

STONEWALL JACKSON in FAYETTE COUNTY

Larry Spurgeon¹ (2019)

... the history of Jackson's boyhood has become "an oft told tale," so much so that one's natural inclination is to pass over this period in silence. Yet under the circumstances this should not be done, for it is due Jackson's memory, as well as his admirers, that the facts, as far as known, of that part of his life be at least accurately if but briefly narrated.

Thomas Jackson Arnold²

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson is one of the most iconic figures in American history. While most research has understandably focused on the Civil War, his early life in western Virginia, now West Virginia, has been the subject of some fascination. We are drawn to stories about someone who rises from humble circumstances to the pinnacle of success.

A consensus narrative about his childhood evolved over time, an "oft told tale," to be sure, but one that has gaps, errors, and even myths. An excerpt from the historical marker at Westlake Cemetery in Ansted, Fayette County, West Virginia, where Jackson's mother Julia is buried, is a good example:

On November 4, 1830, Julia Jackson married Blake G. Woodson, a man fifteen years her senior, who in 1831 became the court clerk of newly created Fayette County. Mired in poverty despite his position, he resented his stepchildren. When Julia Woodson's health began to fail in 1831, she sent her children to live with relatives, and Thomas J. Jackson moved to Jackson's Mill in Lewis County. He returned here once, in autumn 1831, to see his mother shortly before she died. The exact date of Julia Woodson's death is uncertain...³

Several things stand out. His name was Blake Baker Woodson and he was nearly three decades older than Julia. Her exact death date is known – December 3, 1831 – as explained by Blake in a letter written days after her death. The long-standing perception that Blake resented his stepchildren, and according to some sources, was verbally abusive and even encouraged the children to find homes with other Jackson relatives, is not supported by the record. And the persistent story that Thomas Jackson did not live in Fayette County as a child, but only visited briefly, is not correct. In fact, Thomas and his sister Laura lived in Fayette County from summer 1831 until spring 1833, except for a visit of several weeks to Jackson's Mill in fall 1831.

As Jackson's nephew, Thomas Jackson Arnold put it, we who research and interpret Jackson's life owe a duty to tell his story as accurately as possible. The purpose of this paper is to set the record straight, or at least straighter, about Jackson's early years, especially his "second family," the Woodson's, and his connection to Fayette County. These events occurred a very long time ago, and the accounts from Jackson family members and acquaintances were inconsistent, even conflicting. The vagaries of time, the inherent frailty of human memory, a paucity of records, and an eagerness to polish the legend of Stonewall, converged to concoct a strange brew. Legends die hard, and separating fact from lore is challenging, but the narrative needs to be calibrated, and the myths put to rest. For too long Blake Woodson has been unfairly maligned. And Fayette County deserves credit for playing a more significant role in the life of Stonewall Jackson than previously believed.

The Jacksons of Western Virginia

Even the image that Jackson emerged from humble circumstances is something of a myth. The large Jackson clan of western Virginia “had distinguished itself above almost every other family west of the mountains.”⁴ Jacksons served in the United States Congress, the Virginia House of Delegates, and state governments. Some were military officers, many were lawyers, and a few became judges.

The progenitors, John Jackson, originally from Ireland, and Elizabeth Cummins, were convicted of crimes in London and sentenced to be indentured servants in America. They met on the ship “Litchfield,” that left London in May 1749.⁵ Satisfying indenture terms early, they married in 1755.⁶ Three years later they moved to Hardy County, Virginia, west of Winchester, across the Allegheny Mountains. By 1770 they moved again, to an area on the Buckhannon River, a few miles north of the modern town of Buckhannon, in Upshur County, West Virginia, where they acquired thousands of acres. Elizabeth became the patent holder of 3,000 acres herself, paid for in part, she liked to boast, with British gold guineas.⁷

By 1790 John and Elizabeth were living in Clarksburg in Harrison County with their oldest son, George Jackson. George served in the Virginia Assembly, the Virginia convention that ratified the United States Constitution, the United States Congress, and the Ohio legislature. Among his fourteen children, by two wives, were members of Congress, judges, a governor of West Virginia, and a lieutenant governor of Virginia.⁸ His oldest son, John George Jackson, was the most distinguished of all. Ninety years after his death, a Clarksburg newspaper described him as the “most remarkable man west of the mountains.” Succeeding his father in Congress in 1803, he served several terms, and in 1809 fought a duel with Congressman Joseph Pearson of South Carolina, sustaining a hip wound that left him with a “lameness for the rest of his life.”⁹ John G. Jackson was a Brigadier General in the Virginia Militia, a federal judge, and a delegate to the Virginia legislature, serving with James Madison. He married Dolley Madison’s older sister, Mary Payne, in 1800,¹⁰ and wrote to Dolley in 1801 that his grandfather died “in the 86th year of his age,” and the “long life of this good man was spent in those noble and virtuous pursuits which endear man to their acquaintances and makes their decease sincerely regretted by all the good and virtuous.”¹¹ Elizabeth Jackson died in 1825 or 1828 – reputed to be at least 100 – long enough to hold a very small Thomas Jackson.¹²

Edward Jackson, the second son of the immigrants, born in 1759, was a surveyor, justice for two counties, militia officer, commissioner of revenue, and sheriff. His first wife, Mary Hadden, was from Randolph County, Virginia, and the mother of six children.¹³ Three years after her death, Edward married Elizabeth Brake, and they had nine children. Edward and Elizabeth moved to Lewis County about 1801, to a bend in the West Fork River 23 miles south of Clarksburg.¹⁴ Edward amassed 1,500 acres, a site known ever since as Jackson’s Mill. He died on Christmas Day in 1828, survived by Elizabeth and most of his children.¹⁵

Jonathan and Julia

Jonathan Jackson was born near Buckhannon on November 25, 1790, the third child of Edward and Mary Hadden Jackson. Six years old when his mother died, he was sent to live with his grandparents in Clarksburg, where he attended the Randolph Academy that his uncle George Jackson helped to establish in 1787.¹⁶ Later he was a student at the Male Academy in Parkersburg.¹⁷ He studied law in the Clarksburg office of John G. Jackson, his first cousin, and was qualified as an attorney at the December 1810 term of court.¹⁸

Judge Gideon D. Camden of Clarksburg spent time with General Jackson during the Civil War,

and wrote to Jackson biographer Robert L. Dabney, in November 1863, that as a boy he had been “attached to the Clerk’s office of Lewis County,” where he knew Jonathan as a practicing lawyer in nearby Harrison County. “He was kind and amiable, of a respectable standing in his profession but not above the average. He had a higher standing as chancery lawyer than an advocate.”¹⁹ Dr. William J. Bland, from Weston, a town a few miles south of Jackson’s Mill that Edward Jackson helped to lay out,²⁰ described Jonathan as a “lawyer of standing of a strong investigating mind, a good counselor but deficient as an advocate in speaking talent.”²¹

Julia Beckwith Neale was born in 1798 in Loudon County, Virginia, a few miles southeast of Aldie. Her real name may have been Judith.²² Her parents were Thomas and Margaret Winn Neale. Dr. David Creel, who was married to Thomas Neale’s niece, wrote to Thomas Jackson’s widow, Mary Anna (Anna) Morrison Jackson in the 1870s, at the age of 91. He explained that two brothers, Thomas and George Neale, moved from Loudoun County to the Parkersburg, Virginia area, in Wood County, along the Ohio River about 1801. George bought hundreds of acres and became a “wealthy and independent farmer, respected and beloved for his noble attributes of character.” Thomas marketed wheat to New Orleans on the Ohio River. Creel recalled that when Julia was his pupil at age thirteen, she was “‘endowed with a good natural mind,’” and had “‘dark-brown hair, dark-gray eyes, handsome face, and, when at maturity, of medium height and symmetrical form.’”²³ Camden described Julia as a “slender delicate lady, and I think of very good mind,” like her father, who was a man of “fine mental endowments.”²⁴

Jonathan and Julia married in Parkersburg on September 28, 1817,²⁵ and made their home in a three-room brick house on Main Street in Clarksburg.²⁶ Jonathan practiced law with John G. Jackson, who helped him receive an appointment as Collector of United States Excise Tax, then later had him removed for failing to settle accounts in the sum of \$3,500.²⁷ Elizabeth Jackson was the couple’s oldest child, born in 1819, followed two years later by Warren. Thomas Jackson came next, on January 21, 1824,²⁸ named for Julia’s father. As he neared adulthood he added the middle name “Jonathan.”²⁹

In early 1826, Elizabeth came down with typhoid fever. Julia was in the final month of pregnancy, so Jonathan nursed his daughter. She died on March 6, and Jonathan died from the same disease twenty days later. The following day, March 27, Julia gave birth to Laura Ann Jackson.³⁰ Jonathan “died leaving his widow and children very poor,”³¹ because of gambling and money lending, a common practice in areas with no banks. General John J. Jackson, son of John G. Jackson, and an aide to General Andrew Jackson in the Seminole Wars, believed that “instead of Jonathan Jackson breaking up through going security for others, that others had lost money through going security for Jonathan Jackson.”³² Dr. Bland wrote that Jonathan was “fond of cards & drink & ran through a valuable landed estate dying poor.”³³

The next few years were difficult for Julia. She sewed and taught school for money,³⁴ but eventually lost the house to Jonathan’s debts. His Masonic lodge provided a one-room cottage for the family, about 12 feet square “on the back part of a lot on an alley with only the ground it covered.”³⁵ Some biographies assert that Julia began to show signs of tuberculosis at the time, based on an “unsigned” sketch, and a 1901 Jackson biography that claimed she was “predisposed to pulmonary trouble.”³⁶ She may have had tuberculosis, then called “consumption,” but the phrase “pulmonary trouble” could have referred to some other condition. Thomas Jackson used the same term many years later in describing inflammation of his tonsil that went down into his lungs.³⁷

Julia spent time with her family in Parkersburg, especially during summer. A friend saw her there in 1827 and said she was “‘looking as cheerful and animated as usual, her easy, graceful manners and pleasant conversation always making her a welcome guest.’”³⁸ More than half a century later she

was remembered fondly by one of her students, William Cowan Woodson, in a letter to his stepsister, Laura Jackson Arnold.

Your mother & I were not strangers when she married my father. For sometime before her marriage, she adopted a young Mr. Doddridge and myself, (both dull of hearing,) and we applied the term Mother to her, long before she was married to Pa, and we frequently called to see her and enjoyed her conversation, being as she was, a lady of cultivated mind, and most amiable disposition.³⁹

Julia was attractive, educated, and engaging. Remarriage after an acceptable period of mourning was common, for practical reasons, so it is surprising she waited more than four years to marry. Even more surprising was her choice of Blake Woodson, whom she married on November 4, 1830, in Clarksburg.⁴⁰

Captain Woodson

Captain Woodson - the origin of his title is unknown - arrived in the small frontier town of Clarksburg several years earlier. An ad in a Clarksburg newspaper dated November 18, 1824, read simply, "Attorney, Blake B. Woodson."⁴¹ Descriptions of him are cryptic and paint a two-dimensional picture. Biographer James I. Robertson, Jr., wrote that Blake was "descended from a prosperous Cumberland County family in central Virginia," had "eight children scattered in every direction but under his care," and was a "well-educated member of the bar," with only a "meager law practice in Clarksburg."⁴² William C. Chase, the author of a 1901 Jackson biography, characterized Blake as a "gentleman of excellent social connections," and a "man of purest character."⁴³ Anna Jackson described him as a "lawyer of good education, and of social, popular manners; but he was much her senior, and a widower without fortune."⁴⁴ Laura Jackson Arnold, who was only four when her mother married Blake, was informed by a woman who knew him, Jeanette Tavenner, that he was "a highly cultured man, having been educated in Europe, well preserved, reflecting the Eastern gentleman. He was very fond of hunting, being a most expert rifleman, always shooting the bird on the wing... and very fond of Society."⁴⁵ Gideon D. Camden believed he had "seen better days," and was "fond of company and good living... always hard run for means."⁴⁶

All sources agree he was considerably older than Julia, though the age gap varies from 15 years,⁴⁷ to 20 years,⁴⁸ to about 28 years.⁴⁹ The latter number is closer to the mark – he must have been born in the early 1770s. In March 1795, his father, Miller Woodson, deeded 191 acres to him on "Badluck Creek" in Cumberland County, Virginia.⁵⁰ Bad Luck Branch flows into the Appomattox River a few miles east of Farmville, Virginia, a town in Prince Edward County. The river is the boundary between Cumberland and Prince Edward counties, just north of Farmville. Blake was among those who petitioned the Virginia legislature in 1795 to extend the navigation of the Appomattox River,⁵¹ and he was named as attorney in a Cumberland County lawsuit about 1796.⁵²

The Woodson's were well-connected, community leaders, and public servants. Blake's sister Rutha was married to Patrick Henry's son William.⁵³ Blake and his brother-in-law, Creed Taylor, were among seven trustees appointed in 1798 – the year Julia Neale was born - to lay out the town of Farmville in half-acre lots. Trustees made up the town governing board in those years.⁵⁴ In 1800, Blake was one of five people from Cumberland County appointed to a standing committee for the selection of presidential electors for the Republican Party ticket that nominated Thomas Jefferson.⁵⁵ He represented Cumberland County in the Virginia House of Delegates during the 1807-1808 term.⁵⁶ His father, Miller Woodson, was clerk of Cumberland County from 1781 to 1830, succeeded by Blake's brother, Miller Woodson, Jr., and then Miller, Jr.'s son, also named Blake B. Woodson. Together they served 100 years in that post, "men of the highest character for intelligence, integrity and skill."⁵⁷

One of Blake's civic roles was in connection with the first girl's school in Prince Edward County, located in the now-abandoned town of Jamestown on the Appomattox River. A lottery was established in 1817 to construct a new building, and Blake and his brother Tscharner were among the lottery managers. The following year a "public examination of the students (which was the practice of the day)," was held, and several men, including Blake "were so favorably impressed that they wrote a commendatory notice."⁵⁸

Blake's first wife was Sarah (Sally) Taylor. Her brother, Creed Taylor (1766-1836), was married to Blake's sister, Sarah Woodson, making the two men brothers-in-law twice over.⁵⁹ Creed served in the Virginia General Assembly and as Speaker of the Virginia Senate in 1803 and 1804. In 1806 he succeeded the legendary George Wythe as judge of the Chancery Court in Richmond. He founded the second law school in Virginia, in Richmond, and later moved it to his estate near Farmville known as Needham. And he was one of the three commissioners who met at Rockfish Gap to select the site of the University of Virginia.⁶⁰

Real estate records in Cumberland and Prince Edward counties reveal that Blake accumulated 1,150 acres of land between 1795 and 1815, and with his brother Tscharner Woodson, an additional 800 acres. Most of his holdings were on the north side of the Appomattox River, in Cumberland County, though in 1815 he purchased a 157-acre estate called "High Hill," south of the river, in Prince Edward County. The famous "High Bridge" was constructed nearby in the 1850s, the site of two battles in the last days of the Civil War, near the present day High Bridge Trail State Park, about six miles east of Farmville.⁶¹



High Bridge, Appomattox River, east of Farmville (1865)⁶²

The author of a 1915 Woodson genealogy claimed that Blake's move to Clarksburg was triggered by Sally's death and a fire that destroyed their house.⁶³ No death date for Sally has been found, but she was present in the Prince Edward County courthouse on October 15, 1821, to affirm her consent for Blake's sale of real estate the previous year.⁶⁴ And the obituary for their youngest son, William Cowan Woodson, stated that he was not yet four years of age when his mother died,⁶⁵ placing her death about 1822.

Blake's world was coming apart even before Sally's death. He sold 400 acres by 1820, and much of his remaining land was pledged as security to creditors through deeds of trust. High Hill was the subject of lawsuits stemming from Blake's purchase, and his sale to Edward Redford in 1820. Blake and Redford were sued for fraud by Robert Gibson, who had sold the estate to Blake. Gibson was a

resident of Georgia in 1815, having fled Virginia after being indicted for murder. He returned to Virginia, stood trial, and was acquitted. The facts are convoluted, but the salient point from the court opinion is that Blake was solvent when he sold the land in 1820, but insolvent by 1825. The litigation was ultimately resolved by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in 1841.⁶⁶

A second lawsuit adds additional context to Blake's situation. It was filed in federal court and appealed to the court of appeals for the Circuit of Virginia and North Carolina. Chief Justice John Marshall, representing the circuit court, wrote an opinion in 1827 that began "Blake B. Woodson had obtained a loan from the Bank of the United States, on his note..." Blake had borrowed money from the Bank, and from other creditors, pledging land as security. The debt totaled \$9,000, equivalent to about \$180,000 today. Blake was not a party to the case – it was a battle among his guarantors and creditors - but he had defaulted on the loans.⁶⁷ Blake was past 50 when Sally died, bankrupt, and no doubt embarrassed by his fall from grace. Why he chose Clarksburg is unknown, but his desire to go far away and start over is understandable. The question is whether he took with him any of his children.

To the eternal frustration of genealogists, before 1850 the federal census identified by name only the head of household, and all residents were listed only by gender and age categories. Blake's household in 1810 had five children under 10 - three boys and two girls, three boys age 10-15, and one male from 16 to 25. The census for 1820 included six children under 15 – four boys and two girls, one male 16 to 25, a male 26 to 44, and two males over 45. Four children were born between 1810 and 1820, so at least thirteen children lived with Blake and Sally over time. Some may have succumbed to the scourge of disease, and households often included the children of other relatives, so it is impossible to know how many children Blake and Sally had. Blake also owned a substantial number of slaves - 22 in 1810 and 25 in 1820.⁶⁸

The Woodson genealogy provided approximate birth dates for eight children ranging from 1792 to 1808, though some of the information is incorrect.⁶⁹ The book asserted that the two oldest children, Monroe and Marshall, migrated to Mississippi and Texas respectively, neither married, and Monroe was killed in a duel.⁷⁰ No records for either have been found in this research. However, censuses, marriage records, obituaries, tombstones, and other documents provide reasonably accurate biographical details for six children.

George B. Woodson and his father Blake served in the War of 1812, as privates with the First Regiment Cavalry (Holcombe's), Virginia Militia.⁷¹ Payroll records show they served from June 29 to October 4, 1813, in Captain Samuel V. Allen's Company, attached to the "Flying Camp" at Camp Holly, south of Richmond. The regiment was commanded by Colonel James McDowell of Lexington, Virginia, the father of the James McDowell who was later governor and congressman. The regiment did not engage in combat, but patrolled southeast Virginia and was credited with discouraging British troops from coming ashore.⁷² George married Sarah Raine in 1814,⁷³ and they lived in Cumberland County as late as 1828. Later he served as Marshall of the District Court in Lynchburg,⁷⁴ and then relocated to Botetourt County.⁷⁵ By the mid-1830s the couple moved to Rives County, Missouri,⁷⁶ where George was appointed the county's first assessor in 1835, and served in the Missouri legislature from 1836 to 1840.⁷⁷ A legal notice published years later mentioned that George B. Woodson and his wife Sarah H. Woodson sold land in Rives County in 1838.⁷⁸

Eliza DeGraffenried Woodson was born about 1805, and married Captain John Raine, Sarah Raine's brother, in Cumberland County, in 1819, when she was about 14.⁷⁹ The couple bought Clover Hill Tavern in 1839, one of the few original structures still standing at Appomattox Court House, and sold it later. In 1848, John built a new tavern that he also called Clover Hill. That building was later purchased by Wilmer McLean, and in April 1865, was the site of the surrender of the Army of Northern

Virginia by General Robert E. Lee to General Ulysses S. Grant.⁸⁰ Eliza died at Appomattox in 1856 and is buried in the Raine Cemetery nearby.⁸¹



McLean House (formerly Clover Hill Tavern), Appomattox Court House, Virginia (1865)⁸²

The four youngest children were identified in a Cumberland County Chancery Court case filed in 1827. The case involved a deed of trust executed “for the benefit of Mrs. Sally Woodson the wife of Blake B. Woodson during her life and at her death for the benefit of her four children...” Blake was the defendant and the plaintiff was his brother, Tscharner. The pleadings stated that Mrs. Sally Woodson “is now dead,” and Tscharner was seeking a sale of property to satisfy a debt. At the September 1827 term of court Miller Woodson was appointed “Guardian ad litem” for “Sally Woodson, William Woodson, and Martha Woodson, infant children of Blake B. Woodson, for the purpose of defending their interest in this suit.” The term “infant” referred to someone under the legal age of 21, so all three were born after 1807.⁸³

Blake B. Woodson, Jr., was also mentioned in the court pleadings, but not as an infant, so he must have been born before 1807. He was a “man of large stature and imposing presence and was referred to as ‘Big Blake,’ to distinguish him from his cousin, Blake B. Woodson, the son of Miller Woodson, Jr., the clerk of Cumberland County known as ‘Little Blake.’”⁸⁴ His niece described Blake Jr. as “the most elegant and polished gentleman I have ever known; and he was as handsome as he was elegant.”⁸⁵ He migrated to Alabama, became a successful physician, and married Ann B. Barrett in 1839.⁸⁶ Blake Jr. died in Gainesville, Alabama on May 19, 1884 in his “77th year.”⁸⁷

Sarah Taylor Woodson, named for her mother and also known as Sally, was born about 1811. She married Col. Edwin Moore in 1829, in Botetourt County, Virginia. The marriage record identified B. B. Woodson as her father, and George B. Woodson as her brother, indicating Blake was not present and that George represented her. The marriage was officiated by an Episcopal minister.⁸⁸ Edwin and Sarah lived in Bedford County, Virginia, near the Peaks of Otter, for a time, and by 1860 relocated to Marshall County, Alabama.⁸⁹ She died in Guntersville, Alabama on June 5, 1881.⁹⁰

Martha Ophelia Woodson was born May 15, 1813, according to her tombstone, though census records indicate she may have been born a few years later.⁹¹ William Cowan Woodson was born in 1818, only six years older than Thomas Jackson.⁹² Both are important to the story of Thomas and Laura Jackson and will be described in detail below.

When Blake moved to Clarksburg, the approximate ages of the four youngest children were 17, 13, 11, and 6. Whether he took any of them to Clarksburg then is unknown, though William was a student there by the late 1820s, and it is possible that Martha and perhaps others joined Blake in Clarksburg at some point.

A Family Rift

Anna Jackson wrote that that Julia married “against the wishes of her friends,” and the Jacksons offered to help her “if she would remain a widow, while warning her that if she married again they should have to take the children from her to support them.”⁹³ While opposition to the marriage may have been grounded in Blake’s financial situation, some of the people at Jackson’s Mill simply did not like him.⁹⁴ Colonel Jackson had died in 1828, survived by his widow Elizabeth, step-grandmother to Thomas and Laura, who “was always kind to them.”⁹⁵ Living at or near Jackson’s Mill at the time were most of her children; Catherine (Caty) and her husband John White, Margaret (Peggy), who was engaged, and six bachelor sons, ranging in age from Cummins, 29, to Andrew, 10.⁹⁶

Cummins was the dominant force at Jackson’s Mill, and the main nemesis to Julia and her marriage. He wrested control of his father’s estate, and tried to evict his mother and siblings from the home.⁹⁷ Elizabeth Jackson even sued her oldest son to help the other heirs get their rightful share. Cummins was a larger than life character, six foot two and more than 200 pounds, a man of extremes, “kind and generous to friends, but unscrupulous and vindictive to his enemies.” His admirers included Thomas Jackson and Thomas Jackson Arnold, who at age four, in 1849, met Cummins, and later gathered first-hand information from people. He concluded that Cummins was not religious, but had “many fine traits.” He was “temperate and of the strictest veracity,” of “strong mentality, liberality and fairness,” as well as “big and noble hearted.” He described Cummins as a “man of considerable wealth and prominence,” that there was “no better judge of men than he.”⁹⁸

Though Cummins “owned a good landed estate, some negroes and other property, he omitted to pay his debts and put the law and its officers at defiance.”⁹⁹ He was “absurdly litigious,” yet “just as quick to overlook the law.” Eventually, he was indicted in federal court for counterfeiting and forgery, and when the case finally went to trial Cummins jumped out of the courthouse window, eluding capture by fleeing to California for the Gold Rush, and died within months.¹⁰⁰ In an April 1850 letter to his uncle James Jackson, Thomas Jackson wrote that “Though the rumor of uncle Cummins’ death may be true, yet I cannot believe it without further evidence. I shall write to California and try to ascertain.” He was concerned that the property at Jackson’s Mill might be sold, and

There is no man on Earth, whom I would befriend sooner than Uncle Cummins. Let me know who have betrayed him and in what he has been betrayed, give me a full history of names and facts as soon as possible; and strain every nerve to prevent the granting of the decree. I expect to return home in the Fall, when I will see what can be done; though I fear that I will not be able to do any thing, but I can not tell what good luck I may meet with by that time.¹⁰¹

After a lengthy probate of Cummins’s estate, a notice was published for a public sale of more than 2,000 acres of land that he owned.¹⁰² In July 1850, Jackson informed Laura that cousins in California had written Uncle John White that “Uncle Cummins is undoubtedly dead. This is news which goes to my heart, uncle was a father to me.”¹⁰³

Exhibiting the same independence and stubbornness her children were known for, Julia declined the offer of financial support, defied the threat to take her children, and went forward with the marriage

to Blake. On the day before the wedding, she conveyed the cottage property to Augustine J. Smith, “in trust,” along with the furnishings, for the support of Laura, “after the death of the said Julia to be absolutely vested in the said Laura.” One of the witnesses was Blake Woodson. In 1859, Laura sold the property,¹⁰⁴ and Gideon D. Camden handled the transaction.¹⁰⁵ Little is known about the first months of the marriage, except that Julia became pregnant within two months, and in May 1831 joined the local Presbyterian Church. Blake did not join, perhaps because like many Virginians from prominent families, he was Episcopalian.¹⁰⁶

Myth #1 - The Cruel Stepfather

The negative image of Blake as a stepfather is puzzling, because it has so little evidence to support it. It originated with the family at Jackson’s Mill and morphed over time into a version summarized in a Jackson biography: “The stepfather, so engaging and outgoing in public, became a harsh and verbally abusive parent who blamed the youngsters for his economic straits. On occasion, he encouraged the children – as young as they were – to ‘seek homes elsewhere.’”¹⁰⁷ This characterization was apparently based on one source, the “Bland statement,” mentioned earlier.¹⁰⁸

Dr. William J. Bland (1816-1897) knew the people at Jackson’s Mill well. He lived in nearby Weston most of his life and was married to John G. Jackson’s daughter, Columbia.¹⁰⁹ A graduate of both Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and Louisville Medical College, he served as a surgeon in the 31st Virginia Infantry during the Civil War, and was later a member of the state board of health. A copy of his handwritten statement is in the Library of Virginia in Richmond. Undated and with no heading or addressee, Bland summarized information about the Jackson family and Thomas Jackson’s early life. He wrote two sentences about Blake:

Mrs. Jackson married again in a couple of years, a Mr. Blake Woodson, a lawyer in Clarksburg. The Jackson connection found or supposed him a harsh step-father, & encouraged the children to seek homes elsewhere.¹¹⁰

It was the Jacksons who encouraged the children to find homes elsewhere, not Blake. The only negative statement about Blake was that the Jacksons had formed the impression he was a “harsh step-father.” The word “harsh” could mean many things - that Blake was strict, humorless, cranky, perhaps more. By itself, the Bland statement does not establish that he was verbally abusive, or that he blamed the children for his economic straits.

Two people knew first-hand about Blake’s behavior towards the children – Thomas and Laura Jackson. Of the many letters from Thomas to Laura that survive, there is no reference to Blake.¹¹¹ Anna Jackson wrote that Blake “was always kind to the children,” something she presumably heard from her husband.¹¹² Some of Laura’s letters survive,¹¹³ and she was interviewed several times later in life by newspapers,¹¹⁴ but only one statement by her about Blake is known. Her granddaughter, Beatrice Arnold Giffin, wrote to Jackson biographer Roy Bird Cook in 1948, and quoted from a statement that Laura dictated to a “distant cousin” about her childhood recollections. Laura referred to Blake, but said nothing negative about him.¹¹⁵

Thomas Jackson Arnold, who heard stories from his mother, and lived with his uncle in Lexington for nine months in the late 1850s as a 13-year-old boy,¹¹⁶ wrote a book in 1916, left behind handwritten memories in his personal collection,¹¹⁷ and wrote dozens of letters to biographer Roy Bird Cook in the 1920s and 1930s.¹¹⁸ He said nothing about Blake treating the children harshly. Robert L. Dabney, who knew Jackson during the war and wrote a biography of him, “refused to believe this allegation of abuse against Woodson and did not incorporate it in his biography.”¹¹⁹ And E. P. Allen,

John G. Jackson's daughter, in speaking of Blake in a letter to Gideon D. Camden in 1863, stated that Julia let Jonathan's family take the three children after the marriage, but she did not indicate whether Blake was the reason.

According to Anna Jackson, before the family moved to Fayette County, Warren was sent to live with Aunt Polly Brake, because she "wished to relieve the mother of his support," and Julia "consented on account of the greater temptations to the boy in town."¹²⁰ Polly was Jonathan's sister, Mary Hadden Jackson Brake, who lived with her husband Isaac on a farm" four miles from Clarksburg.¹²¹ Anna implied that Julia may have had difficulty controlling him, and she did not attribute the cause to Blake, though the story that Warren was sent to his aunt's may have been the basis of the rumor that Blake wanted the children to go elsewhere. In any event, Blake may have been perceived by the Jacksons as "harsh," but whether that impression was fair is open to question. There is no evidence that he tried to foist the children off on Jackson relatives, or that he resented the children, or that he blamed them for his economic troubles. It is time to put to rest the myth of the cruel stepfather.

The Move to Fayette County

In May 1831, the justices of newly-formed Fayette County, Virginia, appointed Blake as the first Clerk of the Court.¹²² Cook believed he obtained the position through the influence of the Jacksons, because their friend, Edwin S. Duncan, a lawyer and judge in Clarksburg, was the first judge of Fayette County.¹²³ That speculation sells Blake short. While he may have fallen on hard times, he was educated, sophisticated, and had an impressive background as lawyer, state legislator, co-founder of Farmville, and was the son of the long-serving clerk of the court in Cumberland County.

In the summer of 1831, Blake and Julia moved to the county seat of New Haven, later renamed Ansted, a distance of 120 miles through mountains and forests. One of the most perplexing aspects of Jackson's childhood concerns what happened to the children, because there are at least four conflicting versions. Robertson concluded all three children made the move.¹²⁴ Thomas Jackson Arnold wrote that Warren was sent to live with Julia's brother, Alfred Neale, who lived on an island in the Ohio River near Parkersburg, and that Julia took Thomas and Laura with her to Fayette County.¹²⁵ In 1930, Arnold explained to Cook that his mother "told me often that her Mother took her and Thomas with her."¹²⁶ Anna Jackson wrote that Blake's "slender means were inadequate to the support of a family, and necessity soon compelled the poor mother to give up her two boys to the care of their father's relations."¹²⁷ More specifically, she asserted that only Laura made the trip, and that Warren and Thomas were sent to live with Jackson relatives.¹²⁸ Gideon D. Camden informed Dabney in 1863 that Julia left "the children by her first husband with other friends in Lewis & Harrison Counties."¹²⁹ That statement was based on information given to him two months earlier by E.P. Allen that Julia "let her first Husband's sister take her children, three in number, and they were taken to the country."¹³⁰

The only contemporary source, therefore the most reliable, is a letter that Julia's father, Thomas Neale, wrote in June 1833, stating that Julia "took two of her children to Layfaette (sic) County, Thomas and Laury Jackson."¹³¹ That letter is examined below, but even if Thomas and Laura did not initially travel with Blake and Julia to Fayette County, they arrived later in the summer, as Cook observed.¹³²

The date of the move is unknown. A deed in the Harrison County courthouse that recorded the sale of a lot in Clarksburg known as the "old court house lot," was signed by Blake on June 18, 1831, and filed in the courthouse on June 25.¹³³ Blake was present in Clarksburg until at least the end of June. Given the length of the arduous journey, the family would not have arrived in Fayette County until mid-July, at the earliest. Curiously, the first reference to Blake in the Fayette County deed books in his capacity as clerk was not until October 15, 1831.¹³⁴

Ansted is less than two miles northeast of a bend in the New River known as the “Hawks Nest,” today a state park. Local historian Shirley Donnelly wrote several articles about the area, and asserted that the Woodson family lived in a “modest place known as the Metz house,” “near the edge of the cliffs on the right hand side of the road as one enters Ansted from the Lovers Leap side of town,” about 100 yards from Route 60, the old Midland Trail.¹³⁵ That would place the house near the Hawk’s Nest and west of Ansted, overlooking the river gorge. That version was reinforced by a newspaper article in 1960 about the establishment of the new Fayette County historical society in a house once owned by Civil War veteran Colonel George Imboden, “located across the famed Midland Trail from the site where stood the home in which lived Mrs. Julia Neale Jackson Woodson, mother of Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, famed Confederate general.”¹³⁶ The Imboden house is now the Contentment Museum, on the west edge of Ansted.

Two sources place the Woodson residence elsewhere. Robertson stated that Blake “purchased fifty acres of all but worthless land two and a half miles east of New Haven.”¹³⁷ A. W. Hamilton, who wrote to Roy Bird Cook in 1927, was the grandson of Colonel Thomas B. and Elizabeth Hamilton, a couple who knew Julia and Blake well. Thomas B. Hamilton owned the land around the Hawk’s Nest and Lover’s Leap, and operated a tavern there. While A. W. never saw the house the Woodson’s lived in, he recalled the “ruins of it” were pointed out to him many times. It was known as the “Metz Place” or the “Metz House,” and he stated that it was a half mile east of the Westlake Cemetery, which would place it on the east end of town. His information came from his grandmother, who also told him that Julia died in that house, and that she was with Julia “most all the time during her sickness and death and prepared the body for burial, attended the funeral and did everything possible for her.”¹³⁸

A. W. explained that his grandfather was Blake’s deputy clerk, and that after Julia’s death Blake resigned and left Fayette County. Blake did not resign. He remained as clerk in Fayette County until his death in 1833, but he was succeeded by Thomas B. Hamilton as clerk.¹³⁹ A. W. also described the site of Blake’s 50 ½ acre farm, being in the “Falls District; and about 1 ½ miles north of the mouth of the Gauley River, on the west side of the river, near the “Big Creek,” that empties into the Gauley River.¹⁴⁰

A deed in the Fayette County court clerk’s office records Blake’s purchase of 50 ½ acres of land, from William and Ann Morris, on September 5, 1832, nine months **after** Julia’s death. The legal description refers to the land boundary “Beginning at Big Creek, at the upper corner, on the line of Morris & Donally...”¹⁴¹ Two streams named Big Creek are in Fayette County, and one of them flows into the Gauley River about a mile and a half north of the village of Gauley Bridge. That is the same location described by A. W. Hamilton. The farm was therefore ten miles west of the Hawk’s Nest.

In Laura’s recollections to her cousin, she provided information about the move to Fayette County. She and Thomas “were never separated” during Julia’s life. Blake was appointed the clerk for Fayette County by Judge Lewis Summers, and took with him “his wife and the two younger children, Thomas and Laura, and Rachel Ann Barr, who was in their service...” When they arrived in Fayette County, “they took boarding in a German family by the name of Medciker,” and remained there until after Julia’s death.¹⁴² The actual spelling was more likely “Metzger” or “Metzker,” but the term “Metz House,” clearly refers to the house owned by this German family.

Based on family tradition, Julia had difficulty caring for the children because of her health and her pregnancy, and “within a few months after her arrival, consented to let their Grandmother Jackson take them” to Jackson’s Mill.¹⁴³ The word “consented” implies that she was prevailed upon by the Jacksons to let the children go to Jackson’s Mill. If she did consent, it was from desperation, given her antipathy towards Cummins Jackson. One of the famous stories about Stonewall Jackson’s childhood

surrounds this journey to Jackson's Mill, one that had step-grandmother Jackson sending one of her bachelor sons

[t]o Fayette County for the children. Upon his arrival, and the object of his visit being made known, there was quite a commotion on the part of the children, who were much averse to leaving their mother. Thomas, now six years of age, slipped off to the near-by woods, where he concealed himself, only returning to the house at nightfall. The uncle after a day or two of much coaxing, and the offer of numerous bribes, finally, with the mother's aid, induced the children to make the visit, a journey of several days.¹⁴⁴

Anna Jackson had a different explanation. Julia mounted Thomas on

[h]orseback, behind one of his father's former slaves, good "Uncle Robinson," of whom he was very fond, and after providing him with every comfort, and bidding him goodby, her yearning heart called him back once more, and, clasping him to her bosom, she gave vent to her feelings in a flood of tears. That parting he never forgot; nor could he speak of it in after-years but with the utmost tenderness.¹⁴⁵

If this journey took place, it had to be in September at the latest, because Julia gave birth to a baby boy on October 7, William Wirt Woodson,¹⁴⁶ the second of Blake's sons to be named William, though he was always called Wirt.¹⁴⁷ Julia's health declined after the birth, and, according to Anna Jackson, she "sent for her two fatherless boys, to receive her farewell and blessing."¹⁴⁸ Since Warren was in Parkersburg, it is doubtful he was present in Fayette County at all. Thomas Jackson Arnold said that Grandmother Jackson had Uncle Robinson take the children back to Julia on horseback.¹⁴⁹

If the traditional timeline is accurate, Thomas and Laura, ages 7 and 5, made three trips of more than 100 miles on horseback, in wilderness, between July and November, a period of less than five months. These journeys are embedded deeply in the Stonewall Jackson legend, but it strains credulity to believe that all of these journeys took place, especially considering the conflicting accounts.

It is certain that Thomas and Laura were present when Julia died on Saturday, December 3, 1831. Three days later, on December 6, 1831, Blake wrote a beautiful letter to his son, William Cowan Woodson, who was about 13, and probably still in Clarksburg going to school. Blake described Julia's last weeks:

I am still pursued by cruel adverse fortune. On Saturday evening last between eight and nine o'clock your mother breathed her last. On the 7th of October she was delivered of a son, for several days she was better than could be expected, but the fourth or fifth day she had a fever, at first but slight and not unusual on such occasions, but at length it increased and was attended with a liver dysentery. I dispatched a message to Lewisburg for Dr. Jenkins who reached here in a very short time. After examining her case he considered her situation by no means dangerous. He administered various medicines. For two or three days we considered her better and the fever subdued but vain delusive hope. She became worse the fever increased and the dysentery more violent. I dispatched a special messenger for Dr. Lacy at her particular request, about sixty miles from this place. In consequence of previous engagements he could not come but prescribed. His prescriptions were followed but nothing would check the disease, so she languished until the day before yesterday when she became its victim. No Christian on earth no matter what evidence they might have had of a happy hereafter could have died with more fortitude. Perfectly in her senses, calm and deliberate, she met her fate without a murmur

or a struggle. Death with her had not sting. The grave could claim no victory. I have known of few women of equal, none of superior merit. She was buried the day before yesterday with all the solemnity due to such a person and on such an occasion. She has left as a pledge of her affection, one of the most interesting infants I ever saw. His name is Wirt. I have taken into my family a decent old lady who is an excellent nurse and is remarkably tender of the child...¹⁵⁰

Julia died of dysentery, the diagnosis made by a doctor from Lewisburg. If she had consumption, Blake did not mention it, not even as an aggravating factor. The photograph below is in the personal papers of Thomas Jackson Arnold, labeled the house where Julia Jackson Woodson died, in Ansted,¹⁵¹ presumably, the house owned by the Metzgers.



Sorting through the conflicting and bewildering accounts, the most likely scenario is that Blake, Julia, Thomas, Laura, and a servant named Rachel Ann Barr, set out from Clarksburg the first part of July 1831. They surely visited Jackson's Mill on the way – it is virtually on a direct line between Clarksburg and Ansted - and may have been persuaded to leave Thomas and/or Laura there because of Julia's pregnancy and the challenges of establishing a home in Fayette County. If so, the two children were taken to Fayette County weeks later. The Woodson's lived with a German family named Metzger in their small house near the Hawk's Nest. As Julia's health deteriorated she was nursed by Elizabeth Hamilton, and on December 3, she died in that house.

During his summer break from VMI in 1855, Thomas Jackson had a pleasant visit with Uncle Alfred and Aunt Clementine Neale in Parkersburg. From there he made his way to Fayette County, and wrote Aunt Clementine about a trip he made to the "Hawk's Nest." He stayed with a man who was present at Julia's burial, who took Thomas to the "cemetery for the purpose of pointing out her grave to me; but I am not certain that he found it. There was no stone to mark the spot." Another man told him a wooden board had once marked the site, but it was gone. "A depression in the earth only marked her resting-place. When standing by her grave, I experienced feelings to which I was until then a stranger. I was seeking the spot partly for the purpose of erecting something to her precious memory."¹⁵²

Anna recalled that "To the latest hour of his life he cherished her memory. His recollections of her were of the sweetest and tenderest character. To his childhood's fancy she was the embodiment of

beauty, grace, and loveliness.” During the war, when their baby was born, he wished to name her Julia, he wrote to Anna, because “My mother was mindful of me when I was a helpless, fatherless child, and I wish to commemorate her now.”¹⁵³

Myth #2 – Thomas and Laura Went to Jackson’s Mill Soon After Julia’s Death

Blake was once again a widower, nearing sixty, in a new job in a remote area being carved out of wilderness, with two young stepchildren and a baby. Most biographies presume that Thomas and Laura were taken back to Jackson’s Mill shortly after Julia’s death – yet a fourth journey of 100 miles on horseback. Thomas Jackson Arnold stated that Thomas and Laura arrived in Fayette County just in time to receive Julia’s “dying blessing and prayers; and then returned to make their home with the grandmother.”¹⁵⁴ Both Cook and Robertson described Jackson as living at Jackson’s Mill from 1831 until he left for West Point in 1842.¹⁵⁵

This paper makes the case that the two children remained in Fayette County until the spring of 1833, nearly seventeen months after Julia died. Only one Jackson biographer, Frank E. Vandiver, in 1957, concluded they remained for a time in Fayette County, and he correctly observed that Thomas and Laura had a “brief sojourn with some acquaintances at Gauley Bridge,” before being taken to Jackson’s Mill to live.¹⁵⁶ But he did not provide a detailed timeline, nor identify the participants.

Three reliable sources confirm this timeline. The first is Thomas Jackson himself. Less than three weeks before his wounding at Chancellorsville, in May 1863, General Jackson told Jedidiah Hotchkiss, the noted mapmaker for the Confederate army, that “he lived for several years some 12 miles from the Hawk’s Nest.”¹⁵⁷ Given Jackson’s penchant for being literal, the phrasing should be taken at face value.

The second source, and the only one that dates to the actual events, is the letter that Julia’s father, Thomas Neale, wrote to lawyer Lewis Maxwell on June 6, 1833, seeking his help in gaining custody of Thomas and Laura. The entire letter, transcribed, is in the Roy Bird Cook collection at West Virginia University. There is a lot to unpack from the letter, so a detailed parsing is necessary. Neale began with a background explanation:

My daughter Julia Jackson who was married to Mr. Blake B. Woodson took two of her children to Lafayette County (Fayette), Thomas and Laury Jackson. After her death, Mr. Woodson still wished to keep the children – as soon as Mr. Woodson died his son, W. C. Woodson wrote on to me to come after the children or they would be bound out...¹⁵⁸

Four critical points are contained in this passage. First, Thomas and Laura went with Julia to Fayette County. Second, after Julia’s death, in December 1831, Blake wanted to keep the two stepchildren with him, something that belies the perception that after his marriage to Julia he tried to farm out the children to other relatives. Even after her death he wanted to keep Thomas and Laura, even though he was ill equipped to adequately care for them and the new baby. Third, the letter from William C. Woodson to Neale was written after Blake’s death. Some secondary sources claim that he died May 26, 1833,¹⁵⁹ but his death must have been at least two months earlier. An “Appraisement Bill of the Property of Blake B. Woodson, dec.,” was filed with the Fayette County court on March 30, 1833. Under Virginia law at the time, a court that granted a certificate for probate or administration “shall nominate three or more appraisers” in the county where the “personal estate of the decedent shall be.” The appraisers were required to “view and appraise all the personal estate” and to return the appraisement to the court.¹⁶⁰ Blake’s personal property included kitchenware, clothing, a shotgun, and two books, with a total value of about \$90.¹⁶¹ Such a meager estate would not have required much time to appraise, but after his

death a probate case needed to be filed, then a justice of the peace had to appoint three appraisers, and they had to meet to review the personal items and prepare the appraisement. That means Blake died no later than February or early March.

Fourth, William C. Woodson urged Neale to “come after the children or they would be bound out.” The reference to being “bound out,” meant a county operated orphanage. Neale continued by explaining that,

[a]s soon as I received his letter I wrote him I would make arrangements to send for them and Mr. Benj. Willard and Mr. A. H. Creal had business in Char-town and I got Mr. Willard to take a horse with him to bring the children and he had to go up 30 miles to Gauley Bridge after them and when he got there he was informed that Coming Jackson had been after them 10 days before and Mr. Baste who had the care of them gave permission to take them.¹⁶²

Translating the awkward language, Neale wrote back to William that he would make arrangements to get the children. He then learned that two friends were going to Charleston on business, and asked one of them, Benjamin Willard, to take an extra horse and go to “Gauley Bridge,” to the house of “Mr. Baste,” who had care of the children. When Willard arrived, he was told that Cummins Jackson had been there ten days before, and that Mr. Baste “gave permission” to Cummins to take the children with him.

Neale continued that Willard “did not see Mr. Woodson,” at Mr. Baste’s house, indicating that he had been informed William would be there when Willard arrived. Neale explained to Maxwell that “I have received a letter since from Mr. Woodson that Jackson had got the children before he [William C. Woodson] received my letter...” However, Cummins had “promised when he took the children that he would give them up if I demanded them.”¹⁶³

Neale then stated his reasons for wanting to get the children away from Cummins. Cummins “would be the last man in the world if she was living to have her children for she spoke of him in the most contemptible terms – he had treated her ill before about her children and I am informed they are a ruff rowdy set.” Grandfather Neale wanted them to “be brought up with some breeding and manners,” and one of Neale’s brothers wanted to take in Laura – he had only one child, a son, and he would give Laura a good education. Neale asked Maxwell to contact Cummins about giving up the children, and he would pay Maxwell for any trouble. Neale added that he was going to send Mr. Willard to Maxwell’s place in two or three weeks, and if Cummins would give up the children, Willard would bring them to Neale in Parkersburg. If not, “you will take such steps as to compel him. I have the legal right to the children and what he wants with them I am at a loss to no (sic) – without he wants to make drudges of them.” Neale closed with the statement: “My daughter informed me he attempted to take them in her lifetime.”¹⁶⁴

As their grandfather, he had superior legal rights to the children over Jonathan’s half-siblings, and believed that he could provide a better education and exposure to more culture in Parkersburg. Even more, he wanted to honor his daughter’s wish - to keep the children away from Cummins, the same motivation that Blake may have had in wanting to keep the children after Julia’s death. Nothing is known about whether attorney Maxwell contacted Cummins. A man named Richard Fowkes was appointed guardian for Laura on April 21, 1834, “but for some reason the guardianship was ‘rescinded the same day.’”¹⁶⁵ That was more than a year after Neale’s letter to Maxwell, and two months after Neale’s death in February 1834.¹⁶⁶ Fowkes was a Clarksburg merchant,¹⁶⁷ and it is possible the Clarksburg Jacksons tried to legally take Laura away from Jackson’s Mill, but if so, the rescinding of

that guardianship order the same day is a mystery.

The dynamic between the Jacksons versus the Neale's and Woodson's is plain, but Neale's letter raises many questions. Where is Gauley Bridge? Who is Mr. Baste, and why did he have the children with him? How did Cummins know the children were at his house, and why did he go to the trouble of traveling to Gauley Bridge to take the children, especially if he was willing to give them up if Grandfather Neale demanded? Why did Mr. Baste give Cummins permission to take the children?

Constructing this puzzle required pulling together pieces from disparate sources. The first was a map - Gauley Bridge is a small town in Fayette County, at the confluence of three rivers – the Gauley, the Kanawha, and the New, 100 miles from Parkersburg, 30 miles from Charleston, and about 10 miles from Ansted. “Mr. Baste,” was a simple misspelling, as noted by Cook.¹⁶⁸ His name was “Mr. Buster.”

The next clue was a passage in the genealogy of the Colonel Edward Jackson family, that “Wirt Woodson lived with his step-sister, Mrs. Bustor, until age 4 or 5 when he went to live in Parkersburg with Julia Jackson Woodson's friends.”¹⁶⁹ I surmised that Mrs. Buster might be Blake's daughter. A check of marriage records for Fayette County disclosed that on August 16, 1832, “P. I. Buster” married Martha O. Woodson, in Fayette County, Virginia.¹⁷⁰ None of the Woodsons had a connection to Fayette County until Blake moved there a year earlier, but several families named Buster were living in Kanawha County in 1830.¹⁷¹ A piece of Kanawha County was included in the newly-created Fayette County. Martha must have relocated to Fayette County no later than early 1832 – to allow time to meet, fall in love, and marry Philip Buster.

The third source was Laura Jackson Arnold. In her statement to her cousin she explained that after Wirt Woodson was born, Blake

[s]ecured a Mrs. Rogers to nurse his wife. She remained in the family after her [Julia's] death to care for the three children. In the summer of '32 Mrs. Rogers became ill, and was taken to her daughter's Mrs. Jordon who lived the distance of half a mile. About this time the daughter of Captain Woodson came on to see her father and while there married a Mr. Buster, from the Falls of Big Kanawha. Thomas was sent to school near by at Hunters. Rachel Ann Barr was then employed to keep house for Captain Woodson, who kept the two children, Thomas and Laura with him until his death [from] sickness. He had letters written to both the Mother's and the Father's families, requesting them to come and get the two children as he never expected to recover. An uncle John Jackson, half brother to the father came for them on horse-back – much of the road being at that time a bridle path. He was given permission to take charge of the two children and brought them to the old Homestead of his mother.¹⁷²

Because she was so young at the time, and sometimes conflated facts about her childhood as an older woman, some of these details may be incorrect. For example, Thomas Neale's letter stated that it was Cummins Jackson who picked up the children at the Busters', not his brother John Jackson. Laura may have confused the story that John Jackson had picked them up before Julia's death.

But Laura confirmed that Martha Woodson arrived by summer 1832, that she married Mr. Buster, and that Blake kept the children until his death. Her statement that Blake “had letters written” to both the Neale's and Jackson's to pick up the children, is similar to the story about the letter from William C. Woodson to Thomas Neale, and would explain how Cummins knew where the children were. In his 1885 letter to Laura, William C. Woodson stated that “I don't suppose you remember much about me as you were small when I lived in Clarksburg, and you left Fayette before I reached there.”¹⁷³

He may have written Thomas Neale from Clarksburg, or some other location, and intended to arrive at the Busters before someone came for the children.

And that brings us back to Jackson's statement to Hotchkiss that he lived "several years," about twelve miles from the Hawk's Nest. Given his precision about details, he would not have said "years" if he had visited Fayette County for only a short time. But what about the location? The "Metz House" was very close to the Hawk's Nest. Jackson was only nine when he left Fayette County permanently, and it would be understandable if three decades later he had some details wrong. But in 1855 he spent time in Ansted, looked for his mother's grave, and spoke to people who were at her burial service. He visited the Hawk's Nest, and perhaps even Gauley Bridge, and that visit would have rekindled memories and familiarity with geography of the area.

The town of Gauley Bridge is about 8 ½ miles northwest of the Hawk's Nest, and Blake's farm was about a mile and a half north of Gauley Bridge, or about 10 miles from the Hawk's Nest. In May 1839, Philip J. Buster sold two parcels of land to Aaron Stockton, totaling about 450 acres. The consideration was \$1,000, half down and the other half to be paid by Stockton to "some house on the Missouri." Philip and Martha were selling land in Virginia to move to Rives County, Missouri. The deed described one of the parcels as 200 acres "on the great Kanawha River and bounded as follows to wit beginning above Loop Creek," and then "to the point of an island above the mouth of Loop Creek..."¹⁷⁴ Loop Creek flows into the Kanawha River several miles west of Gauley Bridge, near the village of Deep Water, West Virginia. At the mouth of Loop Creek is a small spit of land that looks like an island. If one walked along the river to the Hawk's Nest, the journey is about thirteen miles. In his statement to Hotchkiss, Jackson was recalling either his time on Blake's farm, or the time he spent with the Busters, or both.



In summary, after Julia's death Blake and the children were still living with the Metzger's. Nine months later, in September 1832, Blake purchased the 50 ½ acre farm and moved there with Thomas, Laura, Wirt, and Rachel Ann Barr. Incredibly, Blake was married yet again, on December 27, 1832, in Fayette County, to a woman named Elizabeth Forter.¹⁷⁵ In early 1833, he became seriously ill and had letters written to both the Jackson's and the Neale's to advise them that he would not survive the illness, requesting that someone come for Thomas and Laura. William C. Woodson wrote to Thomas Neale after Blake's death, perhaps in the hope that he could keep the children away from Cummins, knowing how Julia felt about him. Laura seemed to think the children remained with Blake until his death, but the Busters' may have taken them to their home earlier. The children were with the Buster's by April or May when Cummins arrived.

Anna Jackson thought that Thomas and Laura were initially taken to the house of Aunt Caty and Uncle John White, near Jackson's Mill, and then to step-grandmother Jackson's residence.¹⁷⁶ Two years later, in August 1835, Elizabeth Brake Jackson died after falling from a horse.¹⁷⁷ Thomas was 11 and Laura 9, and with only bachelor uncles remaining at the mill, the decision was made to send the children to live with other relatives. Laura went to the home of Uncle Alfred Neale, Julia's younger brother, and his wife Clementine, near Parkersburg, where she remained until her late teens.¹⁷⁸

Thomas was initially sent to Uncle Isaac and Aunt Polly Brake's,¹⁷⁹ and his time there is the subject of one of the best-known stories about his childhood, one used to illustrate his determination, and stubbornness. He soon walked away from the Brakes and showed up at the house of John George Jackson in Clarksburg. The judge had died years before, but his widow welcomed an 11-year-old Thomas in. He allegedly said "'Uncle Brake and I don't agree; I have quit him, and shall not go back any more.'" And he walked to Jackson's Mill, where he lived until he left for West Point in 1842.¹⁸⁰

Coda – Martha and William

Martha Ophelia Woodson and William Cowan Woodson are the forgotten people in the story of Stonewall Jackson, their stepbrother. William knew him as a child in Clarksburg, and adored Julia, for her kindness to him. Martha may have lived in Clarksburg for a time as well. It is unknown whether Martha kept in touch with Thomas or Laura, but William corresponded with both of them.

Little is known about Martha's life before 1832, though it is likely that she and her siblings Sarah and William lived with older brother George B. Woodson for a few years after Blake moved to Clarksburg. By early 1832 she was living in Fayette County. Perhaps Blake asked her to come help him with the children. Not long after she arrived she married Philip J. Buster.

Martha and Philip moved to Rives County, Missouri about 1839, the same county George B. Woodson had settled in several years before. The 1840 census for that county, renamed Henry County the following year, in honor of Patrick Henry, shows P. J. Buster as head of household, with three children under age 5, one boy and two girls. Both Philip and Martha were between the ages of 30 and 39. Two pages from them in the census was George B. Woodson.¹⁸¹

Philip Buster was sheriff of the county in 1840 and 1841.¹⁸² In 1843, Philip paid cash for 80 acres of land,¹⁸³ located a mile southwest of the town of Calhoun. The deed from the United States government was issued on May 1, the same day that George B. Woodson was issued a deed for 160 acres about seven miles east of the Buster farm.¹⁸⁴ Philip died about 1846, and Martha married Peyton Gutridge in 1848.¹⁸⁵ The 1850 census for Henry County described Peyton as a minister, and Martha as being age 32 and a native of Virginia. Martha's age is variable in the census records, but based on her tombstone, her actual birth year was 1813. Three of Peyton's children by his deceased wife were listed

in that census, including William W. Guttridge, age 15. Two of Martha's children with Philip were living with them, Delia, 15, born in Virginia, and George, 4, born in Missouri.¹⁸⁶

The 1860 census included two children of Peyton and Martha – Eliza, 6 (no doubt named for Martha's older sister), and Elnora, 4.¹⁸⁷ Rev. Peyton Guttridge died in 1875. In 1880, Martha was living with Delia and her husband, William Guttridge,¹⁸⁸ Peyton's son by his first marriage. They had married in 1855.¹⁸⁹ After Delia's death in 1895, the local newspaper printed a moving tribute to her, noting that her parents brought her to Henry County from Virginia when she was six years of age, or about 1840.¹⁹⁰

Martha, known as "Marthy," passed away in 1886 at 73. She and Peyton are buried in the Calhoun Cemetery, in Calhoun, Missouri.¹⁹¹ One wonders if the people who have passed her grave in a small Missouri town could have imagined that she was General Stonewall Jackson's stepsister.



Calhoun Cemetery, Calhoun Missouri¹⁹²

William was about 15 when Blake died and may have lived with the Buster's for a while. In his letter to Laura in 1885, he mentioned that in 1838 he had spent about eight months in Beverly, West Virginia, "and went from there to Clarksburg."¹⁹³ He married Virginia S. Kincaid on September 20, 1849, in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.¹⁹⁴ In 1850, William, Virginia, and their baby Charles were living in Bedford County, Virginia, with the family of his sister, Sarah Woodson Moore.¹⁹⁵ By 1860 William and his family, including three additional children, were living in Lewisburg in Greenbrier County, and he was serving as Deputy Clerk of the Court.¹⁹⁶

Newspaper articles in 1969 and 1976 profiled the "Woodson House," at 100 Chestnut Street in Lewisburg, purchased by William C. Woodson in 1854. William was described as the sheriff of Greenbrier County, a stepbrother of Stonewall Jackson, and a soldier with Confederate General Henry Heth's troops. A number of historic items were in the house at the time, including a pewter tea set presented by Queen Victoria to Jefferson Davis, three chairs owned by the mother of Robert E. Lee, and "a Jacobean scroll and honeycomb fireplace set once owned by General Stonewall Jackson." The newspaper did not explain if those items were acquired by William, or a later owner.¹⁹⁷

Based on comments he made to Laura in 1885, they had not been in communication for many years. His letter to her was prompted by a letter she had written to his daughter, Ida. He explained to Laura that he had been intending to write to her, but "could not locate you to a certainly," and he hoped that finding her location "may prove the stepping stone to a regular correspondence in the future."

William asked if Laura knew anything about “our brother” Wirt Woodson. He had “corresponded with him regularly for several years before the war – last I heard of him, he was living near New Harmony, Ia.,” (actually Indiana) but did not know what had happened to him. He added that Wirt had “visited brother Thomas during the War, whilst located in the valley,” and that Thomas had written William that “he had given Wirt a farm in Missouri and advised him to settle on it.”¹⁹⁸

Thomas Jackson wrote to Laura about Wirt and the possibility of buying a farm, on October 6, 1855.

My arrangements with regard to the purchase of land is this. That he should go out and make a selection of such a farm as would fulfill certain conditions, and previous to the purchase the transaction must be approved by Uncle Alfred Neale in the event of his being in Missouri at the time, if not then Cousin William Neale must approve of it. Upon complying with all the conditions, Uncle Alfred Neale is to endorse a note which I left in his hands and after getting the money out of the Bank to forward a check for it, on N. S. payable to the order of Cousin Wm. Neale. And when the deed is made out in my name, Cousin Wm. Neale is to pay the money. So the money is entirely beyond Wirt’s control.¹⁹⁹

Jackson then mentioned that “William Woodson says that he acknowledges his obligation to assist Wirt but that he is not able.”²⁰⁰ Further evidence that Jackson and William corresponded comes from a statement in William’s letter to Laura that he had received a letter from “Mrs. T. J. Jackson” several months earlier, “in regard to our mother’s grave &c.” William had answered Anna, extending an invitation to visit him and his family,

[b]ut she never condescended to honor me with an answer or to visit us, although she spent some time at the White Sulphur Springs, only ten miles from us, thinking perhaps we were rather small potatoes. If she could have read her husband’s letters to me, I think she would have acted differently.²⁰¹

William C. Woodson died the following year, on July 18, 1886,²⁰² and is buried in the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Near him are the graves of his wife and three of his children, including the unmarked grave of his son, Thomas Jackson Woodson, who died in 1865 at age three.²⁰³ A minister from that same church, Rev. John McElhenney, had officiated the burial service for Julia Jackson Woodson more than a half-century earlier.²⁰⁴

An obituary in the Greenbrier Independent described William as “one of the oldest, most respected, and best known citizens of Lewisburg.” He was referred to as Captain Woodson, who was born in Cumberland County. His mother died before he was four years old, and,

The care of his early training devolved upon his elder brother, George B. Woodson, Marshall of the District [Court] of Chancery at Lynchburg. When a boy he removed with his brother to Buchanan, Va., where he acquired much of his early education. From Buchanan he went to Clarksburg, Va., where he acted as deputy clerk for the County Court. In 1829 or 1830, when the county of Fayette was formed, Capt. Woodson’s father, Mr. Blake B. Woodson, was appointed clerk of the Circuit Court by his friend Judge Duncan, and removed to the new county taking the subject of this notice with him. Capt. Woodson remained in Fayette county acting as deputy clerk and deputy sheriff until 1836, when he came to this county and entered the service of Mr. John A. North, who was then clerk of the Lewisburg branch of the Court of Appeals and clerk of Circuit

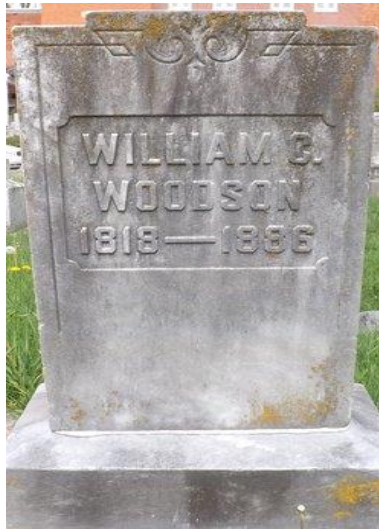
Court of Greenbrier county. With two short intervals of a few years he has been connected with the Clerk's office [of] this county from August, 1836, until the day of his death. His education and training fitted him to be a clerk, and he chose that as the calling of his life. On account of extreme deafness he could not attend the duties of a clerk in open Court, but the ministerial duties of the office he discharged with surprising neatness and fidelity.²⁰⁵

Some of these details are probably incorrect – for example, William was much too young to have served as a deputy court clerk in either Clarksburg or Fayette County, but he did follow the family business in Greenbrier County.

The obituary confirmed William's deafness, and continued that,

Capt. Woodson was a cultivated gentleman, fond of reading and read many good books, and at one time was no ordinary writer. He was a genial companion, and used to be the life of many a social circle in the olden ante-bellum days. He was [a] favorite with the Bar and the Court, and in all his intercourse with them ever showed himself to be a true gentleman. But the crowning virtue of his life was his unvarying trust and confidence in our blessed Christian faith.²⁰⁶

His step-brother, General Stonewall Jackson, would have been pleased.



Photograph by Larry Spurgeon (August 7, 2019)

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Larry Spurgeon (BBA, JD): Senior Lecturer Emeritus, Wichita State University; a resident of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and an interpreter at the Stonewall Jackson House Museum in Lexington, Virginia.
- ² Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1916) 24-25
- ³ West Virginia Civil War Trails marker, Westlake Cemetery, Ansted, West Virginia, photograph by Larry Spurgeon, March 13, 2019
- ⁴ Lenoir Chambers, *Stonewall Jackson: The Legend and the Man to Valley V, Vol. One* (New York: William Morrow & Co., 1959) 23
- ⁵ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, Compiled by Nancy Ann Jackson, PhD, and Linda Brake Meyers, (Franklin, NC: Genealogy Publishing Service, 1995) 3
- ⁶ James I. Robertson, Jr., *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend* (New York: Macmillan Publishing USA, 1997) 1-3
- ⁷ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson, Third Edition* (Charleston: Charleston Printing Company, 1948) 10-12, quoting from a letter from George W. Jackson to Laura's husband, Jonathan Arnold, dated May 20, 1871.
- ⁸ *Id.*, at 14
- ⁹ The Sunday Telegram (Clarksburg, West Virginia), March 28, 1915 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>). Cooper's Clarksburg Register, February 13, 1857 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>). See also Henry Haymond, *History of Harrison County, West Virginia* (Acme Publishing Company, Morgantown, W. Va., 1910), 387-388.
- ¹⁰ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 41-42. The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families, Compiled by Michael I. Shoop (Published by the Garland Gray Memorial Research Center, Stonewall Jackson House, and Historic Lexington Foundation, Lexington, Virginia, 1981) Plate 9.
- ¹¹ Allen, E. P. Letter to Gideon D. Camden, September 12, 1863, quoted by *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 10, at 9
- ¹² The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison, n. 10, Plate 1
- ¹³ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 16-17
- ¹⁴ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 4-5. The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families, n. 10, Plates 1-3. Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 16.
- ¹⁵ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 79
- ¹⁶ Henry Haymond, n. 9, at 287
- ¹⁷ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 217
- ¹⁸ Henry Haymond, n. 9, at 224. See also Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 25.
- ¹⁹ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, Folder 62, PC-0014, Jackson-Arnold Collection, Russell-Arnold Archive, James H. Thomason Library, Presbyterian College
- ²⁰ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 16
- ²¹ Statement by Dr. William J. Bland, Undated, Box 2, Item 202, Dabney-Jackson Collection, Library of Virginia
- ²² E.g., Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 26. *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 6, at 218.
- ²³ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1892) (reprinted, Harrisonburg: Sprinkle Publications, 1995) 8-11. Creel married Elizabeth Neale, daughter of George Neale, in Parkersburg, Wood County, Virginia on May 18, 1814. Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850 (<https://www.ancestry.com>).
- ²⁴ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19
- ²⁵ Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ²⁶ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 42
- ²⁷ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 26. *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 217.
- ²⁸ The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families, n. 10, Plates 3 and 11
- ²⁹ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 25
- ³⁰ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 5-7
- ³¹ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19
- ³² Arnold, Thomas Jackson. Recollections of General Jackson, Folder 79, PC-0014, Jackson-Arnold Collection, Russell-Arnold Archive, James H. Thomason Library, Presbyterian College. <https://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/942>.
- ³³ Statement by Dr. William J. Bland, Undated, n. 21
- ³⁴ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 7

- ³⁵ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19. Camden sold it in 1859, at Laura's insistence, after she had been conveyed her brother's interest.
- ³⁶ E.g., James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 8, 792, citing an "unsigned biographical sketch of Julia in Brock Collection, Huntington," and William C. Chase, *Story of Stonewall Jackson* (Atlanta: D. E. Luther Publishing Company, 1901) 57.
- ³⁷ Jackson, Thomas J. Letter to Laura Arnold, August 18, 1858, Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 265-266.
- ³⁸ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 14-15
- ³⁹ Woodson, William C. Letter to Laura Jackson Arnold, February 16, 1885, Cook, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Bound Volume Series, Book 9, Vol. 2-J, pp. 17-21, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries
- ⁴⁰ Marriage of Blake B. Woodson to Julia Jackson, November 30, 1830, West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785-1971 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ⁴¹ Henry Haymond, n. 9., at 296-297
- ⁴² James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 8
- ⁴³ William C. Chase, n. 36. at 57
- ⁴⁴ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n.23, at 15
- ⁴⁵ Recollections of Laura Jackson Arnold, dictated to a cousin in Buckhannon, West Virginia, and quoted in a letter from Beatrice Arnold Giffin, Laura's granddaughter, in a letter to Roy Bird Cook dated January 30, 1948. Cook, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Bound Volume Series, Book 9, Vol. 2-J, p. 32, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries
- ⁴⁶ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19
- ⁴⁷ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 8
- ⁴⁸ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 219
- ⁴⁹ See *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, Compiled by Henry Morton Woodson, Memphis, Tennessee (Published by the author, 1915) 125, stating that Blake was born in 1770
- ⁵⁰ Edward Pleasants Valentine, *The Edward Pleasants Valentine Papers*, Vol. III (Richmond: Valentine Museum, 1927) 1845
- ⁵¹ *Virginia Genealogical Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 4, November 1994, Legislative Petitions From Virginia Counties, po. 277-278 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ⁵² *Virginia's District Courts, 1789-1809, Records for the Prince Edwards District*, Wills Books 1 & 2, Abstracted by Mary Bondurant Warren and Eve B. Weeks (Danielsville, GA: Heritage Papers, 1991) 38
- ⁵³ *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 124-126
- ⁵⁴ Herbert Clarence Bradshaw, *A History of Prince Edward County, Virginia; from its formation in 1753, to the present* (Richmond: The Dietz Press Incorporated, 1955) 694
- ⁵⁵ Vol. VI, *Calendar of Virginia State Papers and Other Manuscripts, January 1, 1797, to December 31, 1807* (Richmond: H.W. Flournoy, 1890) 78 (retrieved from <https://www.books.google.com>)
- ⁵⁶ *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Library Board of the Virginia State Library, 1915-1916* (Richmond: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1917) 71 (retrieved from <https://www.books.google.com>)
- ⁵⁷ *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 65, 124. Edward Pleasants Valentine, n. 50.
- ⁵⁸ Herbert Clarence Bradshaw, n. 54, at 162
- ⁵⁹ *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 125-128
- ⁶⁰ *Richmond Enquirer*, January 28, 1836 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>). Gerald Evans Hopkins, *The Story of Cumberland County, Virginia* (Winchester, Virginia: Privately Issued, 1942), 65-67 (retrieved from <https://www.familysearch.org>)
- ⁶¹ The land records for Cumberland County and Prince Edward County were reviewed in the respective clerk's offices on July 30, 2019. In total, there are more than a dozen transactions involving Blake B. Woodson, from 1795 to 1820. *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 125.
- ⁶² Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.33393/>)
- ⁶³ *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 125
- ⁶⁴ Prince Edward County Deed Book 17, p. 385, October 15, 1821. Attested by Tscharner Woodson and Allen Wilson, Justice of the Peace.
- ⁶⁵ Greenbrier Independent, August 22, 1886, from The People of the Old Stone Cemetery: The Obituaries, 1853-1979, Researched and Compiled by Morgan Donnally Bunn (2017), The Archives, Greenbrier Historical Society
- ⁶⁶ *Redford v. Gibson*, Virginia Reports: Jefferson – 33 Grattan, 1730-1880 (Charlottesville: The Michie Company, 1900-1904) 333 (<https://books.google.com/books>)
- ⁶⁷ *Swan v. Bank of the United States*, Circuit Court of the United States; Reports of Cases Decided by the Honourable John Marshall, Late Chief Justice of the United States, in the Circuit Court of the United States, for the Circuit of Virginia and North Carolina, From 1802 to 1833 Inclusive, Vol. II, Edited by John W. Brockenbrough (Philadelphia: James Kay, Jun. & Brother, 1837).

- ⁶⁸ 1810 U.S. Census, Cumberland County, Virginia, (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>). 1820 U.S. Census, Cumberland County, Virginia, pop. sch. 327 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>).
- ⁶⁹ *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 125
- ⁷⁰ *Id.*, at 203
- ⁷¹ U.S., War of 1812 Service Records, 1812-1815 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ⁷² Virginia Militia in the War of 1812, Pay Rolls of Militia Entitled to Land Bounty, Under the Act of Congress, September 28, 1850, p. 1 (Richmond: William F. Ritchie, Public Printer, 1851), (Reprinted for Clearfield Company, Inc., by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 1999) (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ⁷³ Marriage of George B. Woodson to Sarah H. Raine, December 14, 1814, Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ⁷⁴ Greenbrier Independent, August 22, 1886, n. 65
- ⁷⁵ Cumberland County Chancery Case, 1842-016, Charles Raine vs. George B. Woodson, Virginia Memory, Library of Virginia, Digital Collections (https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=049-1842-016)
- ⁷⁶ The Republican (Clinton, Missouri), October 10, 1912 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ⁷⁷ The Clinton (Missouri) Eye, September 17, 1936 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ⁷⁸ The Windsor (Missouri) Review, December 10, 1914 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ⁷⁹ 1850 U.S. Census, Appomattox County, Virginia, pop. sch. 176, pp. 313, 313 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>). <https://www.findagrave.com>, Raine Cemetery, Appomattox, Virginia. Marriage of Eliza Woodson to John Raine, December 13, 1819, Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>).
- ⁸⁰ <https://www.nps.gov/apco/learn/education/growth-and-decline.htm>
- ⁸¹ <https://www.findagrave.com>, Raine Cemetery, Appomattox, Virginia
- ⁸² <https://www.nps.gov/media/photo/gallery-item.htm?pg=3528477&id=BC9CED0E-155D-451F-67B4EE26DFA675B0&gid=BC9AC153-155D-451F-67D57F5977C21F9C>
- ⁸³ Cumberland County Chancery Case, 1827-003, Tscharna (Tscharnier) Woodson vs. Blake B. Woodson, Virginia Memory, Library of Virginia, Digital Collections (https://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=049-1827-003)
- ⁸⁴ Thomas P. DeGraffenried, *The History of the deGraffenried Family*, (Published by the author, 1925) 194 (retrieved from https://archive.org/stream/historyofdegraff00graf/historyofdegraff00graf_djvu.txt)
- ⁸⁵ *Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections*, n. 49, at 202-204
- ⁸⁶ Marriage of Blake B. Woodson, Jr. to Ann B. Barrett, November 26, 1839, Alabama, Select Marriages, Index, 1816-1942 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ⁸⁷ Obituary of Blake B. Woodson, Jr., Livingston (Alabama) Journal, May 30, 1884 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ⁸⁸ Marriage of Sarah Woodson to Edwin Moore, April 16, 1829, Botetourt County Marriages, 1770-1853, Compiled by John Voft and T. William Kethley, Jr., Vol. 1 (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1987) 215
- ⁸⁹ See, e.g., 1850 Census, Bedford County, Virginia, pop. sch., p.148, dwell. 134, fam. 135, (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>); 1880 U.S. Census, Marshall County, Alabama, pop. sch., p. 26, dwell. 15, fam. 16, W.L. Parrott (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>).
- ⁹⁰ The Weekly Advertiser (Montgomery, Alabama), June 21, 1881 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ⁹¹ https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59513147/martha-o_-gutridge. See, e.g., 1870 U.S. Census, Henry County, Missouri, pop. sch., p.7, dwell. 52, fam. 52, (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>).
- ⁹² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108354500/william-cowan-woodson>
- ⁹³ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 15-16
- ⁹⁴ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 219
- ⁹⁵ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 19
- ⁹⁶ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 10. *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 83-84.
- ⁹⁷ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 80
- ⁹⁸ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 35, 53-56
- ⁹⁹ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19. James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 12-13.
- ¹⁰⁰ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 12-13. Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 21, 34.
- ¹⁰¹ Jackson, Thomas J. Letter to James Jackson, April 24, 1850, VMI Archives Digital Collection (<http://digitalcollections.vmi.edu/cdm/search/collection/p15821coll4>)
- ¹⁰² Cooper's Clarksburg Register, May 31, 1854 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹⁰³ Jackson, Thomas J. Letter to Laura Arnold, July 7, 1850, VMI Archives Digital Collection (<http://digitalcollections.vmi.edu/cdm/search/collection/p15821coll4>)
- ¹⁰⁴ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 44
- ¹⁰⁵ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19
- ¹⁰⁶ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 9
- ¹⁰⁷ *Id.*, at 8-9
- ¹⁰⁸ *Id.*, at 9, 792

-
- ¹⁰⁹ The Atchison (Kansas) Daily Champion, February 25, 1897 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹¹⁰ Statement by Dr. William J. Bland, n. 21
- ¹¹¹ Most of Jackson's letters to Laura are in the VMI Archives, and have been digitized and can be read online. See VMI Archives Digital Collection (<http://digitalcollections.vmi.edu/cdm/search/collection/p15821coll4>).
- ¹¹² Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 16
- ¹¹³ VMI Archives, Manuscript Acc #102, Arnold Family Papers, Box 5
- ¹¹⁴ See e.g., The Indianapolis News, March 30, 1909 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹¹⁵ Recollections of Laura Jackson Arnold, n. 45
- ¹¹⁶ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 266, 270
- ¹¹⁷ Arnold, Thomas Jackson. Recollections of General Jackson, Folder 79, PC-0014, Jackson-Arnold Collection, Russell-Arnold Archive, James H. Thomason Library, Presbyterian College
- ¹¹⁸ Cook, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Box 21, Folder F4, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University
- ¹¹⁹ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 792
- ¹²⁰ The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families, n. 10, Plate 3. James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 15.
- ¹²¹ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 16.
- ¹²² History of Fayette County, West Virginia, 153 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹²³ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 46
- ¹²⁴ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 792-793
- ¹²⁵ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 27
- ¹²⁶ Arnold, Thomas Jackson. Letter to Roy Bird Cook, December 17, 1930, quoted in *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 219-220, in the Roy Bird Cook collection at West Virginia University, Vol. 2-H-7, p. 18.
- ¹²⁷ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 16
- ¹²⁸ Id.
- ¹²⁹ Camden, Gideon D. Letter to Rev. R. L. Dabney, November 21, 1863, n. 19
- ¹³⁰ Allen, E. P. Letter to Gideon D. Camden, September 12, 1863, n. 11
- ¹³¹ Transcription of Letter from Thomas Neale to Lewis Maxwell Cook, June 6, 1833, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Bound Volume Series, Book 9, Vol. 2-J, pp. 17-21, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries. See also, *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 219-220.
- ¹³² Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 47
- ¹³³ Harrison County, West Virginia, Deed Book 20, p. 351, June 18, 1831
- ¹³⁴ Fayette County, West Virginia, Deed Book A, pp. 44-45, 53, Fayette County Clerk of the Court's office (reviewed on August 7, 2019)
- ¹³⁵ Rev. C. Shirley Donnelly, *Historical Notes on Fayette County, West Virginia* (Privately Printed, 1958) 47
- ¹³⁶ The Raleigh Register (Beckley, West Virginia), August 25, 1960 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹³⁷ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 9
- ¹³⁸ Hamilton, A. W. Letter to Roy Bird Cook, April 27, 1927. Cook, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Bound Volume Series, Book 4, Vol. 2-D, pp. 91-93, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries
- ¹³⁹ The Fayette Journal (Fayetteville, West Virginia), November 2, 1911 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹⁴⁰ Hamilton, A. W. Letter to Roy Bird Cook, April 27, 1927, n. 138
- ¹⁴¹ Fayette County Deed Book A, p. 136, Fayette County Clerk of the Court's office (reviewed on August 7, 2019)
- ¹⁴² Recollections of Laura Jackson Arnold, n. 45
- ¹⁴³ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall*, n. 2, at 27
- ¹⁴⁴ Id., at 27-28
- ¹⁴⁵ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 16
- ¹⁴⁶ The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families, n. 10, Plate 11
- ¹⁴⁷ Woodson, Blake. Letter to William Woodson, December 6, 1831, Cook, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Box 10, Folder F12, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University
- ¹⁴⁸ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 15-16
- ¹⁴⁹ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 27
- ¹⁵⁰ Woodson, Blake. Letter to William Woodson, December 6, 1831, n. 147
- ¹⁵¹ Arnold, Thomas Jackson. Folder 351, PC-0014, Jackson-Arnold Collection, Russell-Arnold Archive, James H. Thomason Library, Presbyterian College
- ¹⁵² Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 18
- ¹⁵³ Id., at 19
- ¹⁵⁴ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 28
- ¹⁵⁵ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 49. James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 11.
- ¹⁵⁶ Frank E. Vandiver, *Mighty Stonewall* (New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1957) 5

-
- ¹⁵⁷ Jedediah Hotchkiss, *Make Me a Map Of the Valley: The Civil War Journal of Stonewall Jackson's Topographer* (Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1973) 128. Hotchkiss maintained the journal in the form of a diary that was not published until 1973.
- ¹⁵⁸ Letter from Thomas Neale to Lewis Maxwell, June 6, 1833, n. 147
- ¹⁵⁹ [Vongraffenreid.wordpress.com](https://vongraffenreid.wordpress.com)
- ¹⁶⁰ The Code of Virginia, 1819, Chapter 104, Section 44 (retrieved <https://babel.hathitrust.org>)
- ¹⁶¹ Appraisement Bill of the Property of Blake B. Woodson, March 30, 1833, (Fayette County), West Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1724-1985 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁶² Letter from Thomas Neale to Lewis Maxwell, June 6, 1833, n. 147
- ¹⁶³ *Id.*
- ¹⁶⁴ *Id.*
- ¹⁶⁵ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 48
- ¹⁶⁶ James I. Robertson, Jr., n. 6, at 11
- ¹⁶⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Harrison County, Virginia, pop. sch., p. 162, dwell. 809, fam. 809, H. T. Hanson (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁶⁸ Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 47
- ¹⁶⁹ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 219-220
- ¹⁷⁰ West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785-1971 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁷¹ See heads of household for W. George, Buster, Thomas Buster, Mary Buster, and Claudius Buster, 1830 Census, Kanawha County, Virginia, pop. sch., 181-183, (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>).
- ¹⁷² Recollections of Laura Jackson Arnold, n. 45
- ¹⁷³ Woodson, William C. Letter to Laura Jackson Arnold, February 16, 1885, Cook, Roy Bird (1886-1961), Collector, Papers. A & M 1561, Bound Volume Series, Book 9, Vol. 2-J, pp. 17-21, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Libraries.
- ¹⁷⁴ Fayette County Deed Book B, pp. 450-452, Fayette County Clerk of the Court's office, (reviewed on August 7, 2019)
- ¹⁷⁵ West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785-1971 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁷⁶ Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson*, n. 23, at 19
- ¹⁷⁷ *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier*, n. 5, at 80
- ¹⁷⁸ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 27-28. See also Lenoir Chambers, n. 4, at 39.
- ¹⁷⁹ The Genealogies of the Jackson, Junkin & Morrison Families, n. 10, Plate 3. Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 28.
- ¹⁸⁰ Thomas Jackson Arnold, *Early Life and Letters of General Thomas J. Jackson – Stonewall Jackson*, n. 2, at 29-30. See also Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*, n. 7, at 48.
- ¹⁸¹ 1840 U.S. Census, Rives County, Missouri, pop. sch., pp. 358, 360, William Steele (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁸² Henry County Democrat (Clinton, Missouri), October 21, 1937 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹⁸³ United States Patent Deed, May 1, 1843 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁸⁴ U.S. General Land Office Records, 1776-2015 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁸⁵ Marriage of Peyton Gutridge to Martha Buster, Missouri Marriages, 1750-1920, p. 59 (retrieved from <https://www.familysearch.org>)
- ¹⁸⁶ 1850 Census, Henry County, Missouri, pop. sch., 32, dwell. 180, fam. 185, William Steele (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁸⁷ 1860 Census, Henry County, Missouri, pop. sch., 182, dwell. 1253, fam. 1253, George W. Minor (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁸⁸ 1880 Census, Henry County, Missouri, pop. sch., 412, dwell. 68, fam. 70, William Parks (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁸⁹ Marriage of Delia Ann Buster and William H. Gutridge, February 6, 1855, Henry County, Missouri, Missouri, Marriage Records, 1805-2002 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁹⁰ The Clinton (Missouri) Eye, August 31, 1895 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)
- ¹⁹¹ <https://www.findagrave.com>, Calhoun Cemetery, Calhoun, Henry County, Missouri
- ¹⁹² https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59513147/martha-o_-gutridge
- ¹⁹³ Woodson, William C. Letter to Laura Jackson Arnold, February 16, 1885, n. 173
- ¹⁹⁴ Marriage of William C. Woodson to Virginia S. Kincaid, September 20, 1849, Greenbrier County, Virginia, West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785-1971 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁹⁵ 1850 Census, Bedford County, Virginia, pop. sch., 296, dwell. 134, fam. 135 (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)
- ¹⁹⁶ 1860 Census, Greenbrier County, Virginia, pop. sch., 8, dwell. 52, fam. 62, D. J. Ford (retrieved from <https://www.ancestry.com>)

¹⁹⁷ Beckley (West Virginia) Post-Herald, June 9, 1969, and Charleston Daily Mail, June 9, 1976 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)

¹⁹⁸ Woodson, William C. Letter to Laura Jackson Arnold, February 16, 1885, n. 173

¹⁹⁹ Jackson, Thomas J. Letter to Laura Arnold, October 6, 1855, VMI Archives Digital Collection (<http://digitalcollections.vmi.edu/cdm/search/collection/p15821coll4>)

²⁰⁰ Id.

²⁰¹ Woodson, William C. Letter to Laura Jackson Arnold, February 16, 1885, n. 173

²⁰² Staunton Spectator, July 28, 1886 (retrieved from <https://www.newspapers.com>)

²⁰³ The People of the Old Stone Cemetery: The Burials, 1796-2010, Researched and Compiled by Morgan Donnally Bunn (2016), The Archives, Greenbrier Historical Society

²⁰⁴ W. Shirley Donnelly, n. 135

²⁰⁵ Greenbrier Independent, August 22, 1886, n. 65

²⁰⁶ Id.