
Identifying a Son for John Temple of Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama

By Rachal Mills Lennon, CG

In a society where kinships were extensive and daily life challenging, associations rarely were random. They may be the only way to prove relationships.

In 1838, with a shaky hand and failing eyes, an aging Revolutionary War veteran made his mark for the last known time. John Temple's circumstances were typical of his place and era. He was a poor, illiterate, and landless veteran—presumably a husband and reputedly a father. Only his late-in-life pension application provided details of his life, albeit placing him among no visible kin or specific neighbors. John said he had a son but did not name him. That statement created a genealogical problem for disparate Temple families—each wishing the pensioner's unnamed son was their ancestor.

No matter how thin the record trail, one event or record can provide the basis for a case. For John Temple, that record is his Revolutionary War pension application. Even his skimpy file provides clues about family members, enabling researchers to reconstruct a “silent” portion of John's life.¹

THE APPLICATION

In 1818 in Edgefield District, South Carolina, John swore an affidavit supporting his pension application. He was sixty, indigent and frail, nearly blind and deaf. Again in 1820, 1827, 1830, 1832, 1837, and 1838, he filed other documents, adding details to support his need for assistance and justifying his move to Alabama. The file outlines his life:

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1. *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*, microfilm publication M804, 2870 rolls (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1974), roll 2356, alphabetically arranged, for John Temple (Pvt., 6th Regt., Va. Line), application S38431; digital images, *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com/browse.php>) > Revolutionary War Pensions > Virginia > T > Temple > John Temple. For an analysis of ambiguous and misleading assertions John made in the pension application, and the use of his military cohorts to bridge a 40-year gap between John's service and his 1818 pension request, see Rachal Mills Lennon, “Context and Comrades Illuminate a Silent Southerner: John Temple (1758–1838), Revolutionary War Pensioner,” *NGS Quarterly* 103 (March 2015): 49–67.

1818 (*Edgefield District*)

- He was born in 1757–58.
- Shortly after the Battle of Bunker Hill he enlisted at Amherst Courthouse, Virginia, in Captain Samuel J. Cabell's rifle company, 6th Virginia Infantry; he served six-and-a-half years.
- He was discharged at Middlebrook, New Jersey, after he "lost his eyesight."
- "In reduced circumstances," he was "in need of the aid of his country for support."²

1820 (*Edgefield District*)

- John's total estate was an old horse, skillet, and weeding hoe worth \$26.00.
- He reported being "very deaf and defective in his sight, helpless and weak in body that he has neither wife nor children and has to rely altogether on a pension or charity for his support and maintenance."³

1830 (*Montgomery County, Alabama*)

- John lived in an unspecified community in Montgomery County.
- He said he moved to Alabama to live near his son and "his son being in Alabama he wishes to reside near him as well as to have the company of many of his old companions who resided there."⁴

John named no family members, nor his "many . . . old companions." Particularly vexing is his having "neither wife nor children" in 1820 and an apparently grown son in 1830. That unnamed child—as the only Temple to whom John might be tied—was a cornerstone for reconstructing the old soldier's last two decades. The son's existence also allows modern Temples to test DNA evidence against documentation, helping to reconstruct Temple lines and the soldier's birth family.

The unnamed son presumably either preceded John to Montgomery County or moved with him. A younger John Temple, about whom descendants know much, lived there in 1830.⁵ Four problems, however, challenge any hypothesis that he was the pensioner's son:

- The younger John's 1830 household includes no older male, and the veteran heads no Montgomery County household. If this frail and impoverished septuagenarian followed his son there and the younger John was that son, why did they not live together?
- The two Johns appear together in no known document. The pension process would provide a logical opportunity for such an appearance; but the younger

2. *Fold3* > Revolutionary War Pensions > Virginia > T > Temple > John Temple > p. 8, digital image, John Temple, declaration, 23 July 1818.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 10, John Temple, declaration, 4 October 1820.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 23, John Temple, Application for a Transfer, 4 August 1830.

5. 1830 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., Ala., p. 214, John Temples household; National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) microfilm publication M19, roll 2.

man is not among the five individuals who helped the veteran maintain his pension for the last eight years of his life, spent in Montgomery County.

- Two of the veteran's likely "old companions," John Martin and Leonard Marbury who provided affidavits, did not live near the younger John in Montgomery County.⁶
- The only evidence suggesting the younger John was the elder's son is the seductively deceptive "the name is the same."

Considering the contradictory evidence, any assertion of kinship fails—unless a persuasive case shows that the contradictory evidence errs.

FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH

Montgomery County records yield no additional information. Veteran John Temple owned no land, paid no taxes, and was involved in no court proceedings. No newspaper, church record, or census mentions him. He did not use the local bank, and he left no valuable property at his death. His absence as a household head in 1830 led prior researchers to conclude that he could not be placed into a particular neighborhood or among potential kinsmen.

The younger John Temple first appears as a household head in Montgomery County in 1830. He rarely appeared in county records. On 16 November 1830 he received a patent for raw government land in the Pintlala community of western Montgomery County.⁷ He left Montgomery before late 1839, when his daughter married in adjoining Macon County.⁸ The 1830 census, taken within months of the veteran John's arrival, shows no individual in the younger John's household who could be his father:

<i>John Temples</i>	2 males 0–5	2 females 10–15
	1 male 5–10	1 female 30–40
	1 male 15–20	1 female 60–70
	1 male 40–50 ⁹	

Hypothetically, the household's eldest person could be the veteran John, if the enumerator placed that sexagenarian's tick mark in the wrong gender

6. Ibid., p. 177, Lenard Marbury household, and p. 189, John Martin household.

7. The land was the west half of the southwest quarter of section 24, township 14 north, range 17 east of the St. Stephens meridian. For a digital image of the patent, see U.S. Department of the Interior, "General Land Office Records," database with images, *Bureau of Land Management* (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/>), patent no. 5270, to John Temple, Montgomery Co., Ala. Many members of the 1830 census community founded the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church in Pintlala. See Catherine Sellers, "History of Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church," *Pintlala Historical Association Newsletter* 3 (October 1989): 3–5.

8. Macon Co., Ala., Marriage Records, 1835–1842, p. 35, William A. Harris–Narcissa Temple, 17 December 1839; Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery. Marriages customarily were recorded in the bride's home county.

9. 1830 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., Ala., p. 214, John Temples household.

section, a dozen columns from the correct one. That would still leave John's age incorrect; his pension assertions make him seventy-two in 1830. Without supporting evidence, an assumption of error is not valid, since it is more likely that the female was the younger John's mother-in-law or another female in her sixties.

Foundational research yielded no obvious 1830 home for the old John and no tie to the younger John. It did not show two men together between 1830, when the veteran arrived in Montgomery County, and 1838, when he died. The FAN Principle of genealogical research (using friends, associates, and neighbors to pinpoint and track an elusive ancestor), however, offers potential informants and evidence needed to build a case identifying John's claimed son and likely another son.

Three Alabama men provided legal aid in the elderly John's pension process:

- Henry Goldthwaite, a New England native operating in Montgomery and Mobile counties¹⁰
- Hugh Nelson, a Petersburg, Virginia, resident operating in Mobile¹¹
- Dixon H. Lewis, of Montgomery and adjacent Lowndes County¹²

These men were lawyers, politicians, and merchants whose influential social and civic positions made them logical choices to process applications and secure payments for aging pensioners. None of them is apparently related to either John Temple.

Two local men, John Martin and Leonard Marbury, submitted affidavits supporting John's pension transfer in 1830. Both had come from Edgefield District, South Carolina, where John had first filed for a pension in 1818. Both had moved to Alabama before 1820.¹³ Neither, however, lived near the younger Temple at Pintlala, about sixteen miles below the county seat. Rather, they lived in the extreme northern part of the county, in and north of the city of Montgomery. Because both men said they had known the veteran in South Carolina, they likely were among John's "numerous old companions." Because he specifically wished to have their "company," he likely settled with or near them. Martin, a Montgomery County sheriff in the 1820s, also had political

10. Thomas McAdory Owen and Marie Bankhead Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*, 4 vols. (Chicago: S. J. Clarke, 1921), 3:675.

11. For Hugh Nelson in Mobile, see "The Diary of William Fairfax Gray: From Virginia to Texas, 1835–1837," pp. 174–75 and 193; digital transcription, William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, *Southern Methodist University* (http://smu.edu/swcenter/FairfaxGray/wg_cont.htm).

12. "Lewis, Dixon Hall (1802–1848)," *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* (<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=L000278>). Also, "Dixon Hall Lewis," *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1515>).

13. Little is known about Marbury, who carried a forename used frequently in various branches of his family. For a biographical sketch of Martin, see William B. Garrett, *Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama for Thirty Years* (Atlanta, Ga.: Plantation Publishing, 1872), 80. The precise time of Martin's and Marbury's migrations is unknown, but in the 1820s Martin was sufficiently established in Montgomery County to serve as sheriff.

influence to help the veteran push his cause.¹⁴ The twenty or more miles between the Martin-Marbury neighborhood and John of Pintlala weakens, rather than strengthens, any proposed connection between the veteran and the younger same-named man.

Viewing the problem from a neighborhood perspective, the pension file offers additional possibilities: the two justices of the peace who took the affidavits in 1830 and 1832. Most justices in this era served rural neighborhoods. They typically lived only five or so miles apart, enabling them to supply nearby legal help to county residents. Most families used a neighborhood justice for drafting deeds and wills, marrying couples, and settling small-claims disputes. By custom and convenience, the frail John Temple would have gone to the justice in his neighborhood. In this case, the two officials lived in widely different areas—one in each target community: north Montgomery County and Pintlala.

Wade Allen

In August 1830 John appeared before Wade Allen, another Edgefield transplant, to apply for transferring his pension from South Carolina.¹⁵ John Martin and Leonard Marbury testified for him at the same time and place.¹⁶ Allen, of northern Montgomery County, was Martin's friend.¹⁷ The evidence suggests Temple lived near Martin and Marbury immediately upon arriving in the county, leading him to use Allen's services.

Enos Howard

On 11 June 1832 the veteran John Temple swore before local justice Enos Howard that John Martin had lost Temple's original pension certificate.¹⁸ Howard lived in the Pintlala community, although the 1830 census lists him fourteen pages before the younger Temple. From the census alone, one might conclude that the two men lived in different neighborhoods. Howard and the younger John Temple, however, were neighbors. The enumerator's path arbitrarily split the neighborhood.¹⁹

14. Ibid.

15. Fold3 > Revolutionary War Pensions > Virginia > T > Temple > John Temple > p. 23, digital image, John Temple, Application for a Transfer, 4 August 1830.

16. Ibid., p. 33, John Martin and Leonard Marbury, declaration, 4 August 1830.

17. E. P. Morrisette, reporter, *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined before the Supreme Court of Alabama during the November Term 1892* (Montgomery, Ala.: Smith, Allred, 1894), 385, for Allen vs. Watts, Exrs. Allen owned land in Montgomery and west and north of the town. See U.S. Department of the Interior, "General Land Office Records," *Bureau of Land Management*, fourteen patents to Wade Allen, Montgomery Co., Ala.

18. Fold3 > Revolutionary War Pensions > Virginia > T > Temple > John Temple > p. 3, digital image, John Temple, Application for a New Certificate, 11 June 1832.

19. 1830 U.S. census, Montgomery Co., p. 200, Enos Howard, and p. 214, John Temples. Land ownership has not been found for Enos Howard. However, his census neighbors purchased land in the same or adjoining section, township, and range as the younger John Temple (section 24 of township 14 north, range 17 east). For example, Ann Jeter, also enumerated on page 200, lived in section 23. See "General Land Office Records," *Bureau of Land Management*, patent to Ann Jeter, Montgomery Co., Ala.

A hypothesis might explain John's selection of justices. Soon after arriving from Edgefield, he asked Martin and Marbury—two old friends in north Montgomery—to file affidavits for him. Rather than sending a message from Pintlala asking them to travel south, he met them and a justice in their neighborhood. Two years later, however, when John did not need Martin and Marbury's presence, he went to a justice in his own neighborhood, which—coincidentally or not—was also the younger John's neighborhood.

In this hypothesis, John's contradiction in the pension process—first claiming no children or kin and then acknowledging a son—is understandable. Fearing that federal examiners could conclude that children could take care of parental needs without tapping into public funds, pensioners might fear the consequences of acknowledging living children. John might have ignored his son's presence when applying for the pension in South Carolina, especially if the son did not live in the community. He acknowledged his son, however, when he needed to justify his move to Alabama and transfer his payment to the bank at Mobile.²⁰ The FAN Principle supports the hypothesis that the younger John was the pensioner's unnamed son. Individuals rarely migrated alone during this period, certainly not nearly blind and deaf elderly men. Individuals typically moved with relatives and neighbors. Those who moved with either John are potential kinsmen—lineal, collateral, or in-laws. Their records could advance the research.

THE EDGEFIELD EVIDENCE

Parallel migration would contribute to the case if the Temples can be placed into the same Edgefield enclave. Two pieces of evidence help this placement:

- In 1820 the veteran John Temple identified himself as a resident of Sweetwater Creek, Edgefield District.²¹
- In 1811 the younger John of Montgomery County married Edgefield resident Sarah Judge.²²

No evidence specifies the years each John lived in Edgefield, whether the veteran lived in any other Edgefield neighborhood, and whether the two Johns lived simultaneously in any Edgefield neighborhood—all points critical to answering the question of their kinship. Neither man appears on an Edgefield

20. *Fold3* > Revolutionary War Pensions > Virginia > T > Temple > John Temple > p. 36, digital image, Henry Goldthwaite to "Hon Sec" of War U.S., letter, 4 August 1830.

21. *Ibid.*, p. 10, John Temple, declaration, 4 October 1820.

22. John Temple (Pvt., Capt. William Olds's Company, Ga. Militia, War of 1812), application SO20298, War of 1812 Case Files; Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files Based Upon Service Prior to the Civil War; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group (RG) 15; National Archives (NA), Washington, D. C.

census.²³ Also, neither John Martin nor Leonard Marbury, with whom the elder John had his earliest documented ties, lived along Sweetwater.²⁴ Yet, Martin testified in 1832 that he had known Temple for more than twenty years, dating the start of that relationship to around 1812—close to when the younger John married Sarah Judge in Edgefield.

Edgefield yields no record showing that either John Temple was a grantor, grantee, witness, or adjoining landowner. The pensioner's associates Martin and Marbury similarly left few records during their stay in Edgefield, but they did provide useful evidence.

By the time John Martin of Montgomery began his Edgefield association with John Temple, the Martins, a large family, had founded the Martintown community northwest of Edgefield Village and slightly north of Horn's Creek. Martintown lay along an important route, known as the Martintown Road. Farmers hauling produce to markets at Hamburg, Campbelltown, and Augusta had used it heavily. The road crossed Sweetwater Creek, which ran between "Hardies M. H. [Meeting House]" and "T. Stewarts," ending at "Enos Howard's Tavern."²⁵ Thus, John Temple of Sweetwater can be placed near his two most-significant associates of Montgomery County:

- John Martin, who acted as Temple's first pension agent in Alabama, lived a few miles to the northeast of Sweetwater in Martintown, early in the twenty years of his and Temple's association.
- Enos Howard, the justice of the peace in Montgomery County near the younger John Temple, lived along the short waterway known as Sweetwater Creek.

CONNECTING THE EVIDENCE

Of the thousands of documents used to build the case to this point, none states a relationship between the two John Temples. Nor had the two men

23. John Temple of approximately the same age as the candidate for the pensioner's son lived in Edgefield in 1820. He lived in a different part of Edgefield and was still there in 1830, when John Jr. of this paper lived in Alabama. This third John was the son of Revolutionary War veteran James Temple and his wife Rachel. For a start at disambiguating these two Temple families, see *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*, microfilm M804, roll 2356, for James Temple (Pvt., S.C., Weatherford's Regt.), file R10451. Also, 1820 U.S. census, Edgefield Dist., S.C., p. 44, John Temple; NARA microfilm M33, roll 118. Also, 1830 Edgefield Dist., S.C., p. 205, John Temples; NARA microfilm M19, roll 172.

24. Edgefield District, S.C., Deeds 2:215–19, Leonard Marbury to John Jolson Low, 21 July 1787; 2:228–29, Leonard Marbury to Peter Carns, 26 September 1788; 1:53–57, Nicholas and Mary Eveleigh to Rev. Robert Smith, Edward Rutledge, and John B. Holmes, 23 January 1786; 19:455–59, Zachariah Lunday to Nehemiah Lunday, 23 March 1801; and 31:92, James Monday to Wright Martin, 13 October 1809; all at register of Mesne Conveyance, Edgefield.

25. Robert Mills, "Edgefield District, South Carolina: Surveyed by Tho^s. Anderson, 1817; Improved for Mills' Atlas, 1825"; digital image, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps860029-23862.html>).

appeared together on a single record. With many Southern yeomen, this is the norm. It is also common—as in this case—for a thorough study of neighbors and associates to provide critical evidence.

An Informative Estate Record

A search of 1,055 probate packets created in Edgefield before 1840, scanning each loose sheet for Temples, suspected in-laws, and known associates, yielded one priceless document connecting John to a previously unknown associate. On 13 December 1810, at the estate sale of Dionysius Oliver, the compiler of the proceedings recorded two relevant purchases: John Temples Snr, one saddle, \$80; John Temples Jnr, one bay filly, \$70.²⁶

This record is also the earliest documented appearance of either John in Edgefield District. The document places the older man there in time to start his “twenty year” friendship with Martin. It places the younger John there just months before his marriage. Since both John Temples appeared at the estate sale, both likely lived in the same close community; an estate sale of personal goods was typically a neighborhood event. Other probate records address how long the men lived in Edgefield:

25 January 1812

An account of Dionysius Oliver’s estate includes “John Temples, \$6.00.”²⁷

13 December 1819

The account of James Day’s estate sale includes “John Temple, 50 bushels of corn.”²⁸

2 October 1823

The inventory of notes and accounts of the late Jeremiah Bussey’s estate includes “J. Temple’s account, \$.75.”²⁹

12 December 1825

The estate sale of John Tarrance includes “John Temples, Senr., 1 lot crockery, \$3.12.”³⁰

John’s identification as “Sr.” in 1810 and 1825 extends his established residence in the Sweetwater community well beyond the 1818–20 period documented in his pension file. Whether the man of 1812, 1819, and 1823 was Senior or Junior is not obvious. These documents, however, show that one or both John Temples were present in Edgefield for at least fifteen years. Records of

26. Edgefield Dist., S.C., probate records, box 22, package 778; Probate Court, Edgefield, S.C.

27. *Ibid.*

28. *Ibid.*, box 9, pkg. 305.

29. *Ibid.*, box 4, pkg. 127.

30. *Ibid.*, box 28, pkg. 997.

the above decedents and others involved in their estates confirm that these men had a consistent presence in the Sweetwater community:

- Seaborn Oliver, heir of the above, owned land on Sweetwater.³¹
- Jeremiah Bussey owned land at the juncture of Stephens and Sweetwater Creeks.³²
- James Day owned land near the mouth of Stephens Creek and along Foxes Creek.³³

These men's records show what records of neither John Temple reveal: the community where the nearly blind John Temple operated between 1810 and 1825 was in the narrow zone between Sweetwater Creek and Foxes Creek, even though neither he nor John Jr. appears as a householder on the 1810 and 1820 Edgefield censuses.

Young John's Militia Leader

A final piece of evidence gleaned from associates' records also places John Jr. in the Sweetwater neighborhood. He served in Capt. William W. Olds's militia company in 1815.³⁴ Because officers typically recruited in their own neighborhood, Olds was a likely locator to John Jr.'s place of residence when he enlisted. Olds had ties to both South Carolina and Georgia, where documents provide a valuable chronology for his residential pattern:

- In 1804 Olds executed a promissory note to Georgia resident Nathaniel Durkee, who then transferred the note to William Goss of Augusta, Georgia.³⁵
- In 1811 Augusta resident Samuel Hale sued Olds.³⁶
- In 1812 Olds mortgaged 338 acres in Edgefield District on the Savannah River where he then lived. He does not appear on the 1810 Edgefield census.³⁷
- In 1817 Olds was a debtor to the Edgefield estate of Sweetwater resident Colonel Leroy Hammond.³⁸

No Georgia census enumerations include Olds because the state's 1800 and 1810 returns are lost. However, the 1811 court case—which continued for many years—contains an affidavit by Olds stating that in May 1815, he “went

31. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 29:436–7, John Hancock to Seaborn Oliver, 31 May 1809.

32. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 33:301, Henry Briggs to Jeremiah Bussey, 30 October 1815.

33. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 33:146, Susannah Covington to James Day, 18 May 1815.

34. “Pay Roll of the company of infantry commanded by Captain William W. Olds, a regiment of the So Ca Militia in the service of the United States from 4th Feb 1815 to 18th March 1815,” South Carolina, Austin's Regiment of Militia; Orders, Muster Rolls, and Returns; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s–1917, RG 94; NA–Washington.

35. Edgefield Court of Equity Bills, case #168.

36. *Ibid.*

37. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 32:223, William W. Olds to Samuel Savage, 20 January 1812.

38. Edgefield Dist., probate records, box 13, pkg. 460; box 22, pkg. 778; and box 13, pkg. 473.

to Augusta with his wagon from the District of Edgefield where he then resided, having removed from the state of Georgia.”³⁹ Having moved from Georgia in late 1811 or early 1812, Olds was living in Edgefield when John Temple Jr. joined his militia company.

Young John's In-laws

Once identified, members of the Temple neighborhood also point to the family into which John Jr. married in 1811, placing the younger John at Sweetwater Creek. Five potential birth families for his wife, Sarah Ann Judge, lived in Edgefield between 1790 and 1820. Household composition yielded only one candidate for her father:

<i>Thos. Judge</i>	1 male under sixteen years
<i>in 1790</i>	1 male of age sixteen years and upwards
	3 females ⁴⁰

Judge's location is unstated in this record. He is not among a recognizable cluster of Sweetwater Creek residents; nor does he appear on subsequent censuses. He owned land along Stevens Creek, but the precise location is unknown.⁴¹ Again, Temple associates created records placing Thomas at Sweetwater at the time of the 1811 marriage:

20 January 1812

Wm. W. Olds mortgaged to Samuel Savage and other executors of Wm. F. Frazier, 338 acres on Savannah River where Olds lived, adjoining Thomas Judge, Alexander Stewart, and Mrs. Covington.⁴²

28 March 1812

Seaborn Oliver sold Alexander Stewart thirty acres, formerly the property of John Cook, deceased, on Sweetwater of Stephens Creek, known as the Peter Day tract and adjoining Henry Briggs, Patsey Howerton, Richard Covington, and the said Stewart.⁴³

27 October 1818

James Panton, planter, sold John Moore, planter, 338 acres surveyed by Leroy Hammond lying below Stephens Creek, adjoining lands of Alex. Stewart, Thomas Judge, W. Thomas, the estates of Reuben Frazer and Robert Gardner, Mrs.

39. Edgefield Dist., Court of Equity Bills, case no. 168; Court of Equity, Edgefield.

40. 1790 U.S. census, Edgefield Dist., S.C., p. 509, col. 3, Tho^s. Judge household; NARA microfilm M637, roll 11.

41. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 32:223, Wm. W. Olds to Samuel Savage, 20 January 1812; 35:274, James Panton to John Moore, 29 October 1818; and 35:281, William W. Olds to James Panton, 15 December 1817.

42. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 32:223, Olds to Savage, 20 January 1812.

43. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 31:77, Seaborn Oliver to Alexander Stewart, 28 March 1812.

Covington's now James Days' land, and the estate of William Howerton; being the land on which Panton resides.⁴⁴

Judge's neighbors were Temple associates:

- William Olds, the militia captain of the younger John Temple in 1815
- Seaborn Oliver, an heir of Dionysius Oliver, from whose estate both John Temples purchased property in 1810⁴⁵
- James Day, from whose estate one of the John Temples purchased personal items in 1819.

Thomas Judge, the only candidate for Sarah Judge's father, lived in the Temple community when Sarah married John Temple Jr.

Another Temple Relative?

Dionysius Oliver's estate settlement places a third male Temple—a previously unconnected man—in that same neighborhood. On 4 August 1814 the estate's executor filed two administrative lists:

- List of accounts between 1810 and 1813 . . . including "John Temples, \$600"
- List of debts due estate . . . including "Wm. Temple, doubtful, \$1.25.27"⁴⁶

William's involvement in the same estate settlement as the two John Temples suggests he was their close relative—possibly another of John Sr.'s sons. Nothing else has been found about him in Edgefield District and Montgomery County.

WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE

More than ten thousand documents created in the time and place of this problem failed to yield direct evidence that the unnamed son of John Temple Sr. was John Temple Jr. of Montgomery County, Alabama. However, through their neighbors and associates, both can be placed in the same community in the same time frame—twice over, in two states: Montgomery County, Alabama, and Edgefield District, South Carolina. One document, created by and about the estate of an Edgefield neighbor, peripherally mentions them in a way that attests their presence at the same place on the same day. Another document relating to that estate suggests the identity of another Temple kinsman, William. The terms Sr. and Jr.—literally meaning "the elder" and "the younger"—did not

44. Edgefield Dist., Deeds 35:274, Panton to Moore, 29 October 1818.

45. Dionysius's will, dated 17 Sep. 1809, identifies Seaborn as his son. See James E. and Vivian Wooley, *Edgefield County, South Carolina, Wills, 1787–1836* (Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1991), 280.

46. Edgefield Dist., probate records, box 22, pkg. 778.

necessarily mean “father” and “son” in their society. When the related evidence is considered collectively, however, the father-son relationship is clear.

The evidence in this case reminds researchers that any association—no matter how seemingly insignificant—may be critical. Absent strong genealogical evidence, thorough analysis of all individuals and events is important. In a society where kinships were extensive and daily life challenging, associations rarely were random. They may provide the only avenue for proving relationships.

Melancholy Catastrophy

[*New Brunswick Royal Gazette*, Fredericton, 8 August 1838]

Melancholy Catastrophy! It appears that a party of 25 persons, mostly women and children, belonging principally to Portland (St. John Co.), started in a boat at an early hour in the morning for the purpose of proceeding a short distance up the River Saint John to gather berries, a custom usual at this season of the year, and were rowing threw the smaller passage in the Falls between 5 and 6 o'clock, when the boat struck on Hunt's Rock, then under water; the tide running rapidly up at the time, it immediately swung round and capsized, precipitating all on board into a part of the river abounding with eddies and whirlpools, and in which it is difficult even for the most expert swimmers long to sustain themselves. The consequence was truly awful; of the 25 persons on board, only six were able either to reach the shore, or to keep themselves afloat until the few who had witnessed the frightful disaster could come to their aid. Their names are: Sampson Manaton, Richard Heanes and son, and William Young, James Murray and John Trennaman (Three youths). Those who perished were: Mrs. Heanes and five children, Mrs. Manaton and four children, Mrs. Trenaman and daughter, Mrs. Osborne and son, Miss Hale, Miss Adams, Miss King and Thomas Stevenson. Nearly all in the boat were family connections and from their names, it will be seen that several families have been almost entirely swept away—the father of one and the father and one child of another only surviving. Three of the females, we learn, were sisters of Mr. Hale, Shipbuilder of Portland—another was a daughter of the late Josiah Adams of Portland - The bodies of Miss King and an infant child were found soon after the accident, but too late to restore the vital spark. Miss King was in her 63rd year of age.

[Sampson lost his entire family in this accident, his wife and his four children. One can hardly imagine his anguish. He married first, 14 September 1826, in Saint John, Mary Heales. They were of Portland parish, City of Saint John. Sampson married second, 9 February 1841, in Saint John, Ann Thompson. They had eight children. William, their youngest, who migrated to New York, made headlines when he went on a cocaine fueled rampage with a hatchet, smashing furniture.]

—Contributed by Ronald Ames Hill, PhD, CG, FASG