

THE TWO (OR THREE) SAMUEL MATLACKS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

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Introduction

Two adult Samuel Matlacks lived in Fairfield County, Ohio, in the period 1820 to 1830. Both primary and secondary sources provide divergent accounts of their dates, origins and family relationships.

The 1820 US Census shows two adult Samuel Matlacks as heads of households in Fairfield County: one was over 45 years old (hence b. before 1775: say 1770), with a wife (also over 45) and a number of children; the other was between 26 and 45 (hence b. by 1794), but living alone. In the 1830 US Census, only one Samuel Matlack is found, aged between 30 and 40; this could only be the younger of the two men mentioned in the 1820 census. (The presence of four teenage boys and two teenage girls in this 1830 household is surprising if it indeed refers to the Samuel who lived alone in 1820).

One of these two Samuel Matlacks—apparently the older one—was dead by 31 March 1830, when John Matlack assumed guardianship of two minor boys, Samuel Matlack (aged under 21) and Augustus Matlack (aged under 14), both sons of Samuel Matlack, deceased. The Samuel Matlack who was under 21 in 1830 is therefore a third Samuel, since he cannot have been head of a household in 1820. This minor son Samuel Matlack is the same man as Samuel Matlack of Louisville (1815-81), who was stated in his own obituary to be son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lynch) Matlack of Fairfield County, Ohio. According to Lynch sources, Elizabeth Lynch was born in 1775, making her a fit wife for the man who, according to the 1820 census, was born before 1775 (i.e. aged 45 years and above). Their children appear to have been born in the years 1794 to 1816, a twenty-year period of fertility which is appropriate for a mother born in 1775.

The other adult Samuel Matlack of Fairfield in 1820, presumably the younger of the two in the 1820 census, died at Logansport, Cass County, Indiana in 1839; one contemporary notice of his death places his age at death as 55, giving a birth-year of about 1784, which is consistent with the age category in the 1820 census. The presumption is that this Logansport man was the younger of the two heads of household in the 1820 Census, given the facts that only a younger man is listed in the 1830 Census, and the older man seems to have had several children, none of whom can be tied to the Logansport Samuel (who appears to have left only one child, a daughter). If he was born in the 1780s, the younger Samuel Matlack, of Logansport, was too old to be a child of the elder Samuel Matlack (b. by 1775) and Elizabeth Lynch (b. 1775). He could conceivably be son of the elder Samuel Matlack by a wife or liaison before his marriage to Elizabeth Lynch: but the elder Samuel had a son Samuel born in 1815, and I believe it was not customary at that time for a man to have two sons with the same given name, even if the sons had different mothers (or if one was legitimate and the other illegitimate).

There are further complications with the attribution of Samuels. The Logansport Samuel (d. 1839) was called 'senior' at his death in 1839; and in 1837 there were *two* adult men called 'Samuel Matlack' and 'Samuel Matlack junior' in Lancaster (*Centennial History of Lancaster*, 174-75, subscription for a town clock taken 5 Jan 1837). A Samuel Matlack 'junior' also was candidate for constable in 1837 (Lancaster Ohio *Eagle*, 25 Mar 1837). Without creating more Samuel Matlacks, the simplest explanation is that the man born in the 1780s, who died in Logansport, was known as 'senior' after the death of the oldest Samuel in 1830, to distinguish

him from the younger Samuel (1815-81), son of the elder Samuel; but these two men were not father and son.

A further difficulty is that C. M. L. Wiseman asserted in his two books, *Centennial History of Lancaster* (1898) and *Pioneer Period and Pioneer People of Fairfield Co. Ohio* (1901), that John Matlack (1794-1834) was a brother as well as saddlery partner of the Logansport Samuel (d. 1839); and that they were both siblings of the Matlack sisters (Ann, wife of Hocking Hunter; Amelia, wife of George Smith; and Elizabeth, wife of John B. Reed), who are abundantly stated to be daughters of the elder Samuel (d. 1830). Wiseman seems to have been mistaken in asserting that John and Logansport Samuel were brothers, but it is possible that John Matlack was indeed brother of the Logansport Samuel and *not* son of the elder Samuel: no proof is known for that relationship.

With all this contradictory and fragmentary data, it is not entirely clear whether this genealogy which follows may be mistaken in the relationships and precise data on the Samuel Matlacks (and on John Matlack, apparently son of the elder Samuel). There is no indication of how Samuel Matlack of Logansport (d. 1839) is related to the other Samuels, father and son, but he surely was.

In addition to the Matlack women shown here as daughters of the elder Samuel, in the first generation there were two other Matlacks in Fairfield County, Ohio—also surely related. Mary Matlack and Catherine Matlack bought a house lot in Lancaster in 1815 (Fairfield County, Ohio, deeds, Deed Book J-2, no. 492, page 498; FHL 0,295,276); but they do not appear subsequently in the county deed index and no one by these names appears as mother, wife, sister or daughter of other known Matlacks in the county.

The origin of the elder Samuel Matlack in Pennsylvania, and the claim by two of his daughters that he was born in New Jersey, both suggest that the elder Samuel Matlack—or presumably both Samuel Matlacks—belonged to the largely Quaker Matlack kindred descended from William Matlack who immigrated from England to Burlington County, New Jersey in 1677. This Matlack family was numerous, and many near descendants—especially those who crossed into Pennsylvania—are not fully traced in the literature. The most comprehensive work on the family was compiled in the 1890s to 1920s by descendants Asa Matlack Stackhouse and Timothy Chalkley Matlack, and exists in typescripts available on microfilm via the LDS FHL system. In addition Timothy Chalkley Matlack compiled dozens of notebooks of Matlack research which are now at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, also microfilmed in the LDS FHL system. This material forms the basis of the most copious on-line genealogy of this family, the work of Curt Miller (curtw@comcast.net) which can be seen at <http://www.ba044ancestry.com/MatlockMedlock/WilliamMatlackofNJ.html>.

GENEALOGY

1. SAMUEL MATLACK was born in New Jersey (according to 1880 census testimony of daughters Ruth and Ann) or perhaps in Pennsylvania, likely around 1770, and certainly before 1775 (over 45 in 1820 US Census). He was possibly the adult Samuel Matlack listed in the 1790 US Census in Fayette Co., Pennsylvania. He appears to have married there, by about 1793, **ELIZABETH LYNCH**.

Elizabeth Lynch was born 17 Jul 1775, either in Lancaster Co. or Fayette Co., PA, daughter of Cornelius Lynch and Catherine Downer (daughter of Jacob Downer). Her birthdate, with birthdates of all her siblings, presumably drawn from a bible or similar record, is reported without attribution in Lois Davidson Hines, *Southern Lynch Families* (Naugatuck, Connecticut: Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, 1966), pp. 280-81. Elizabeth may have been born in Lancaster County

since her maternal grandfather, Jacob Downer, is said to have migrated to Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, from Lancaster County, around 1778, bringing his daughter Katy Downer with him (see James Hadden, *History of Uniontown, Pennsylvania* [1913], p. 306). From the births of their children, Cornelius Lynch was married to Catherine Downer as early as 1768, and therefore would have known her in Lancaster County before her family went to Fayette County. In the 1790 census, Cornelius Lynch was in Fayette Co., and so was an adult Samuel Matlack.

Samuel and Elizabeth (Lynch) Matlack are not in the PA 1800 Census, and were likely in Kentucky at that time. There is no KY 1800 census, but he might be either of the two Samuel Matlacks listed in the KY 1799/1800 tax lists, one in Scott County and the other in Nicholas County. By about 1810, the family had removed to Fairfield Co., OH, where daughter Ruth was apparently born.

Elizabeth (Lynch) Matlack may have been dead by 3 October 1817, when Samuel Matlack appeared in a deed concerning many members of Elizabeth's family:

Samuel Matlack of Fairfield Co., Ohio, for himself, as attorney in fact for Catherine Lynch, widow of Cornelius Lynch deceased; Amelia Fauset, widow of Joseph Fauset deceased and a daughter of said Cornelius Lynch deceased; Davis Smith a son-in-law of John Lynch; Jonathan Lynch, and Daniel Lynch, relict and heirs and legatees of said Cornelius Lynch deceased . . . to Absalom Lynch of Nelson County, for \$1, all rights, interests, etc. in land being a part of the John Baker survey on Cedar Creek in Nelson County [Kentucky] adjoining the Col. James Rogers settlement, being the remaining part unsold and now in the possession and occupancy of the widow of Charles Lynch deceased, containing 200 acres (Lois Davidson Hines, *Lynch Families of the Southern States: Lineages and Court Records* [1966], p. 66).

Their mother Catherine (Downer) Lynch died after 1824 in Fayette County, Pennsylvania (see James Hadden, *History of Uniontown, Pennsylvania* [1913], p. 124); it is interesting that her son-in-law Samuel Matlack was her representative in the above act; perhaps she lived for a while with him in Ohio.

Jonathan Lynch (d. 1818) had settled in Fairfield County, Ohio some years earlier (apparently by 1798 or 1799) and apparently arranged for his brother-in-law Samuel Matlack to settle there. The *Centennial History of Lancaster* records:

A sister of General Lynch was the wife of Samuel Matlack, Sr.—and the mother of Mrs. H. H. Hunter, Mrs. G. H. Smith and Mrs. J. B. Reed. He [Matlack] failed in the mercantile business in Kentucky, and his brother-in-law assisted him in coming to Lancaster. He lived at the foot of Main Street and collected the toll for the use of Christian and William King's bridge over the Hockhocking and the marsh beyond (*Centennial history of Lancaster*, 65-66).

Samuel Matlack settled in the town of Lancaster, and may have been a wheelwright, as a recollection of one David Foster (b. in Lancaster in 1811) shows. Foster "spoke of the mechanics of Lancaster in 1815 and the few succeeding years. A Mr. Matlock and William Bodenheimer were wheelwrights—that is, makers of spinning-wheels. Mr. Matlock's shop was at the foot of the present Main Street" (Hervey Scott, *Complete History of Fairfield County, Ohio, 1795-1876* [Columbus, 1877], 239). Another recollection states "Samuel Matlack, a venerable old man, settled in Lancaster on Wheeling, between Front and Second streets. He was the father-in-law of H. H. Hunter, esq., and brother-in-law of General Lynch. He was the father-in-law of John B. Reed and George H. Smith. He was a native of Fayette County, Penn." (*Centennial history of Lancaster*, 50).

It is possible that this Samuel Matlack was also a saddler in partnership with his presumed son John. Carl Wiseman's *Centennial History of Lancaster* (Lancaster, 1898), 347, states

“Samuel Matlack was born in Kentucky, came to Lancaster with his brother, John, and engaged with him in business. In 1838 he sold his business to Nicholas Yount. He removed to Indiana, where he died one year later.” Of John Matlack the same work says (p. 346): “in 1819 he purchased the harness business of Colonel John Noble. His brother Samuel became his partner. In 1821 they dissolved partnership, each conducting his business alone. . . . He died in 1834.” Wiseman’s *Pioneer Period and Pioneer People of Fairfield Co. Ohio* (Lancaster, 1901), 52, also states: “John and Samuel Matlack were partners in the harness and saddlery business as early as 1819. The sister of these gentlemen was the wife of H. H. Hunter.” However, the Samuel who was in the saddlery business may have been the younger Samuel, later of Logansport (on whom see below); either way Carl Wiseman’s statement that the partners of this business were brothers is apparently erroneous.

Samuel Matlack’s house in Lancaster, built in this period and apparently later inherited by his son John Matlack, still stands (Juanita Grant, “Historic Homes Cherished in Lancaster,” *Lancaster [Ohio] Eagle-Gazette*, Wednesday, 3 September 1958, p. 11). It occupies the rear of a lot on which stands a later and grander house, the Reese-Peters house, built after the Matlacks had sold the property. The property is currently (2008) the home of the *Decorative Arts Center of Ohio* (<http://www.decartsohio.org>), a museum and cultural center.

This Samuel Matlack was dead by 31 March 1830, when John Matlack, apparently his son, became the guardian of Samuel Matlack and Augustus Matlack, sons of ‘Samuel Matlack, deceased’. The guardianship bonds do not state the relationship of John Matlack to the two minors.

Of Samuel Matlack’s apparent children, the three married sisters Ann, Amelia and Elizabeth are all abundantly identified as his in the historical literature on Fairfield County and Lancaster. Ruth, the unmarried daughter, as attested as Ann’s sister (with whom she lived) in censuses. John is attested as his son in various sources but less firmly than the daughters; and finally Samuel and Augustus are found in the 1830 guardianship papers. Polly is not mentioned outside her marriage record and may not belong here, if she existed.

Children of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lynch) Matlack:

- 2 i. (apparently) JOHN MATLACK, b. 5 March 1794; m. 1821, SARAH LITTLE.
- 3 ii. ANN MATLACK, b. in Kentucky ca. 1802 [census testimony]; d. after 1883; m. 1823, HOCKING H. HUNTER.
- iii. ?POLLY MATLACK, m. Sep 1824, WILLIAM HUNTER. Perhaps this was another sister who married a relative of Hocking Hunter, but no reference to these individuals can be found other than the county marriage listing; it is *not* an erroneous duplicate for Ann Matlack and Hocking Hunter, who were married in November 1823.
- 4 iv. AMELIA MATLACK, b. in Kentucky ca. 1807/1810; m. 1826, GEORGE H. SMITH.
- v. RUTH MATLACK, b. in Ohio ca. 1810 [census testimony]; d. after 1880, unmarried (lived with sister Ann (Matlack) Hunter).
- 5 vi. ELIZABETH MATLACK, b. ca. 1812; m. JOHN B. REED.
- 6 vii. SAMUEL MATLACK, b. 26 April 1815, apparently in Fairfield Co.; m. 1844, MILDRED ANN GREGORY.
- viii. AUGUSTUS MATLACK, b. in or after 1816. On 31 March 1830, Augustus Matlack, son of Samuel Matlack, deceased, aged under 14, became ward of John Matlack (Fairfield County probate document uniform with that of his brother Samuel). No further information.

2. JOHN MATLACK (*Samuel*), b. 5 March 1794 (date shown in Juanita Grant, “Historic Homes Cherished in Lancaster,” apparently from a private record); d. 1834, Fairfield Co. He m. Nov. 1821, Fairfield Co., Ohio, SARAH LITTLE. They left four minor children at his death: *William, John, Robert, and George*.

John Matlack was a saddler who was apparently in business with his father, or with the other Samuel Matlack of Logansport (d. 1839), in the period 1819 to the early 1820s, and subsequently with John N. Little (*Centennial History of Lancaster*, 346), with whom he was in partnership at the time of his death. John N. Little was presumably a near relation of Sarah (Little) Matlack.

On 31 March 1830 John Matlack became guardian of Samuel Matlack and Augustus Matlack, sons of Samuel Matlack, deceased, until they were to attain the ages of 21 and 14 respectively. The bond was cosigned by Hocking H. Hunter (a brother-in-law) and James Rice.

Following John Matlack's own death, letters of administration on his estate were issued 14 March 1834, and accounts continued over the next two years, especially to resolve allocation of assets of the partnership of Matlack and Little (probate file).

Children of John and Sarah (Little) Matlack, born in Fairfield County, Ohio:

- i. DAUGHTER, b. 1821/25 (a girl aged 5 to 10 is listed in the 1830 Census, but no girl is named in the 1834 probate file).
- ii. WILLIAM MATLACK (living in 1834).
- iii. JOHN A. MATLACK, b. 24 Mar 1829 (date from Juanita Grant, "Historic Homes Cherished in Lancaster"); married REBECCA PEARSE; listed in the 1860 & 1870 Censuses with children *Sally, James* (d. young), *John*, & *Henry*. Issue traceable into twentieth century in Lancaster.
- iv. ROBERT MATLACK (living in 1834).
- v. GEORGE MATLACK (living in 1834).

3. ANN MATLACK (*Samuel*), b. in Kentucky [census testimony], c. 1802; d. 1889; m. 30 Nov 1823, Fairfield Co., Ohio, **HOCKING H. HUNTER** (b. in Fairfield Co., 23 August 1801, son of Joseph Hunter & Dorothy Berkshire [?]; d. at Lancaster 4 Feb 1872), a lawyer: he sat on the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio for one day in 1864 (cite website, history of Ohio Supreme Court). Nine children, of whom three sons & three daughters were living in 1883. *Biographical Record of Fairfield and Perry Counties Ohio*, (New York, 1902), 11-13:

Samuel and Elizabeth Lynch Matlack came to Ohio c. 1810 - parents of Ann Matlack Hunter. Ann outlived her husband and died in 1889. She was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church. She was the mother of 9 children with only 3 yet living - Mrs. Cornyn and Mrs. Graffe who reside at corner of High and Chestnut, and Judge Edward F. Hunter of Seattle Washington. Deceased son, John A., served as Chief Justice of Utah. She was married to H. H. 49 years. from 30 Nov 1823 to 4 Feb 1872.

Children of Hocking H. and Ann (Matlack) Hunter included:

- i. EDWARD F. HUNTER, b. October 1826; said in biog. entry above to be a judge, of Seattle, Washington (1902). In 1880 US Census, was living as a boarder in Lancaster, Ohio, no occupation or marital status (all male, large list of boarders). In 1900 US Census, 'E. F. Hunter' was living in a boarding house in Chehalis, Lewis County, Washington, listed as a lawyer, widowed.
- ii. HENRY B. HUNTER, b. Dec 1828; d. Jan 1889. Lieutenant Colonel, 123d Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in Civil War. A druggist. With wife JOSEPHINE, he had several children in Lancaster (1860, 1870 & 1880 US Census): *Edward H. Hunter*, b. 1853, *George K. Hunter*, b. 1855, *Sallie F. Hunter*, b. 1857, *Henry L Hunter*. (b. 1859), and *Ann* or *Anna M. Hunter* (b. 1869), *Hocking H. Hunter* (b. 1873), *John A. Hunter* (b. 1874) and *Clarence C. [?] Hunter* (b. 1878). He is interestingly found duplicated in the 1880 US Census in Denver, Colorado, listed as married, but without his family (in a boarding house with a number of professional men).
- iii. HELEN HUNTER, b. August 1832; d. 21 May 1916; m. NN CORNYN. Living with sister Graffe in 1900, widowed; no children.

- iv. JOHN A. HUNTER, b. 15 November 1833; d. 22 June 1887; buried Salt Lake City Cemetery. Chief Justice of Supreme Court for the Territory of Utah, 1879-1884. Previously resided in Missouri; moved to Utah 1879. Listed in 1880 US Census (Utah), with daughter *Ellin D. Hunter*, aged 16. No wife, but with them was an Ellin D. Graham, aged 40, who is called his 'sister in law'.
- v. THOMAS HUNTER, b. ca. 1837; an 'ornamental nurseryman' (1860 census).
- vi. CECILIA HUNTER, b. October 1840; m. NN GRAFFE. Living with sister Helen Cornyn at time of 1900 US Census. Widowed, no children.

4. AMELIA MATLACK (*Samuel*), b. 1807/1810, in Kentucky (1850 Census: 40; 1860 Census: 50; 1870 Census: 63); m. Sep 1826, Fairfield Co., **GEORGE H. SMITH**.

Children (information from descendant Jennifer Hutchinson, January 2006):

- i. AMOS SMITH, b. ca. 1828.
- ii. ELISABETH SMITH, b. ca. 1831.
- iii. HENRY C. SMITH, b. ca. 1833.
- iv. GEORGE HUNTER SMITH, b. 25 Dec 1835 in Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio; died there 14 November 1899. He married MARY L. OLDS, daughter of Edson Baldwin Olds (a United States Senator and a member of the Ohio House of Representatives) and Anna Maria (Carolus) Olds. Seven children, including *Joseph Matlock* [sic] *Smith* (b. 8 March 1871). Ancestor of Jennifer Hutchinson.
- v. FRANK SMITH, b. ca. 1839.
- vi. MARIAH SMITH, b. ca. 1841.
- vii. CHARLES A. SMITH, b. ca. 1844.
- viii. EDMUND M SMITH, b. ca. 1849.

5. ELIZABETH ('ELIZA') MATLACK (*Samuel*), b. about 1812; d. after 1880; m., prob. in Fairfield Co. by say 1830, **JOHN B. REED**, who was b. there in 1809, a chair maker and painter (marr. record not preserved); also described as a "prominent mechanic" of Lancaster (Wiseman, *Pioneer Period and Pioneer People of Fairfield County, Ohio*, 358). Four children listed in 1850 Census. In the 1880 US Census, 'Eliza' Reed, age 72 (said to be b. Kentucky, parents also b. in Kentucky), was living with son Rufus Reed, age 46, painter, single.

Children (1850 Census):

- i. RUFUS REED, b. 1834; d. before 1901, as he is called the 'late' Rufus Reed in *Pioneer Period and Pioneer People* (1901), p. 358.
- ii. AUGUSTUS REED, b. 1836.
- iii. JOHN REED, b. 1838.
- iv. GEORGE REED, b. 1842.

6. SAMUEL MATLACK (*Samuel*), b. 26 April 1815, Fairfield Co., OH; d. Louisville, KY 10 Dec 1881 (buried Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville). His 1881 obituary names him as son of Samuel Matlack and Elizabeth Lynch of Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio.

On 31 March 1830, John Matlack, with Hocking H. Hunter & James Rice, signed a guardianship bond naming John Matlack as guardian for Samuel Matlack, son of Samuel Matlack, deceased (probate file, county clerk). Samuel's whereabouts after the death of his guardian John Matlack in 1833 is unknown, but he may well have lived in the household of one of his older sisters.

As a young adult he appears to have been active in Lancaster: he is probably the ‘Samuel Matlack, Junior’ who subscribed for the town clock in January 1837 (*Centennial History of Lancaster*, 174-75); and he is probably also the ‘Samuel Matlack, Junior’ who ran for constable in Fairfield County in 1837 (*Lancaster Ohio Eagle*, 25 Mar 1837 [cit. T. Wiseman]). He would subsequently build a career as a public administrator, serving as a justice of the peace and elected magistrate in Louisville, Kentucky.

Samuel married 17 Apr 1844 at Middletown, Jefferson Co., KY, **MILDRED ANN GREGORY**, who was born at Middletown 5 Nov 1826, daughter of Harvey and Jane (Poulter) Gregory (both deceased before her marriage) and granddaughter of Nancy (Marder) Poulter, who signed Mildred’s marriage bond. Mildred (Gregory) Matlack died at Louisville 14 Mar 1897. Samuel and Mildred (Gregory) Matlack subsequently lived in Louisville and had 13 children recorded in their bible.

His obituary, from an unstated Louisville newspaper:

Death of ‘Squire Samuel Matlack. Mr. Samuel Matlack, an old and highly-respected citizen, died at his residence, 033 Fifth street, this morning at fifteen minutes after 2 o’clock, after an illness of four weeks’ duration, caused by progressive paralysis. Mr. Matlack was born at Lancaster, O., April 26 1815, being the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Lynch) Matlack, who emigrated to Ohio from Kentucky in the year 1811. In 1844 he married Miss Mildred A. Gregory of Middletown, Ky, and shortly after came to Louisville. In 1855 he was elected to the office of magistrate and held the office for twenty years. During the rebellion he was in active service in the Federal army, serving as quartermaster of the Tenth Kentucky volunteers, under Gen. John M. Harlan. He leaves a wife and six children, all of whom are grown. He was a member of the Walnut Street Methodist church, from where the funeral sermon will be held to-morrow (Sunday) at 2:30 p.m. Though his death was not unexpected, it will be received with regret by his numerous friends.

Samuel Matlack was First Lieutenant & Quartermaster of the 10th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry (United States Army) from 1861 to 1863, and was for a while division quartermaster for the 3d Division of the 14th Army Corps (Army of the Cumberland). His quartermaster’s duties took him back and forth between Louisville and the Tennessee encampments of the Army; he probably did not see much combat. He was detached as aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. Speed Smith Fry (USA), at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, from March 1863 to December 1864, when he was discharged (file: muster rolls & orders).

Samuel Matlack’s children and grandchildren are carefully recorded in his own bible, which is now (2008) in possession of descendant Nathaniel Lane Taylor (author of this article). Samuel Matlack named three sons after the husbands of the three Matlack sisters who were apparently his own brothers-in-law: John Reed, George Smith, and Hocking Hunter. Another son, William Harvey Matlack, was named at least partially after Mildred (Gregory) Matlack’s father, Harvey Gregory.

Children and grandchildren of Samuel and Mildred (Gregory) Matlack, based partly on his own bible records:

- i. SON, b. & d. 18 Sep 1845.
- ii. SON, b. 28 Jun, d. 29 Jun 1846.
- iii. JANE (JENNIE) ELIZABETH MATLACK, b. 29 Feb 1848; d. 10 Nov 1915; m. 12 May 1875, MARVIN R. WHEAT (ca. 1850 - 29 Dec 1923). Issue: *Ralph Hoyt Wheat*, b. 10 Apr 1878; *Howard Matlack Wheat*, b. 3 Sep 1881.
- iv. JOHN REED MATLACK, b. 7 Jul, d. 10 Nov 1850.
- v. GEORGE SMITH MATLACK, b. 21 Sep 1852; d. 31 Aug 1853.

- vi. WILLIAM HARVEY MATLACK, b. 6 Feb 1855; d. 12 Jul 1926; m. 9 Jan 1878, MINNIE FREEMAN (1857 - 24 Jun 1938). Issue: *Claude Carson Matlack*, b. 30 Oct 1878; *Leonard Freeman Matlack*, b. 6 Jun 1880; *Samuel Hunter Matlack*, b. 13 Feb 1882.
- vii. HOCKING HUNTER MATLACK, b. 29 Oct 1857; d. 23 Feb 1892; unmarried (no issue).
- viii. SAMUEL AUGUSTUS MATLACK, b. 6 Mar 1859; d. 15 Sep 1921; unmarried (no issue).
- ix. MILDRED ANN MATLACK, b. 9 Apr 1861; d. 13 Mar 1939; m. at Louisville, 5 Jul 1892, HENRY BARNES TAYLOR (7 Aug 1863 - 16 May 1926); issue: *Marvin Hunter Taylor*, b. 15 Apr 1896; *William Marshall Taylor*, b. 21 Aug 1899.
- x. HARRY HAYS MATLACK, b. 25 Jul 1863; d. 2 Aug 1864.
- xi. IDA MAY MATLACK, b. 2 Apr 1865; d. 11 Nov 1949, unmarried (no issue).
- xii. LINNIE BELL MATLACK, b. 14 Jul, d. 27 Aug 1866.
- xiii. ADRA MATLACK, b. 26 Jan, d. 29 Jan 1869.

THE OTHER SAMUEL MATLACK:

1. SAMUEL MATLACK was born perhaps about 1784 (stated to have been 55 at his death in 1839: see below) but perhaps as late as 1790/94 (1820 Census: aged 26-45; 1830 Census: aged 30-40). From the 1810s through 1837 he lived in Lancaster, Ohio; he moved to Cass County, Indiana about 1838, and died there 9 June 1839. His wife, called alternately ANNE or NANCY in records, was probably the NANCY JONES who married a Samuel Matlack in October 1823 at Lancaster ('Ancient Swains' marr. index). She survived Samuel Matlack and married, on 1 August 1840, Samuel Beery of Lancaster, Ohio; the statement in the *Centennial History of Lancaster* (p. 182) that the bride was "Mrs. Ann Matlack, mother of Mrs. Judge Biddle of Indiana," suggests that she was the mother, even though the usual stated age of the daughter in later censuses places her birth before 1824.

In the 1830 Census, apparently this Samuel Matlack is given the following household: one male aged 30-40 (presumably Matlack himself, though this would make him younger than 55 at his death); one female aged 20-30 (likely Nancy his wife); two girls aged 15-20; three boys aged 15-20; and one boy aged 10-15. These teenagers cannot be accounted for unless they are all apprentices and servants, and the absence of anyone who could be Anna Maria Matlack is also surprising, unless she really was born in 1813 (as census and obituary stated), thus obviously from a previous marriage, before the marriage to Nancy Jones.

This Samuel Matlack was perhaps in the saddlery business in Lancaster with John Matlack (as is asserted in Wiseman's *Centennial History* and *Pioneer Period*, where they are called brothers), but was apparently also a farmer and / or land speculator. This Samuel Matlack appears in several deeds and land grants, from 1827 through 1837. On 13 Nov 1826 Samuel Matlack purchased two lots in the town of Newmarket, Fairfield County, Ohio; he sold one of these same parcels, with wife Nancy cosigning, in 1834 (Fairfield County deeds, LDS film). On 18 March 1837 Samuel Matlack of Fairfield County, Ohio, received three separate federal land grants in Putnam County, Ohio, totaling about 188 acres. On 30 May 1837 Samuel Matlack of Fairfield County, Ohio, received a federal grant of 182 acres in Allen County, Indiana; on 10 August 1837 Samuel 'Matlock' of Fairfield County, Ohio received a federal grant for 318 acres in Fulton County, Indiana (adjacent to Cass County) (Federal land grants database, ancestry.com).

The grantee of these federal lands appears to be the same man who relocated to the regional metropolis of Logansport, Cass County, Indiana in 1838. The Logansport newspapers recorded the death, "on Friday evening, 9th inst. [i.e. June 1839], [of] Mr. Samuel Matlack, Senr. formerly of Lancaster, Ohio. In the death of Mr. Matlack, the community has suffered the loss of a worthy and enterprising citizen" (*Logansport Canal Telegraph* 17 Aug 1839, p. 3 col. 1). And again: "Died, on Friday night last after a few days' illness, Mr. Samuel Matlack, Sen'r, late a citizen of Lancaster, Ohio. Mr. M. had but recently become a citizen of this State. He was

esteemed among the urbane and worthiest of our citizens” (*Logansport Herald*, 13 Aug 1839, p. 3 col. 4). A Lancaster, Ohio newspaper provided an age at death in announcing the same event: “Mr. Samuel Matlack, aged about 55 years, died in Logansport, Iowa [*sic*] on the 9th inst. He moved to Logansport last season” (Lancaster, Ohio *Eagle*, 17 August 1839 [cit. T. Wiseman]).

His Indiana lands seem to have been inherited by his daughter, Anna Maria Matlack, sometime wife of Horace Biddle, who appears to have inherited considerable property in or around Cass County, perhaps including at least 300 acres in Logansport itself (see passage from the Sarah Jones memoir). According to the Jones memoir, much of this property remained with Biddle following their brief marriage.

Samuel Matlack died 9 June 1839 in Cass County, Indiana. Letters of administration were granted 11 Nov 1839; probate was closed 14 August 1841; administrators were Ann Matlack and John S. Patterson (indexed *Cass County, Indiana, Index of Estates, 1829-1900*, ed. Barbara Schull Wolfe [1983], p. 61; I have not located the actual file). Widow Anne (Jones) (Matlack), “mother of Mrs. Judge Biddle,” married as her second husband, Samuel Beery, in Lancaster, Ohio on 1 Aug 1840 (*Centennial History of Lancaster*, p. 182).

Child (perhaps only child) of Samuel and (apparently) Ann (‘Nancy’) (Jones) Matlack:

2 i. ANNA MARIA. See below.

2. **ANNA MARIA MATLACK** (Samuel) was born perhaps about 1824, but perhaps in the 1810s [see below]; d. 23 September 1900, Logansport, Cass Co., Indiana; m. 8 June 1846, at Logansport, **HORACE P. BIDDLE**, poet, musician, lawyer and sometime Indiana Supreme Court justice, who had trained in Lancaster, Ohio with Hocking H. Hunter (on Hunter see above). Separated or divorced in 1847. No children.

Anna Maria Matlack Biddle is found in each Cass County, Indiana census from 1850 through 1900, living apart from her former husband Horace P. Biddle. In 1900 she was listed as ‘widowed’, though Biddle was still alive. The information on where Anna Maria was born, and where her parents were born, varies from census to census. In the early censuses, she is stated to be born in Ohio, and these earlier censuses report an age consistent with birth about 1822. In the later censuses, she is said to be older, and to have been born in Pennsylvania.

In the 1880 census, Anna Maria stated her father was born in England and her mother in Italy (evoking the Mazzini connection found in the Sarah Jones memoir). But in 1900, the census states her father was from New Jersey and her mother from Pennsylvania (which actually fits for Samuel and Elizabeth (Lynch) Matlack, see above). Presumably the England - Italy story was simply a story and by 1900 the story was no longer in use.

Her obituary in the *Logansport Daily Journal* (25 September 1900) stated her age at death (in 1900) as 87 and her birth in Pennsylvania in 1813. The obituary stated her parents as Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Matlack, with whom she had arrived at Logansport as a child.

The memoir of Sarah Jones, an early female physician who lived for a time in Logansport, Indiana, records interesting information about Anna Maria Matlack Biddle (unpublished typescript by Jeff Lanphear of Montville, Ohio). Dr. Jones recorded several unverifiable claims heard firsthand from Anna Maria Matlack: that she was niece of the Italian unification agitator Giuseppe Mazzini (1805-72); that she was the daughter of a *Lucius* Matlack; etc. As Dr. Jones seems to have had no reason to consciously invent or exaggerate such material, one must conclude that Anna Maria Matlack seems to have imposed an active imagination upon her acquaintances. She told Dr. Jones that she was an only child, and that she had one stepbrother but did not mention any other siblings. It does appear that this Anna Maria Matlack may have been the only child of Samuel Matlack.