

Rachel Ward

History

Verified Facts

- Rachel was the daughter of James Kidd of Harford County, MD, who died prior to 1813. (Dunwoody suit.)
- James Kidd was the son of John Kidd of Harford County, who died in 1782. (Will of John Kidd; Dunwoody suit)
- James Kidd had a brother Henry, who died in 1783. (Will of John Kidd; Dunwoody suit; will of Henry Kidd.)
- James and his brother Henry inherited the lands of their father John in Harford County, MD, and were to pay their siblings the value of their portions in lieu of the title to the land (will of John Kidd). Henry died and James apparently did not fulfill his duty vis-à-vis the minor child of Henry. At least this was alleged by Robert Dunwoody in his suit.
- James Kidd had other siblings named in the will of John Kidd: William, Rebecca, John, Elizabeth (wife of John Weir) & Joshua.
- James Kidd's wife, who may have been Rachel's mother, was named "Spency" (or Pencesely) in the Dunwoody suit. (This may have been a nickname for Penelope.) The fact that the wife's name was listed after some of the children in the suit makes me wonder if she was perhaps not the mother of them all but the listed sequence varied.
- Rachel Kidd married James Ward prior to 1813, when the suit was filed, and left Maryland, probably to North Carolina. Based on her obituary she and James were married around 1797 and relocated immediately to NC.
- James Ward died in Bedford County, TN, in 1833.
- Rachel moved to Madison County, MS, prior to 1840.
- In late 1857 Rachel wrote her will and died. She references sons John K., Moses C., Jesse, Thomas and Charles, and daughters Ann Sullivan, Harriet Thomas, and Leticia Hurst. Thomas Ward is appointed guardian of Charles, who is *non compos mentis*. If Charles should regain his senses, he is to receive his inheritance otherwise at his death it is to go to grand-daughters: Ann Eliza Lusk, Mary Ellen Hurst, Mary Elizabeth Rachel Thomas, and Rachel Kidd Ward.
- In her will Rachel leaves token legacies to her established children, but reserves the bulk of her estate for the widow with minor children, Leticia Ward Hurst, and the *non compos mentis* son Charles.
- Rachel names son Thomas M. and "son-in-law" William P. Anderson as executors. None of her daughters carries a last name of Anderson, but I have read that "son-in-law" had a broader meaning in the early 19th century than it does now. Perhaps he is brother to one of the son's wives. Alternatively "Ann Sullivan" may be the same as Anna D. Anderson mentioned in the 1850 census as the wife of William Anderson, who was born c. 1812 in TN.

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Probable Facts

- Based on the obituary of Rachel Kidd Ward in the New Orleans Christian Advocate of July 10, 1858, she was born near "Belle-Air" in Baltimore County on 14 February 1783. Bel Air, MD, was named the county seat of Harford County in 1782. According to its municipal web page (<http://www.mdmunicipal.org/cities/index.cfm?townname=belair&page=home>) it was originally called Scott's Old Fields. Its name was changed to Belle Air and then to Bel Air. In 1782 the village had only four buildings. Bel Air is 25 miles north of Baltimore. Harford County had been created from Baltimore County in 1773.
- According to the obituary mentioned above, Rachel married at 15, which would be in 1797 and moved immediately to North Carolina near Guilford Courthouse. This is modern Greensboro, which is the county seat of Guilford County. Their first verified child, John K., was born c. 1802 in NC.
- After five years in NC, Rachel and James moved to Virginia (according to the obituary). That would be about 1802.
- At some point, probably while living in NC, Rachel became a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC). The writer of the obituary states that two sons became ministers in this denomination although the CPC web site doesn't list any Wards of the right name or time. It wasn't until moving to Mississippi that she joined the Methodist Church, because there were no Cumberland Presbyterian churches in the area. (The web site of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church doesn't list any current churches in North Carolina, Virginia or West Virginia, but there are three in Bedford County, TN: Bell Buckle, Green Hill and Unionville. There are two CPC denominations. The CPC In America lists a number of Tennessee churches, but not by county. (This appears to be an African-American denomination.) It also doesn't list any Wards as ministers. In 1813 the Cumberland Presbytery met at "Three Forks of Duck river." This is near Shelbyville, according to the Bedford County web site. Looking at the Moderator of that meeting, Robert Bell, I find that he was born in Guilford County, NC, and moved with his family to TN when he was 12. The clerk, James B. Porter, at the same session was also originally from Guilford County, NC.)
- The obituary states that Rachel & James stayed in Virginia for 10 years. That would be until 1812. I know that James and Rachel were in Tennessee by 1816 because he sold land there at that time and was described as living in Bedford County, TN. Sons Moses and Charles were born in VA. If Anna Anderson at noted above is Rachel's daughter, she was born in TN in 1812.
- Rachel's will did not mention supposed children Reuben, William D. and James M. are missing – see below. I wonder if they had died by this time or simply lost touch with the family. I've been suspicious for some time that Reuben was a brother of James rather than a son.

Family Lore

- According to the 1963 document by Christine V. Clark Ward & Nelda Ward Sandidge, Rachel's family did not approve of her marriage to James and "disowned" Rachel. This is supported by the fact that James and Rachel left for North Carolina apparently

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immediately after the marriage. Her young age might be a valid concern. I've not been able to find a will for James Kidd so I can't verify this assertion. The Dunwoody suit is consistent with his dying intestate, in which Rachel would inherit her share regardless of the wishes of her father. By 1813, the time of the Dunwoody suit, none of Rachel's family knew where she was (or if they did, they weren't saying) in spite of the fact that Rachel's obituary states that she visited them while living in Virginia. The fact that the Kidd family did not indicate that she had left NC does support a tacit writing her out of the inheritance (and its tribulations).

- There was said to be another son, Reuben Ward. I've not found any support for this individual. Family lore goes on to say that Reuben returned to "Kentucky" at some point. I'm thinking that Reuben may have been James' brother.
- The obituary states that Rachel visited her family while living in Virginia. This is contradicted by the fact that in 1813 there was the supposition that she was still living in NC.
- Two of Rachel's sons were said to have entered the ministry. William D. Ward was apparently called "Rev." at the time of his marriage. James M. Ward was also said to have entered the ministry prior to an early death while the family was in Kentucky, although the time frame would indicate that James must have been very young to have become a minister prior to the relocation to TN. Neither of these individuals was mentioned in her will – perhaps because they were no longer living in the immediate vicinity or perhaps they had predeceased her.
- There is a "grand-daughter" listed as Ann Eliza Lusk in Rachel's will. Family lore says that she is the daughter of Ann E. Hurst shown as living in the household in 1850 who later married a man named Lusk. So Ann Hurst, who would have been 21 at the time of Rachel's death, must have married young and had a child right away. By today's standards Ann Eliza Lusk would have been a great-grandchild.

Siblings

Rachel had siblings mentioned in the Dunwoody suit:

- Sarah (wife of Henry Scarf)
- Eliza (wife of Alexander Thompson)
- John Kidd
- Joshua Kidd
- Rhoda Kidd,
- Letitia Kidd
- James Kidd.

Rachel seems to have named her children John & Letitia after her siblings.

Children

- According to the Ward-Sandidge account James and Rachel had the following children:

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- Reuben (no birthdate or birthplace, but believed to be the eldest child). I've been unable to verify the existence of this son. Ward-Sandidge states that he "returned" to Kentucky.
- James Monroe Ward. According to Sandidge-Ward this son died "while the family was living in Kentucky." I have been unable to verify the existence of this son.
- John Kidd Ward, born c. 1802 in NC according to the 1850 & 1860 censuses. I have found evidence of John K. living in Bedford County, TN, at the same time as his parents. In 1828, he purchased property in Bedford County from William D. Ward, presumably his relative – perhaps brother. He followed Rachel to Mississippi. John K. is mentioned in Rachel's will, filed in 1857, as "my son."
- Moses C. Ward, born c. 1804 in VA according to the 1850 & 1860 censuses. His birthplace in VA matches the location and timeframe of James' and Rachel's movements as documented in Rachel's obituary. Rachel loaned Moses money in Bedford County in 1834 and filed a lien against his crops, livestock and certain personal property (Moses seemed to be in frequent financial difficulty based on similar records from Bedford County). Moses also followed Rachel to Mississippi and is mentioned in her will as "my son."
- William D. Ward (no birthdate or birthplace known). William D. sold property to John K. Ward as noted above. According to Ward-Sandidge he left the family in Tennessee and moved to Arkansas. There are records of a William D. Ward acquiring property in Hempstead County, AR, in 1837. There is a census entry for William D. Ward in Hempstead County in 1840, but I've not been able to trace him further. He is not mentioned in Rachel's will.
- Charles B. Ward, born c. 1810 in VA according to the 1850 Madison County, MS, census. His birthplace in VA matches the location and timeframe of James' and Rachel's movements as documented in Rachel's obituary. In 1850 he was living with his mother. Charles, at the time of Rachel's death in 1857, was "non compos mentis." Rachel named her son Thomas M. as his guardian.
- Anne D. Ward. She is mentioned in Rachel's will as "my daughter Ann D. Sullivan." I believe that she is also the Anna D. Anderson mentioned in the 1850 census, who was born c. 1812 in TN.
- Jesse Blackman Ward, born 29 Jan 1817 in TN (this is my ancestor). He moved from Tennessee to Mississippi with his mother and is mentioned in her will as "my son." Birthdate from his tombstone.
- Harriet P. Ward, born c. 1820 in TN according to the 1860 census record for Harriet P. Thomas, of Carroll Parish, LA. (Sandidge-Ward stated this daughter moved to Louisiana.) She is mentioned in Rachel's will as "my daughter Harriet P. Thomas."
- Letitia Ward, born c. 1822 in TN according to the 1850 census, wherein she is recorded living with her mother. She is mentioned in Rachel's will as "my daughter Lieuticia [sic] K. Hurst."
- Thomas M. Ward, born c. 1825 in TN according to the 1860 census. There is some discrepancy in his age between the 1860, 1870 and 1880 census records. He

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is mentioned in Rachel's will as "my son Thomas M. Ward" and is made guardian of his brother Charles.

Incorrect Information

- Early versions of the Ward-Sandidge document stated that Rachel was the daughter of Joshua Kidd and was born near Ellicott City, MD. Rachel was in fact the daughter of James Kidd of Harford County and was born near Bel Air, MD. Apparently there was a later version that corrected this error.

Sources

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

Ward history by Christine V. Clark Ward & Nelda Ward Sandidge, April 1963.

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

United States Census: 1840, 1850 & 1860.