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REPORT TO: [Name and address redacted for privacy]
REPORT NO: 3
SUBJECT: John W. & Sarah Anderson of Union County, Georgia

BACKGROUND

Client has asked me to review the research she and others have conducted on her ancestors John W. Anderson (1816–84) and his wife Sarah (1827–1913), applying a critical and fresh eye to propel work to the next level. She has meticulously followed the precepts of advanced and reasonably exhaustive research through a wide range of sources in a challenging Georgia region. Yet, three objectives remain unfulfilled, specifically:

- The identity of John W.'s parents.
- The identity of Sarah's parents.
- The acquisition and disposal of land on which Sarah began paying taxes in 1885.

The time required to thoroughly digest Client's material, assess the case status, highlight hidden clues, and pursue immediate questions, has restricted my attention to the identity issues. A study of Sarah's land could not be included. I must stress that my findings are governed by the nature and extent of the materials provided to me and by the limited time available for new research.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

My assessment and new research have advanced Client's objectives in several ways:

- First, I agree that John and Sarah (née Nicholson) Erwin were Sarah Anderson's parents. The Erwins actually played, and will continue to play, an important role in the Anderson lineage.

- Second, by pursuing Erwin neighbors, I discovered a document that places one “Johnny Anderson” within a mile or two of them the year before John W. married Sarah.
- Third, I eliminated Joshua Anderson as a potential father of John W.
- Fourth, I discovered an 1863 deed missed by prior researchers, by which Moses Anderson sold the land on which he reported taxes, for John Anderson, in 1849.
- Fifth, I cannot yet promote or dismiss the candidacy of Moses Anderson as John W.’s father for two reasons: (1) Client’s material did not provide enough evidence to adequately assess him; (2) Moses had several sons of John W.’s age who are unaccounted for. Additional work is required to determine if John W. was one of those sons.
- Sixth, new evidence presented in this paper suggests an alternative possibility that John W. was the son of one Nancy Anderson. The discovery and placement of two other young Anderson men in very close proximity to John W.—Henry M. and Jacob—make them critical research targets. Current evidence, which needs to be developed, suggests *they and John W. could comprise a sibling group as sons of the 53-year-old Nancy Anderson who shared Jacob’s home in 1850.*

Explanations of my findings are presented in two parts: Part One focuses on Sarah’s parents. Part Two focuses on John W.

Part One:
Sarah Anderson’s Parents

Based on current evidence, descendant claims that Sarah was the daughter of John Erwin and Sarah neé Nicholson, appear sound. Because no single document links them, I offer a step-by-step argument to evidence the relationship.

First, John W. and Sarah would have been together before and at the time of their c1846 marriage, and the odds are good that they remained close to her family for at least a few years afterwards. I therefore draw your attention again to the 1849 tax list on which a John Erwin appears in John W.’s district:

FIGURE 1
John Erwin, 1849 Union County Tax¹



John Erwin	1	50	110 104 10
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¹ Union Co., Ga., 1849 tax list, dist. 1018 (Young Cane), no page number; imaged on *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>) > digital film 008188770 > image 35.

1849
 Union County
 Dist. 1018 (Young Cane)
 John Erwin 1 poll, 50 acres 2nd class upland, 110 acres pine
 no. 104, dist. 10

John is the only Erwin in this district, which we must use as a general "neighborhood." My research shows that John had settled here by 1840, coming in from Hall County.² His 1830 and 1840 census entries contain a daughter of Sarah's age who was not with the family in 1850:

1830
 Hall County, Ga.³
 John Irwin 1 male 20-30 **3 females 0-5**
 1 female 5-10
 1 female 20-30

1840
 Union County, Ga.⁴
 John Irwin 2 males 0-5 1 female 5-10
 2 males 5-10 **3 females 10-15**
 1 male 30-40 1 female 15-20
 1 female 30-40

1850
 Union County, Ga.⁵
 John Irvin 49 M farmer \$250 real b. N. C.
 Sarah 47 F b. N. C.
 Martha 21 F b. Ga.
 James 19 M b. Ga.
 William 17 M b. Ga.
 Marion 15 M b. Ga.
 George 13 M b. Ga.
 Thomas 10 M b. Ga.
 Matilda 7 F b. Ga.

The loss of Union's earliest tax lists and deeds, as well as John W.'s absence from the 1850 census, seriously hampers efforts put him and the Erwins into contact. Indeed, we still have no direct evidence of the county in which John W. resided at the time of his

² In 1846 in Union County, John Erwin witnessed a deed through which John Nickolson Sr. sold Hall County land. See Hall Co., Ga., Deed Book F: 600-01; *FamilySearch* > digital film 008563513 > images 578-79.

³ 1830 U. S. census, Hall Co., Ga., p. 98, ln. 21 (John Irwin); imaged on "U. S. Census Collections, 1790-1940," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>).

⁴ 1840 U. S. census, Union Co., Ga., population schedule, p. 11, ln. 20 (John Irwin).

⁵ 1850 U. S. census, Union Co., Ga., pop. sch., 85th dist., stamped p. 212 (verso), dwelling 150, family 150 (John Irvin).

marriage. Nevertheless, we have circumvented his absence by putting Sarah in Union County in time for the marriage. The next step is to place them into a specific community, which must be done before we can look for Andersons nearby.

John Erwin's land (lot 104, district 10) lay on the headwaters of Young Cane Creek, which was then in the center of the county, but is now west-central, close to the Fannin County line. Figure 3 shows the lot on an original survey map and on a more modern county map.

FIGURE 3
John Erwin Land, Union County⁶

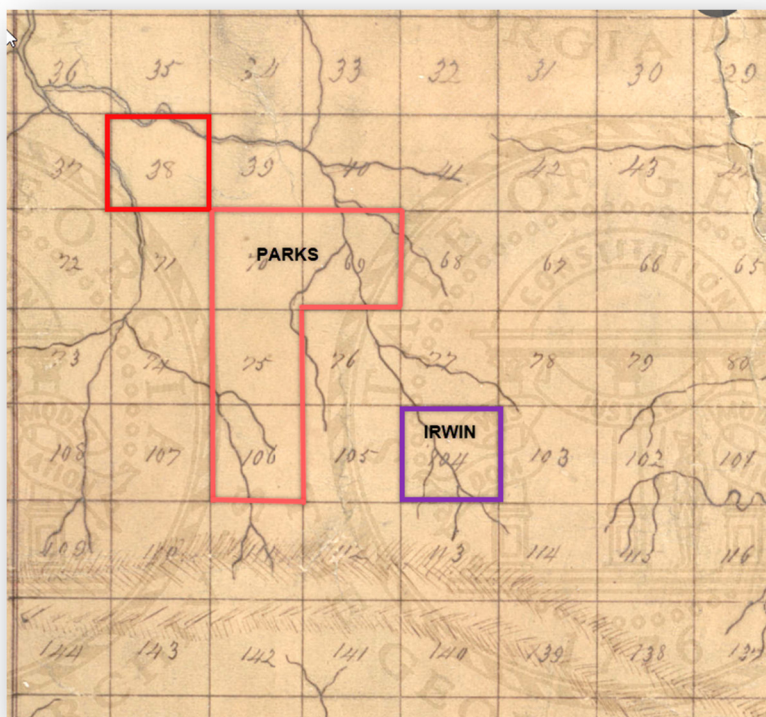


There are no Union County deeds recorded in John Erwin's name or variants thereof to tell us whether this was his only tract and, most importantly whether he was living here

⁶ James A. Green, "Map of the County of Union [1867]" and "Union County Highway Map, 1934," *Georgia Virtual Vault* (<https://vault.georgiaarchives.org>).

when Sarah and John W. married. Nevertheless, we can test the residence via his 1840 census neighbors. John G. Parks, who was enumerated next to Irwin, purchased lots 38, 69 & 70, and 106 of district 10 in 1845, 1848, and 1850.⁷ He was in the same tax district with John W. Anderson and John Erwin in 1849, taxed on lots 38, 70, 75, and 69.⁸ As illustrated on the map snippet in Figure 4, Parks's lands were almost adjacent to Irwin's.

FIGURE 4
Landholdings of John G. Parks & John Erwin



We may therefore conclude that John Erwin was living on the same land in 1840 (when he was enumerated on the census) and 1846 (when when his daughter married). **This is a critical point due to the discovery of an Anderson in the very same spot just a year before John W. Anderson reportedly married.**

The document in Figure 5 concerns Parks's purchase of lot 28 in 1845, shortly before John W. Anderson married Sarah Erwin. **Notice that one of the witnesses was "Johnny Anderson."** This discovery is extremely important because it puts Johnny into contact with the Erwins, via their immediate neighbor Parks. Moreover, Johnny's activity there a year before John W. married promotes the possibility of a genealogical connection to

⁷ The first tract was purchased from R. G. Ketron on 23 Dec. 1845 (Deed Book B: 250); the second two from G. W. Parks in 1848 (Deed Book B: 252), the fourth from Moses Payne on 22 August 1850 (Deed Book B: 251).

⁸ Union Co., 1849 tax list, dist. 1018, no page number; *FamilySearch* > digital film 008188770 > image 37.

either Parks (the grantee) or to Reuben Ketron (the grantor). Both men should be followed in future research.

FIGURE 5

John G. Parks Land Purchase, 1845⁹

Georgia, } This Indenture made & entered into
Union County } This the twenty third day of October
(One Thousand Eight Hundred &
Forty Five between Reuben G. Ketron of the
one part and John G. Parks of the other
part both of the County & State above written
Witnesseth that for and in consideration
of the sum of five hundred dollars paid
in hand to the above Reuben G. Ketron
by the said John G. Parks, the receipt
whereof is hereby acknowledged with con-
vained, sold & conveyed & by these presents
granted, sold & conveyed seven shares of a cer-
tain tract or parcel of land known as lot
No. 38, thirty eight in the South, District
& first section of Union County Georgia
to have and to hold the said conveyed
premises together with all the rights, mem-
bers & appurtenances thereto, And the
said Reuben G. Ketron do bind myself
my executors, administrators & assigns
to warrant & defend the title & rights to
said conveyed premises from & against
my own claims & or the claims of any
other persons to the said John G. Parks his
heirs & assigns forever in fee simple,
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
set my hand & seal this day & date above
written
Signed, sealed & delivered
in presence of
John W. Anderson
James M. Martin
Reuben G. Ketron

Let us now turn to look at the question of John W.'s parents.

Part Two:

John W. Anderson's Parents

Client has carefully logged all Andersons reporting taxes over the 1849-85 period in Union County. She has expressed particular interest in two as possible kinsmen of John W.: Joshua (who performed the marriage of John W.'s son in 1881) and Moses (who

⁹ Union Co., Deed Book B: 250; FamilySearch > digital film 007900791 > image 162.

descendants claim was John W.'s father). Additionally, I will address several other Anderson who are not prominently discussed in Client's work. Let us begin with Joshua.

Joshua Anderson

Client notes that Joshua Anderson was called "ordinary" in several records. She is correct in her suspicion that he was a county official: the judge of the Ordinary Court. That position, as well as his sizeable landholdings, puts him in society's "upper crust." John W. was in a very different social and financial stratum. Not only was he landless, as Client notes, but the 1880 agricultural census (not contained in Client's material) shows he was, in fact, a sharecropper. Ten years earlier, he had farmed only ten acres, barely enough to sustain a family. (See Figures 6 and 7.)

FIGURE 6
1870 Agricultural Schedule¹⁰

Name of Agent, Owner, or Manager	Value of Land		Value of Farm		Value of Implements		Value of Cattle		Value of Horses		Value of Sheep		Value of Swine		Value of Crops		Value of Other Products		Total Value
	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	Improved	Unimproved	
John Anderson	10	15	125	15	13	15	1	2	2	12	18	20	75	50	200	20	75	50	200

John Anderson 10 improved acres, \$125 value of farm, \$13 value implements
1 horse, 2 milk cows, 2 other cattle, 12 sheep, 10 swine; \$200 value
20 bu. Rye, 75 bu. Indian corn, 50 bu. oats

¹⁰ 1870 U. S. census, Union Co., agricultural schedule, pg. number illegible, ln. 11 (John Anderson); imaged in "U. S. Census Collection, 1790-1940," Ancestry.

FIGURE 7
1880 Agricultural Schedule¹¹

enumerated by me on the 11th day of June, 1880. M. E.

OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.				FARM VALUES.			FENCES.		LABOR.				ACREAGE.	
THE NAME.	Owner.	Taxes for land money rental.	Taxes for shares of produce.	IMPROVED.		UNIMPROVED.		Of farm, including land, house, and buildings.	Of farming implements and machinery.	Of Live Stock.	Cost of building and repairing in 1879.	Cost of fertilizers purchased in 1879.	Amount paid for wages for farm labor during 1879, including value of board.	Wages paid labor in 1879 upon farm (and dairy) excluding board-work.	Estimated value of all farm productions (sold, consumed, or on hand) for 1879.	Mown.	Acres.	
				Tilled, including fallow and grain in rotation, (whether pasture or meadow.)	Permanently improved, pastures, orchards, vineyards.	Woodland and forest.	Other unimproved, including "old fields" not growing wool.											
				No.	No.	No.	No.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	No.	No.	Dollars.	Acres.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1. A. C. Chuas, George	1			35		90		300	20	50					135			
2. W. Van Biliam	1			115		75		1000	7	225	10		150	50	500			
3. W. Van Biliam No	1			50				100	2	30					140			
4. H. Van Biliam	1			9				30	3	10					40			
5. W. Van Biliam H	1			75		245		500	30	600			100	50	340			
6. W. Van Biliam H	1			28		30	30	200	10	125					25			
7. W. Van Biliam	1			30		80		200	25	100	5				300			
8. W. Van Biliam	1			8		150		100	2	20					50			
9. W. Van Biliam	1			20		135		300	10	200	30				140			
10. W. Van Biliam	1			40		180	20	500	25	150	1				100			

John Anderson

Rents for shares of produce

28 improved and 135 woodland acres, \$300 farm, \$10 implements . . .

Men belonging to the county elite did not share crop or endure subsistence levels. We may therefore conclude that Joshua's connection to John W.'s son was not personal.

Moses Anderson

Client expressed particular interest in Moses, noting that descendants incorrectly identify him as John W.'s father. The material provided to me for review does not detail prior research on him, but the research log references him in the National Archives Index to Indian Wars Service Records and Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers, 1784-1811. She has documented his Union County tax entries and notes that other researchers viewed the following Union County *indexes* without finding anything:

Letters of Administration, 1877-1941

Executors Bonds

Inventories and Appraisements, 1877-1928

Superior Court Record Book B, 1874-1881

Amnesty Oaths, 1865

¹¹ 1880 U. S. census, Union Co., ag. Sch., pg. 75, ln. 9 (John Anderson); imaged in "U. S. Census Collection, 1790-1940," *Ancestry*.

1832 Cherokee Land Lottery
Deeds, 1860–1906

As Client is aware, looking up names in an index is not an acceptable research strategy for difficult identity cases. Moreover, the earlier researcher erred in asserting that Moses does not appear in the Union County deed indexes. In fact, he does. Given these research “red flags,” and because I do not know the nature of prior research, I must look at him more closely. There is evidence to promote interest. Notice that his 1840 household 1) puts him close to John Irwin and 2) shows two males of John W.’s age in the home.

FIGURE 8
1840 Union County¹²

Henry Miller	2	2	1		1														
Moses Anderson					2														
John Beary					1														
James Morrow				3	2														
William Gulwan	2		1																
John Patterson				1															
Isabella Price					1														
William Jones		1	1	1															
James Parks																			
Abel Anderson		1																	
Isaac Anderson			2	1															
John O Parks		1																	
John Irwin		2	2																
Isaac Rouch		1	1	1	1														

The previously missed deed of 1863 concerns Moses selling the only land to which he has been linked: lot 77, dist. 9.¹³ **This was the same tract on which he reported taxes in 1849 as “agent for John Anderson.”**¹⁴ Listed in the same tax district in 1849 was Henry Miller, who is enumerated next to Moses in the 1840 snippet above. The only other Anderson appearing in Moses’s early tax districts were James and Burton, neither of whom owned land in 1849, and I did not tie Moses to another tract.

From this, we can be reasonably certain that Moses was in the same neighborhood throughout the 1840–63 period. The map in Figure 9 shows lot 77 lay in a different part of the county. The distance may seem to support a conclusion that John W. was not part

¹² 1840 U. S. census, Union Co., Ga., population schedule, p. 11, ln. 9 (Moses Anderson) and ln. 20 (John Irwin).

¹³ Union Co., Deed Book B: 275; *FamilySearch* > digital film 007900791 > image 174.

¹⁴ Union Co., 1849 tax list, dist. 1018, no page number; *FamilySearch* > digital film 008188770 > image 38.

FIGURE 9
Moses Anderson & John W. Anderson



of Moses's family. However, I did not find anything in Client's material or in my limited research to support such a conclusion. Moreover, the federal censuses show that Moses clearly had sons who are not yet identified. Notice below that he, Barton, and James (the latter two being his sons, according to Client) were enumerated together in 1850 and that the 1840 households allow for the latter two:

1840

Union County

Moses Anderson

2 males 20-30 [Barton, James]
1 male 50-60

1 female 10-15
1 female 50-60

1850

Union County¹⁵

James Anderson	31	M	W	farmer	\$160	b. S. C.
Nancy	29	F	W			b. Ga.
William	10	M	W			b. Ga.
Mary	9	F	W			b. Ga.
John	6	F	W			b. Ga.
Margarett	4	F	W			b. Ga.
Andrew	1	M	W			b. Ga.
Moses Anderson	69	M	W	farmer	\$300	b. S. C.
Elizabeth	72	F	W			b. S. S.
Burton	41	M	W	farmer	\$150	b. S. C.
Margaret	21	F	W			b. Ga.
William Franklin	22	M	W	laborer		b. Ga.

While a male of John W.'s age (c23) is not represented in Moses's 1840 household, he was old enough by then to have left home. Indeed, Moses's 1834 state census household shows him with five males, presumably himself and four sons—two more than were present in 1840.¹⁶ Backtracking Moses to 1830, we see that he had even more unaccounted for males at that time—one of whom was John W.'s age.

FIGURE 10

Moses Anderson, 1830¹⁷

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES														FEMALES													
	Under five years of age.	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.	Under five years of age.	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100, &c.		
Wria Davis	1	1			1	1								1	1			1										
Robert B. Allport					1	2	1							2	1			1										
Moses Anderson			2	1	2		1							2	1		2			1								
James M. H. -	2	2				1								2														

Until all of Moses's sons are identified, I cannot safely eliminate him from contention as John W.'s father—particularly when we consider John W.'s landlessness and his repeated moves. Indeed, as Client notes, he was living in Moses's tax district in 1855.

¹⁵ 1850 U. S. census, Union Co., Ga., pop. sch., dist. 85, penned p. 52, dwell. 339, fam. 339 (James Anderson) and dwell. 340, fam. 340 (Moses Anderson).

¹⁶ Keith Townson, "1834 Union County, Georgia, Census," *USGenWeb Archives* ([http:// files.usgwarchives.net/ ga/ union/ census/ 1830/ 1834cens.txt](http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/union/census/1830/1834cens.txt)).

¹⁷ 1830 U. S. census, Habersham Co., Ga., p. 11, ln. 4 (Moses Anderson).

Let us now look at two other Andersons who lived closer to John W.: Henry M. and Jacob.

Henry M. and Jacob Anderson

Client noted these two landless men on the 1849 tax list in John W.'s district. Because she specifically mentioned Henry M., I will begin with him. Client wonders if he could be the "Morgan" Anderson of the 1850 Union census, shown for convenience in Figure 11.

FIGURE 11
Morgan Anderson, 1850 Union County¹⁸

86	86	Elizabeth Mathis	60	F		2000	sc	/
		Rebecca "	25	F			sc	/
		Judith "	23	F			"	/
		Martha "	16	F			"	/
		Elizabeth "	21	F			"	/
		Morgan Anderson	34	M	Farmer		Unknown	/
		Infant	1/2	F			sc	/
		Washington Smith	6	M			"	/
		Louise "	4	M			"	/
87	87	David Lidford	31	M	"		sc	/
		Jane "	35	F			"	/
		Rachel "	9	F			"	/
		Marion "	6	M			"	/
		Hardy "	4	M			"	/
		Madison "	2	M			"	/
88	88	Shadr Coffee	26	M	"		sc	/
		Caroline "	20	F			sc	/
89	89	Priscilla Crumwell	42	F			sc	/
		Matilda Cook	21	F			"	/
		Harriet "	19	F			"	/
		Arthur Crumwell	3	M			sc	/
		Caroline Cook	3	F			"	/
90	90	James Boid	59	M	Farmer	2000	sc	/
		Susan "	55	F			"	/
		Pinckney "	20	M	Farmer		"	/

The marriage record in Figure 12 on the next page provides evidence that Morgan of the 1850 Mathis household is the Henry M. of the 1849 tax district.

¹⁸ 1850 U. S. census, Union Co., Ga., pop sch., stamped p 208, dwell. 86, fam. 86 (Elizabeth Mathis).

FIGURE 12

Marriage of H M. Anderson and Elizabeth Mathis¹⁹

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GEORGIA, UNION COUNTY

To any Minister of the Gospel, Judge or Justice of the Peace:

YOU ARE HEREEY AUTHORIZED TO JOIN

H M Anderson and *Elizabeth Mathis*

in the Holy State of Matrimony, if they are such persons as are by law authorized to marry, and this shall be your license for so doing and you are required to return to me this license, together with the accompanying certificate properly certified to as to the facts and date of said marriage.

Given under my hand and official signature, this *27* day of *July*, 18*57*

J. T. Togan Ordinary.

I hereby certify that *H M Anderson* and *Elizabeth Mathis* were this day joined in matrimony by me. This *27* day of *July*, 18*57*

Wm B Brown Just.

Recorded *Sept 25* 18*57* *J. T. Togan* Ordinary.

In 1860, Morgan and Elizabeth were enumerated in almost the same spot as in 1850—very close to James Boyd.

FIGURE 13

Morgan & Elizabeth (née Mathis), 1860²⁰

111702	James Boyd	70 M	James	1821	5000	2000	1
	Susannah	68 F				1000	1
111703	Allen Simpson	41 M	Tarover		50	1000	1
	Isiah	32 F				"	1
	Rebekah	15 M				"	1
	Mary	12 F				"	1
	Wm	7 M				"	1
	Andrew J	4 M				"	1
	Louis	1 F				"	1
	Isiah J	4 M				"	1
111704	Morgan Anderson	58 M	Tarover		50	1000	1
	Elizabeth	26 F				1000	1
	Ann	8 F				"	1
	Josephine	6 F				"	1
	Katharine	4 F				"	1
	Isiah	1 F				"	1

No "Morgan" Anderson appears on any Union County tax list, but, as Client has documented, Henry M. or H. M. appears consistently up to 1888.

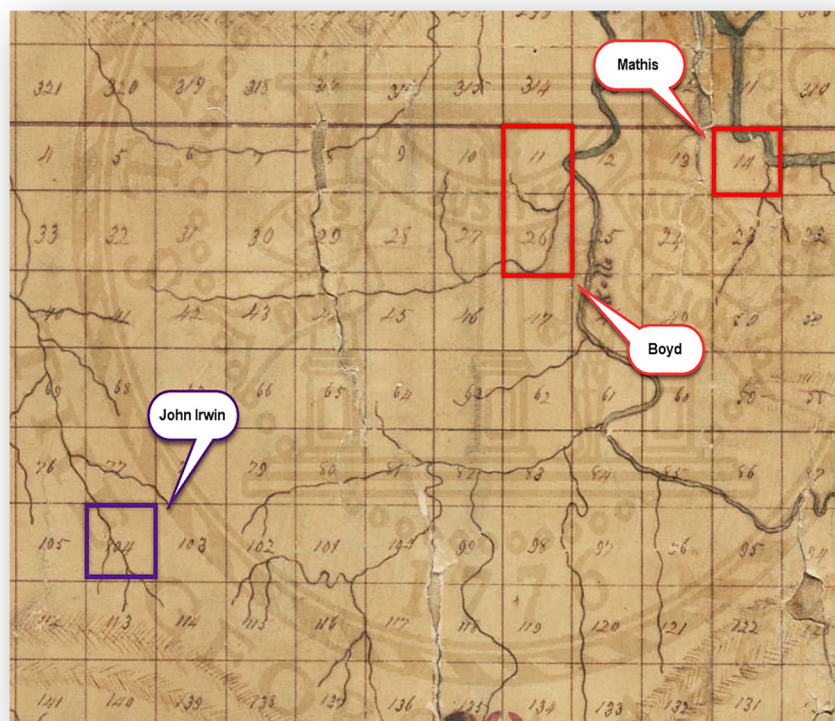
¹⁹ "Georgia, U. S., Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828-1878," Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com>) > Union > Record of Marriages, Book 1, 1833-1878, 1925-1933 > image 114.

²⁰ 1860 U. S. census, Union Co., pop. sch., Blairsville post office, penned p. 531.

Having established that H. M. was Morgan and that he married into the Mathis family, let us now put them into a community. While H. M. and John W. appear on the same 1849 and 1850 tax lists, neither Elizabeth Mathis nor James Boyd are with them. Rather, they were in dist. 865 in 1849 to 1851, with Boyd reporting lots 11 and 26 and two of Elizabeth Mathis's children reporting lot 14, all in district 10.²¹

The map in Figure 13 shows the proximity of the Mathis and Boyd lands to John W. Anderson and John Erwin. Each square on this map represents a lot of 160 acres—one quarter mile on each side.²² The Irwin land was therefore about two miles from Boyd and, perhaps, three miles from Mathis, depending upon the path of the road at that time. The distance between the two clusters was appropriate for young landless men seeking work and brides. Henry Morgan is therefore an excellent candidate for John W.'s brother and should be pursued as a conduit to their origin and parentage.

FIGURE 13
H. M. Anderson & the Mathis Family



Jacob Anderson is another fraternal candidate, who appears to have lived even closer to John W. First, consider his 1850 census entry for his age and landowning neighbor:

²¹ See 1849 tax list, dist. 865, Blairsville, no page numbers; *FamilySearch* > digital film 008188770 > images 7 and 11.

²² "1832 Land Lottery," University System of Georgia, *Georgia Archives* (https://georgiaarchives.org/research/1832_land_lottery).

CONCLUSION

All of this new evidence promotes the possibility that John W., Henry M., and Jacob Anderson were siblings. If so, then the Nancy Anderson living with Jacob in 1850 is likely to have been their mother.

Although time constraints did not permit me to fully investigate the new evidence and follow the new leads I have presented, Client is well equipped to do both, working primarily on the possibility of the sibling cluster.

Rachal Mills Lennon, CG, FASG