

Fredric Z. Saunders
1234 Waterside Cove #21
Midvale, UT 84047-4293
fzsaund@ix.netcom.com
801-255-6521

16 September 2008

Michael Minn
166 W. 75th #1217
New York City, New York 10023
mail@michaelminn.com

MINN REPORT 2

AUTHORIZATION

The client paid for five hours of time for research, analysis, and report preparation, with authorization to use up to three additional hours if necessary. The copy and mail costs along with any time over five hours were to be billed on completion. Eight hours were used.

CLIENT REQUEST AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The client desired to learn the ancestry of Lucinda HARPER, wife of Marion Herman PRIVETT. From her gravestone, she was born 9 September 1884. She was probably born in Desha County, Arkansas. The first record found of her was in the 1900 Desha County census with her twin brother Pleasant living with her widowed aunt Eliza VARDEN. Both Pleasant and Lucinda were listed as born October 1885. Eliza was born in March 1847.

http://michaelminn.com/privett/privett_documents/1900-census-lucinda-harper.png

Lucinda was said to be Indian. Eliza was listed as the mother of 6 children, of which 2 were living, they both with her in the 1900 census, having been born in 1882 and 1885.

There was an Eliza VARDEN in the 1880 Desha County census who was the wife of a William VARDEN.

http://michaelminn.com/privett/privett_documents/1880-census-eliza-warden.png

She was age 35, and from the 1900 census of only having 6 children, only four of the children of William's may have been hers at the time of the 1880 census. William did have a son Joseph VARDEN who was age 17. The four youngest children in the household were ages 12, 5, 3, and 4/12. Depending of if the 12 year old was hers, or if a child died between the ones aged 12 and 5, she may have likely married William VARDEN anytime from about 1867 to 1872. In 1880 Eliza

had no location listed for where her father was born, and her mother was born in Indiana.

In 1887 a Joseph VARDEN, age 23, married Annie HARPER, age 18, a possible sister to Lucinda. In 1900 she stated she was born in April 1868.

In 1880 a John HARPER, age 46 born in Georgia, with wife Missouriia age 29 born in Georgia had daughters Mary A., age 9 and Martha E. age 7, both born in Georgia. Note that while the client listed this as "James" it is "Jno." which was a common abbreviation for John. The family was listed a mulatto.

Lucinda HARPER married Herman PRIVETT in 1903. They separated after 1910, and Lucinda lived briefly with her sister Martha and her husband Ben B. STATON. In the 1900 Ashley County, Arkansas census, Martha J. STATON was listed as born in December 1873 in Arkansas, with her father and mother born in Kentucky and Arkansas respectively.

http://michaelminn.com/privett/documents/1900_ben_staton.gif

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

[See Research Notes for full details.]

Likely candidates for the parents of Lucinda HARPER were found in a Derious/Deronia/Darnas/Denious M. HARPER and wife Martha E. (probably nee CONDREN, the widow RILEY). D. M. HARPER had at least 5 marriages, and was found in the 1870 and 1880 Jefferson Township, Desha County, Arkansas census. The name of his first wife is unknown, but she was apparently the mother of Booker HARPER who was born about 1853 in Mississippi. D. M. HARPER secondly married on 19 June 1859 to Malissa A. WILLIAMS in Jefferson County, Arkansas. His third marriage was not located, but it was to his wife Eliza J. in the 1870 census. His fourth marriage was to Nancy A. BLAKE on 11 February 1877 in Desha County. The location of his fifth marriage was not found, but it was to Martha E. before 1880. Martha would have been the mother of Lucinda.

The first evidence that this is the correct family is that in 1880, there was a Martha J. RILEY, age 7 in the household who was a step-daughter of Derious M. HARPER. Her parents were born in "K" [Kentucky] and Arkansas, which was where Martha J. STATON in 1900 said her parents were born. The age of 7 would closely match the December 1873 birth given by Martha J. STATON in 1900. This would be a better fit than the Martha E. HARPER born in Georgia, daughter of John HARPER. Also in the household in both 1870 and 1880 was an Anna HARPER born about 1866, closely matching the 1868 birth given by Annie (HARPER) VARDEN in 1900.

Marriage records were searched for Desha, Drew, Ashley, Lincoln, Jefferson, Arkansas and Chicot counties, Arkansas, and Morehead and West Carroll parishes, Louisiana for the marriage of Ben STATON to Martha J. (RILEY?). Proving that her maiden name was RILEY would confirm that this sister to Lucinda HARPER was actually a half sister, and Lucinda's parents were D. M. HARPER and wife Martha E. The marriage record was not found. The same Arkansas

counties were searched for a marriage of D. M. HARPER to (Mrs.?) Martha E. (RILEY?), but the marriage was not located.

Added evidence suggesting that Lucinda may have been the daughter of Martha E., is that an index to Desha County will books listed a Martha E. HARPER in 1885 and M. E. HARPER in 1889. These may be the same person, with the latter listing other records regarding the estate that just listed her by her initials. The original Desha County wills have not been microfilmed, so those could not be searched. Another index to Desha County probate records from 1877 to 1885 listed numerous mentions of an M. E. HARPER estate. Two pages after the last listing for her was listed a record for "Ples and Lue HARPER," minors, suggesting that as her estate was settled, these may have been children of her. The actual records have not been microfilmed and could not be examined.

The next item of note is that in 1880, Martha E. (-?) HARPER had a blank for where her father was born, and Indiana for where her mother was born, the same listing that Lucinda HARPER's aunt Eliza VARDEN had in 1880. That would suggest that Eliza may have been an aunt by being a sister to Lucinda's mother Martha.

The other record of interest was that from deed indexes, Pleas HARPER in 1906 sold a tract of land, for which no record of a purchase was found. The deed records for Desha County have not been microfilmed that late, and the deed could not be examined. All deeds of D. M. HARPER purchasing and selling land in Desha County were copied.

Continuing with the thought that Lucinda's mother Martha E. may have been a sister to Eliza (-?) VARDEN, a county history stated that William VARDEN was married in 1872 to Eliza Jane CONDVEN. The marriage record stated that William VARDEN married Jane CONDREN.

The 1860 household of W. A. PHILIPS and wife M. in Richland Township, Desha County contained apparent children:

- Martha PHILIPS age 13
- Eliza CONDREN age 12
- Wm. PHILIPS age 11
- Martha PHILIPS age 6

A marriage record for William PHELEPS to Mary Ann CONDREN occurred on 27 February 1848 in Drew County. As Martha "PHILIPS" age 13 in 1860 would have been born before this marriage, it is believed she should actually be Martha CONDREN, and the client's ancestor.

William A. PHILIPS and wife Mary appeared in the 1850 Drew County census. Listed as children were Elizabeth age 5 and Sarah J. age 4. Elizabeth may be Martha E., but why Eliza Jane is not listed is unknown. Also of note is that Mary stated she was born in Indiana, the same location that Martha and Eliza stated in later census that their mother was born.

Eliza Jane (CONDREN) VARDEN died in 1927 in Little Rock, Pulaski County. Indexes list both a death certificate for her and her death notice in the *Arkansas Gazette*.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS

Copies of the records of Martha Elizabeth/ M. E. HARPER from the Desha County will book should be obtained from the Desha Count courthouse. A copy should also be obtained of the deed where Pleas HARPER sold land, to see if this was land originally owned by D. M. HARPER.

A copy of the record of Ples and Lue HARPER as minors should also be obtained. As the record to which that is from is less specific, it may require a search by a local researcher and not be able to be obtained from courthouse employees.

Eliza Jane VARDEN, age 80, died in Little Rock, Pulaski County on 12 April 1927. A copy of her death certificate to see if parents are named, as well as her death notices from the *Arkansas Gazette* should be obtained.

If those records confirm that Lucinda is the daughter of D. M. HARPER and wife Martha E. then research may continue on that family. In Desha County deeds, he was listed at different times as a resident of both Jefferson and Drew counties, suggesting that records of those counties should be examined.

Research could also proceed on the CONDREN family of Desha and Drew counties.

RESEARCH NOTES

FHL = Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

◆ CENSUS RECORDS

1880 United States Census, Desha County, Arkansas, Jefferson Township, page 303D, dwelling 68, family 69, Derious Harper household, (Online: Generations Network, Inc., 2008), subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed September 2008.

Derious M. Harper	head 54	Farming	Ga	Ga	Ga
Martha E.	wife 34	Keeps House	Ark.		Indiana
Anna J.	dau. 14	at home	Ark.	Ga.	Ark.
Dorha	dau. 10	at home	Ark.	Ga.	Ark.
Mattie C./O.?	dau. 9	" "	"	"	"
Emma	dau. 6	" "	"	"	"
Eddie	son 4	" "	"	"	"
Geo. R.	son 6/12	" "	"	Ga.	Ark.
Martha J. RILEY	step-dau 6	" "	Ark.	K	Ark.

1870 United States Census, Desha County, Arkansas, Jefferson Township, page 492, dwelling 188, family 188, Darnas Harper household, (Online: Generations Network, Inc., 2008), subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed September 2008.

Darnas M. Harper	24 (sic)	Farmer	2400	2500	Georgia
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Eliza J.	33	Keeping House	Arkansas
Baker	17	Farm Laborer	Mississippi
Mary	12	At Home	Arkansas
Margeret	6		Arkansas
Anna	4		Arkansas
Dora	1		Arkansas

1860 United States Census, Desha County, Arkansas, Richland Township, page 71, dwelling 145, family 145, W. A. Philips household, Online: Generations Network, Inc., 2008), subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed September 2008.

W. A. PHILIPS	32	Planter 1000	500	La
M.	"	38	House Keeper	N.C.
Martha	"	13		Ark.
[next page]				
Eliza CONDREN	12			Ark.
Wm. PHILIPS	11			"
Martha	6			"
Joseph HATLEY	25	Day Laborer		NC

Comment: It is believed that Martha, age 13 should also be CONDREN, not PHILIPS.

1850 United States Census, Drew County, Arkansas, Smith Township, page 103, dwelling 412, family 412, William A. Philips household, Online: Generations Network, Inc., 2008), subscription database [Digital copy of original records in the National Archives, Washington, DC], <http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed September 2008.

William A. PHILIPS	22	Farmer	2000	NC
Mary	25			Ind.
Elizabeth	5			Ark.
Sarah J.	4			"

Comment: It is believed that Elizabeth may be identical to Martha E. (CONDREN) HARPER. Note on the same page is Stewart CONDRANE and family, and on the following page are James CONDRANE and family.

◆ DESHA COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Desha County, Arkansas Index to Marriages 1, FHL microfilm 2,027,475.

A:149	D. M. HARPER	50	Nancy A. BLAKE	40	11 Feb. 1877
A:163	Booker HARPER	23	Laura E. PIATT	17	18 Mar. 1877
A:230	Samuel HARPER	21	Mary HALL	25	30 Dec. 1879
A:159	William VARDEN	40	James (sic) CONDREN	21	27 July 1872

no Ben STATON

Desha County, Arkansas Marriage Record [B, 1875-1881], FHL microfilm 2,012,476.

page 149 [document copied]

D. M. HARPER with Isaac BANKSTON as bondsman, bond on 9 Feb. 1877 to marry Nancy A. BLAKE

D. M. HARPER of Jefferson Twp., Desha Co., age 50 married
 Nancy A. BLAKE of Jefferson Twp., age 40
 on 11 Feb. 1877 by William B. NEBUS, J. P.

Desha County, Arkansas Marriage Record A, 10-15-1865 10-20-1875, FHL microfilm 2,027,476.

A:159 [document copied]

William VARDEN age 40 of Desha County to **Jane CONDREN of Desha County** age 21 married 27 July 1872 by J. W. McPHERSON, J.P.

Desha County, Arkansas, Marriage Record C, 7-23-1882, 1-30-1887, FHL microfilm 2,027,477.

C:371 [document copied]

Marriage for Joseph VARDEN with H. C. DUCAS [signed J. C. LUCUS] as bondsman to marry Miss Annie HARPER on 13 Jan. 1887.

License issued same date for Joseph VARDEN of Vardens Place, Desha County, age 23 to marry Miss Annie HARPER of Harpers Place, Desha County, age 18.

Married on 25 Jan. 1887 by John W. WHYTE, J.P.

Desha County, Arkansas, Index to Probate Records 1877-1885, FHL microfilm 0,985,103.

M. E. HARPER Est. of 388, [3]94, 402, 403, 404, 405, 408, 415, 418, 427, 432, 452, 460, 489, 494, 501, 520, 521

Ples & Lue (minors) 523

Comment: The FHL catalog states the library does not have the material listed in the indexes.

Desha County, Arkansas, Index to Deeds Grantor, 1839-1890, FHL microfilm 0,985,108.

D. M. HARPER mtg to J. T. W. TILLAR & TILLAR & STANLEY 4:23

Booker & L. E. HARPER deed to W. F. NEWTON 4:257 [237?]

M. E. HARPER & wife to Lorain SAIN 5:567

Desha County, Arkansas, Index to Deeds Grantee, 1839-1890, FHL microfilm 0,985,108.

D. M. HARPER deed E. JORDAN & wife G:387

D. M. HARPER (sic) deed Edward JORDEN C:156

E. J. HARPER deed James MURPHY, clerk E:185

M. HARPER release DSEHONG & TILLER E:494

Eliza Jane HARPER deed James HUMHREY 3:82

Booker HARPER deed Commissioner of State Land 3:199

Mary E. HARPER deed State of Arkansas 5:293

Desha County, Arkansas, Index to Deeds Grantor, 1890-1910, FHL microfilm 0,985,109.

Pleas HARPER to P. E. ASHLOCK 1906 15:501

date of instrument 17 Sep. 1906

filed 19 Sep. 1906
W. D. [Warranty Deed]

Desha County, Arkansas, Index to Deeds Grantee, 1890-1910, FHL microfilm 0,985,109.
no HARPER

Desha County, Arkansas Deed Record G, FHL microfilm 0,985,115.
G:387

9 Dec. 1858 Edwin JORDEN of Desha Co., AR to **Derious M. HARPER of Jefferson County**, AR the E 1/2 of SE 1/4 section 25, Twp. 10 South, Range 6 West also Lots 8 and 9 in the SW partial quarter of section 30 in Twp. 10 South, Range 5 West, total 156 88/100 acres

Desha County, Arkansas Deed Record C 1869, FHL microfilm 0,985,118
C 1869:156

17 Nov. 1869 Edwin JORDEN of Desha County to **Derious M. HARPER of Drew County** E 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of section 29 and W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 28, Twp. 10 South of Range 3, 160 acres.

Comment: Sold in 5:567

Desha County, Arkansas Deed Record E 1872, FHL microfilm 0,985,119/
E 1872: 185

9 Sep. 1872

James MURPHY, Clerk of Court to Eliza J. HARPER the E 1/2 of NE 1/4 section 32 in Twp. 11 South, Range 3 West, 80 acres.

E 1872: 494

28 Apr. 1873 release of mortgage to D. M. HARPER from DISHOUGH & TILLAR

Desha County, Arkansas Deed Record 3, FHL microfilm 0,985,122.
3:82

8 May 1875 James HUMPHREYS to Eliza Jane HARPER E 1/2 of SE 1/4 of section 26, Twp. 10 South, Range 3 West, 80 acres.

3:199

26 Apr. 1877 Booker HARPER has applied for W 1/2 of SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4 section 29, Twp. 10 South, Range 3 West, 160 acres.

Desha County, Arkansas Deed Record 4, FHL microfilm 0,989,151.
4:23

10 Feb. 1879 Derious M. HARPER of Desha Co to Joshua T. W. TILLAR mortgage

4:257

5 Apr. 1880

Booker HARPER and wife Laura E. of Desha County to W. F. NEWTON the W 1/2 of SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4 and W 1/2 of SW 1/4 of section 29, Twp. 10, Range 3 South, 240

acres.

Desha County, Arkansas Deed Record 5, FHL microfilm 0,989,152

5:293

17 May 1882

State of Arkansas to Mary E. HARPER the N 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 31 twp. 10 South, Range 2 West,, 73.49 acres.

5:567

D. M. HARPER and wife Martha E. HARPER to Lorraine SAIN the W 1/2 of SW [blank] of 28, E 1/2 of the SE 29, Twp. 10, Range 3 W, 160 acres.

Comment: Bought in C 1869:156.

Corrine Cox Stevenson, *Index to Wills and Administrations of Arkansas From the Earliest to 1900*, (Jonesboro, Arkansas: Vowels Printing Company, 1986).

Desha County

Martha Elizabeth HARPER 1885 Will Record A:229

M. E. HARPER 1889 A:251

Desha County, Arkansas Chancery Record B-73, 1873-1875, FHL microfilm 0,989,157.

no index

searched pages 598 [Jan. 1885] to 628 [last mention Nov. 1885]

no HARPER

Desha County, Arkansas Chancery Record C, [1886-1895], FHL microfilm 2,022,724.

no index, not searched at this time

Goodspeed's Desha County Biographies from *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* (Goodspeed Publishing Company 1890), online

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ardesha/goodspd.htm>, accessed September 2008.

WILLIAM VARDEN is one of the prosperous small farmers of Desha County, Ark., and the estate which he is now engaged in tilling comprises 100 acres, of which fifty are under the plow. Being a native born resident of the county he has ever had the interests of the same at heart, and so far as his means would allow has contributed liberally to all feasible enterprises, such as churches, schools, etc. He is regarded by all as an upright, honorable and useful citizen, and in his social relations is agreeable, accommodating and kind. The most of the land which he has under cultivation he devotes to cotton and corn, but considerable attention is also paid to the propagation of stock. He was born in 1831, and he is a son of Timothy and Elizabeth Varden, natives, respectively, of the Old North and the Blue-Grass State. The early educational advantages of the subject of this sketch were very limited, and the schools were very scarce in Arkansas at this time, but, nevertheless, he is a well-informed man, and one whose judgment and advice is often consulted. He grew to manhood on his father's plantation, and upon reaching his majority, he began rafting on the Mississippi River, which occupation he continued until 1882, at which time he began giving agriculture his attention with the results above stated. In the year 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate service, becoming a member of Company E, Twenty-third Arkansas Regiment, under Col. Brooks, and took an

active part in the battles of Prairie Grove and Backbone Mountain, after which he went with Col. Thompson to Mobile on detail duty, but at the end of three months returned to his command and remained faithfully at his post of duty until the close of the war. Since then he has been energetically to work to gain a competence for his family. In 1855 Adaline Kiger became his wife, but upon her death in 1860 she left him with two little children to care for: William H. and Elizabeth, both of whom are now dead. Mr. Varden's second marriage took place in 1860, his wife being a Miss Jane Wilson. They have six children: Mary F., Joseph A., Timothy, James W., Sarah E. and a child unnamed, who died in infancy. Timothy and Sarah E. are also deceased. The mother of these children died in **1871, and the following year he wedded his third and present wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Jane Condven**, by whom he has the following family: Eliza E. (deceased), Eula L., Henrietta, Melissa E., Carrie B. and Georgie W. Mr. Varden is a Democrat, and his wife is a member of the Methodist Church.

◆ ARKANSAS STATE

Family Tree Maker CD, *Marriage Index: Arkansas, 1850-1900*.

Denious M. HARPER to Malissa A. WILLIAMS 19 June 1859 Jefferson County

James L. RILEY to Martha MYERS 25 Feb. 1872 Independence County

Comment: While many counties were listed, this CD did not state what years were included for each county, or if it was complete for all counties for all years. The RILEY - MYERS marriage was the only RILEY to a Martha marriage about the time before Martha J. RILEY, step-daughter of D. M. HARPER, was born in 1873.

◆ DREW COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Drew County, Arkansas Marriage Record B, FHL microfilm 0,986,551, item 2

p. 24 [document copied]

William PHELEPS age 23 to **Mary Ann CONDREN** age 23 on 27 Feb. 1848, both of Drew County married by C. L. REYNOLDS, J.P.

p. 26

James CONDREN age 47 to Matilda FLANAGAN age 24 on 18 Apr. 1848, both of Drew County married by C. L. REYNOLDS, J.P.

p. 49

Wilson L. CONDREN age 22 to Sarah DUNAWAY age 16 on 18 March 1850 by Stokeley L. HEFLIN, J.P.

Drew County, Arkansas Marriage Record C [1869-1880], FHL microfilm 0,986,551, item 3.

p. 494

D. M. HARPER age 28 of Drew County to Miss Hattie BUTLER age 22 of Drew County bond 17 Dec. 1877 with F. D. HOOVER as bondsman married 19 Dec. 1877 by Thomas P. STONE, M.C.P. C.

Drew County, Arkansas Marriage Record D [1879-1889], FHL microfilm 0,986,552.

no HARPER

Drew County, Arkansas Marriage Record G [1893-1897], FHL microfilm 0,986,553.
no Ben STATON

◆ ASHLEY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Ashley County, Arkansas Index by Groom 1848-1995, FHL microfilm 2,026,911.
no D. M. HARPER
no Ben STATON

◆ LINCOLN COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Lincoln County, Arkansas Marriage index male, 1871-1942, FHL microfilm 0,978,939.
no D. M. HARPER
no STATON

◆ JEFFERSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Jefferson County, Arkansas Index to Marriage Licenses A, 1830-1906, FHL microfilm 0,983,663.
no D. M. HARPER
no STATON

◆ ARKANSAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Arkansas County, Arkansas Index to Marriage Records 1839-1941, FHL microfilm 0,976,435.
no D. M. HARPER
no Ben STATON

◆ CHICOT COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Chicot County, Arkansas Marriage Record C [1866-1878], FHL microfilm 0,977,984.
no D. M. HARPER

Chicot County, Arkansas Marriage Record D [1875-1880], FHL microfilm 0,977,985.
no D. M. HARPER

Chicot County, Arkansas Marriage Record E [1890-1885], FHL microfilm 0,977,985.
no D. M. HARPER

Chicot County, Arkansas Marriage Record H [1891-1895], FHL microfilm 0,977,986.
no STATON

Chicot County, Arkansas Marriage Record I [1895-1897], FHL microfilm 0,977,987.
no STATON

◆ MOREHOUSE PARISH, LOUISIANA

Abram Morehouse Chapter DAR, *Morehouse Parish, Louisiana Marriage Records 1884-1899*,
(no location: Abram Morehouse Chapter DAR, 1953), FHL microfilm 0,855,262.
no Ben STATON

Minn Report 2

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To: Michael Minn, 166 W. 75th #1217, New York City, NY 10023

From: Fredric Z. Saunders, 1234 Waterside Cove #21, Midvale, UT 84047-4293

◆ WEST CARROLL PARISH, LOUISIANA

West Carroll Parish, Louisiana Marriage Record A, [1877-1900], FHL microfilm 0,311,904.
no STATON