

Mysterious Susan: A tale of research fun

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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.

1 Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>) shows William Loar married Susan A Hickam, 11 Nov 1852, Boone county. FHL Film 0909125, Books A & B (1821-1872).

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."

3 Prior to 26 Jun 1881, no marriage license was required; the marriage was recorded in any convenient courthouse. Marsha Hoffman Rising and Pamela Boyer Porter, "Missouri," in *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, 3d ed., ed. Alice Eichholz. Provo (UT): Ancestry, 2004.

4 George H Hickam household, 1850 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M432, Roll 392, p 436B, lines 9-15, dist 8, Boone, Missouri, enumerated 10 Oct 1850 by Wm T Hickman: dwelling 1496, family 1496.

5 Richard Lowey household, 1850 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M432, Roll 392, p 394A, lines 27-35, Dist 8, Boone, Missouri, enumerated 24 Sep 1850 by William T Hickman: dwelling 930, family 930.

6 Isaac Loar household, 1850 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M432, Roll 420, p 220A, lines 9-13, Dist 94, Shelby, Missouri, enumerated 19 Aug 1850 by Wm H Davidson: dwelling 164, family 174.

7 Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Missouri: military service record for William Loar <http://www.footnote.com/>.

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 alone¹⁵ 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

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- 8 Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>) shows James Williams married Mrs Susan Loar, 19 Sep 1867, Buchanan county. FHL Film 0909125, Books A & B (1821-1872).
- 9 James [S] Williams household, 1870 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M593, Roll 799, FHL Film 0552298, p 525B, lines 30-34, Weston, Platte, Missouri, enumerated 13 Sep 1870 by Charles A Smith, PO Weston: dwelling 1809, family 1840. 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 Gabbert: dwelling 166, family 168. James S Williams household, 1900 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), T623, Roll 882, p 61B, ED 133, sheet 9B, lines 72-75, Green, Platte, Missouri, enumerated 7 Jun 1900 by Thom H Reynolds: dwelling 174, family 183. James S Williams household, 1910 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), T624, Roll 805, FHL Film 1374818, p 22, ED 152, sheet 10A, lines 17-25, 34-42, Green, Platte, Missouri, enumerated 20 Apr 1910 by Olie C Butts: dwelling 11, family 11. James S Williams household, 1920 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), T625, Roll 942, p 67B, ED 186, sheet 14B, lines 61-64, Green, Platte, Missouri, enumerated 26 Jan 1920 by Loran S Stanton: dwelling 305, family 309.
- 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.
- 12 Thomas White household, 1850 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M432, Roll 960, p 174A, lines 14-22, Dist 42, Mercer, Virginia, enumerated 20, 21 Aug 1850 by Wm L Cornelius: dwelling 349, family 349.
- 13 Harman White household, 1850 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M432, Roll 960, p 174A, lines 14-22, Dist 42, Mercer, Virginia, enumerated 20, 21 Aug 1850 by Wm L Cornelius: dwelling 350, family 350.
- 14 Thomas White household, 1840 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M704, Roll 579, p 50, Tazewell county, Virginia, enumerated by Thomas H Gillespie: line 12. Tazewell county is next south of Mercer county.
- 15 Thomas White household, 1860 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M653, Roll 1362, p 429, lines 17-18, 21-26, My Division, Mercer, Virginia, enumerated 9 Aug 1860 by John T Carr, PO Princeton, Va: dwelling 599, family 566.
- 16 Harman White household, 1860 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M653, Roll 1362, p 413, lines 20-30, My Division, Mercer, Virginia, enumerated 1 Aug 1860 by John T Carr, PO Princeton, Va: dwelling 488, family 458. Reuben White, jr, household, 1860 Federal census, (<http://www.ancestry.com/>), M653, Roll 1362, p 429, lines 17-18, 21-26, My Division, Mercer, Virginia, enumerated 9 Aug 1860 by John T Carr, PO Princeton, Va: dwelling 601, family 568. Milton White household, 1860 Federal census,

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]

The Boone Co, Missouri land entry atlas of 1853, by James S. Rollins ;

drawn by Ebenezer N. O. Clough ; index compiled by the State Hist Soc of Mo

publications: Columbia, Missouri : Genealogical Society of Central Missouri, 1998

Columbia, Missouri : Boone County Historical Society (Missouri), 1998

physical: 1 atlas (ii, 26, 20 p.), maps

subject class: **977.829 E7**

Reprint. Originally published : 1853.

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 map17; 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