

By Dann M. Norton, taken from The Schuylerite Summer 2007

“Elizabeth J. wife of A. Phillips buried in Hardscrabble Cemetery,  
Bainbridge Twp.

According to the Bainbridge Township cemetery book published by the Schuyler Jail Museum, the maiden name of Elizabeth J. wife of A. Phillips buried in Hardscrabble Cemetery in Schuyler County, Illinois, is **HATFIELD**. Schuyler County marriages show that an Asahel Phillips married Elizabeth Hatfield on 19 December 1843.

I was raised down the road from this cemetery and read that tombstone many times. I was related to the Phillipses, but never knew quite how Elizabeth fit in. The cemetery and my address were on Hatfield Road, so it all seemed right that Elizabeth J. Hatfield was buried in the cemetery.

But looking closely at the dates of the marriage, and the birth/death dates for Elizabeth Phillips, one realizes that Elizabeth Hatfield cannot be the woman buried here.

The tombstone reads:

Elizabeth J.  
Wife of A. Phillips  
Died April 10, 1863  
Aged 27 years

If she is the Hatfield woman, she married at the age of seven. Obviously there is a mistake. I checked the stone, and the dates are written correctly in the cemetery book.

Could there be another Elizabeth, wife of A. Phillips in Bainbridge Township?

A search of Schuyler County marriages shows that Archibald Phillips married Elizabeth J. McLain on 23 December, 1855.

Elizabeth McLain is probably the daughter of Robert and Ellender McLain of Tennessee, listed in the 1850 Census of Brown County, Illinois. A daughter, Elizabeth is listed as age 15, born in Illinois. This fits with the information on the wife of Archibald Phillips. The McLains moved to Huntsville Township, Schuyler County before 1860. Archibald's family was also from Huntsville Township; his parents, John and Elizabeth were listed there in 1850 Schuyler County. Archibald and Elizabeth are found in Hadley Township, Pike County, Illinois in 1860:

1382	Archibald Phillips	31 m farm work	---	KY
	Elizabeth J.	25 f houswork	IL	
	John H.	03 m		
	Ann E.	01 f		

If this is the Elizabeth buried in Hardscrabble, she died on 10 April 1863. Schuyler County marriages show the marriage of Archibald “Archible”

Phillips to Adaline Tungate on 13 July, 1863. This suggests that the first wife of Archibald may have died before July 1863. The family of Archibald is listed in the 1870 Bainbridge Township census of Schuyler County:

38	Archable Phillips	40	m	w	farm hand	---	\$ 200	KY
	Mary A.	25	f	w	keeping house			IL
	John H.	15	m	w				IL
	Anna E.	11	f	w				IL
	George W.	08	m	w				IL
	Sarah E.	05	f	w				IL
	Marth J.	03	f	w				IL
	Harvey L.	01	m	w				IL

Note that the first two children are John H. age 15 and Anna E. age 11, which coincides with the information for the children in the 1850 Pike County census. Mary A. must be Adaline's first name, Mary Adaline. The child George W. born about 1862 may be the son of the first wife, Elizabeth McLain, since she did not pass away until 1863.

A descendant of George Washington Phillips, son of Archibald, confirms that Archibald was married first to Elizabeth McLain, then to Adaline Tungate.

Therefore, based on birth dates and marriages, Elizabeth, wife of A. Phillips, buried in Hardscrabble Cemetery cannot be Elizabeth Hatfield. The only available candidate is Elizabeth McLain Phillips.

So where is Elizabeth Hatfield, wife of Asahel Phillips?

Several men lived and died in Schuyler County bearing the name, in various spellings, Asahel Phillips. The oldest of these was born in 1777 in Virginia and referred to as "Old Asahel" Phillips. This Asahel was married to Hannah Nixon in 1805 in Harrison County, Virginia. He is a brother to Old Samuel Phillips who married Amy Martin in Harrison County, Virginia. Both of these men moved to Hardin County, Kentucky, finally ending up in Schuyler County, Illinois. Both of these brothers have sons named Asahel.

There are three Asahel Phillips marriages in Schuyler County before 1850:

Asahel Phillips to Nancy V. Quinn on 17 January, 1839  
 Asahel Phillips to Dorcas Peak on 17 January, 1841  
 Asahel Phillips to Elizabeth Hatfield on 19 December, 1843

The Asahel Phillips married to Dorcas Peak is the son of Old Samuel Phillips. His descendants have been traced, and information on them can be found at the Jail Museum.

The Asahel Phillips married to Elizabeth Hatfield had been a mystery until recent research located his estate probated in Schuyler County in 1848. This Asahel, sometimes called Asahel, Jr., died 17 February, 1848. The estate names his widow, Elizabeth, who relinquished her right to

administer the estate to Charles Hatfield on 28 February, 1848.

Since Asahel (Jr.) died prior to 1850, he is not named in the census for that year. However, his widow, with her children, can be found in Bainbridge Township, Schuyler County. Next door is the family of Jesse and Elizabeth Rogers Phillips. Jesse is Asahel's brother. The 1850 census of Bainbridge Township lists the following households consecutively:

177	182	Elizabeth Phillips	26	f		IN
		Marion		05	f	L
		Abraham	03	m		L
178	183	Jesse Phillips	38	m	farmer \$800	VA
		Elizabeth	42	f		KY
		John	12	m		L

Jesse Phillips married Elizabeth Rogers on 14 February 1837, in Hardin County, KY.

This is the same county from where Asahel and Samuel Phillips emigrated. After their marriage, they moved to Schuyler County, Illinois and had one son, John.

Both of these family groups disappear from Schuyler County records, except for a marriage of a Jesse Phillips to a Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips on 5 February, 1851.

The 1860 census of Valley Township, Linn County, Kansas lists the following Phillips households:

350	Benj Phillips	41	KY
	Agnes	27	OH
	Nancy	14	L
	John	06	L
	Franklin	04	L
	Ruth	02	Kansas Territory
	George	5 mo.	Kansas Territory
351	Isaac Newton	24	KY
	Sarah	21	L
	Oliver	5 mos.	Kansas Territory
352	Jesse Phillips	48	VA
	Elizabeth	36	IN
	John	22	L
	Marion	15	L
	Abraham	13	L

Mary	06	L
Benjamin	08	L
Florence	04	L
Savilla	02	L
Lavina Samuels	19	IN

Benjamin Phillips is the son of Old Asahel Phillips. he is listed with Asahel in the 1850 Schuyler County Census, with a daughter, Nancy age three. (Benjamin was married to Anna C. Elmore, 22 January, 1846, in Schuyler County) Benjamin married Agnes Campbell, daughter of Peter and Agnes Campbell of Bainbridge Township, on 9 August 1853.

Isaac Newton married Sarah Phillips, daughter of Asahel Phillips and Nancy Quinn. This may indicate that Sarah's father, Asahel, was first married to Nancy V. Quinn, and then to Elizabeth Hatfield.

Jesse Phillips is the man from the 1850 Bainbridge, Schuyler County report. His son John is listed. The Elizabeth fits o be the widow Elizabeth, born about 1824 in Indiana, with her two sons, Marion and Abraham. The record supports that Jesse Phillips married Elizabeth Hatfield Phillips, widow of Asahel Phillips. Letters in the Hatfield file at the Jail Museum confirm that Elizabeth Hatfield was married to two brothers. Although the letters name the first husband as John Philips, and the second as Jesse Phillips, the marriage records of Schuler County verify that it was Asahel who married the Hatfield.

These families can be traced through subsequent censuses. Benjamin Phillips died and Agnes married Robert Wade before 1870. Jesse and Elizabeth had two asdditional children according to the 180 Linn County, Kansas census: Mariah L. , born about 1861, and Charles, born about 1863. Esse and Elizabeth are listed in teh 1880 census of Linn County. Jesse was 68 and stated that he and his parentw were born in Virginia. Elizabeth was 57, she was bon in Indiana, her parents in Kentucky. By 1900, the Phillipses seem to have moved on from Kansas, or perhaps passed away.

A Linn County, Kansas, lookup volunteer for the Linn County usgenweb website, located Jesse Phillips and Elizabeth Hatfield Phillips in Swayback Cemetery (aka Maple Grove or Lonely Dell Cemetery.) Wlizabeth was born 16 December 1823 and did 3 January 1908. A footstone listed J.P. for Jesse, but additional information stated that he died on Thanksgiving Day , 1882.

With multiple Asahels and Elizabeths, it's easy to confuse information on these families. When records are located that can erase confusion, it is important that they are shared with other researchers. Hopefully, those who were missing their Elizabeth McLains or their Elizabeth Hatfields will find this article useful.

Resources for this article besides those found at the Schuyler Jail Museum and Schuyler County courthouse include:

Census records at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) (subscription required)

Marriage records online at the Illinois State Archives at <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/marriage.html>

Schuyler County (IL) and Linn County (KS) Genweb sites at [www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com)

Illinois Trails at <http://iltrails.org/schuyler/>

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