

The Bazil Meek Family of Henry County Kentucky
By
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Before the formation of Henry County in 1799, John and Jacob Meek came to the area now known as New Castle, Kentucky. That they both came together is recorded in a letter from John's grandson, Basil Meek dated 20 Aug 1920. Both men paid taxes in Shelby County beginning in 1794 and both appeared in the 1800 census of Henry County along with three of their sons.



Photo by Rick Hutchison

There are several published and unpublished genealogies which discuss the ancestors and descendants of these two people. Few of these genealogies provide much evidence to

support their findings and their claims are not the subject of this paper. My own connection to John Meek has not been the subject of any known study of the family although most genealogies usually do mention the fact that John Meek had a son named Bazil, which is supported by his will. One book by H. B. Meek indicates that Bazil had a son named Jeremiah.

This paper is intended to describe those records that I am aware of and put forth my interpretation which will make a connection from my known ancestors to John Meek. In the process I will outline a major family that resided in Henry County for a period of time during the "early" days.

Jacob Meek

While Jacob's family is not the focus of my research, it is important to note those records about him which clearly outline his family. His wife is mentioned in the following deed record. In addition to being listed in the 1800 census, he paid taxes through 1806. He is believed to have moved to Indiana about this time along with many of his children. By 1812, it is believed that all of his family had left the county as records of them begin to appear in Indiana.

Deed Book #2, Page 31, 15 Nov 1801.

Jacob Meek and Eleanor, his wife to Richard Rue, twenty pounds for 8 acres.

Jacob's will dated 4 Aug 1835 is recorded in the the Wayne Co., IN Will Book #2. It lists his wife, Elenor and his children: John; Isaac; Joshua; William; Patty, wife of Elijah Fisher; Rue, wife of William Holman; Jeremiah L.; Effe, wife of William Grimes.

Isaac is the sole male member of the family to appear in the 1810 census. Henry County marriage abstracts report his marriage to Sarah Perkins on 17 Mar 1810 as well as the 20 Jul 1803 marriage

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of Patty Meek to Elijah Fisher. It is not believed that any of Jacob's male offspring remained or returned to Henry County.

John Meek

As indicated above, John Meek came to Henry County prior to 1800. He was accompanied by his four sons. John's will is dated 2 May 1801 and was probated in Henry County in 1803. It lists his wife, Margaret and the children Bazel; John; Jeremiah; Josh; Sarah; Terah; Patience; Rachal; Tempy. As with Jacob's family, it thought that most of John's sons moved away from Henry County prior to 1815.

The following deed record, dated 15 November 1800, is thought to be the partition of John Meek's original settlement to the four sons mentioned in the will. It appears that many of the deed records are a clarification of titles and it is difficult to determine when land actually changes hands. In any event it appears that all four brother paid for this land again in January 1807, each holding 100 acres.

Deed Book #1, page 33 and 34 15 November 1800

John Pope of Shelby County, Kentucky, to Jeremiah Meeks, Bazil Meeks, John Meeks, JR. and Joshua Meeks of Henry County, Kentucky for 5 shillings, part of a tract of 3704 acres patented in the name of James F. Moore and this day conveyed by said Moore to said Pope containing by estimation four hundred acres, being the land purchased by said Meeks of Robert Taylor. Sold at a reduced price on account of the interference and the uncertainty of said Pope's title.

Deed Book #3, page 14, 10 January 1807

Bazzel Meek to Christopher Hardwick 5 shillings for 100 acres, sold at a reduced price due to poor title, on waters on Drennon Creek.

John's sons, John and Joshua both moved to Wayne County, IN between 1810 and 1812. Jeremiah later moved to Hancock County, IN. However, Bazil Meek and his family remained in Henry County.

Bazil Meek

The person thought to be Bazil Meek, son of John Meek appears in the 1800 through 1820 census of Henry County. In addition, he appears in deed and tax records. Another person named Basil Meek appears in the records after our Bazil and is distinguished from him by the dates and size of land holdings as well as the difference in their ages in the census.

Later records indicate that the size of Bazil's land was 140 acres. One record lists the name of his wife, Elizabeth. It is unclear whether Bazil remained on the same piece of land. In any event by 1818 Jeremiah Meek, his son, seems to be paying for the same land again on behalf of his father and himself. The tax records are consistent with these deed records.

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Deed Book #3, page 792, 10 May 1810

John Meek to Barksdale Meek 5 shillings for 140 acres on waters of Drennon Creek, part of 2000 acres survey to Woodcock to Meek.

Deed Book #5, page 119, 23 August 1815

Bazil Meek and Elizabeth Meek, his wife, to John Foree, both of Henry County, Kentucky \$575.00, for a tract of land on waters of Drennon Lick Creek, 140 acres being part of 2,000 acres survey conveyed to Lynch to Woodcock, to John Meek to Bazil Meek.

The distinction between the two men named Bazil Meek is important because later deed records identify Bazil's son Jeremiah Meek who is our ancestor. Following is two versions of abstracts which describe the same transaction. That these records refer to our Jeremiah is established by the mention of his wife's name. Henry County marriage abstracts indicate that Jeremiah Meek married Rachael Rawlings on 29 Dec 1815. Jeremiah appears in the 1820 census of Henry County and there does not appear to be another person with that same name during this time period. It should be noted however, that while many people named Meek have been identified, there are some which have not been identified.

Henry Co Ky Deeds

& wf Rachael

7-189 24 June 1818 Jeremiah Meek to Bazil Meek \$100 Dr. Creek 100 A part of Vincent Williams 3000 A. survey pat. 5 Mar 1805 - bounded Lewis' fence - corner Jere Meek - Williams orig line - corner Jesse Meek . . further understood 2d Jan 1816 Abraham Hite as atty in fact for sd Williams did convey by deed to sd Jere Meek 150 A land but he ought to have conveyed to my sd father Bazil Meek 100 A & to myself 50 A - deed now intended to convey to my father the sd 100 A in property conveyed to me as aforesd.

(signed) Jeremiah (x) Meek, Rachael (x) Meek

Deed Book 7 Page 189, 24 June 1818

Jeremiah Meek to Bazil Meek, both of Henry County, Kentucky \$100.00 for tract of land on waters of Drennon Lick Creek being part of Vincent Williams 2000 acre survey, patent bearing date 5 march 1805. Bounded by Jesse Meek to correct deed of January 2, 1816 by Abraham Hite to Jeremiah Meek for 150 acres he ought to have conveyed to my father Bazil Meek one hundred acres and to Jeremiah Meek, 50 acres

signed Jeremiah (x) Meek

Rachel (x) Meek

Married 29 Dec, 1815

Henry County, Kentucky

These early deed records also identify another son of Bazil. In one record, Jonathan Meek is mentioned as a son of Bazil and in another, the name of his wife, Catherine, is mentioned. As with some of the other entries, the abstractor included information from the marriage records. Jonathan appears in the 1820 through 1850 census.

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Deed Book 10, Page 282, 13 January 1823

Indenture between Edmond Searcy & Jonathan Meek both of Henry Co., Kentucky, witness that for the sum of \$500.000 for 50 acres from the said Johnathan Meek & Bazil Meek, his father do sell and convey to the said Johnathan Meek the property on ridge between Drennon Creek and Emily Run, joins John Meek.

Deed Book 23, Page 306, 26 April 1850

In part "Jonathan Meek & Catharine his wife,....."

"(Married in Henry County, Kentucky to Caty Newhouse 5/1/1820)"

Both Bazil and his son Jeremiah ceased to appear in the various Henry County records prior to 1830. Based on census and probate records, it is believed that both families moved to Hancock County, Indiana. They appear in the 1830 census of that county and shortly afterwards in the probate records. My previous research was focused on these records in an effort to establishing the names of Jeremiah's children. This was accomplished through the probated records and the fact that I knew the name of my ancestors Levi Meek, a fairly uncommon name. Jeremiah's children were identified as Eliza Ann Meek, John Henry Meek, Levi Nuttle Meek and Stephen Basil Meek.

Bazil Meek's probate record was not identified for several years although it was in my possession. The abstract was very unclear and not identified as relating to Bazil Meek. Although, it appeared to contain the names of Jeremiah's children, the other names were unfamiliar because at that time I only knew the name of one of his children.

After a break of several years I revisited my old research and had the occasion to look at Bazil's probate record at the same time I was reviewing the deed records. An examination of the Hancock County probate record and a Henry County deed record revealed that the probate record was in fact about Bazil Meek and provided a list of his children. While the list of children in the two records is not exact and the abstracts are less than clear in other regards, it is apparent that they are about one family and Jeremiah's children are contained in both.

Hancock Co., IN Probate Order Book 1828-1843

Page 147. In an application for partition of real estate of Jeremiah Meek dec. are listed: Jonathan, Joseph and Joshua Meek and Joseph and Patience Young-his wife and Barlow, Jacob, Jasper, Jarah (Sarah?) and James Meek. The rights of Samuel Wollum an heir of Rachel Wollum dec. who was the wife of James Wollum, and also the interest of Eliza Ann Meek who is the wife of Moses Meek and John P., Levi and Stephen Meek heirs of Jeremiah Meek dec. are mentioned. May 15, 1838.

Henry Co., KY deed abstracts

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Deed Book 17, Page 57, 58, and 59, 13 Jul 1836

Joshua Meek, Jas Meek, Barlow Meek, Jacob Meek, Joseph Young & Patience Young, late Patience Meek, heirs and representatives of Bazil Meek and Eliza Ann Meek, John Meek, Levi Meek & Stephen Meek, Infants heirs of Jeremiah Meek, deceased, Jess Meek, Joseph Meek & Sally Meek, infants of Bazil Meek & Rachel Meek, by Jas Wholines, her guardian of the first part and George Shortndge of the second part a tract of land on the waters of Drennon Creek containing 100 acres, Bounded by Jeremiah Meek & Jess Meek.

Meek heirs sell due to Court order and for \$745.00.

Joshua Meek signed below

James Meek

Barlow Meek

Jacob Meek

Joseph Young

Patience Meek late Patience Young

Heirs of Bazil Meek, deceased

Eliza Ann Meek

John Meek

Levi Meek

Stephen Meek

Infants of Jeremiah Meek, deceased
son of Bazil

Jesse Meek

Joseph Meek

Sally Meek

Samuel Wholines, guardian for

Rachel Meek

Infants of Bazil Meek, Jr.

While the deed record suggest that there might have been a son named Bazil Jr., it is believed that this is a reference to Bazil himself. There was a younger person named Basil Meek appearing in the Henry County records starting in 1830 and I was quick to assume that he was a son of Bazil based on the deed record. However, I have subsequently learned that this person was part of a different family. In addition, the Indiana probate records do not support a son named Basil.

Thus, the children of Bazil and Elizabeth Meek are; Jeremiah, Jonathan, Rachel, Joshua, James, Barlow, Jesse, Jacob, Patience, Joseph and Sarah. Having discovered these names, I attempted to obtain details about them and their own families.

Bazil Meek's Children

Jeremiah Meek's family has been the primary focus of my research and his children and grandchildren have been identified in various records. As indicated, Jeremiah's and his minor children Eliza Ann Meek, John Henry Meek, Levi Nuttle Meek and Stephen Basil Meek left Henry County about 1828. There is no evidence that any of them returned. Additional information is available on other pages at this site.

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Jonathan Meek has already been discussed and he and his family can be seen in the Henry County records including the all-important 1850 census of Henry County. He married Catherine Newhouse 1 May 1820. The census identifies some of his children as Lavinia born in 1831; Simpson born in 1834; Thomas born 1837; Jonathan L. born in 1843. Additionally, marriage abstracts indicate that a daughter, Mary, married John T. Young on 29 Nov 1842 in Henry County. The census indicates that there were 2, possibly 3 additional older children.

Rachel and Patience were both married and the names of their spouses was given in the records above. Of course, Rachel died prior to 1838. It is not known where Patience was married or lived. I have not seen any other reference to them or their families.

Joshua Meek, as with the remainder of the children, he is less clearly connected to the records. A person named Joshua Meek paid taxes 1823-1838 and there is a deed dated 21 Jun 1831 which mentions a wife Sally. There is a marriage abstracts for Sally Stewart dated 5 Mar 1821. Joshua in the 1830 census gives an age of between 1800 and 1810. There were three children under the age of 10.

It should be noted that genealogies of other families have provided details of the family of Joshua and Sally (Stewart) Meek. They are not reported here due to the lack of certainty that he is the same Joshua Meek who was the son of Bazil Meek.

James Meek in the 1830 census was born between 1800 to 1810, as was his wife. There was a son age 5 to 10 and 2 females under the age of 10. No one by this name was in the 1840 census. A person named James Meek paid taxes from 1823 to the end of the records in 1843. There were 2 people with this name in 1843.

There is a marriage record in Gallatin Co., KY for James Meek and Mary Betsy Stewart 19 Apr 1822. There is no evidence to connect this record to the son of Bazil.

Barlow Meek paid taxes 1829 to 1843, although he is not in the 1830 census. He is first mentioned in the deed records in 1849. His wife's name is given as Leanora/Lennah. The transaction is with a William Sutton. Marriage abstracts show a marriage to Leannah Sutton 27 Feb 1845, Father Elijah Sutton. Another marriage was to Dicy Ann Louden 10 Apr 1838, father Hugh Louden.

Barlow in the 1840 census was age 30-40. He had 2 children under the age of 5. This would be consistent with a marriage to Dicy Ann Louden.

Jacob Meek paid taxes records from 1833 to 1842. Jacob in the 1840 census was born between 1820 and 1830. The female was born between 1800 and 1810. There was another female born between 1790 and 1800 and there were 2 children under 10. There is a Henry County marriage abstract for Charlotte Clark dated 27 Oct 1831. Again, James, the son of Bazil, cannot be proved to be the same person in these records.

Jesse Meek is mentioned in the probate records in such a way as to imply that he was younger and unmarried. The only Jesse in the 1850 census who fits would have been born about 1814. His wife was Louisa. Marriage records indicate that a Jesse married 4 Jan 1845 Louisa Wiley, father Spires Wiley.

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However, the census list children at ages 10 and 8 who could not have been the product of this marriage. In order for Jesse in the marriage record to be Basil's son, he would have to have been married to a 1st wife who died before he married Louisa.

There is a marriage record for Lucretia Henderson 25 Feb 1836 who could account for the 10 and 8 year olds in the census.

Jesse Jr paid taxes from 1837 to 1843 (end of records). There was an older Jesse which appear throughout the records.

Joseph Meek in the 1850 census was born about 1817 with the wife born about 1820. Marriage abstracts show a marriage to Serena Stewart 31 Dec 1840, father John Stewart. Abstracts of the 1850 census give both Serena and Lavina for the name of the wife.

Joseph and Serena were reported in the 1870 Census of Indiana. They have also been reported by genealogist and information is known about their children and grandchildren. There is little concrete evidence to prove that this Joseph is the son of Bazil Meek.

Summary

It is apparent that the as the children get younger, there is less certainty about their connection to the records which requires more speculation. While I have continued to assume the marriage abstracts correctly identified the spouses and in many cases have identified children associated with each, the purpose of this paper is to give my interpretation of the facts of the known records. Therefore, I will not speculate further on the facts that are not confirmed. Hopefully, I will find more information in the future or others researchers who are descendant from each of Bazil's sons.

As I worked backwards from Levi Meek , I found his father Jeremiah Meek in the Indiana records. Admittedly, I used unconfirmed sources to focus on Bazil Meek of Henry County as the father of Jeremiah. However, the records support Jeremiah presence in Henry County as well as his connection to Bazil Meek and subsequently to John Meek. An effort was made to identify other possible people living in the county with similar names who might account for the records. Thus far, nothing has surfaced to contradict the conclusions made here.

Finally, It has been established that a number of Bazil Meek's children continued to reside in Henry County through 1850. While subsequent research might reveal that other people with similar names account for the information in the records, it seems unlikely that all of these connections will be discounted. At the very least, Jonathan Meek resided in the county for over 50 years.

In any event, it appears that the majority of all Meek families had left Henry County by 1860. We know where some of them went. Yet there remains the mystery of where the others eventually settled.

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Some of the information that I have on these families can be seen on the other pages on this site:

June 1, 1997

Christopher A. Meek

NOTE: Please note that this article may become outdated as additional information is gathered and the individual pages are updated.

UPDATE: See the article "The Clay Co., IL Connection" for information on where some of Bazil's children may have gone after leaving Henry County.

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Editor's note: The Following article was originally published as a follow-up to the Bazil Meek article under the title "The Meek Family of Clay Co., IL".

The Meek Family of Clay Co., IL

In 1850 the sons of Bazil Meek who appeared in the Henry Co., KY census were Jonathan, Jesse and Joseph. By 1860 all had left the area.

It is known that Jeremiah left before 1830 and died in Indiana. Also, it is known that Joseph moved to White Co., IN after 1850. It is speculate that Sarah in the 1850 census, living with Hiram, is the widow of Joshua. She was known as Sally in the marriage record. Until recently, it was not known what had happened to the other five sons.

In a matter of luck, a fellow genealogist provided me with various records from Clay Co., IL, including the 1850 through 1880 census, marriage and cemetery records. Eventually, more records were obtained and contact was made with a couple of descendants.

Following is a discussion of each of the five sons and their connection to Clay County.

James Meek was born between 1802-04. He is not in the 1840 Henry County census. He is listed in the 1850 census of Clay County. It is thought that he was the first member of the Meek family to settle in Clay County. He could possibly be the James Meek who purchased land in what is now Richmond County on 23 Mar 1840.

James appears in the 1860 and 1870 census of Marion Co., IL. He lived very close to Oskaloosa Township in Clay County where the rest of the family resided. Some of his children and grandchildren moved to the state of Washington.

Barlow Meek appears in the 1850 Census of Clay Co., IL at age 45. The son of Bazil was born between 1804 and 1810 according to Henry Co., KY census records before 1850. He appears in the 1855 state census of Clay County. His second wife was Leannah Sutton. It is known that her family had preceded the Meek family to Clay County. She is listed without Barlow in the 1860 census of Clay County. Apparently he had died by this time.

Jacob Meek was born between 1815 and 1820. He appears in the 1840 census of Henry County. Jacob appears in the 1850 Clay County census. The census indicates that he lived next door to Barlow.

A marriage records for Rachel Jones on 14 Jun 1847 in Oldham Co., KY is likely, but not proven, to be for the Clay County Jacob. Members of the Jones family moved from Henry County to Clay County.

Jacob died 4 Aug 1860. Rachel and the children were listed in the 1860 census. His probate records indicates that he had little land or wealth. Some of his children and grandchildren remained in Clay County.

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Jonathan Meek was born about 1798 in Henry Co., KY. He appears in the Henry County census between 1820 and 1850. He moved to Clay Co., IL after the census was taken on 15 Aug 1850. He purchased several tracks of land in Clay County in November 1850. He died 28 Nov 1853 in Clay County according to cemetery records. His will was dated 25 Nov 1853 and was signed by his son, Squire. He signed with a signature and appears to have been educated. He left property to his sons and appears to have had considerable land holdings. His wife and son, Jonathan, appear in the 1860 census of Clay County.

Jesse Meek, son of Bazil was born about 1814 and listed in the 1850 Henry County census with a wife Louisa and four sons. This same family appears in the 1860 Clay County census with three of four sons. He resided next door to Barlow's widow. A Clay Co., IL cemetery record list Meek, "Jessey died May 24, 1861, age 49 yr, 6 mos".

Some of Jesse's children moved to Coffee Co., KS and later to the state of Oregon.

Summary:

Of the five Henry County brothers, only James, now in Marion County, lived past 1870. James is 68 in the 1870 census and it is presumed that he died shortly afterwards.

The five sons of Bazil Meek left 15 sons. Fourteen of them can be identified in the records. These families might have been a significant force in the county. However, by 1870 very few of Bazil's grandchildren remained. It is known that a couple of them moved, but the fate of most is not known. It is assumed that the Civil War took it toll on this group as it did so many others.

A few other Meek families had moved into the county by 1870, but their origins are not known. In the end, only a few Grandsons or Great Grandsons, remained in Clay County into the 1900's. George Meek, son of Jeremiah, son of James was in Louisville Township in 1910. and John, son of Jacob, lived in Oskaloosa Township in 1900 with his adult children.

Why did they go there? A brief discussion on some related families that moved from Henry County to Clay County before the Meek family.

It is known that members of the Meek family moved to Clay Co., IL from Henry Co., KY around 1850. It would appear that they were drawn there by some of their former neighbors.

The 1884 County History provides some information on the early settlers of Oskaloosa Township. Three men named Smith, Romines and Eaton were thought to be the first settlers. After a short time they sold out (section 28) to John Sutton in 1829. John was the son of Elijah Sutton of Henry Co., KY. Elijah Sutton was an early settler of Henry County along with Bazil Meek, Daniel Rawlings and John Stuart.

Several of Elijah's children married people from Henry County named Meek and Rawlings.

Jane was the second wife of Levi Rawlings.

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Leannah married Barlow Meek a son of Bazil Meek. They moved to Clay County before 1850. Four of Barlow's brothers also moved to Clay County.

Mary married Elijah Dillman whose daughter Martha married Talbott Rawlings a son of Levi Rawlings. A Samuel Dillman arrived in 1834.

Elijah's son William married Mahala Craig and Levi's son, Elijah, married Martha Craig. These women are likely daughters of another early settler, John Craig who came in 1831.

Levi Rawlings followed John Sutton to Oskaloosa Township in 1830. He was a son of Daniel Rawlings. Levi's sister Rachael married Jeremiah Meek, a son of Bazil Meek. Even though Jeremiah did not go to Clay County, five of his brothers did. It is also known that Levi's sister, Elizabeth, was the first school teacher in the township. She married an unknown John Meek in Henry County.

Levi's sister, Rebecca, married Nathan Cull. He purchased land in Section 18, Oskaloosa TWP 4 Sep 1843.

Another sister, Mary, married John Stuart. Three of their children married children of Bazil Meek and several grandchildren married Bazil's grandchildren.

A daughter of Levi, Sarah, married a son of John Stuart, Thomas P. Stewart.

John Sutton and Levi Rawlings appeared to be more than brother-in-law's. They clearly knew each other in Henry County and sought their fortunes together in Clay County. They must have maintained their respective connections to the Meek family for some 15 to 20 years later five of the sons of Bazil Meek joined them in Clay County. Many other families from Henry Co., KY migrated to Clay Co., IL