In the process of routine genealogical research, momentary brick walls occasionally bar the way to completing the story of a family. As we move gradually through the family, building first one line and then another, difficulties with documents or other challenges arise from time to time which appear to confuse rather than elucidate the particulars of what happened in the past. As with many other cases of this sort, a little patience, thought, and continued focus on the research allow us to work our way through the impasse to a reasonable solution, perhaps even the right one.

### The marriage of William Loar

On 11 Nov 1852 in Boone county, Missouri, William Loar and Susan A Hickam married.¹ The document which shows the fact of marriage gives the bare notice of the marriage date and county, the bride and groom, the date of certification and recording and the names of the two officials involved.² The intent of the document is clear and there is enough readable on the page to establish that a marriage took place. This is not a bond or an application for license (which was not required by law until 26 Jun 1881³). We must assume that the bride and groom are of age (18 for women, 21 for men).

Extending the research slightly, looking for William Loar and Susan Hickam in the 1850 census, we find the household of George H Hickam, his putative wife, Minerva, and a group of younger Hickams headed by 18-year-old Susan (b c1832, Missouri).⁴ Susan would have been 20 at the time of the marriage and so is a very likely candidate for the bride.

While no male named William Loar born c1830 is found in Boone county (or anywhere else in the country) in 1850, a boy, aged 9 (b Va), is found in the household of Richard Lowey.⁵ The name is clearly written Lowey but could be pronounced Loar under certain conditions. He is too young for Susan Hickam.

William Loar, aged 6, is found in the 1850 census for Shelby county, Missouri.⁶ In the records for Union soldiers in Missouri, one William Loar, age 20, b (c1844) in Shelby county, Mo, served in 8th Corps, Co G, 39th Regt, Mo Vols, and was killed in action at Centralia on 27 Sep 1864.⁷ Though the timing is right for his death, he is also too young for Susan Hickam.

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2 Text of document: "State of Missouri, County of Boone. I certify that I... solemnized ... William Loar and Susan A Hickam on the 11th day of November 1852. Given under my hand this 1st day of Feb 1853. W G Maupin, JP. Recorded February 1, 1853. ... Todd Clerk Recording."


The marriage of James S Williams

Leaving William for the moment, a later Missouri marriage between James S Williams and Mrs Susan Loar (19 Sep 1867, Platte county)\(^8\) suggests the possibility that Mrs William Loar, now a widow, is the bride for this marriage. James and Susan are found in all the censuses taken between their marriage and their deaths (1870 through 1920).\(^9\) Susan's ages in these records yield a birth year of 1841 plus or minus one year and a stated birth month of Sep (1900 census). In her Missouri death record her birth is given precisely as 6 Sep 1841 and her parents are Thomas White and Polly Jones (informant is Susan's daughter, Maud B Williams Adams).\(^10\)

We have three difficulties: 1) her birth year is nearly ten years later than that for Susan Hickam, 2) her middle name is Elizabeth while Ms Hickam's middle initial is A, and 3) her maiden name was obviously White, not Hickam. So, Mrs Susan (Elizabeth White) Loar is not Susan (A Hickam) Loar of Boone county though she is certainly Mrs William Loar.\(^11\) Do we have two Susans marrying one William Loar or are there two men named William Loar, each of whom married women named Susan?

Who is Susan White?

Thomas and Polly White with their family are living in Mercer county, Virginia, in 1850 with their daughter, Susan, age 10.\(^12\) The next-door neighbor household is Harman White with his wife, likely a son of Thomas and Polly.\(^13\) In 1840 the Tazewell county listing for the family has all of the appropriate statistical entries to match the 1850 family, including Harman.\(^14\) Likewise, in 1860, the parents are living alone\(^15\) and all of the sons are married and living in their own households.\(^16\) The two daughters, Lucinda and Susan are not found even nearby. Of


\(^10\) Missouri death certificate (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/) for Susan E Williams

\(^11\) James S Williams (head) and Mrs Susan (Loar) Williams (keeping house) are the adults in an 1870 household containing two children too old to be both of theirs. That they are Susan's children is apparent when they are named Loar in 1880. In the later death record for one of them, his father is named as William Loar and his mother as Susan Elizabeth Loar, so Susan's first husband was clearly William Loar.


course, Susan, if she married William Loar, would have married him a few years earlier.

To understand this, consider the children found with James and Susan in 1870 and 1880. In 1870, two older children, James H and Hannible Williams, ages 11 and 9, are named James H and Annible Loar, ages 20 and 19, in 1880. We can conclude that these two are children of Susan and William Loar rather than Susan and James Williams. If that is true, then she must have married William before c1858. Both children were born in Missouri suggesting that her marriage with William was also in Missouri.

Who is William Loar?

If we are dealing with a single individual named William Loar, he was born c1830 (or earlier) to be of an age to marry Susan Hickam in 1852 but died following the 1861 birth of his son, Annible. The Missouri death record of James H Loar declares that his father was born in Virginia. Perhaps he became acquainted with the White family at an early time and returned to marry Susan following the death of his first wife.

Alternatively, we may have two men named William Loar, one who married Susan Hickam and the other who married Susan Elizabeth White. If this is the case, the first William Loar would be completely independent of the second. The second William Loar would have married Susan Elizabeth White c1858, probably in Missouri, and then died following the birth of his second son and before her subsequent marriage to James S Williams. Which of these two alternatives is the right one is impossible to determine given the existing evidence.

So, based on the records we have found and the suggestions made above, the family under investigation can be structured in one of two ways:

William Loar, b c1830, Va
m (1) 11 Nov 1852, Mo
no known issue
m (2) c1857
Susan Elizabeth White, b 6 Sep 1841, Va
d c1862-7 children:
1. James Harvey Loar, b c1859, Mo
2. Annible Loar, b c1861, Mo

James S Williams, b 21 Jan 1842, Mo
m (3) 19 Sep 1867, Mo, widow Mrs Susan Loar
d 28 Oct 1927, Mo
children:
3. William M Williams, b c1868
4. John L Williams, b Dec 1869
5. Maudie B Williams, b c1873, m James Overton Adams
6. Roselle Williams, b c1877

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18 James S Williams household, 1880 Federal census, (http://www.ancestry.com/), T9, Roll 710, FHL Film 1254710, p 66C, ED 88, lines 10-17, Green, Platte, Missouri, enumerated 11 Jun 1880 by T S Gabbett: dwelling 166, family 168.

19 Missouri death certificate (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/) for Jim Harvey Loar. The Missouri death certificate for Annible Loar, unfortunately, has no entry for parents.

20 Missouri death certificate (http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/) for Jim Harvey Loar. Virginia is the birth place declared for the father of James Harvey Loar (1880-1920) and for Annible D Loar (1920-30) in all of their census entries.
Alternatively, the family structure might be:

William Loar, b c1830 m (1) 11 Nov 1852, Mo Susan A Hickam, b c1832, Mo no known issue, nothing further known

William Loar, b c1839, Va m (2) c1857 Susan Elizabeth White, b 6 Sep 1841, Va d c1862-7, Mo children:
1. James Harvey Loar, b c1859, Mo
2. Annible Loar, b c1861, Mo

James S Williams, b 21 Jan 1842, Mo, m (3) 19 Sep 1867, Mo, widow Mrs Susan Loar d 28 Oct 1927, Mo
children:
3. William M Williams, b c1868
4. John L Williams, b Dec 1869
5. Maudie B Williams, b c1873, m James Overton Adams
6. Roselle Williams, b c1877

We need to find information about William Loar. Perhaps locating him in Boone county, Mo, might be a start. Land, tax, probate records, or other records of that county might show him present. Here is a possible scenario. Since William came to Boone county and married Susan Hickam there (there is a Boone county record), he might have come earlier to live (though he was not found in the 1850 census). He might have been a farmer and either bought land or paid taxes. The marriage record (original, 1867) for William Loar and Susan White has not yet been found. Perhaps she came to Boone county and was married there. If William later died in Boone county, records for all events might be found there (in Boone or a near county). That's the simplest theory. Otherwise, any or all of these events may have happened in other places. James S Williams married the widow Mrs Susan Loar in Jackson county. How did she get there? Did William Loar die there?

Boone county marr records, 1821-72 film 909125
(11 Nov 1852 Susan A. Hickam, c1858 Susan Eliz White)

Boone county land records, direct index films 909095-8
deeds, 1850-52 films 909109-110

Southern Boone County Public Library, 117 E Broadway, Ashland, MO 65010
573-657-7378 www.dbrl.org [email asking for location of Boone co, Mo, newsp]
subject class: 977.829 E7
The original book, including index, is available on microfilm at the Walters Boone County Historical Museum, Columbia, Missouri.
Obtained this book through Zimmerman Library inter-library loan, Jul 2011. Found several Hickam families as follows:
Hickam, E C: T47 R13 S1 map 17; T47 R13 S12 map 17
Hickam, G W: T47 R13 S27 map 17
Hickam, Geo: T47 R13 S35 map 17
Hickam, Geo L: T47 R13 S11 map 17
Hickam, Geo W: T47 R13 S24 map 17
Hickam, J W: T48 R13 S23 map 18
Hickam, Jacob: T45 R13 S1 map 15
Hickam, Jno: T46 R13 S14 map 16
Hickam, Jno H: T47 R11 S21 map 3; T47 R13 S15 map 17
Hickam, Jo W: T48 R13 S14 map 18
Hickam, John: T47 R13 S1 map 17; T47 R13 S2 map 17; T48 R13 S36 map 18
Hickam, Joseph: T47 R13 S1 map 17; T47 R13 S18 map 17
Hickam, William: T47 R13 S11 map 17
Hickam, William sr: T45 R13 S2 map 15
Hickam, Wm: T45 R13 S2 map 15
Images taken of all maps references plus tp.
Boone co, MO, Probate index (index to packets) 1819- (dates not given) Film 909215 Item 1