

James Ward

History

Verified facts

- James married Rachel Kidd, daughter of James Kidd, probably in Maryland (Lawsuit of Robert Dunwoody against the Kidd heirs)
- Based on the obituary of Rachel Kidd Ward, Rachel married James at age 15, which would be c. 1797, and they moved immediately to North Carolina near Guilford Courthouse. This is modern Greensboro, which is the county seat of Guilford County.
- According to an affidavit in the Dunwoody suit, James and Rachel left Maryland and moved south prior to 1813. It was thought they moved to North Carolina. This is consistent with Rachel Ward's obituary of 1858.
- After five years in NC, Rachel and James moved to Virginia according to the obituary. That would be c. 1802.
- Son John Kidd Ward was born c. 1802 and in the 1860 census gave his birthplace as North Carolina. This is consistent with the above.
- Also according to the obituary they remained in Virginia for 10 years and then moved to Tennessee. That would have them moving to Tennessee around 1812. This is consistent with the 1860 census giving a Virginia birthplace for Moses C. Ward, c. 1804, and the 1850 census giving a Virginia birthplace for Charles B. Ward, c. 1810. Later children were born in TN according to the various census records.
- In 1816 James Ward resided in Bedford County, TN, and purchased and sold land there. I don't know for sure that it was the same James Ward, but it is likely.
- The 1820 census listed James Ward as the head of a household consisting of:
Males:
 - 0-10: 1 (Jesse)
 - 10-15: 1 (Charles)
 - 16-18: 2 (John & Moses)
 - 16-25: 2 (ditto)
 - 26-45: 1 (James)Females:
 - 0-10: 1 (Anne)
 - 26-45: 1 (Rachel)
- James Ward could write. The deeds he executed indicated he signed them rather than made his mark.
- The 1830 census also lists James Ward residing in Bedford County (but the ages of some in the household are not what one would expect based on the 1820 census or what we know of the family from subsequent records.
- In March, 1833, James Ward sold land in Bedford County, TN, to James Pettis. The metes & bounds description was very similar to the 1816 sale, so this may

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- either have been the same land that he reacquired (although I did not see such a record in the index), a parcel of that land, or adjacent land that shared a boundary.
- James Ward died of cholera 11 July 1833 in Shelbyville, Bedford County, TN. Somewhere I have a transcription or image of a newspaper clipping that confirms this. Can't locate it just now (June 2010). It had no details.

Suppositions

- Parentage – this is an unresolved question.
 - According to the 1963 document describing the research of Christine V. Clark Ward and Nelda Ward Sandidge, James is the son of Blackman Ward of Virginia. As far as I can tell, this is based primarily on his naming one son Jesse Blackman. I hear that there may have been a family Bible, but I have not found anyone with documentation other than the Ward-Sandidge account, which seems to have made the rounds. Nothing in the record of Blackman Ward indicates that he had children. If Blackman Ward were his father, James was probably born in Virginia. Christine Ward is now deceased and Nelda Ward Sandidge has no documentation and doesn't recall specifics.
 - According to a source on Ancestry.com, James is said to be the son of Charles Ward of Harford County, Maryland. Am trying to follow up on this. In this case he was probably born in Maryland.
- Movements
 - If the Ward-Sandidge account is correct, James migrated from Virginia to Maryland to Kentucky to Tennessee. I have been unable to find any documentary support for a Virginia birthplace for James or a Kentucky sojourn for the family.
 - According to Ward-Sandidge the family was said to move to Greene County, KY. There is a Greene County, VA, which is just north of Albemarle County, but it wasn't formed until much later from Orange County. There is a Greensville County in Tidewater, but I browsed the 1810 census records there and couldn't find any Wards. No 1810 census records for Orange County, VA, have survived. Of the numerous James Wards in the remaining 1810 Virginia census records, none look likely.
 - For what it's worth there was an Albery (Alberry, Albury) Blackman Ward who lived in Nottoway County, VA, which is between Richmond and Greensboro. Never was able to connect this Ward to our James.

Siblings

According to Ward-Sandidge James had several siblings – 7 or more brothers and 2 sisters – but only one sister is identified: Rebecca Ward Mason. She is said to have been widowed early and to have "made all their moves with them." I have been unable to determine if she indeed made all their moves with them, but there was a Rebecca Mason listed as head of household in Madison County, MS, in 1840. This is where Rachel Kidd Ward and the majority of her children relocated after James Ward's death. In 1860

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Rebecca Mason was living with Jesse Blackman Ward, James and Rachel's son. She was aged 85 and born (c. 1775) in Maryland.

Also according to Ward-Sandidge James and Rachel had two sons, Reuben and William, that I've been unable to verify. Both of these were heads of household in Bedford County in 1820. I strongly suspect that Reuben, who is listed as aged 26-45 in the 1820 census with two possible sons aged 10-16, was a brother rather than a son. William's age range in 1820 was 16-26 so he may have been an older son or a much younger brother. I've not located either individual in subsequent censuses.

The family of Charles Ward of Harford County, MD, as documented on Ancestry.com, lists the following siblings for James Ward: Ann, Mary, Moses, Rebecca and Reubin. Charles, Ann and Moses were names given to James' & Rachel's children.

Children

Since Rachel outlived James and all of the documentary evidence for individual children is based on their relation to her, I've put details on their children under Rachel's info.

Sources

Bedford County, TN, land records.

Obituary of Rachel Kidd Ward, by T. C. Thornton, published in *The New Orleans Christian Advocate*, 10 July 1858.

Ward-Sandidge document, April 1963.

Law suit: Dunwoody versus Kidd heirs, 1813-1821. Available in Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD.

United States Census: 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850 & 1860.