suzan, 24, and William, 20. All were illiterate.¹⁰¹ Living next door in the household of Henry Vaughan and wife Rebecca was Hannah Beasley, 33, likely another daughter.¹⁰² Another possible son was John Beasley, 27, also a farmer in District 30.¹⁰³

In 1860, he was recorded as William Beasley, 73, living in neighboring Upshur County, Virginia.¹⁰⁴ Wife Hannah was 68 and born in New Jersey. Also in the household were Eliza Greathouse, 14; Hannah Beasley, 43; and Nancy Beasley, 33.

William apparently died without a will.

Children, born in Lewis County, Virginia:

27. i. ELIZABETH⁴ BEESLEY, b. ca. 1815; m. ABRAHAM OLDACRE.

⁹⁵“Vermilion County, Illinois, Probate Record Abstracts,” 39.

⁹⁶*Ibid.*, 40.

⁹⁷Clark County, OH probate file A-348.

⁹⁸Cochran, *Harrison County Marriages*, 28.

⁹⁹William Beasley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Virginia, Lewis County, p. 231, line 23, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 191.

¹⁰⁰William Beasley household, 1840 U.S. Census, Virginia, Lewis County, p. 134, line 29, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 566.

¹⁰¹William Beasley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Virginia, Lewis County, 25, Household 334, Dwelling 326, National Archives Micropublication M-432, roll 956.

¹⁰²Henry Vaughan household, *ibid.*, Household #325, Dwelling #327.

¹⁰³John Beasley household, *ibid.*, p. 13, Household #167, Dwelling #169.

¹⁰⁴William Beasley household, 1870 U.S. Census, Upshur County, West Virginia, p. 188, Dwelling #161, Household #162, National Archives micropublication M-593, roll.

- ii. HANNAH BEESLEY, b. ca. 1817; living unmarried in her parents' household in 1860 in Upshur County, and in 1870 was still living and working as a domestic in the household of William H. Kelly in Jane Lew Township, Lewis County.¹⁰⁵
- iii. SARAH BEESLEY, b. 1820; no further record.
- 28. iv. JOHN BEESLEY, b. 1823; m. ELIZABETH HORNER.
- 29. v. SUZAN/SUSANNAH BEESLEY, b. 1826; m. STEPHEN NORMAN.
- vi. NANCY BEESLEY, b. 1826; not recorded with the family in 1850, but living unmarried in her parents' household in Upshur County in 1860. As Nancy "Bezlee," she m. JACOB RODABAUGH on 20 Nov. 1860 in Upshur County, Virginia, the marriage license specifying her parents. They could not be located in 1870.
- vii. WILLIAM BEESLEY, b. 1830; no record in 1850 and no record of his marriage in either Lewis or Upshur Counties. Perhaps he m. LAVERNIA C. [], who was recorded, aged 36, in Battelle Township, Lewis County, in 1870, in a household that included Manuel, 21; Sarah, 20; Adolphus T., 19; George R., 16; Nancy R., 14; and Sanford F., 9.¹⁰⁶ The exact placement of this family cannot be made with certainty. None of the children seem to appear in later marriage records.

8. JOHN⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born on 22 Oct. 1797 in Hamilton County, Ohio, although some sources claim Brown County for his birth.¹⁰⁷ This assertion seems doubtful, as his father is not known to have spent time there. He died on 5 Mar. 1889 in Shelby County, Ohio, and was buried in the old Pioneer Cemetery at Plattsville, Green Township, Shelby County.¹⁰⁸

John married ELIZABETH ELLSWORTH on 10 Oct. 1816 in Champaign County, Ohio.¹⁰⁹ Saul Henkle or Hinke, who performed the marriage, had been one of the administrators of his father's estate. Elizabeth was the daughter of John and Mary Ellsworth, born on 20 Jan. 1800 in Martinsburg, Virginia, and died on 9 Sep. 1858 in Shelby County, Ohio.¹¹⁰

In 1820, John was enumerated on the federal census in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, living near his father.¹¹¹ His household included a male under 10, a male 16-26, a female under 10, and a female 16-26.

On 19 Mar. 1860, John married (2) SILENCE ELLSWORTH KIZER, in Sangamon County, Illinois.¹¹² He returned with his new wife to Ohio, since he was enumerated later that year, aged 62, in Green Township, Shelby County, Ohio.¹¹³ He was a farmer, born in Ohio, with real property worth \$4,500 and personal property at \$552. With him were his second wife Silence B., 49; and the following children: Saiby, 26; Rachel, 23; and two small children, John M. Kizer, 11; and Ellen Francis Kizer, 8; both born in Illinois.

A sketch of John's life appeared in a history of Shelby County not long before his death, and it reveals the pride the old gentleman must have felt in his children:

John Beezley, Retired Farmer; P.O. Plattsville, Ohio. The subject of our sketch was born in Hamilton County on the 22d day of October, 1797. He is a son of John and Elizabeth Beezley, who moved from Hamilton to Clermont County, Ohio, remained until 1812, when they removed to Clarke County, where the subject of this sketch grew to manhood. In October, 1816, he married Miss Elizabeth Ellsworth, of Clarke County, daughter of John and Mary Ellsworth, who were among the pioneers of Green Township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Beezley settled in Clarke County, remained until the spring of 1826, when they came to this county and settled in Green Township, where he has since resided and made farming his vocation. They reared a family of nine children, five of whom are yet living - William, Paul, Silence, Jane, and Rachel. William and Paul are now in Iowa; Silence and Jane are living in Missouri, and Rachel is living in Illinois. All are married and have families. William Beezley served three years in the war of 1861, as captain of a company in an Illinois regiment. Paul Beezley served four years during the late war, as a private in the 20th O.V.I., and was honorably discharged at the close of the war.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁵ William H. Kelly household, 1870 U.S. Census, Lewis County, West Virginia, p. 338, Household #313, Dwelling #313.

¹⁰⁶ Lavernia C. Beasley household, 1870 U.S. Census, Lewis County, p. 307, Dwelling #254, Household #254.

¹⁰⁷ "Beezley Family History," n.p.

¹⁰⁸ Barbara Adams and Gene Mozley, *Memorial Records of Shelby County, Ohio 1819-1975* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1977), 314.

¹⁰⁹ Champaign County Marriage Book A:606, Court Clerk's Office, Urbana, OH.

¹¹⁰ Adams and Mozley, *Memorial Records of Shelby County, Ohio*, 314.

¹¹¹ John Beezley household, 1820 U.S. Census, Clark County, OH, page 8A, line 14, *op. cit.*

¹¹² Sangamon County, Illinois Marriage License No. 869, in Springfield Chapter D.A.R., *Marriage License, Sangamon County 1856 through 1865*. (Springfield, IL: Springfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1953), 136.

¹¹³ John Beezley household, 1860 U.S. Census, Green Township, Shelby County, OH, p. 411, Dwelling # 44, Household #44, National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 1036.

¹¹⁴ *History of Shelby County, Ohio* (Philadelphia: R. Sutton, 1883), 185.

Children, the first five born in Clark County, the remainder in Shelby County, Ohio:

30. i. WILLIAM⁴ BEEZLEY, b. 11 Jan. 1818; m. (1) POLLY ANN CASTLE; (2) ANNA FAWCETT.
31. ii. MARY BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1821; m. JOHN L. FRANKLIN.
32. iii. ELIZABETH BEEZLEY, b. 5 Mar. 1825; m. JEROME/JAMES L. FORSHEE.
33. iv. SILENCE B. BEEZLEY, 10 Aug. 1826; m. GEORGE W. TUNKS.
34. v. CATHERINE M. BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1829; m. WILLIAM HENRY MILLER.
35. vi. MARGARET JANE BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1831; m. RICHARD SKINNER POST.
36. vii. SABA ("Saiby") BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1833; m. RICHARD METCALF.
 - viii. MABEL BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1835; m. [] METCALF; no further record.
37. ix. RACHEL S. BEEZLEY, b. 15 Apr. 1837; m. WILLIAM BROWN RUSSOM.
38. x. PAUL BEEZLEY, b. 24 Mar. 1839; m. (1) ELEANOR JANE LEWIS; (2) JERUSHA ANN SIMES; (3) SOPHRONIA FIELD.

9. PAUL⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born on 15 Jan. 1801, probably in Hamilton County, Ohio. He died 29 May 1855 in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana, and was buried in the Metz Cemetery in Noble County.¹¹⁵

Paul married MARY M. PLUM on 1 Aug. 1822 in Clark County, Ohio.¹¹⁶ Her mother was probably the Elizabeth Plum living in 1830 in Morefield Township, Clark County, near Paul's mother Elizabeth. Mary was born in Virginia in April 1802, and died in Washington Township, Noble County on 27 Jul. 1867, aged 65 years and 3 months. She was buried beside her husband in Metz Cemetery.¹¹⁷

Paul was enumerated on the 1830 census in Moorefield Township, Clark County, but the record is so faint that the record of his household cannot be read.¹¹⁸

About 1835, Paul and his family moved to Indiana and settled in Washington Township, Noble County. His brother Isaac may have joined him, or may have come a year later. Also joining him later was his cousin John Prickett and wife Sarah (Wood) and family. The following year on 31 Dec. 1836, he patented eighty acres in Section 10 of Washington Township for \$100. Isaiah Prickett purchased adjoining acreage.¹¹⁹ Later, he purchased land in Section Nine, and on 20 Aug. 1838, obtained patents for land in Sections Thirty-four and Thirty-five, all in Washington Township.¹²⁰

Noble County was, at that time, a rough, unsettled wilderness. William Prickett, the son of John, later gave an account of his recollections in an article entitled "A Rambler's Notes," which appeared in the *Canton Weekly Register* of Canton, Illinois on 20 Dec. 1906: "The country was very wild, wolves prowling around, and deer and turkeys abounded in the forests ... In those days the stock grazed about at will and the sod of the prairie and the virgin soil of the woodland was turned by plow and a wooden moldboard drawn by oxen. I remember ... that the land on which we settled was covered with heavy timber, and that my parents were compelled to content themselves with a rude log cabin while the land was being cleared preparatory to farming ... In accordance with the primitive custom my parents brought their family from Ohio to Indiana by an ox team, camping and cooking on the way ... We settled near a reservation where Indians still lived. The situation was very lonely, as there were but few white neighbors in this then thinly settled region, and we didn't mix much with the red men."¹²¹

Paul became an early, influential member of his community. At an early date, he allowed a room in his double log house to be used for a school that was taught by Ross Rowan. His family lived in the other half.¹²² Paul was also active in the Freewill Baptist Church, his cousin John Prickett being a local elder.

¹¹⁵ *Cemeteries of Noble County, Indiana, Volume 1: Noble, Sparta, Washington, & York Townships* (Kendallville, IN: Noble County Genealogical Society, 1984), 197. Tombstone verified by the author in 1985.

¹¹⁶ Clark County, OH Marriage Book 1-B, transcribed in *Clark County, Ohio Marriage Records 1818-1865, A-E* (Springfield, OH: Works Project Administration, 1936), 23.

¹¹⁷ *Cemeteries of Noble County, Indiana*, vol. 1, 197.

¹¹⁸ Paul Beezley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Moorefield Township, Clark County, OH, page 124, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 128.

¹¹⁹ Noble County Plat Book of Entrymen, p. 3, Recorder's Office, Albion, IN.

¹²⁰ Paul Beezley land patents, 20 Aug. 1838, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, General Land Office website <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>.

¹²¹ William W. Prickett account in "A Rambler's Notes," *Canton Weekly Register*, Canton, Illinois, 20 Dec. 1906.

¹²² *Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana* (Chicago: F. A. Battey & Co., 1882), Part 2:294.

Paul could not be located on the federal census of 1840, but in 1850, he and his family were recorded in Washington Township.¹²³ His household included himself, aged 48 and born in Ohio, wife Mary, aged 47 and born in Virginia, and three children born in Indiana: Isaac, 12; James, 7; and Paul, 4. He reported no real property value (a fact which was erroneous as he owned more than a hundred acres) and gave his occupation as farmer. His son David lived nearby.

Paul began selling off his holdings the following year. On 1 Jan. 1851, he sold a tract to A. Beanblossom in Section 35.¹²⁴ On 18 Oct. 1851, he sold to William Weade his land in Section 34 of Washington Township.¹²⁵ Then in April 1854, he sold to his son David a tract of 80 acres in Section 9 for \$500.¹²⁶ That same month, and possibly more aware of his own mortality, he presented to the Commissioners of Noble County a tract of land in Section 15 for use as a public burying ground.¹²⁷ Here he was buried upon his death on 29 May 1855.

Children of Paul and Mary, the first two born in Clark County, Ohio, the remainder in Noble County. The spacing of the children suggests that there were likely others born to this union who died in infancy, for which there is no record:

- i. WILLIAM⁵ BEEZLEY, b. 4 Sep. 1826; d. 16 Sep. 1838, Noble County, Indiana, buried in Metz Cemetery, Washington Township, Noble County.
39. ii. DAVID BEEZLEY, b. 1829; m. ELIZABETH EARL.
- iii. JACOB BEEZLEY, b. 12 Mar. 1836; d. 12 Oct. 1839, Noble County, Indiana, buried in Metz Cemetery.
40. iv. ISAAC PLUM BEEZLEY, b. 1839; m. ANN PRICKETT.
- v. JAMES BEEZLEY, b. 15 May 1846; d. 15 Sep. 1850, Noble County, Indiana, buried in Metz Cemetery.
41. vi. PAUL BEEZLEY, b. 26 Dec. 1846; m. MARY CASSEL.

10. CATHERINE⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born about 1804, probably in Clermont County, Ohio. She was apparently named for her aunt, Catherine (Knepper) Prickett, who had married her father's stepbrother, Nicholas Prickett. She died after 1855 but before 1860, probably in Salem Township, Knox County, Illinois.

Catherine married CONRAD RUNNION (or RUNION or sometimes RUNYAN) on 18 Nov. 1824 in Clark County, Ohio.¹²⁸ Conrad was born about 1804 in Ohio and was living in 1850 in Knox County, Illinois. He died there in 1857.

Conrad was enumerated on the 1830 federal census in Rush Township, Champaign County, Ohio.¹²⁹ His household included a male under 5, a male 20-30, a female under 5, and a female 20-30. By 1840, the family had moved to McLean County, Illinois, where it was again recorded on the federal census.¹³⁰ This time the household contained a male under 5, a male 10-15, a male 30-40, two females under 5, a female 15-20, and a female 30-40.

Conrad appears to have been a restless pioneer. By 1850, the family had moved further west to Salem Township, Knox County, Illinois.¹³¹ Conrad was listed as aged 46, born in Ohio, a farmer, with real property valued at \$800. Wife Catharine was 45, born in Ohio, and with them were the following children: John, 22; Sarah, 17; William, 18; Moriah, 14; Catharine, 11; Isaac, 9; and Warren, 7. Catharine could not be located in Illinois in 1860, though her sons John and Isaac and daughter Catharine Miller continued to reside there in 1860.

¹²³ Paul Beezeley [*suc*] household, 1850 U.S. Census, Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana, page 231, Dwelling 102, Household 102, National Archives micropublication M-.

¹²⁴ Paul Beezley to A. Beanblossom, Deed of Sale, Noble County Deed Book 8:420.

¹²⁵ Paul Beezley to William Weade, Deed of Sale, Noble County Deed Book 8:378.

¹²⁶ Paul Beezley to David Beezley, Deed of Sale, Noble County Deed Book 12:204.

¹²⁷ Paul Beezley to the Commissioners of Noble County, Deed of Gift, *Ibid.*, 205.

¹²⁸ Clark County Marriage Book 1-B in *Clark County, Ohio Marriages Records 1818-1865*, 25.

¹²⁹ Conrad Runian household, 1830 U.S. Census, Rush Township, Champaign County, OH, page 43, line 4, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 128.

¹³⁰ Conrad Runion household, 1840 U.S. Census, McLean County, Illinois, , page 237, line 6, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 65.

¹³¹ Conrad Runion household, 1850 U.S. Census, Knox County, Illinois, page 460, Household 1096, Dwelling 2191.

Catharine and Conrad were both still living in 1855, when they joined her brother Isaac in a lawsuit to foreclose on the mortgage of their nephews, the Harrisons, in Kosciusko County, Indiana.¹³² That same year he was taxed in Salem Township on a personal property tax list. His personal property was valued at \$222 and taxed at \$4.50.¹³³

Conrad died intestate in Knox County in 1857. Administrators of the estate included his son William and son-in-law Joseph P. Miller.¹³⁴

Children, the first four born in Ohio, the remainder in Illinois:

42. i. JOHN⁵ RUNNION, b. 1828; m. ARABELLA [].
- ii. MARY A. RUNNION, b. ca. 1830; m. LODOWICK S. LEWIS.
43. iii. WILLIAM RUNNION, b. 1832; m. LYDIA A. BURNAUGH.
- iv. SARAH RUNNION, b. 1833; apparently died unmarried after 1850.
44. v. MORIAH RUNNION, b. 1836; m. WILLIAM BALLINGER.
45. vi. CATHARINE RUNNION, b. 1838; m. JOSEPH P. MILLER.
- vii. ISAAC RUNNION, b. 1841; living in 1860.
46. viii. WARREN RUNNION, b. 1843; MALISSA MAUK.

11. ELIZABETH⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born between 1804 and 1806 (and perhaps on 16 Jan. 1806), probably in Clermont County, Ohio. Her date of death is not known with certainty. She was living in 1855, and is perhaps the Eliza Wood, who died on 19 Sep. 1873 and was buried in the Metz Cemetery on her brother Paul's farm in Noble County, Indiana. It is also possible that this grave belongs to a different woman, and that Elizabeth died in Miami County, Ohio, where she was enumerated in 1850.¹³⁵

Elizabeth married ANDREW N. WOOD on 16 Feb. or 4 Mar. 1822 in Clark County, Ohio.¹³⁶ Andrew was born about 1799 in Pennsylvania, and he died after 1855.

Andrew served as administrator of his father-in-law William's estate, and for many years was involved in settling William Beezley's financial affairs. On the federal census of 1830, Andrew was enumerated next door to his mother-in-law Elizabeth in Morefield Township, Clark County, Ohio.¹³⁷ His household contained a male 30 to 40, two females under 5, and a female 20 to 30. The whereabouts of the family in 1840 remains unknown. He was perhaps the A. Wood living in Sugar Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio, though his age does not fit with the age categories reported, nor do his sons.¹³⁸ Listed in the household was a male 15-20, two males 30-40, and a female 30-40.

In 1850, Andrew and Elizabeth lived in Spring Creek Township, Miami County, Ohio.¹³⁹ Andrew reported his age as 51 and birthplace as Pennsylvania. He was a shingle maker by occupation, with \$300 in real property. Wife Elizabeth was aged 46, born in Ohio, and their apparent children included Edmund, 15; Amanda, 14; George, 6; and Clarissa, 4, all born in Ohio. It seems probable that there were other, older children, but they are not apparent from the census.

¹³²Beezley et al. vs. Harrison, et al., 3 Feb. 1855, Kosciusko County Court of Common Pleas.

¹³³Carley Anne Roberts Robison, *Knox County, Illinois 1855 Personal Property Tax* (Galesburg: Knox County Genealogical Society, n.d.), 66.

¹³⁴Coorad Runion estate, 1857, listed in Mildred Cadwell Doubet, *General Index to Estates 1832-1900 as Recorded in Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois* (Galesburg: Knox County Genealogical Society, n.d), n.p.

¹³⁵*Cemeteries of Noble County*, 1:

¹³⁶*International Genealogical Index (IGI)*, version 3.06, (1996). The marriage does not appear under Elizabeth's name in the typescript *Clark County, Ohio Marriage Records*. There is an entry under Andrew Wood for 1822, but it gives no specific date.

¹³⁷Andrew Wood household, 1830 U.S. Census, Morefield Township, Clark County, OH, p. 157, line 17, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 128.

¹³⁸A. Wood household, 1840 U.S. Census, Sugar Creek Township, Greene County, OH, p. 214, line 4, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 391.

¹³⁹Andrew Wood household, 1850 U.S. Census, Spring Creek Township, Miami County, OH, p. 214, Household 13, Dwelling 13, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 711.

On 9 Sep. 1851, Andrew sold Lot #2 in Rossville, Miami County, to Francis Jarvis.¹⁴⁰ In 1855, he and his wife were parties as defendants to the lawsuit to foreclose on a mortgage once given to their brother-in-law Joseph Harrison.¹⁴¹ Following this date, the family disappears. They could not be located in Miami County in 1860.

Children, born in Ohio:

- i. EDMUND⁵ WOOD, b. 1835.
- ii. AMANDA WOOD, b. 1836.
- iii. GEORGE WOOD, b. 1844.
- iv. CLARISSA WOOD, b. 1846.

12. RACHEL⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born on 10 Aug. 1809, probably in Clermont County, Ohio.¹⁴² She died after 1880 in Springfield Township, Clark County, Ohio.¹⁴³

Rachel married JAMES PADEN on 6 Dec. 1827 in Clark County, Ohio.¹⁴⁴ He was born in Pennsylvania about 1802, and died in Springfield Township, Clark County, Ohio in 1868.

James Paden spent all of his adult life in Springfield Township. Like his father-in-law, he had an interest in milling, and may well have met Rachel while working in William Beezley's mill at Lagonda. In 1830, he was enumerated on the federal census, but the record is so faint that the handwriting cannot now be easily read.¹⁴⁵ It appears to show a male 20-30, two females under 5, and a female 20-30. In 1840, he was recorded there again with a much larger household that included two males under 5, two males 5-10, a male 30-40, a female under 5, a female 5-10, a female 10-15, and a female 30-40.¹⁴⁶

“In the year 1844,” according to Beers' *History of Clark County, Ohio* (1881), “James Paden built a factory on Mill Creek [Springfield Township] for the manufacture of rolls, yarns and woolen fabrics generally. He carried on carding, spinning, weaving and fulling up to the year of his death in 1868. After Mr. Paden's death, the business was conducted by his son David until the year 1880. It has not done much business of late. The factory is a two-story frame, uses the Leffel wheel, and is located on Section 9, two and a half miles southwest of Springfield.”¹⁴⁷

In 1850, James was recorded on the federal census in Springfield Township, aged 48, born in Pennsylvania, a woolen manufacturer, with real property valued at \$3,000.¹⁴⁸ Wife Rachel was 45, born in Ohio, and their children included: Elizabeth, 21; William, 18; Jane, 16; Jno., 14; M. A., [a female], 12; David, 10; Jas., 7; Paul, 5; and Rachel C., 2/ All of the children were born in Ohio, and son William is shown as working in “manufacturing.” Ten years later in 1860, James was recorded a final time on the federal census, aged 59, born in Pennsylvania, a woolen manufacturer, with real property worth \$6,500 and personal property at \$2,500.¹⁴⁹ Wife Rachel was 52, and their children were Elizabeth, 32; David, 20; Isaac J., 18; Paul, 15; and Catharine, 13. Son William Paden lived two doors away.

¹⁴⁰ Andrew Wood to Francis Jarvis, Deed of Sale, Miami County Deed Book 26:555, cited in *An Index to the Miami County, Ohio Recorder's Deeds, 1807-1863* (Dayton: Miami Valley Genealogical Society, 1995), 556.

¹⁴¹ Kosciusko County Court of Common Pleas.

¹⁴² William Beezley probate file, Clark County, OH, A-295.

¹⁴³ Rachel Paden household, 1880 U.S. Census, Springfield Township, Clark County, OH, E.D. 42, sheet 41, Dwelling # 383, Household #396, National Archives micropublication T-9, roll 999.

¹⁴⁴ *Clark County, Ohio Marriage Records*, 28, citing Marriage Book 1-B.

¹⁴⁵ James Paden household, 1830 U.S. Census, Springfield Township, Clark County, OH, p. 125, line 2, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 128.

¹⁴⁶ James Paden household, 1840 U.S. Census, Springfield Township, Clark County, OH, p. 20, line 22, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 383.

¹⁴⁷ *History of Clark County, Ohio*, 630.

¹⁴⁸ James Paden household, 1850 U.S. Census, Springfield Township, Clark County, OH, p. 227, Dwelling # 910, Household #128, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 666.

¹⁴⁹ James Paden household, 1860 U.S. Census, Springfield Township, Clark County, OH, p. 468, Dwelling #1398, Household # 1508, National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 943.

James died in 1868, and his mill was taken over by son David. Widow Rachel and her sons David and Paul all had households clustered together in 1870, with David and Paul in the woolen manufacturing trade. Rachel, aged 63, was keeping house, daughters Elizabeth, 32, and Catherine, 22, were at home, while son James, 28, also at home, was a Horse Dealer.¹⁵⁰ Rachel's real property was valued at \$10,000, indicating that the wool mill was still under her ownership. She reported personal property worth only \$300. In addition, each of the children reported real property worth \$1,000.

In 1880, Rachel was recorded on the federal census a final time, aged 72.¹⁵¹ Daughter Elizabeth, 50, lived with her, while sons David and Paul lived next door.

Children of James and Rachel, born in Clark County, OH:

- i. ELIZABETH⁵ PADEN, b. ca. 1829; living unmarried in 1880, Clark County.
47. ii. WILLIAM PADEN, b. 1832; m. ELIZABETH RICHARDS.
- iii. JANE PADEN, b. 1834; living in 1850, Clark County, no further record.
48. iv. JOHN F. PADEN, b. 1836; m. MAHALA C. STEELMAN.
49. v. MARY A. PADEN, b. 1838; m. WILLIAM M. LOVE.
50. vi. DAVID PADEN, b. 1840; m. MARIA LOUISE DOLBEER.
51. vii. ISAAC JAMES PADEN, b. 4 Feb. 1842; m. CATHARINE BARTCH.
52. viii. PAUL PADEN, b. 1845; m. SUSAN HENSLEY.
53. ix. RACHEL CATHERINE PADEN, b. 1847; m. JOHN S. STEPHENSON.

13. JANE⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born on 11 Jun. 1811 in Champaign County, Ohio.¹⁵² She died on 21 Dec. 1898 at Pieceton, Kosciusko County, Indiana, and was buried in Washington Cemetery.¹⁵³

Jane married HEZEKIAH GRAHAM on 29 May 1827 in Clark County, Ohio.¹⁵⁴ He was born on 14 Jul. 1801 in Virginia and died on 18 Nov. 1857 in Washington Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana. He was buried in the Metz Cemetery in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana, in the family cemetery established by Jane's brother Paul.¹⁵⁵

Hezekiah lived near his mother-in-law Elizabeth Beezley in 1830 in Moorfield Township, Clark County, Ohio. He was enumerated on the federal census in a household that included a male under 5, a male 20-30, and a female 20-30.¹⁵⁶ On 20 Jul. 1837, Hezekiah entered 240 acres at the Fort Wayne Land Office for land in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, near where brother-in-law Isaac had settled.¹⁵⁷ Two years later, he moved his family to Kosciusko County.

Lewis's *Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana* (1887) gives a brief sketch of Hezekiah and Jane in connection with their daughter Catherine, who had married Perry A. Weaver. It describes what life was like for them after moving to Indiana:

When she (Catherine) was a year old her parents brought her to this county, settling on a farm now owned by William Swartz. Her father entered the land in 1844. The country was very new and wild, and they reached their farm by Indian trails. They traveled with two teams and two wagons, bringing with them a yoke of oxen, cows, and a few hogs. They brought five children with them, and five were born after they came to this county. The family lived under the wagon-covers until the father had erected a log cabin. It was one-story, and 16 x 18 feet. Deer were plenty, and wolves howled around their cabin so that they were obliged to house their sheep for protection. Mrs Weaver is a daughter of Hezekiah and Jane (Beezley) Graham. Her father was born in 1801 and when a young man came to Clarke County, Ohio, where he married and lived until five children were born. He died November 18,

¹⁵⁰Rachel Paden household, 1870 U.S. Census, Springfield Township, Clark County, OH, p. 378, Dwelling # 103, Household #108, National Archives micropublication M-593, roll 1180.

¹⁵¹Rachel Paden household, 1880 U.S. Census, E.D. 43, sheet 41, *op. cit.*

¹⁵²William Beezley estate, A-295, Clark County, OH.

¹⁵³Family records of Dixie D. Mitchell, 208 Frederick Drive, Chicago Heights, IL 60411. See also Lester H. Binnie, *Kosciusko County, Indiana Cemetery Records: Tippecanoe and Washington Townships* (Albion, IN: Lester H. Binnie, 1977), 4:130.

¹⁵⁴*Clark County, Ohio Marriage Records*, 27.

¹⁵⁵Hezekiah's tombstone records his death on 18 Nov. 1857 aged 56 years, five months, and four days. The book of inscriptions records the year erroneously as 1859. See *Cemeteries of Noble County, Indiana*, 1:197.

¹⁵⁶Hezekiah Graham household, 1830 U.S. Census, Moorefield Township, Clark County, Ohio, p. 157, line 15, National Archives micropublication M-19, roll 128.

¹⁵⁷Hezekiah Graham land patents, Bureau of Land Management - Eastern States, General Land Office website, /http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/.

1857, and is buried in the Beezley cemetery, in Noble County. The mother was born in Clarke County June 11, 1811, and was reared and married in that county. She is still living in Washington Township, with her son, Ernest E. Graham. Both parents were Christians, being members of the Free-will Baptist church.¹⁵⁸

In 1840, Hezekiah was enumerated in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County next door to his brother-in-law Isaac Beezley.¹⁵⁹ His household included two males 5-10, a male 10-15, a male 30-40, two females under 5, a female 5-10, and a female 20-30. In 1850, he was recorded a final time on the federal census, still in Tippecanoe Township near his brother-in-law.¹⁶⁰ He reported his age as 47 and his birthplace Virginia. He was a farmer with real property worth \$700. Wife Jane was 35 and born in Ohio, and their children included William, 21; Paul, 19; James, 15; Catharine, 15; Usabra 10; John P., 7; and May, 1.

Jane lived many years after Hezekiah's death. In 1860, she was recorded on the family farm in Tippecanoe Township as a head of household, aged 48, with real property valued at \$2,500 and personal property worth \$250.¹⁶¹ With her were the following children: Usabery, 20; John, 17; Mary, 12; Minervy, 10; and Eugene, 5. Son Paul lived next door. Ten years later, she was again aged "48," and heading a household in Tippecanoe Township with real property worth \$2,500 and personal property worth \$500.¹⁶² Living with her were daughter Minerva, 18 and son Ernest, 15.

Children of Hezekiah and Jane, the first five born in Clark County, Ohio, the remainder in Kosciusko County, Indiana:

i. ELIZABETH⁵ GRAHAM [?], b. 1828, or possibly after 1830; she allegedly m. a Mr. BALDRIDGE, according to descendant Dixie Mitchell, though there appears to be no record of such a family in 1850 or 1860 in Indiana. Her date of birth is not supported by Hezekiah's household data on the 1830 federal census. However, she could be the female aged 5-10 in the 1840 census. She could not be found in 1850.

54. ii. WILLIAM GRAHAM, b. 1829; m. ELIZABETH [].

55. iii. PAUL GRAHAM, b. 1833; m. LAURA A. SMITH.

56. iv. JAMES P. GRAHAM, b. 1835; m. MARY K. [].

57. v. CATHERINE ("Cass") GRAHAM, b. 20 Jul. 1838; m. PERRY A. WEAVER.

58. vi. USABRA W. ("Sabe") GRAHAM, b. 1840; m. EPHRAIM KYLE.

vii. JOHN B. GRAHAM, b. 1843; d. 19 Sep. 1862, unmarried.

viii. ELLEN C. GRAHAM, b. 31 Jul. 1846; d. 18 Oct. 1848, Kosciusko County, IN. She is buried in the Metz Cemetery, Noble County, next to her father.

59. ix. MARY JANE GRAHAM, b. 1849; m. SAMUEL H. KYLE.

60. x. MINERVA S. GRAHAM, b. 1850; m. DAVID KYLE.

61. xi. ERNEST EUGENE GRAHAM, b. 14 Mar. 1854; m. LYDIA MARGARET MELOTTE.

14. ISAAC⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*), was born on 13 Jun. 1813 in Champaign County, Ohio, in that portion that would later become Clark County.¹⁶³ The year of his birth is sometimes given as 1814, but this would appear to be disproved, both by the guardianship record his mother submitted at the time his father's estate was settled, and the ages that Isaac himself reported to the census taker in 1850 and 1860.¹⁶⁴ According to his tombstone, Isaac died on 12 Nov. 1862.¹⁶⁵ He probably died at his farm in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, but, like Hezekiah Graham and brother Paul Beezley, he was buried in the Metz Cemetery in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana.

¹⁵⁸ *Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887), 500-501.

¹⁵⁹ Hezekiah Graham household, 1850 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana, p. 16, line 11, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 85.

¹⁶⁰ Hezekiah Graham household, 1850 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana, p. 333, Housel #15, Dwelling, #15, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 156.

¹⁶¹ Jane Graham household, 1860 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana, p. 95, Dwelling # 660, Household #670, National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 273.

¹⁶² Jane Graham household, 1870 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana, p. 91, Dwelling #65, Household #65, National Archives micropublication M-593, roll 332.

¹⁶³ William Beezley estate, A-295, Clark County, Ohio.

¹⁶⁴ See for example the *Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County*, 285, which shows the 1814 date. The same record also shows his birthplace erroneously as Stark County, Ohio, which may have been a misreading of the original handwriting at the time the sketch was made.

¹⁶⁵ *Cemeteries of Noble County, Indiana*, 1:197.

Isaac married SAREPTA McMILLIN on 8 Nov. 1832 in Clark County, Ohio.¹⁶⁶ Isaac was at the time under age, and his mother gave her consent. Sarepta was born on 27 Jan. 1813 in Virginia, probably Berkeley County in present-day West Virginia.¹⁶⁷ She died on 1 Aug. 1891 at Pierceton, Kosciusko County, and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery there.¹⁶⁸ Her father was probably Sampson McMullin/McMillin, who was enumerated on the federal census of 1820 in Berkeley County and who later moved to Urbana, Champaign County, where he was living in 1850 (see appendix). Her mother may have been named Martha, but except for a notation on the *Internatioanl Genealogical Index*, no direct evidence has come to light to prove this assertion.

On 2 Oct. 1833, nearly a year after his marriage, Isaac purchased from his mother Elizabeth a tract of land in Moorefield Township, Clark County, Ohio. For \$700, Isaac received the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 25, containing 80 acres.¹⁶⁹ Three years later, on 1 Oct. 1836 (almost to the day of when he bought it), he and Sarepta sold the land to Jacob Gripe for \$1,000.¹⁷⁰

Isaac had made up his mind to move to Indiana in the company of his brother Paul. He made the journey later that same month, when his daughter Eliza was nine months old.¹⁷¹ While Paul chose to settle in Washington Township, Noble County, Isaac went a little further west and settled on land in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County. He purchased 120 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 36 from Notley and Mary Thrasher for \$300 on 23 Feb. 1837.¹⁷² Later that year on 20 Aug. 1837, the same day his brother Paul had bought land in Noble County, Isaac went to the Fort Wayne Land Office and purchased two more tracts, one of 160 acres and another of 40 acres, in Sections 25 and 26 of Tippecanoe Township.¹⁷³

In 1840, Isaac was enumerated on the federal census in Tippecanoe Township.¹⁷⁴ His household contained a male under 5, a male 20-30, two females under 5, a female 5-10, and a female 20-30. In 1850, Isaac's family was again recorded in Tippecanoe Township, this time in totality.¹⁷⁵ Isaac and Sarepta were both aged 36. Isaac gave his birthplace as Ohio; he was a farmer with real property worth \$1,500. Sarepta gave Virginia as her birthplace. Children included Mary, 16; Eliza, 14 (both born in Ohio); William, 12; Rachel, 5 (both born in Indiana); and William Harrison, Isaac's nephew, 14, born in Ohio. A child of Isaac and Sarepta named Jane, evidently born about 1839, had died by this date.

The year 1855 brought some division to the Beezley family, when Isaac and his sister Catherine Runnion brought suit against the other heirs of their mother to foreclose on a mortgage granted to their late brother-in-law, Joseph Harrison in the amount of \$313. The Court of Common Pleas granted their suit, and Isaac obtained at auction the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 36 for a bid of \$235.¹⁷⁶

¹⁶⁶Clark County Marriage Book 2:2. The marriage is also cited in *Clark County, Ohio Marriage Records*, 33. The record reads: "I David Dudley do hereby certify that I joined in marriage Isaac Beezeley and Sarepta McMillen on the 8th day of November. David Dudley Recorded Nov. 22, 1832, Saul Henkle, clk. Isaac Beezeley license Nov. 7th. Sarepta McMillen, she of age, his mother present and gives consent, etc."

¹⁶⁷Sarepta's birthdate is given in *Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana*, 285.

¹⁶⁸Binnie, *Kosciusko County, Indiana Cemetery Records*, 4:56.

¹⁶⁹Elizabeth Beezkey to Isaac Beezley, Deed of Sale, Clark County, OH Deed Book L:38, Recorder's Office, Springfield, OH.

¹⁷⁰Isaac Beezley to Jacob Gripe, *ibid.*, P:573.

¹⁷¹*Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana*, 285.

¹⁷²Notley and Mary Thrasher to Isaac Beezley, Deed of Sale, Kosciusko County, IN Deed Book 19:538, Recorder's Office, Warsaw, IN. (The deed was recorded years after the fact).

¹⁷³Isaac Beezley land patents, Bureau of Land Management - Eastern States, General Land Office, website, /http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/.

¹⁷⁴Isaac Beezley household, 1840 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, IN, p. 16, line 10, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 85.

¹⁷⁵Isaac Beezley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, IN, p. 333, Dwelling #17?, Household #19, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 156.

¹⁷⁶See Kosciusko County, IN Deed Book 20:294.

In 1860, Isaac was recorded a final time in Tippecanoe Township, aged 47.¹⁷⁷ He was still a farmer and reported real property worth \$4,000 and personal property at \$770. By any reckoning, he was a successful man. His wife was recorded erroneously as Sarah, also aged 47, and living with them was daughter Rachel, 15. Son William lived next door.

Isaac died in Kosciusko County, intestate on 12 Nov. 1862.¹⁷⁸ Son-in-law Ross Beatty served as administrator and posted bond on 27 Nov. 1862, with his brother William Beatty as surety.¹⁷⁹ An estate sale held soon after contained mostly agricultural implements, plows, harnesses, shovels, and scrap iron. There was a four-horse wagon, and livestock included eleven sheep, seven hogs, twelve calves, a bull, two cows, two heifers, and some yearling steers. There were also four stands of bees, and some produce, including hay, oats, wheat, and apples. The estate had debts of just over \$455, and the heirs received a total of \$1,432. Ross reported on 2 May 1864 that widow Sarepta and children Mary Beatty, Eliza Mabie, William Beezley, and Rachel Fashbaugh were Isaac's "only children and heirs at law" and that as administrator, he "has paid over to them the several amounts as per vouchers, leaving nothing due the Estate uncollected nor no debts of the Estate unpaid."

Sarepta began reducing the size of her holdings upon her husband's death. On 13 Apr. 1863, she and the other heirs sold 40 acres in the southeast quarter of Section 36. In 1870, she was enumerated on the family farm, aged 55 and born in Virginia, with real property worth \$6,000 and personal property \$1,000.¹⁸⁰ She gave her occupation as "keeping house," and living with her was a housekeeper, Caroline Kyle, aged 23 and born in Indiana. None of her children lived near her, which suggests that she had hired out a local family, perhaps one of the Kyles, to maintain the farm. The task of running the old home place may have proved too much as she grew older. On 2 Feb. 1877, she and the other heirs sold to John Stockmyer most of the remaining holdings, including all of the acreage in Sections 25 and 36.¹⁸¹

Sarepta lived for a time in Pierceton with her son William.¹⁸² By the late 1870s she appears to have suffered from senility, perhaps Alzheimer's Disease. On 16 Mar. 1877, Jacob Fashbaugh, brother to son-in-law Elias Fashbaugh, noted in a letter that Elias, wife Rachel, and Sarepta. "Elias has a very bad cold and was sick the last we heard from him. His wife and her mother was here 2 weeks ago. Her mother is deranged in her mind."¹⁸³

In 1880, Sarepta was enumerated oddly at the very end of Tippecanoe Township, showing her age as 66, giving no other data, and adding that she was "not enumerated in Washington Tp."¹⁸⁴ She died on 1 Aug. 1891 and was buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Pierceton. Her death was reported in identical notices on 3 Aug. in the *Warsaw Daily Times* and on 6 Aug. in the *Indianian Republican*:

Sarepta Beezley, one of the pioneers of this county, died August 1st at 11 o'clock p.m. aged 76 years. She died at the home of Elias Fashbaugh, two and one-half miles north of Pierceton. The funeral will be preached at the house at 10 o'clock on Tuesday.¹⁸⁵

Children of Isaac and Sarepta, the first two born in Clark County, Ohio, the remainder in Kosciusko County, Indiana:

62. i. MARY ELIZABETH⁵ BEESLEY, b. 2 Feb. 1834; she m. (1) JOHN WESLEY WARNER; m. (2) ROSS BEATTY.

63. ii. ELIZABETH ANN BEEZLEY, b. 3 Jan. 1836; m. ELI MABIE.

64. iii. WILLIAM BEEZLEY, b. 24 Jan. 1838; m. LYDIA KILE.

¹⁷⁷ Isaac Beezley household, 1860 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana, p. 95, Dwelling #659, Household #668, National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 273.

¹⁷⁸ Tombstone in Metz Cemetery, *op. cit.*

¹⁷⁹ Isaac Beezley estate, Kosciusko County Probate File #, Clerk's Office, Warsaw, IN

¹⁸⁰ Sarepta Beezley household, 1870 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, IN, p. 91, Dwelling #68, Household #68, National Archives micropublication M-593, roll 332.

¹⁸¹ Sarepta Beezley et al. to John Stockmyer, Warranty Deed, Kosciusko County, IN Deed Book 44:402.

¹⁸² She was living in Pierceton in 1887, according to the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Kosciusko County, Indiana*, 285.

¹⁸³ Letter from Jacob Fashbaugh of Milford, Indiana to Frederick Hartline of Franklin Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, 16 March 1877, original owned by Jim Hartline, Sterling Heights, Michigan <hartline@rust.net>, published in INKOSCIU-L Archives on Rootsweb.com, downloaded 3 January 2004.

¹⁸⁴ Sarepta Beezley household, 1880 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, IN, E.D. 52, p. 28, Dwelling #261, Household #261, National Archives micropublication T-9, roll 290.

¹⁸⁵ *Warsaw Daily Times*, 3 Aug. 1891; *Indianian Republican*, 6 Aug. 1891, Warsaw Public Library, Warsaw, IN.

- iv. JANE BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1839-40; d. ca. 1847, Kosciusko County, Indiana, aged seven years, nine months.
65. v. RACHEL BEEZLEY, b. 1844; m. ELIAS FASHBAUGH.

15. USABRA⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, John², ?William¹*) was born on 1 Jun. 1816 in Champaign County, Ohio, in that portion that would become Clark County in 1818.¹⁸⁶ She died before 1850, probably in Noble County, Indiana, although there is no extant tombstone and no record of her death.

As “Sabra Beezley,” she married JOSEPH H. HARRISON on 27 Dec. 1832 in Clark County, Ohio.¹⁸⁷ He, too, was dead before 1850, probably in Noble County.

Little is known of Joseph Harrison. From the birthplace of his eldest son, William, he was still in Ohio in 1836. He appears to have followed his in-laws to Indiana around 1837. On 25 Jun. 1838, Joseph made a deed of mortgage for his 80-acre tract of land in the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 36 of Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, to his mother-in-law Elizabeth for \$150. The deed described them as “both of Clark County, Ohio,” even though Elizabeth had settled in Indiana with sons Isaac and Paul. Joseph and Usabra both died before they could pay off this debt. In 1840, Joseph was enumerated on the federal census in Washington Township, Noble County near the household of John Prickett, Usabra's cousin.¹⁸⁸ He reported a male under 5, a male 5-10, a male 20-30, a female under 5, and a female 20-30.

The 1850 census recorded their son William Harrison, aged 14 and born in Ohio, in the household of his uncle Isaac Beezley in Tippecanoe Township. Another son, Isaac, was in Washington Township, Kosciusko County, while another, Jacob, lived with Jane Pipes in Washington Township, Noble County. In 1855, their uncle Isaac brought a suit of foreclosure against his siblings and the three young heirs to recover the mortgage their father had made with their grandmother. The land was subsequently put up for sale and purchased by Isaac Beezley at auction.¹⁸⁹

Children of Joseph and Usabra, born in Ohio:

- i. [a son]⁵, b. before 1835; d. before 1850.
- ii. WILLIAM HARRISON, b. 1836, Ohio; he was living in 1850 in the household of his uncle, Isaac Beezley in Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County.¹⁹⁰ He was still living in 1855, when he was named in the foreclosure of his late father's land. Perhaps he was the William Harrison, aged 16, living in Sparta Township, Noble County in 1860 in the household of Thomas Kerstener.¹⁹¹
- iii. [a daughter], b. say 1838; d. before 1850.
- iv. ISAAC HARRISON, b. 1842; living in 1850 in Washington Township, Kosciusko County in the household of Joseph Warner, whose relationship, if any, is not known.¹⁹² He was living in 1855 at the time of the foreclosure, but he could not be located in 1860.
- v. JACOB HARRISON, b. 1843, Indiana; he was living in 1850 in Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana, in the household of Jane Piper, whose relationship is not known, and next door to John Prickett.¹⁹³ He was apparently still living in 1855 and named in the foreclosure. He could not be located in 1860.

16. NATHANIEL⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born in Ohio, probably Hamilton County, between 1798 and 1804. His place of death is not known, but he probably died in Indianapolis, Indiana after 1860.

¹⁸⁶William Beezley estate, A-295, Clark County, OH.

¹⁸⁷Clark County Marriage Book 2 cited in *Clark County, Ohio Marriage Records*, 33.

¹⁸⁸Joseph Harrison household, 1840 U.S. Census, Washington Township, Noble County, IN, p. 283, line 10, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 100.

¹⁸⁹Kosciusko County Deed Book 20:294.

¹⁹⁰Isaac Beezley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Tippecanoe Township, Kosciusko County, IN, p. 333 Dwelling #17?, Household #19, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 156.

¹⁹¹Thomas Kerstener household, 1850 U.S. Census, Sparta Township, Noble County, IN, p. 148, Dwelling #393, Household #393, National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 285.

¹⁹²Joseph Warner household, 1850 U.S. Census, Washington Township, Kosciusko County, IN, p. 361, Dwelling #105, Household #105, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 156.

¹⁹³Jacob Harrison, aged 4, living in the Jane Piper household, 1850 U.S. Census, Washington Township, Noble County, IN, p. 230, Dwelling #98, Household #98, National Archives micropublication M-, roll.

Nathaniel married (1) SARAH HAYS on 22 Feb. 1821 in Clark County, Ohio.¹⁹⁴ He spent a few years in Ohio, but by 1830, he had moved with his father and brothers to Danville Township, Vermilion County, Illinois, where he was enumerated on the census. His household included a male 5-10, a male 20-30, a female under 5, a female 15-20, and two females 20-30.¹⁹⁵

Nathaniel was a member of the Free-Will Baptist Church, and his name, along with that of his wife, appear among the original membership list of a church that met in the home of James Donnels in Harmony Township, Clark County, Ohio.¹⁹⁶ Upon moving to Vermilion County, he became a Baptist preacher and built a carding mill that received notice in a local history:

The first carding machine was put into a large wooden building on the corner just north of the "Aetna House," by Nathaniel Beesley. He put in a large circular tread platform or "horse-power," which was propelled by a lively pair of oxen. Mr. Beesley was a preacher of the Baptist denomination, with a strong antinomian or "hard shell" leanings. He frequently went away Saturdays, taking his wife with him, to preach on the Sabbath. He invariably locked up his building before going away, so, as he used to tell the boys, they would not be tempted to break the Sabbath running his tread-mill for fun. While he held strongly to the doctrine that "what is to be will be," he seemed to have a flickering hope or fear, as it were, that if he locked up his mill, "what was to be wouldn't be." The boys never failed to pick the lock while the good man was gone, and run his tread-mill "for all there was in it." They "wanted to see the wheels go round." On one occasion, the largest boy in the crowd, who was "big enough and old enough and ought to have known better," got his boot caught in between the revolving platform and the side of the building, and the united strength of the frightened youngsters failed to extricate either the foot or the boot. In this predicament, brother Beesley returned home, full of wrath and righteous indignation at this shocking Sabbath breaking, and, but for the mediation of his good wife, would have given the youngsters an exemplification of Calvinistic retribution, as he understood and preached it, which would have been remembered by them until - the next good chance to break the Sabbath.¹⁹⁷

Nathaniel may also have worked as a blacksmith while in Vermilion County. A description of early Danville includes mention of "Beasley's blacksmith-shop" located on the block later occupied by a Mrs. Schmidt.¹⁹⁸

By 1840, Nathaniel had moved away from Vermilion County. He was probably the Nathaniel Beasley living in 1840 in Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana. That Nathaniel was the right age, being between 30 and 40. The females in his household included a female under 5, a female 10-15, and a female 30-40.¹⁹⁹ If this is the same family - and it has not been proven - the son enumerated in 1830 must have died by this date.

In 1850, Nathaniel may well be the Nathaniel Beasley living in Johnson County, Indiana, aged 49 and born in Ohio, whose occupation was blacksmith.²⁰⁰ Again, if this is the same Nathaniel, his wife Sarah must have died by this date, and he was recorded with a second wife, SUSAN C., aged 34, a native of Tennessee. Their marriage record has not been located, either in Indiana or Illinois, but it must have occurred after 1840. They had three children all born in Indiana: Mary H., 10; Louisa C., 8; and Luman B. 6. A history of Johnson County lists Nathaniel Beezley as an early blacksmith in the town of Greenville.²⁰¹ He is not recorded there after this date, but he had almost certainly returned to Marion County and was enumerated as "Nathaniel Beezley" in the 7th Ward of Indianapolis. His fortunes had turned from his more prosperous days in Illinois. He worked as a carpenter, reporting no real property and personal property worth only \$50. With him were wife L. C., aged 45 and born in Tennessee, and two children, L. C., aged 18, and L. B., 16, both born in Indiana.²⁰² The 1860 city directory of Indianapolis lists Nathaniel and daughter Louisa C. as boarding at 132 South Delaware Street.²⁰³ They do not appear in the 1858-59 directory or in any of the subsequent directories, suggesting that they may have moved again to some unknown location. The fact that the 1870 Indiana census remains unindexed at this writing prevents further searching.

Children of Nathaniel and his second wife Susan, probably born in Marion County, Indiana:

- i. MARY H/A.⁵ BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1840; she m. WALTER D/P. HAMMOND on 5 Aug. 1857 in Marion County, Indiana.²⁰⁴ In 1850, W. P. Hammond, 25, a printer, was enumerated next door to Nathaniel, together with wife M. H., 20, and a daughter, N. M., aged two months.²⁰⁵
- ii. LOUISA C. BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1842; living unmarried in 1860.
- iii. LUMAN B. BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1844; living unmarried in 1860.

¹⁹⁴ Clark County, OH Marriage Book 1-A.

¹⁹⁵ Nathaniel Beasley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Illinois, Vermilion County, p. 102, line 17, National Archives Micropublication M-19, roll 23.

¹⁹⁶ *History of Clark County, Ohio*. (Chicago: W. H. Beers & Co., 1881), 618.

¹⁹⁷ H. W. Beckwith, *History of Vermilion County*. (Chicago: H. H. Hill and Co., 1879), 319a.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 327.

¹⁹⁹ Nathaniel Beasley household, 1840 U.S. Census, Perry Township, Marion County, Indiana, p. 242, line 19. National Archives Micropublication M-704, roll 88.

²⁰⁰ Nathaniel Beasley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Johnson County, Indiana, p. 71, Dwelling #96, Household #96, National Archives Micropublication M-432, roll 135.

²⁰¹ David D. Banta, *History of Johnson County, Indiana*. (Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1888), 549.

²⁰² Nathaniel Beezley household, 1860 U.S. Census, 7th Ward Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, p. 565, Dwelling #244, Household #241, National Archives Micropublication M-653, roll 279.

²⁰³ *Indianapolis City Directory and Business Mirror for 1860-1861*. (Indianapolis: Sutherland & McEvoy, 1860), 33.

²⁰⁴ Marion County, Indiana Marriage Book 6:601.

²⁰⁵ W. P. Hammond household, 1860 U.S. Census, Indianapolis, Marion County, p. 566, Dwelling #245, Household #242.

17. JOHN⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born in Hamilton? County, Ohio on 13 Feb. 1803. He died in Page County, Iowa on 1 Aug. 1880 and was buried in Summit Cemetery, Nodaway Township, Yorktown, Iowa.²⁰⁶

John Beezley moved to Vermilion County, Illinois in the company of his father and brothers. In July 1827, he was probably the “John Beasley” who joined the Vermilion County Battalion, a unit of fifty men from the vicinity of the Little Vermilion River, who agreed to fight in the Winnebago War.²⁰⁷ In the summer of 1830, he was enumerated on the federal census in that county, living three doors from a Joseph Beezley, who was probably his brother.²⁰⁸ He was aged 30-40, and had in his household two males under 5, two females 5-10, and a female 20-30. The evidence would seem to indicate that he had become established and had been married for more than five years.

John’s first wife appears to have died soon after this date, for he married [2] on 2 Sep. 1830, RACHEL MINER, daughter of John Miner, who posted bond in Vermilion County.²⁰⁹ She was born in Kentucky on 22 Sep. 1808 and died in Page County, Iowa on 17 Mar. 1881. She was buried beside her husband in Summit Cemetery.²¹⁰

John and Rachel appear to have left the area after a few years, since John was not recorded on the federal census of 1840 in that county. Son Joseph stated that he was born in Fulton County, Illinois in 1836 and moved to Clark County, Missouri in 1845. The family lived there three years before his father moved to Hancock County, which would date the move to about 1848.²¹¹

In 1850, John was likely the “John Beaseley” living with his large family in Pontoosuc Township, Hancock County, Illinois. He was a farmer, aged 47 years old and born in Ohio. His real property was valued at \$14,000. Wife Rachael was 42 and born in Kentucky. Children in the household included Paul, 18; John M., 16; Joseph, 14; David, 12; William R., 10; Francis M., 8; Henry F., 6; Sarah J., 2; and James M., three months.²¹²

In 1860, John still lived in Pontoosuc Township, Hancock County, and was recorded on the census as “J. Beasley.” He was aged 57, born in Ohio, and with him were wife Rachel, 52; son Harrison, 20; Joseph, 24; David, 22; Francis, 18; Henry, 16; Sarah, 12; and James, 10.²¹³ John’s real property was worth \$3,726, and his personal property \$1,140, making him, by the standards of the day, a prosperous farmer.

By 1870, John and his family had decided to pull up stakes again and settle in nearby Henderson County. John was recorded living near the town of Raritan, aged 67, with real property worth \$8,000 and personal property worth \$1,400.²¹⁴ Wife Rachel was 61, and living with them were three unmarried children, Joseph, 34, David, 32, and Sarah, 21.²¹⁵ Son Paul had moved to Page County, Iowa, while William, James, Francis, and Henry had all struck out on their own, with William living nearby in Raritan and James, Francis, and Henry residing at Terre Haute, Illinois. Interestingly, Joseph and David, John’s sons, were apparently enumerated twice in 1870, being recorded with their father and later living on their own near their brother Paul in Page County, Iowa.

Shortly after their appearance on the 1870 census, John, Rachel, daughter Sarah, and other family members in Henderson County joined their family in Page County, Iowa. Here he and Rachel died in 1880 and 1881 respectively.

Son Joseph, who remained a lifelong bachelor, authored two biographical sketches for Page County, Iowa histories, each of which tells something of his parents. From the *History of Page County, Iowa* (1880), is this sketch:

BEEZLEY, J., farmer, section 34, P.O. Clarinda; was born in Fulton county, Illinois, January 24, 1836, and moved to Clark County, Missouri in 1845. Lived there three years and moved to Hancock county, Illinois, and remained there until 1865, then moved to Henderson county, Illinois. Moved to Page county, Iowa, in the fall of 1875 and has lived there ever since. His father, John Beezly was born in Ohio, February 13, 1803 and married to Rachel Miner, a native of Kentucky, September 2, 1830. He died, July 2, 1880, leaving his wife and seven children. The subject of this sketch now lives with his mother on the home place. The farm contains 175 acres and is one of the best stock and grain farms in the county.²¹⁶

From the *Biographical History of Page County, Iowa* (1890), is further detail:

²⁰⁶ *Cemeteries in Page County, Iowa*. 3 vols. ([]: Works Progress Administration, n.d.), 1:n.p.

²⁰⁷ *History of Vermilion County, Illinois*, 337.

²⁰⁸ John Beezley household, 1830 U.S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 113, line 42.

²⁰⁹ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*. vol. 1 (Danville, IL: Illiana Genealogical and Historical Society, 1983), 5.

²¹⁰ *Cemeteries in Page County*, n.p.

²¹¹ *History of Page County, Iowa*. Des Moines: Iowa Historical Company, 1880, 716.

²¹² John Beaseley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Hancock County, Illinois, p. 386, Dwelling #1680, Household #1682, National Archives micropublication M432, roll.

²¹³ J. Beasley household, 1860 U.S. Census, Pontoosuc Township, Hancock County, Illinois, p. 611, Dwelling #2559, Household #2469. National Archives micropublication M-, roll.

²¹⁴ John Beezley household, 1870 U.S. Census, Raritan, Henderson County, Illinois, p. 67, Dwelling #103, Household #98, National Archives micropublication M-, roll.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*

²¹⁶ *History of Page County, Iowa*, 716.

His father John Beezly, a native of West Virginia [sic], and his mother was Rachel (Miner) Beezly, who was born in Kentucky. The parents were married in Vermilion County, Illinois, where they were early pioneers; thence they removed to Fulton County, Illinois. They reared a family of nine children, eight sons and one daughter. Joseph was the third child, and when he was nine years old his parents moved to Clark County, Missouri, where they remained three years ...²¹⁷

Children by first wife, all dead by 1840:

- i. [a daughter]⁵, b. 1820-25; dead by 1850.
- ii. [a daughter], b. 1820-25; dead by 1850.
- iii. [a son], b. 1825-30; dead by 1850.
- iv. [a son], b. 1825-30; dead by 1850.

Children of John and second wife Rachael, all born in Illinois:

66. v. PAUL BEEZLEY, b. 1832; m. [1] CATHERINE EMELINE GUTHRIE; [2] ESTHER or HESTER HILTON.
- vi. JOHN M. BEEZLEY, b. 1834; d. 10 Sep. 1863, while serving as a Private with his brother Paul in Company A, 103rd Illinois Infantry in the Civil War. He had mustered into the unit on 9 Aug. 1862 in Fulton County, Illinois.²¹⁸
- vii. JOSEPH BEEZLEY, b. 24 Jan. 1836; d. 11 Mar. 1898, Nodaway Township, Page County, Iowa, unmarried. Buried in Summit Cemetery. Joseph left a lengthy sketch of his life in the *Biographical History of Page County, Iowa*, published in 1890. After stating that he had lived in Page County since October 1890, he added details about his military service and farm: "In 1862, during the Civil War, Mr. Beezly became a member of Company B, One Hundred and Eighteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served three years in that terrible conflict. He was engaged at Vicksburg and Arkansas Post, was with General Banks on the famous Red River expedition, and was in several hotly contested fights besides seventeen skirmishes. August 11, 1865 he was discharged at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He returned to Henderson County, Illinois, where he remained until he came to this county. He was accompanied by his parents, who bought the John Cochran farm ... Mr. Beezly purchased his present farm in 1880, and it is among the best improved places in Nodaway Township. Beautiful trees adorn the lawn while an excellent apple orchard furnishes an abundance of fruit for home use. The well-planned barn, shedding and feed-lots, together with the every-whirling wind-mill add to the scene of comfort and prosperity. Politically our subject is a Republican of the Prohibition type. In his domestic relations he is a bachelor; his home is presided over by a sister, Sarah J., who thoroughly understands the art of housekeeping. Mr. Beezly is a man whose word is his bond, and it is accepted as such throughout the county."²¹⁹
- viii. DAVID BEEZLEY, b. 2 Feb. 1838; d. 9 Apr. 1926, Page County, Iowa and buried in Summit Cemetery. He m. PARLEY [], who was b. 18 Jan. 1848 and d. 20 Feb. 1903 and buried in Summit Cemetery. They had no children. David and Parley or Pearly were enumerated on the 1900 census in Tarkio Township, Page County.²²⁰
67. ix. WILLIAM R/HARRISON BEEZLEY, b. 1840; m. ELIZABETH [].
68. x. FRANCIS M. BEEZLEY, b. 1842; m. SARAH E. THRUSH.
69. xi. HENRY F. BEEZLEY, b. 16 Feb. 1844/1848; m. SEDONA THRUSH.
- xii. SARAH J. BEEZLEY, b. 2 Aug. 1848; d. 1 Jun. 1936, Page County, Iowa, unmarried. Buried in Summit Cemetery. She lived with her brother Joseph.
70. xiii. JAMES M. BEEZLEY, b. Mar. 1850; m. MARY A. CRANE.

18. DANIEL⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born about 1808, probably in Champaign County, Ohio. He was living in 1850 in Vermilion County, Illinois, and probably died in Wisconsin before 1860.

Daniel remains a difficult individual to document. He was not enumerated on the federal census as a householder in Illinois, either in 1830 or 1840. In 1850, he was recorded as "Danl Beesley", aged 42, in the household of his father. With him was Priscilla, 28, and a son William, 8.²²¹ The family was poor, having no real property. Daniel could not be located in 1860 and almost certainly had died by that date. The identity of Priscilla is not clear. She could be his wife or an unmarried sister, though she is more likely the former. The Vermilion County marriage records do not contain a marriage for the couple, but they were probably husband and wife. Evidence that their youngest child was born in Wisconsin about 1851 suggests that Daniel had moved his family there shortly after the taking of the 1850 census, and he probably died there.

Priscilla Beezley married (2) JOHN PAYNE Jr. in Vermilion County on 31 Aug. 1854.²²² In 1860, they were recorded in Danville living a short distance from Daniel's sister Rachel.²²³ John Payne, a farmer, was aged 45 and born in Ohio. Priscilla was aged 36 and also an Ohio native. They have two children, James B., 3, and Carrie H., seven months, both born in

²¹⁷ *Biographical History of Page County, Iowa*. (Chicago: Lewis & Dunbar, 1890), 811.

²¹⁸ *History of Fulton County, Illinois* (Peoria, IL: Chas. C. Chapman, 1879), 374.

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²²⁰ David Beasley household, 1900 U.S. Census, Page County, Iowa, E.D. 97, sheet 9, line 16.

²²¹ Joseph Beesley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 361, Dwelling #755, no household number.

²²² *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1853-1874*, 109.

²²³ John Payne household, 1860 U.S. Census, Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois, Dwelling #122, Household #123, National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 233.

Illinois. Also living in the household was W. Hill Payne, 17, born in Iowa, perhaps a son of John's from a previous marriage. Also there was May Ann Beasley, 9, born in Wisconsin, probably the daughter of Daniel and Priscilla.

Children of Daniel and Priscilla:

- i. WILLIAM⁵ BEEZLEY, b. ca. 1842. Illinois; living in 1850, no record in 1860 and presumed dead.
- ii. MAY [MARY?] ANN BEEZLEY, b. 1851, Wisconsin; living with her mother in 1860; she was probably the Mary A. Beezley who m. WILLIAM HARMON SMITH on 9 Jan. 1867 in Vermilion County, Illinois. He could not be identified with certainty in 1870.

19. RACHEL⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born about 1816, probably in Champaign County, Ohio.

Rachel married (1) WILLIAM C. VANNORT on 3 Sep. 1835 in Vermilion County, Illinois, with her brother, Joseph Beezley Jr., posting bond.²²⁴ Little is known about his background, and he was not enumerated on the federal census of 1840 in Illinois. Perhaps he was the son of an older William Vannort enumerated in Jersey County in that year. William was also not recorded in 1850, and he appears to have died about that time.

Rachel married (2) JESSE EATON in Vermilion County on 3 Nov. 1850.²²⁵ Jesse had died by 1860, apparently childless, and Rachel was recorded on the federal census of 1860 as Rachel Eaton, 44, born in Ohio, living in the household of W. Hollycross, 35, a butcher, in Danville. He was almost certainly the William Hollycross who had married Lydia Ballard in Vermilion County on 3 Jun. 1858, but his relationship to Rachel, if any, is not known.²²⁶ Also in the Hollycross household was Lydia, 21, born in Illinois, their child David H., 5, and Rachel's son W. Vannort, 11.²²⁷ The family could not be located in Illinois in 1870.

Child of William and Rachel:

- i. WILLIAM C.⁵ VANNORT, b. 1849; m. SARAH C. SHAW on 3 Jun. 1872 in Vermilion County, Illinois. He was not listed in Illinois on the 1880 Soundex.

20. EUNICE⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born about 1815, probably in Champaign County, Ohio. She died in May, 1848, in Vermillion County, Indiana, and was buried in the Brown Cemetery in Eugene Township.²²⁸

Eunice was married on 14 Apr. 1836 to ISAAC A. BROWN of Vermilion County.²²⁹ Their family is well-documented in several works. Beckwith's *History of Vermilion County* offers an extensive biography of Isaac, probably with material supplied by him. It is notable not only for its stress almost exclusively on his business interests, but also for the extent to which he relocated:

Isaac A. Brown, P.O. Eugene, Ind., retired was born in Washington county, Tennessee, on the 6th of October, 1816, and lived there seventeen years, when, with his parents, he moved to Illinois, and settled in Elwood Township, Vermilion county, and lived there until 1836. They then moved to Danville, and engaged in coopering. Here there [they] built a house in South Danville (the first after the laying out of the place); and engaged in the grocery business. He then went to Sidney, Illinois, and engaged in general merchandise, and then went to LeRoy, and engaged in general merchandise. Afterward he went to Lyme Grove, Champaign county, and engaged in farming. From there he went to Vermilion county, Illinois, and engaged in farming and coopering in Elwood township. He then came to his present place, thence to Perrysville, and from there back to his present place. In 1834 he made his first trip to Chicago by team. On the 14th of April, 1836, he married Miss Eunice Beasley; she was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, and died in May, 1848. They had six children, four living: Elijah, Joseph, Elizabeth J., and Phoebe. On the 26th of July, 1848, he married Miss Cordelia M. White; she was born in Clermont county, Ohio. They have eight children: Isaac A., jr., Eunice, Hannah, Lilly G., Naomi, Edmon, A. Lincoln, and Patience. His sons, Milo G. and Joseph B., enlisted in the 8th Ill. Reg. and the 21st Ind. Reg. respectively; the former was in the service one year, the latter, three. The present place is known all over the county as "Brownstown." On the place is a store 20 x 40, two stories and good basement, formerly used by Mr. Brown in the general merchandise business; over the store is a hall used as a lecture room and church. The store is complete and ready for occupancy. There is also on the place a large coopering establishment.²³⁰

Another more extensive biography of the family appears in Harold O'Donnell's *Eugene Township: The First 100 Years*. O'Donnell gives Isaac's parents as Elijah and Elizabeth (Glass) Brown of Jonesboro, Tennessee. Elijah had been a Baptist minister who had brought his family to Illinois in 1831 out of a dislike for slavery. He had died soon after reaching Sidney, Illinois. Isaac, too, was a Missionary Baptist preacher and rode a circuit through Indiana and Illinois, in addition to being a cooper. His home and cooper shop at "Browtown" stood directly on the state line between Vermillion County, Indiana and

²²⁴ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 77.

²²⁵ *Ibid.*, 23.

²²⁶ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1853-1874*, 68.

²²⁷ W. Hollycross household, 1860 U.S. Census, Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois, p. 568, Dwelling #108, Household #109.

²²⁸ Harold L. O'Donnell, *Eugene Township (Vermillion County, Indiana): The First 100 Years, 1824-1924*. Cayuga, Indiana: Harold O'Donnell, 1963), 147.

²²⁹ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 9. See also Beckwith, *History of Vermilion County*, 535.

²³⁰ Beckwith, *History of Vermilion County*, 535.

Vermilion County, Illinois. Isaac died in 1890 and was buried in the Brown family cemetery in Vermillion County, Indiana.²³¹

In 1850, Isaac was enumerated in Eugene Township, Vermillion County, Indiana, together with his second wife and the children from his first marriage. He reported his age as only 32, born in Tennessee, a cooper. Wife Cordelia Ann was 23. His children, all born in Indiana, included Julia, 14; Elijah, 12; Joseph, 10; Milo G., 8; Elizabeth J., 5; Phoebe Eliza, 3, and several men working in the cooper shop.²³²

Children of Isaac and Eunice:

71. i. JULIA ANN⁵, b. 1836; m. JACOB GRAHAM
72. ii. ELIJAH, b. 1838, m. SARAH KEYS.
73. iii. JOSEPH B., b. 1840; m. LOUISA JONES.
74. iv. MILO G, b. 1842; m.
v. ELIZABETH J., b. 1845; d.1880, Vermillion County, Indiana, unmarried.
75. vi. PHOEBE ELIZA, b. 1847; m. WILLIAM H. DIBBLE.

21. JOSEPH⁴ BEEZLEY Jr. (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born about 1819, probably in Champaign County, Ohio. He was living in 1850 in Hancock County, Illinois.

Little is known of Joseph's life. As Joseph Beezley Jr., he posted bond for the marriage of his sister Rachel to William Vannort on 3 Sep. 1835.²³³ His first wife, according to the 1850 census, was MARY J. []. No record of their marriage can be found in Vermillion County, Illinois. However, a J. Beasley is recorded as marrying one JANE TAYLOR just over the state line in Vermillion County, Indiana on 30 Oct. 1836, with John Paine, Justice of the Peace, performing the ceremony.²³⁴

Perhaps Jane Taylor and Mary J. were identical.

Joseph appears to have moved to Iowa soon after this date. He was not recorded, at least under his own name, on the Iowa federal census of 1840, nor does his name appear in the indexes of state censuses taken between 1841 and 1849, although the surviving schedules are incomplete. His marriage is not recorded in the index of Iowa marriages to 1850. His three oldest children were all born in Iowa between 1843 and 1846, however.

In 1850, Joseph was enumerated on the federal census as "Joseph Beaseley" in Hancock County, Illinois, not far from his brother John.²³⁵ He was aged 31, born in Ohio. With him was wife Mary J., 27, born in Ohio, and the following children: Frances E., 7, born in Iowa; Malinda, 5, born in Iowa; Mary C., 4, born in Iowa; William J., 1, born in Illinois. Also living with them was Mary A. Ray, 21, born in Ohio.

What became of Joseph and his family after this date remains a mystery. He was not found in 1860 in the census indexes of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Kansas, Dakota Territory, or California.²³⁶

Children of Joseph and Mary J.:

- i. FRANCES E.⁵, b. 1843, Iowa.
- ii. MALINDA, b. 1845, Iowa.
- iii. MARY C., b. 1846, Iowa.
- iv. WILLIAM J., b. 1849, Illinois.

22. MARY⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) was born about 1818, perhaps earlier, either in Ohio or Illinois.

Mary began her a school teacher. The *History of Vermilion County, Illinois* lists "Mary Beasly" along with Noah Sapp and Elizabeth Stipp as being among the earliest teachers at the school-house built in 1833 on the banks of North Fork, eighty rods south of Denmark.²³⁷ She apparently did not follow the calling long, for on 29 Aug. 1834, she married JOHN GLAZE in Vermilion County.²³⁸ The family seems to disappear without a trace after this date. John may have had a brother, Harrison, who was recorded in Vermilion County in 1840.

²³¹ O'Donnell, *Eugene Township*, 244-245.

²³² Isaac A. Brown household, 1850 U.S. Census, Eugene Township, Vermillion County, Indiana, p. 86, Dwelling #160, Household #160, National Archives micropublication M-432, roll 177.

²³³ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 77.

²³⁴ Mrs. Claude Newton, *Vermillion County, Indiana Marriage Records, 1824-1850*. []: The Author, 1946), 29.

²³⁵ Joseph Beaseley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Hancock County, Illinois, 387, Dwelling #, Household #.

²³⁶ The author has made extensive efforts to locate Joseph and his family, all to no avail.

²³⁷ *History of Vermilion County, Illinois*, 936.

²³⁸ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 28.

23. NICHOLAS⁴ BEEZLEY (*Thomas³, John², ?William¹*) was born in Ohio about 1803. He died in Iowa, probably Warren County, in November 1849, according the 1850 Census Mortality Schedule.²³⁹

Nicholas married his first cousin NANCY⁴ BEEZLEY (*Joseph³, John², ?William¹*) on 26 Aug. 1827 in Vermilion County, Illinois, with her brother John Beezley as bondsman.²⁴⁰ She was born in 1805 in Ohio and died on 11 Sep. 1855 in Warren County, Iowa, aged 50. She was buried in Carlisle Cemetery.²⁴¹

Nicholas was appointed administrator of his father's estate in 1828 in Vermilion County. On 13 Jul. 1832, he sent a note to the heirs of his uncle William in Clerk County regarding a debt of \$40 to one William B. Ragan, requesting that Andrew Wood and Silas Henkle, William's administrators, give depositions in the matter.²⁴²

In 1835, Nicholas received a patent for land in McKendree Township, Vermilion County. He did not remain in Illinois long after this date, however, since by 1838, he had moved his family to Missouri, where his son Silas was born. In 1840, Nicholas was recorded as a head of household in Polk County, Missouri, living just two doors from his brother William M.²⁴³ His household included a male under 5, a male 30-40, and a female 30-40. In the years that intervened between 1840 and 1849, Nicholas appears to have moved back and forth from Missouri to Iowa. In 1843, he was in Iowa, where his son Jesse was born, yet in 1848, son David was born in Missouri.

On 30 Oct. 1848, Nicholas entered land in on the northwest quarter of Section 2 of Allen Township, Warren County, Iowa, consisting of 152 acres.²⁴⁴ The *History of Warren County* gives this brief vignette about his farm: "Into the Carlisle neighborhood Nicholas Beezley came this year [1847]. His first stopping place during the winter of 1847 was on the farm now owned by William Watts. The following February he moved on what is now the 'William Stumbo farm,' just north of Carlisle, and built a hewed log house about twenty rods east and fifteen rods south of Mr. Stumbo's present residence. Mr. Beezley died in 1851 [sic]."²⁴⁵ In 1849, he was one of the directors of the first school formed in Carlisle, together with John Hargis and Charles Keeney.²⁴⁶

In spite of the above reference giving his death as 1851, Nicholas died of consumption in November, 1849. The Census Mortality Schedule lists his birthplace as Ohio, his age at death as 44 years, his occupation as farmer, and the number of days ill with consumption (tuberculosis) as eight.²⁴⁷ His burial is not recorded in Warren County, Iowa, but he probably died there, even though his name appears on the Polk County section, because his widow and family moved there.

His widow, Nancy, was enumerated on the 1850 census in Polk County, aged 45 and born in Ohio, with real property worth \$1,000.²⁴⁸ With her were son Silas, 12, born in Missouri; son Jesse, aged 7, born in Iowa; and son David, 2, born in Missouri.

Later that year, Nancy married (2) JOSEPH W. BURGETT on 19 Dec. 1850 in Polk County, Iowa. In 1860, Joseph was recorded as a widower in Allen Township, Warren County, Iowa.²⁴⁹ With him were son William H., 22, from a previous marriage, Jane (who may have been William's wife), aged 20, and two younger children, Nelson, 4, and Elias, 2. Also living there was Jesse Beasley, aged 17.

Children of Nicholas and Nancy:

i. SILAS⁵, b. 1838, Missouri; no record after 1850.

ii. JESSE, b. 1843, Illinois; d. unmarried at Mound City, Illinois, 3 Dec. 1861, after serving as a Private in Co. B, 10th Iowa Infantry.²⁵⁰ He was living in 1860 in Allen Township, Warren County, Iowa in the household of his step-father.

iii. DAVID, b. 1848, Missouri. Perhaps he was the D. Beasley, 21, born in Illinois, recorded in Douglas Township, Polk County in 1860 in the household of C. Thornton.²⁵¹ The age and birthplace do not fit, however.

24. WILLIAM M.⁴ BEEZLEY (*Thomas³, John², ?William¹*) was born in Ohio about 1805. He was living in Polk County, Missouri in 1840.²⁵²

²³⁹ Nicholas Beezley, 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule, Polk County, Iowa, p. 447, line 8, National Archives micropublication A-1156, roll 54.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 5.

²⁴¹ Warren County Genealogical Society, *Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, Iowa*. (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1980), 61.

²⁴² Clark County, OH Probate Case No. A-348.

²⁴³ Nicholas Beasley household, 1840 U.S. Census, Polk County, Missouri, p. 166, line 9, National Archives Micropublication M-704, roll 228.

²⁴⁴ For the land record, see *Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, Iowa*, 47.

²⁴⁵ *History of Warren County, Iowa*. (Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1879), 286.

²⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 287.

²⁴⁷ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule, p. 447.

²⁴⁸ Nancy Beezly household, 1850 U.S. Census, Polk County, Iowa, p. 41, Dwelling #456, Household #474.

²⁴⁹ Joseph W. Burgett household, 1860 U.S. Census, Allen Township, Warren County, Iowa, p. 769, Household #758, Dwelling #714. National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 341.

²⁵⁰ *History of Warren County, Iowa*, 542.

²⁵¹ C. Thornton household, 1860 U.S. Census, Douglas Township, Polk County, Iowa, p. 277. Dwelling #807, Household #723. National Archives micropublication M-653, roll 338.

William Beezley married, perhaps more than once, but the exact date and place of his marriage is not known. He was listed in the 1840 census of Polk County, Missouri, living two doors from his brother Nicholas. His household consisted of a male under 5, a male 5-10, a male 30-40, two females under 5, a female 5-10, and a female 30-40. According to Maxine Dunaway's *Some Early Residents of Polk County, Missouri*, William had a farm and tannery in Section 16 of Township 36.²⁵³ He was not there in 1850, however, and his place of removal remains a mystery.

25. SARAH⁴ BEEZLEY (*Thomas³, John², ?William¹*) was born in Ohio about 1807.

Sarah married JESSE WRIGHT on 9 Oct. 1828 in Vermilion County, Illinois, with her brother Joseph posting bond.²⁵⁴ Jesse was living in 1840 and recorded on the federal census in Vermilion County.²⁵⁵ Some time after this date, they apparently moved and have not been located. Jesse does not appear to be identical to any of those enumerated in Illinois in 1850.

26. JOSEPH⁴ BEEZLEY (*Thomas³, John², ?William¹*) was born in Ohio about 1809.

Joseph married (1) ELIZABETH LEWIS on 6 Jun. 1829 in Vermilion County, Illinois, with Joseph Beezley, his uncle and guardian, giving consent, as young Joseph was still under age. The bond was posted by David Lewis. Elizabeth's brother.²⁵⁶

What became of Joseph immediately after this date is uncertain. He and Elizabeth may both have died shortly after the marriage. He may also be identical to a Joseph Beezley, born in 1809 in Ohio, who lived for a time in Indiana. If so, then Elizabeth appears to have died soon after the marriage, and Joseph married (2) CYNTHIA []. In 1840, he may have been the Joseph Beasley living in Boone County, Indiana, although no record of his marriage to Cynthia can be found there.²⁵⁷

About 1849-1850, Joseph moved to Henry County, Iowa. He was enumerated on the federal census of 1850, aged 41 and born in Ohio.²⁵⁸ Living with him were wife Cynthia, 36, born in Indiana, and the following children: David, 13; William, 10; and Nathan, 8; all born in Indiana; and Jesse, six months, born in Iowa. In 1860, he continued to live in Henry County, this time aged 51, born in Ohio, with real property worth \$3,000 and personal property worth \$1,000. Cynthia was 45 and gave her birthplace also as Ohio. Children included William, 19, and Nathan, 17, both born in Indiana, and Josey, 10; James, 7; and Olive, 3, all born in Iowa.²⁵⁹

By 1870, Joseph had moved to Madison Township, Madison County, Iowa. He was now aged 61, born in Ohio, with real property worth \$2,250 and personal property worth \$1,773.²⁶⁰ Wife Cynthia was 56, born in Indiana, and their children included Jesse W., 20, born in Indiana, and James, 17, and Olive 13, both born in Iowa. The eldest son, David, lived nearby. *The History of Madison County, Iowa*, published in 1879, lists Joseph Beezley as a farmer in Section 10 of Madison Township with his post office at Earlham. Son David lived on Section 3 of the same township.²⁶¹

Children of Joseph, probably all by his second wife Cynthia:

- i. DAVID⁵, b. 1837, Indiana; he m. UNAS [] and was living in Madison Township in 1870 with no children.²⁶²
76. ii. WILLIAM, b. 1840, Indiana; m. MARY JANE McKIBBEN.
- iii. NATHAN, b. 1842, Indiana.
77. iv. JESSE W., b. Dec. 1849, Henry County, Iowa; m. LYDIA J. [].
- v. JAMES, b. 1853, Henry County, Iowa.
- vi. OLIVE, b. 1857, Henry County, Iowa.

27. ELIZABETH⁴ BEESLEY (*William³, Isaac², ?William*) was born about 1815 in Lewis County, Virginia (now West Virginia). She was living in Upshur County in 1860.

²⁵² William M. Beasley household, 1840 U.S. Census, Polk County, Missouri, p. 166, line 7, National Archives micropublication M-704, roll 228.

²⁵³ Maxine Dunaway, *Some Early Residents of Polk County, Missouri*. (Bethesda, MD: The Author, 1978), 5.

²⁵⁴ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 83.

²⁵⁵ Jesse Wright household, 1840 U.S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, 126.

²⁵⁶ *Marriage License Abstracts, Vermilion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 5.

²⁵⁷ Joseph Beasley household, 1840 U. S. Census, Boone County, Indiana, 174.

²⁵⁸ Joseph Beasley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Henry County, Iowa, p. 253, Dwelling #1317, Household #1317.

²⁵⁹ Joseph Beasley household, 1860 U.S. Census, Henry County, Iowa, Dwelling #63, Household #68, National Archives Micropublication M-653, roll 324.

²⁶⁰ Joseph Beezley household, 1870 U.S. Census, Madison Township, Madison County, Iowa, p. 73, Dwelling #116, Household # 117, National Archives Micropublication M-593, roll 407.

²⁶¹ *The History of Madison County, Iowa*. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1879), 645.

²⁶² David Beezley household, 1870 U.S. Census, Madison Township, Madison County, Iowa, p. 73, Dwelling, #123, Household #124.

Elizabeth married ABRAHAM OLDACRE on 4 Jun. 1836 in Lewis County.²⁶³ In 1850, she was enumerated with her husband in a large household in Lewis County. Abraham Oldacre was 38, wife Elizabeth was 35, and they had the following children: Roana, 13; John, 12; Isaac, 10; Martin V., 8; Elizabeth, 6; and Sarah, 3.

By 1860, the family moved - with members of the Beezley family - to neighboring Upshur County, West Virginia. Abraham reported his age as 48, born in Virginia, with real property worth \$1,600 and personal property values at \$700.²⁶⁴ Elizabeth was 45, and their children included Isaac, 20; Martin V., 18; Elizabeth, 15; Sarah J., 13; Josephus, 9; George W., 7; and Francis M., 7 (twins).

Children born in Lewis County:

- i. ROANA⁵, b. 1837; m. GEORGE HORNER.
- ii. JOHN, b. 1838; m. SARAH [].
- iii. ISAAC, b. 1840.
- iv. MARTIN V. [Van Buren?], b. 1842.
- v. ELIZABETH, b. 1844.
- vi. SARAH J., b. 1847.
- vii. JOSEPHUS, b. 1851.
- viii. GEORGE W., b. 1853.
- ix. FRANCIS M., b. 1853; m. ANNIE McDERMOTT.

28. JOHN⁴ BEESLEY (*William³, Isaac², ?William¹*) was born about 1823 in Lewis County, Virginia (now West Virginia).

John married ELIZABETH HORNER on 1 Sep. 1848 in Lewis County, with Samuel Horner and John Beesley as bondsmen.²⁶⁵ (Another index shows the marriage of one M. Beasley to Elizabeth Horner in Lewis County on 21 Dec. 1849, which may be erroneous). She was the daughter of Samuel and Ellen Horner. Two years later they were enumerated in District No. 30 of Lewis County, with John reporting his age as 27, born in Virginia, with real property worth \$300.²⁶⁶ Elizabeth was aged 23, and they had a daughter Martha aged five months. The couple could not be located on the 1860 census, though they were probably living in Upshur County.

On 20 Oct. 1867, Elizabeth (Horner) Beezley, now a widow, aged 46, married (2) LEVI H. QUEEN, aged 60, a native of Harrison County. The marriage took place in Upshur County, West Virginia, and the certificate lists her parents as Samuel and Ellen Horner and his as Armistead and Lydia Queen.²⁶⁷ By 1870, Levi was dead. He was not the Levi C. Queen, aged 48, who was enumerated in Harrison County on the 1870 census schedule. That year, Elizabeth was enumerated as the head of a household in her own right in Warren Township, Upshur County, aged 46.²⁶⁸ Recorded with her was daughter from her second marriage, Septima A. Queen, aged 1, and the following children from her previous marriage, surnamed Beasley: Mary M., 16; Columbia, 12; Martha E., 9; Victoria, 5 (idiotic); and Joseph Ball, a farm hand, aged 22.

Children of John and Elizabeth, born in Lewis County:

- i. MARTHA ELLEN⁵, b. 4 Jan. 1850; d. Weston, Lewis County, 20 Oct. 1938 of a heart attack.²⁶⁹ She m. JAMES DAVIS on 28 Dec. 1880 in Upshur County, the marriage license specifying her parents as John and Elizabeth.²⁷⁰
- ii. MARY M., b. ca. 1854; she m. ADAM CURTIS on 5 Mar. 1874 in Upshur County, the marriage license specifying her parentage.²⁷¹
- iii. COLUMBIA V., b. ca. 1858; she m. CHARLES M. COX on 18 Mar. 1880 in Upshur County, the license specifying her parents.²⁷²
- iv. MARTHA E. [?], b. ca. 1861. Her naming, identical to that of an older sister, suggests a mistake by the census taker.
- v. VICTORIA, b. ca. 1865; shown as idiotic in 1870.

29. SUSAN/SUSANNA⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, Isaac², ?William¹*) was born 8 Sep. 1825 in Lewis County, Virginia. She died on 18 Jun. 1898 at the town of Vadis in Lewis County of "old age," her age at death being reported by her son William as 72 years, nine months, ten days.²⁷³

²⁶³ Lewis County, Virginia [WV] Marriage Book 3: 213.

²⁶⁴ Abraham Oldaker household, 1860 U.S. Census, Upshur County, Virginia, p. 187, Dwelling #148, Household #149, National Archives micropublication M-, roll.

²⁶⁵ Lewis County, Virginia [WV] Marriage Book 6: 201.

²⁶⁶ John Beasley household, 1850 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, p. 13, Dwelling #167, Household #167, National Archives Micropublication M-432, roll 956.

²⁶⁷ Wes Cochran, *Upshur County, WV Marriages, 1851-1896*. (Parkersburg, WV: Wes Cochran, 1992), 43.

²⁶⁸ Elizabeth Queen household, 1870 U.S. Census, Upshur County, West Virginia, p. 429, Dwelling # 92, Household #89, National Archives micropublication M-593, roll 1700.

²⁶⁹ Hartzel G. and Alan L. Strader, *Lewis County Death Records, Volume 4*. (JaneLew, WV: Hacker's Creek Pioneer Desendants, 1995), 27.

²⁷⁰ Cochran, *Upshur County, WV Marriages, 1851-1896*, 90.

²⁷¹ Cochran, *Upshur County, WV Marriages, 1851-1896*, 65.

²⁷² Cochran, *Upshur County, WV Marriages, 1851-1896*, 87.

She married STEPHEN NORMAN on 19 May 1853 in Upshur County, Virginia.²⁷⁴ The couple could not be located on the 1860 federal census in Virginia. In 1870, however, the family was recorded in Jane Lew Township, Lewis County, living near Susan's sister Hannah. Stephen Norman was recorded as a farm hand, aged 40. Wife Susan was 45, and children in the household included Columbus, 15; William, 14; Franklin, 10; Sarah J., 8; Rachel, 6; and Thomas, 4.

Children, born either in Upshur or Lewis County:

- i. COLUMBUS, b. ca. 1855.
- ii. WILLIAM H., b. ca. 1856.
- iii. FRANKLIN, b. ca. 1860.
- iv. SARAH J., b. ca. 1862.
- v. RACHEL, b. ca. 1864.
- vi. THOMAS, b. ca. 1866.

²⁷³ Hartzel G. and Alan L. Strader, *Lewis County, W. Va. Death Records Volume 2*. (Jane Lew, WV: Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, 1994), 73.

²⁷⁴ Cochran, *Upshur County, WV Marriages, 1851-1896*, 3.