

BEACHAM RHODES IN GRAYSON & HART COUNTIES KY

When Sarah and Beacham Rhodes moved to Grayson Co. KY from Nicholas Co., six of their children, Silas, Rachel, Phebe, Mickle, Ary & Samuel E. were married and not in the Beacham Rhodes household. All of these except Ary and William Baird stayed behind. The 1820 census of Grayson Co. KY lists William Baird as well as Beacham Rhodes. Beacham's household includes other than he and his wife, two males between 16 & 26 and one female less than 10 years old. We have determined, from data to be noted, that the two boys were Harlan, born in 1799 and Enos born in 1804. We have found no further evidence of the girl, but if Sarah was Beacham's second wife it is possible that this teen aged girl might have been her daughter from a previous marriage, but there is no proof of this.

Tax lists show Beacham Rhodes paying taxes in Grayson Co. In 1819, 1820, 1821 & 1822¹. He drops off the list in 1823, but tax lists in Hart Co KY show that he paid taxes there in 1823, 24 & 25². The watercourse on which his land was located in Grayson Co. was Big Clifty and in Hart Co. it was the Nolin River, indicating that the family must have moved to Hart Co. sometime in 1823. The Grayson Co. records show that he had 500 acres and the Hart Co. Records show 200 acres. This suggests that either the family had a serious financial setback in 1822, or that the land in Hart Co. was more productive and therefore more expensive. But for whatever reason they definitely moved to Hart County in 1823 as evidenced by the tax records.

In the meantime, a Harlan Rhodes appears on the Grayson Co. tax list in 1821³ and he stays on the list through 1823. In 1824 Harlan is on the Hart Co. tax⁴ list along with Beacham which seems to indicate that he moved there to be with his family. In 1825 we find Beacham, Harlan and Enos all on the Hart county tax list. Beacham is the only one shown with land and Harlan and Enos are shown only with personal property. This gives strong evidence that Beacham is the father of Harlan and Enos.

Assuming that one was liable for tax at age 21, Harlan's birth year would appear to be 1800. we know from other sources that he was born in 1799 so this checks out pretty close. It would depend on how late in the year that his birthday was as to when his first tax was due. Using this same theory, Enos' birth year would be 1803 or 1804 depending on the month that he became 21. Since we know from other records⁵ that Enos' wife, Mary, was born in 1805, the assumption of 1803 or 1804 as his birth year does not seem out of line. Harlan's wife was Ura Terry, who was born in 1806. It is significant that in 1826 Enos and Harlan are listed as tax payers, but Beacham is not. Instead Sarah Rhodes is paying taxes and the land on which she lives and it has the same description as the land that Beacham had been living on in years past. It then appears that Beacham must have died in late 1825 or early 1826 in Hart County.

In 1827 and in following years Harlan is missing from the Hart county list, but Enos and Sarah still appear in 1827 and also in 1828. Apparently Harlan left the county in 1827. In 1828 both Sarah and Enos are shown with land, but Sarah has 66 2/3 acres and Enos 133 1/3. This happens to be a 1/3 - 2/3 split of 200 acres which is the amount of land in the Rhodes parcel beginning in 1823. Traditionally the widow's share of an estate was 1/3, so this apparently completes the settlement of Beacham's estate. In 1829 only Enos appears on the tax list. Since Enos was the only heir left in the

community, the land apparently was left to him.

In the 1830 census of Vermillion Co. IN, Harlan Rhodes is listed. This is the same county in which Silas Rhodes is found in 1830. It appears that when Harlan left Hart Co. KY in 1826, he went to Vermillion Co. IN to be with his brother, Silas. Also oddly enough, Enos Rhodes is listed both on the 1830 census of Hart and Grayson counties KY. Other evidence shows that he moved to Shelby Co, IL in late 1830 or early 1831⁶, so very probably he moved to Grayson temporarily while getting ready to join a group migrating to Illinois. We know that a large migration took place in 1830 whose destination was IL.⁷ Very likely Enos moved his family to Grayson Co. after they had been counted in Hart, and before the census was taken in Grayson; therefore, the family was counted twice. We have found in other cases, and with other people where this occurred in other years.

We lose track of Sarah in Hart county in 1829, but there is evidence that her death did not occur until after 1837. In 1833 she won a judgement in the Nicholas Co. KY court for dower rights to the land which Beacham sold to James Lockridge in 1818⁸. On 5 May 1837 Sarah executed a deed to Michael Hedrick, then owner of the farm, for consideration of \$100.00 in exchange for her dower rights in the property⁹. We do not know where Sarah was living after 1829, but the most likely guess is that she moved back to Nicholas Co.

This ends the story of Beacham Rhodes who we first encountered on a Militia list in Chester County PA when he was 18 years old, and who we later find in Mason Co. KY in 1789, the year that Mason was formed from Bourbon Co. We do not know the names of his parents, or where they came from, but historical accounts of some of his descendants indicate that he was a native of Maryland. Since he seemed to be associated closely to the Stocktons, we assume that the Rhodes and Stocktons may have been neighbors or friends before they came to Kentucky. Since George Stockton and his half brother John Fleming were early explorers of Kentucky, several historical articles have been written about them. Further research on the activities and location of George Stockton may provide some data on the origins of this Rhodes Family.

Since Beacham was born in 1762 and apparently died in 1825, in his life span he experienced colonial America, the birth of our nation and its growth into a young and vigorous place where individual freedom was an important innovation. He left progenies which continue to this day some of which, we hope, are worthy of the struggles this pioneer endured to help build this nation.

1. Grayson Co. KY Tax Lists: Microfilm of the original records are on file in the Kentucky State Archives, Frankfort KY.

2. Hart Co. KY Tax Lists: microfilm of the original records are on file in the Kentucky State Archives, Frankfort KY

3. op cit. Grayson Co. KY Tax Lists.

4. op cit. Hart Co KY Tax Lists.

5. Bible Records: Leaves from a Rhodes Bible; Original records are in the Genealogical files of

Bruce and Hazel Turner, of San Bernardino CA. Bruce is a first cousin of the writer.

6. License for the marriage of Amon Daniel to Mary Rhodes; Mary was the widow of Enos Rhodes: Original record on file in the Shelby Co, IL County Clerk's Office.

7. Rhoads, J. Paul, The Family of Henry The Elder. Green Valley AZ. 1981: J. Paul Rhoads, Publisher.

8. Nicholas Co. KY Court records, 1833; Sarah Rhodes VS Michael and William Headrick et al for Dower rights concerning real estate sold by Beach am Rhodes in 1818: Sarah Rhodes was the widow of Beach am Rhodes:- Microfilm of original records are on file in the Kentucky State Archives, Frankfort, KY.

9. Nicholas County Deed Book, 1837; Deed, Sarah Rhodes to Michael Headrick, dated 5 May 1837: Original record on file in the Nicholas Co. KY Clerk's Office.