

Date: 12 June 2021

Report to: Files

Subject: Who were the parents of Sarah Ann Schwartz: born 1820 in Clark County, Indiana, died 1902 in Adams County, Illinois, married Feb 1838 in Clark County, Indiana to Marquis F. Bennett (son of James Bennett and Airy Prather), moved to Adams County, Illinois by 1860 and to York County, Nebraska by 1880?

Known Associates (after marriage):

Clark County, Indiana

1. Airy Prather Bennett (mother of husband),
2. Joshua S. Bennett (brother of husband) – land abuts
3. Greenberry Prather (uncle of husband) – land transactions and neighbors
4. Aaron Prather (uncle of husband) – land transactions and neighbors
5. Thomas W. Prather (grandfather of husband) – land transactions
6. Walter Prather (great uncle of husband) – land abuts
7. Eli Jacobs (neighbor) – land abuts

Repository: FamilySearch Library, Salt Lake City

Caveats or Limitations: Due to covid-19 restrictions this research included review/checks on earlier research done strictly on Ancestry.com in 2020.

Background Information: *(note – There are two common spellings of Schwartz/Swartz. Both were used by early Swartz families in Indiana and Illinois. As time passed, different Swartz chose different spellings to standardize their surname. The spelling of the surname is NOT standardized before roughly 1860 and cannot be used to include or exclude potential relatives from consideration. In these reports the surname will be spelled Swartz unless the quoted record uses another spelling. Also, two primary spellings of Marcus/Marquis F. Bennett's first name are used in records across Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska. He signed himself Marquis F. in land records. This report will use Marquis unless the quoted record uses another spelling.)*

The parents of Sarah Ann (Swartz) Bennett have been a mystery for at least a hundred years. Her maiden name was Schwartz per her 1838 marriage record in Clark County, Indiana¹ and her birthplace was Clark county, Indiana, in her 1902 obituary in York County, Nebraska.² Her maiden name was repeated in the obituary, death or marriage records of several children.³ Sarah's marriage, migrations, and later life are well documented (in "standard" sources such as vital records, censuses and obituaries) via numerous online trees at Ancestry.com

¹ Clark, Indiana, Marriage records 1810-2001, D: 176, Bennett-Schwartz, 1838; FHL microfilm #1415852. Clark County, Indiana, "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019", Markus F. Bennett – Sarah Ann Schwartz, 13 Feb 1838, digital image; FamilySearch.org, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XXPM-VP1> ; downloaded 24 March 2023.)

²² "Waco - Sarrah (sic) A. Bennett," The Teller, 19 Feb 1902, p. 4, col. 4; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : accessed 24 Apr 2023); *has several errors, including the misspelling of Sarah's first name, the date of their migration to Illinois and the number of children born to Sarah and Marcus. Aside from the misspelling, - these may be attributed to the contributor who is unknown.* "Waco Mrs. Sarah Bennett," The York Republican, 19 Feb 1902, p. 8, col. 4; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : accessed 24 Apr 2023); *text differs from the obituary in the York Teller as follows, her first name is spelled correctly, and her age is given as 82. Other errors are repeated from the York Teller obituary.*

³Bennet, George Franklin, 1931, Iowa, U.S., Deaths and Burials, 1850-1990, digital image, Ancestry.com (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XVHT-9XH> : accessed 24 Apr 2023) Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013. *for example.*

and FamilySearch (*FSID* KC58-CKS.)⁴ Her husband, Marquis Fielding Bennett, (*FSID* LCZ2-MRJ) has also been documented on the same sites, using the same sources. Despite the fact Sarah's maiden name and birthplace are not a mystery, she has never been attached to parents or siblings (in published Swartz or Bennett material or online sites such as Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilySearch, Wikitree, Geni.com, Billiongraves.com, or Find a Grave.⁵)

Sarah Ann Schwartz and Marquis F. Bennett were married in Clark County, Indiana on 13 February 1838 (there is no return of the marriage recorded so we do not know who performed the marriage.)⁶ Marriage partners, during this period in Indiana history, were sought within a restricted radius of your home, probably within just a few miles. Marquis' mother, Airy Prather Bennett (also called Ary), resided in Utica township or Clark County.⁷ She was a granddaughter of Basil Prather and Chlorenda Robertson/Robinson,⁸ therefore a member of the extended Prather clan whose land holdings in Clark County were centered in Utica township, especially near the hamlets of Watson and Prather and the New Chapel Methodist Church.⁹ It is highly likely that Sarah's parents lived in this area as well.

Previous research has determined that no document such as birth, death, probate or land directly provides the names of the parents of Sarah Ann Schwartz.¹⁰ That research did find several land transactions for Marquis F. Bennett between 1842 – 1852 that place the couple in the heart of the area of Utica township bounded by Watson and Prather thus confirming the Prather connections and providing additional names for the Associates list.

General Research Plan outline (*for all phases of this project – this project is part of a larger project reconstructing the family of John Swartz jr.*)

- **Initial literature search to identify possible candidates for Sarah's Swartz father in Clark County and adjoining counties in Indiana.**
- **Clark County, Indiana 1820-1880 for candidate Swartz households,**
- Clark County, Indiana - Marquis Bennett household and identified F.A.N. Pre-1850 census, land records both purchase and sale, court records, church membership and newspapers. Land records will need to

⁴ <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/73787680/person/402218390137/facts>; <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/119792319/person/272453595264/facts>; <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KC58-CKS> are the most documented and with few if any mis-attached records.

⁵for examples see: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47525314/sarah-ann-bennett>; <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KC58-CKS>

⁶ Clark, Indiana, Marriage records 1810-2001, D: 176, Bennett-Schwartz, 1838.

⁷ 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 289 (stamped page number), Bennett Ara; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com: downloaded 2 Feb 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M704, roll 75.

⁸ John William Prather jr, Prater, Prather, Prator, Praytor in America 1620-1800 1-5 generations vol II (Hendersonville, North Carolina: published by author, 1994), 2: 271. see also: Clark County, Indiana Circuit Court, "Indiana, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1798-1999", 1854; Thomas W. Prather will, *all living children and widow are named*, image; Ancestry, (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9045/>; downloaded 16 March 2021) see also: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/85694310/person/30523111827/facts> and others.

⁹ "The History of New Chapel Methodist Church near Watson, Ind.", typescript history (Watson, Indiana, United States.) William Warren Sweet, editor, Circuit Rider Days in Indiana (Indianapolis, Indiana: W. K. Stewart Co., 1916.)

¹⁰ Negative searches for "Sarah Ann Schwartz/Swartz" conducted January 20, 2020, and March 2, 2021, in microfilm and digital records of Clark County, Indiana 1830-1850 specifically marriages, probate, will and land records and in the same categories of microfilm and digital records of Adams County, Illinois 1850-1880 and York County, Nebraska 1880-1910, using FamilySearch microfilm and digitized images as well as Ancestry.com databases.

be mapped onto a Clark County Map giving section numbers for the Illinois Grant Survey aka Clark's Grant Survey of 1785.

- Adams County, Illinois – 1840-1910 for candidate Swartz households, Marquis Bennett household and identified F.A.N. Land records, both purchase and sale, court records, church membership, newspapers and both federal and state census records for F.A.N. families. The marriages of Bennett children should also be examined to expand the F.A.N.
- York County, Nebraska – 1870 – 1910 for candidate Swartz relatives, Marquis Bennett household and identified F.A.N. Land records, both purchase and sale, court records, church membership, newspapers and both federal and state census records for F.A.N. families. The marriages of Bennett children should also be examined to expand the F.A.N.
- DNA – atDNA test match lists on Ancestry.com and MyHeritage for Heather McLeland-Wieser and Dana McLeland documented Swartz descendants (of Clark County, Indiana), should be analyzed for potential matches descended from Sarah Ann Schwartz using the Leeds method of clustering as well as pedigree triangulation. Other more advanced analysis methods may be used if agreement is reached with relevant matches regarding sharing of match lists and uploading to Gedmatch.

Literature Search - Identifying Swartz candidates for Sarah's father and developing further F.A.N.

Sarah born in Indiana in 1820 and married in 1840 in Clark County, Indiana could conceivably have been living elsewhere in Indiana in 1820 and 1830 and moved into Clark County before her marriage but since her obituary specifically mentioned Clark County as her birthplace it seems more likely that her family remained in the same place for the period between her birth and marriage.

In the 1820 census there are several Swartz households in Clark County, Indiana into which Sarah Ann could have been born.¹¹ All the Swartz men heading these households are related in some degree and all have been the subject of extensive genealogical research since at least the 1970s. The most widely referenced publication related to the Swartz/Schwartz households of Clark County, Indiana in the early settlement period is Elise Swartz Eberhart's *Three Swartz/Schwartz men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana*, published in 1986.

Comments –

Elise Eberhart's *Three Swartz/Schwartz men* is a book length treatment of 3 adult males surnamed Swartz who were very early (pre-1807) residents of Clark County, Indiana and who remained in the general area of Jeffersonville, Clark County for many years. Eberhardt is a descendant of Michael Swartz and provides the most complete descendancy for his lineage. She includes copies of photos, bible, land, military and marriage records for Michael's children and some of his grandchildren. She places Michael as the oldest of three brothers who all immigrated from Pennsylvania to Louisville, Kentucky around 1804 and then to Clark and Floyd Counties Indiana before 1810. She is thorough and seems reliable on Michael and his descendants. However, she is mistaken in Michael's placement within the Swartz family. Based on the 1791 will of John Schwartz and the 1797 of

¹¹1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M33, roll 13. *Also*, Elise Swartz Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1986.

Elizabeth Swartz, his widow both of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Michael is not a son of this family while John and Christopher/Christian are.¹² Further research into the Swartz family of Berks/Lancaster and Cumberland Counties Pennsylvania is needed to clarify Michael's relationship to the family.

Her treatments of the descendants of John and Christian are much weaker, with several errors, especially in the discussion of John's oldest son. Perhaps there were too many John Swartz' in the area for her to separate them easily. She provides no document copies for either man or their descendants. She does provide and discuss will transcriptions for John Swartz sr. and his wife Elizabeth (although she reaches the wrong conclusion regarding Michael's absence from both wills) and for the father of Elizabeth Ohlweiler and includes an extract of an early Clark County land record for John Swartz. She appears to have had a wide correspondence with distant relatives in Pennsylvania who were living near the "original homestead" in Pennsylvania and uses lengthy quotes in the book. None of this correspondence is imaged in the book and the names and dates are not consistently referenced. Much of her early work on these families appears to have been guided by the contributions of descendants, who attended a series of Schwartz/Swartz Family reunions in Clark County in the period 1927-1933. Lists of those attending (between 70-150 depending on the year) indicate that very few of the descendants of Christian or the descendants of John's oldest son attended when compared with descendants of Michael's children and the other children of John sr. This may be because most of the attendees lived within a few miles of Jeffersonville, Clark County and Galena, Floyd County and there were few descendants of Christian and no descendants of John jr. living nearby.¹³ The first reunion, in 1927, appears to have been organized by descendants of Michael Swartz and later reunions broadened to include descendants of John, Christian. Despite these weaknesses, Eberhardt appears to have accurately recreated the majority of Michael, John, and Christian's children's families and so makes a reasonably reliable starting point for assessing possible birth families for Sarah Ann Schwartz.

1820 Census for Clark and Floyd Counties, Indiana comments

The census for Indiana in 1820 is on hand ruled sheets of paper with no headings. The organization of the census for Clark County appears to be by township. However, Utica Township consists of 1 sheet and in the left hand column of that sheet there are several different townships indicated next to individual entries. It appears that what is labelled, by Ancestry (?), as Utica Township is instead a list of names from nearly every township in the county – perhaps these are households missed on the first visit? 3 of the 4 Swartz households of Clark County are listed on the same page of "Jeffersonville" township, Clark County. The handwriting is legible and there are occasional corrections in the same hand as the rest of the document as if the copyist realized a mistake and corrected it. One of the 4 Swartz households is headed by a George Schwartz, who doesn't seem to be in Eberhardt's book and so will be added to the list of households to be researched. The household of Michael Swartz is in Floyd County and has the composition expected.

From the 1820 census and using information provided by Eberhart, and perusing FamilySearch.org regarding family composition the following were considered as candidates for the father of Sarah Ann Swartz.

¹² Cumberland, Pennsylvania, Wills, 1750-1908, and administrator's books, 1750-1906, John Swartz Last Will and Testimony #317; digital images, FamilySearch(www.familysearch.org : accessed 7 May 2023); vol E, pgs 226-227. FHL microfilm 21079, item 2, DGS 5534168. *John lists 9 children, including sons John and Christian and strongly implies that John is the eldest by leaving him all the real and personal estate not devised to his wife and directing him to make payments to the remaining 8 children out of the estate. Also Elizabeth Swartz' Last Will and Testament #468 20 October 1797; digital images, FamilySearch(www.familysearch.org : accessed 7 May 2023); Vol F pg 91, FHL microfilm 1079, item 3, DGS 5534168.*

¹³ Eberhardt, Three Schwartz/Swartz men, pgs. 390-403. *She gives lists of all who spoke, who signed the guest book or who were involved in organizing. Where the actual records (if any) are of these family reunions is not apparent. They are not part of the collections of Clark County Historical Society or any local Clark County library and are not in the holdings of the Family History Library.*

- John Swartz "sr." and Elizabeth Ohlweiler – John died in 1824 and his probate records make it clear that this couple did have a child named Sarah. She was born about 1805 and in 1823 married John Fry.¹⁴ They also had a daughter Sophia born in 1820.¹⁵ John owned land in Utica Township of Clark County which was inherited by his children upon his death. This couple can be eliminated as potential parents.
- Christian Swartz (also known as Christopher, Christy and Christley) and Catherine Omer – brother of John Schwartz/Swartz sr.¹⁶ Christian and Catherine were early residents of Jefferson County Kentucky before their move, about 1815, to Clark County, Indiana. He purchased land very close to John Swartz sr. in Utica Township, part of lot 14.¹⁷ He and Catherine had a daughter Sarah born 1819 and a daughter Elizabeth born about 1821 who married Samuel Dicks/Hix.¹⁸ Sarah, daughter of Christopher and Catherine, married Jacob S. Koons/Coons/Kuntz in Clark County, Indiana in 1839 and died between 1868 – 1870 in Jefferson County, Indiana.¹⁹ The heirs of Christopher Swartz divided his land in Utica Township upon his death in 1843. The commissioners appointed to partition the land listed the heirs or their assignees. Neither Sarah Ann Bennett nor Marquis F. Bennett are on that list.²⁰ This couple can be eliminated.
- Michael Swartz and Catherine Seitz/Sheets – a cousin of Christian and John senior.²¹ Michael and Catherine were pioneers of Galena in Floyd County, Indiana, immediately adjacent to the border with Clark County, Indiana.²² Michael and Catherine were actively having children in the early 1820s. They had a son born in 1818 and a daughter born in 1824. In between, most researchers place a son, born 1820 - died 1823. A photostat of the "bible family record" of Michael and Catherine was published in *3 Swartz/Schwartz men* although it is very difficult to read²³. The original document is, perhaps, in the handwriting of Catherine Seitz Swartz (who died in 1856.) In the list of children and their birthdates, there is an entry "stillborn 27 March 1821." This 1821 stillbirth, the May 1818 birth of Edward, the June

¹⁴ Clark, Indiana, Probate order book, A: 197, Swartz John deceased; FHL microfilm 549,316, item 3. Clark, Indiana, Civil Court Partition Book, 1: 180 - 181, John Schwartz deceased; FHL microfilm 2,312,951; "among the heirs of said deceased to wit; John Swartz, Solomon Jacobs & Elizabeth his wife formerly Elizabeth Swartz, Samuel Bottorff and Ann his wife formerly Ann Swartz, George Swartz, John Fry and Sarah his wife formerly Sarah Swartz, Nancy, Mary, Leonard and Sophia Swartz infants under the age of twenty one by Elizabeth Swartz their natural guardian." *Wife Elizabeth and second son Jacob Swartz are not named, probably because they were the administrators of the estate.* Clark, Indiana, Indiana Commission on Public Records, B: 45-46, Fry-Schwartz, 1823; digital images, FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org : downloaded 28 May 2021.)

¹⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 489, dwelling 47, family 47, Jacobs, Sophia; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com ; downloaded 2 April 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M432, roll 138.

¹⁶ Elise Swartz Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz men of Floyd and Clark County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Ye Olde Genealogie Shoppe, 1986.) pages 369-374+. Also, for children of Christopher various Ancestry.com trees, however almost all have an incorrect set of parents for Christopher himself.

¹⁷ Clark, Indiana, Deed Records, 1801-1901, 9: 175, David Lutz and wife to Chris. Schwartz, 2 Jan 1816; FHL microfilm 1,428,595, item 3.

¹⁸ Clark County, Indiana, "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019", Jacob Coons – Sarah Schwartz, 16 Feb 1841, FamilySearch.org, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XXPM-GYS> ; downloaded 24 March 2023.) citing " Indiana Commission on Public Records, Indianapolis."

¹⁹ Kentucky, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1783-1965, Dicks (*sic*) – Schwartz 4 Apr 1839 , digital image; Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61372/> ; downloaded 24 March 2023.) citing "Marriage Records. Kentucky Marriages."

²⁰ Clark, Indiana, Probate Records 1817-1919, D: 194-195, Estate of Christopher Schwartz; FHL microfilm 1415966, item 2, DGS 7664668. *List of heirs: Catherine Ann Smith, Jacob Schwartz, Elizabeth Dicks, Isaac Schwartz, John C. Schwartz deceased, Daniel Schwartz and assignees Thomas W. Prather, Henry D. Scott and Isaac Schwartz who was also an heir. There are 4 missing heirs: Peter and Mary wife of James Toland have sold their portions to brother Isaac Schwartz; Abraham sold his portion to Thomas W. Prather and Sarah wife of Jacob Koons, presumably has sold her portion to Henry D. Scott.*

²¹ Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz men*, pages 11-17+.

²² Michael Schwartz household, 1820 U.S. census, Franklin, Floyd, Indiana population schedule, p. 151 ; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M33, roll 13.

²³Eberhardt, *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men* p. 11-12. *Location of the original is unknown.*

1824 birth of Nancy as well as the 1812 birth of a daughter named Sarah,²⁴ taken all together indicate that Sarah Ann was not the child of Michael and Catherine. This couple can be eliminated.

- John Swartz "jr." – oldest son of John Swartz and Elizabeth Ohlweiler – In 1820 John headed his own household, had been married for 6 years and was the only son of John sr. to have begun his family.²⁵ John and wife Nancy Prather, daughter of William Prather and his first wife Airy Gaither, had two recognized daughters. Airy, born in July 1815, never married and lived with identifiable family members all her life (in both Clark County, Indiana and Adams County, Illinois.²⁶) Their second daughter, Elizabeth was born June 1818, married in 1840 and moved to Adams County, Illinois very shortly after her marriage.²⁷

There is room for Sarah Ann Swartz to be born into this household in October 1820. (Technically she should not appear on the 1820 census. We are not sure of the date the 1820 census was taken in Clark County, Indiana²⁸) and perhaps her gravestone,²⁹ which is the only known record of the "precise" date of her birth, is incorrect. Also, while John apparently never purchased land in his own name, the land he inherited from his father and his location on the 1840, 1850 and 1860 census place him in Utica Township, Clark County.³⁰ This couple are highly likely candidates.

- None of the 13 known sons of either Christian or Michael Swartz headed a household in the 1820 census or was old enough to be married before 1825. Unless Sarah Ann was illegitimate, they are all extremely

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ John Schwartz jr. household, 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule, pg 10, digital images, Ancestry.com. Kentucky. Jefferson, Marriage Records 1781-1951. Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, not numbered, Swartz-Prather, 1814; FHL microfilm 817,861. "of lawful age (see bond) 28 July 1815; *Marriage register including space for return. Matthew Nelson returned 4 marriages on 28 July 1815 - the date clearly does not refer to the date of marriage. Bond dated 5 June 1814, bondsman James Hilton witnesses James Stewart and Isaac H. Tyler. Nancy Prather "sworn to be age 21."*

²⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 380, dwelling 651, family 701, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M432, roll 138. 1860 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 499, dwelling 58, family 58, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M653, roll 248. 1880 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, population schedule, Houston, enumeration district (ED) 011, p. 165A, dwelling 118, family 118, Ary Schwartz; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T9, roll 174; *head of household William Adams, husband of Sarah Dismore Adams who was Airy's niece.*

²⁷ Clark County, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1808 - 1951. Clerk of the Circuit Court, Jeffersonville, D: 284-285, Dismore-Schwartz, 1840; FHL microfilm 1,415,852. 1840 U.S. census, Adams, Illinois, Quincy, p. 61, Robert Dismore; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 4 Oct 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M704, roll 54; *Elizabeth's presence is implied by the fact that there is 1 female in household.*

²⁸ "The 1820 census began on Monday, August 7, 1820, and was finished within 6 months, under the rules and directions established in an Act of Congress approved March 14, 1820" according to the National Archives website

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1820>. *It is entirely possible that the census in sparsely populated Indiana was not completed until much later than August and that the census taker did not entirely understand that "That every person whose usual place of abode shall be in any family, on [August 7, 1820], shall be returned as of such family."*

²⁹ Find a Grave, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47525314/sarah-ann-bennett>: accessed 26 April 2023), memorial page for Sarah Ann Schwartz Bennett (10 Oct 1820–11 Feb 1902), Find a Grave Memorial ID 47525314, citing Waco Cemetery, Waco, York County, Nebraska.

³⁰ 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 289 (stamped page number), Swartz, John; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M704, roll 75; *indexed on Ancestry. as John Schwenty.* 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, population schedule, Utica, p. 380, dwelling 651, family 701, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M432, roll 138.

unlikely to be the father of Sarah Ann Swartz.³¹ They can be provisionally eliminated however, DNA could provide evidence of a connection in the case of illegitimacy.

- Although all four of the sons of John Swartz sr. resided in Utica Township, Clark County, only was married, and fathering children before 1820.³² The three, younger, sons can be eliminated.
- George Schwartz (no obvious spouse in household). Per the 1820 census entry he is over 45 years of age (born before 1775.)³³ The household composition is that of an older man (head of household) living with a married son (born 1794 – 1804) or daughter and 2 male children. There is no female in the household under age 10. If he is the brother of John and Christian born around that time, he does not match any of the very basic information Eberhardt has for him. This may not necessarily be an issue as it appears the information Eberhardt gives for him, such as marriage and death place and date, is incorrect.³⁴ There is one 1819 purchase of a Utica Town lot in Jeffersonville by a George Schwartz of Pennsylvania and then a second purchase of a Utica Town Lot #32 in 1825.³⁵ There is no George Schwartz born before 1775 in Clark or Floyd Counties or in Jefferson County, Kentucky in the 1830 and 1840 censuses. Nor is there a Schwartz household headed by a male born 1784 – 1804 that is not accounted for by one of the sons of John, Christian or Michael. It is a reasonable assumption that Sarah Ann remained in the area from her birth in 1820 to her marriage in 1839. Therefore, this man is unlikely to be the father of Sarah Ann Schwartz since he doesn't appear to have remained in the county or been nearby in 1830 or 1840. This household is unlikely to be a birth family for Sarah Ann. Further work will be done on his man and his household. (EDITED TO ADD see [George Schwartz July 2021 Research Report](#) on Relay -a Family History blog.)

Background on the family of John Swartz jr.

The family of John Swartz jr. and Nancy Prather has been reassembled by past researchers using family recollection,³⁶ federal census and Clark County, Indiana marriage records. Family Trees on Ancestry.com for descendants of this couple often include only the family member for whom there is a direct line of descent to the researcher or DNA test taker. Some Ancestry trees as well as trees on FamilySearch and Wikitree appear to base the family solely on Eberhardt's *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men*.³⁷ Eberhardt's recreation of John jr.'s family is full of errors and omissions, perhaps because none of John's children or their descendants remained in Clark

³¹ Eberhardt, *Three Swartz/Schwartz Men*, various pages depending on the son under investigation. In all cases work in census and other records bears out Eberhardt birthdates for these men.

³² Clark, Indiana, Civil Court Partition Book, 1: 180 - 181, John Schwartz deceased.; 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule; digital images, Ancestry.com.

³³ George Schwartz household, 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule, pg 10, digital images, Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M33, roll 13.

³⁴ Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz men*, pg 276. The information she gives apparently belongs to a different George Schwartz whose family has done considerable work on their genealogy and have proven him to be an immigrant rather than American born. See *FSID LHQJ-ZYV*. This is a constant issue with the Schwartz/Swartz families that appear to have originated in Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War. There is considerable confusion due to American misunderstandings about German naming patterns etc.

³⁵ Clark County, Indiana, Deed records 1801-1901, vol 21, pg 317-318; John Miller to George Swartz warranty deed, 19 Nov 1819, recorded 27 Nov 1819; Family History Library film 1428597 item 5, DGS 7857085 and vol 24, pg 7; P. B. Dorser to George Swartz warranty deed, 17 Feb 1825, recorded ; Family History Library film 1428598 item 3, DGS 7857086.

³⁶ Dr. Ray R. Knight (Minneapolis, Minnesota) to Mrs. Harvey Morris, Photocopy enclosed with letter, September 1927; "Data from a diary and notebook of personal recollections of early Indiana Territory, written by Hiram Prather, about 1870-1875 (sic, Hiram Prather died in March 1874). Book last known to be in possession of Clarence D. Prather, in office of Northern Pacific Railway, Minneapolis, Minn. *Hiram was Nancy Prather Swartz's younger half-brother.*

³⁷ Eberhart, *Three Swartz/Schwartz men*, pgs. 310-312+.

County or attended the infrequent Swartz Family reunions of the early 1900s or the 1970s.³⁸ She does not mention Sarah Ann – and she does not discuss the possibility of unknown children based on pre-1850 census. Nancy is well established as the daughter of William Prather (sometimes referred to as Judge William Prather) and his first wife Airy Gaither. Nancy's half-brother Hiram Prather (son of William Prather and second wife Lettice McCarroll) wrote a brief "Personal Recollections" document before his death in 1874. He lists only 4 children for Nancy - Airy, Elizabeth, Abram and Uriah (aka Wiley Uriah.) He does not mention Sarah Ann or any other children who may have died young . However, Nancy's children are squeezed into a line that appears to have been typed after the rest of the document, as an obvious afterthought. Hiram was born in 1809 so he was barely 6 when Nancy married and left the family home. William Prather, their father moved his family to Jennings County, Indiana before 1820, well before Nancy's death in 1832,³⁹ so it seems likely that Hiram had less knowledge of Nancy's children than he did of those of his full siblings.

Working Hypothesis

Sarah Ann Swartz is a previously unidentified daughter of John Swartz jr. and his first wife Nancy Prather. Her identified full blood siblings are Airy Swartz born 1815, Elizabeth Swartz born 1818, Abraham Swartz born 1822 and Wiley Uriah Swartz born 1827. All of these were born in Clark County, Indiana and all eventually moved to Adams County, Illinois (between 1840 and 1880). Other potential missing siblings may be noted as found in records, but they will not be researched at this time.

³⁸ 1830 U.S. Census, Vernon, Geneva, and Columbia, Jennings County, Indiana; William Prather, M19; Roll: 27; Page: 152.

³⁹ Jeffersonville Land Office, General Land Office Patents, William Prather patent, 1820, Jennings County, Indiana; Repository, Location

John Swartz jr. Census Household 1820-1860

Comments

While, for this research project, the interest is the children of John's 1st marriage, all known and proposed children of John and his wives are shown.

Household members	Year married	census	place	age category	census	place	age category	census	place	age category	census	place	age category	census	place	age
1 John 1797 - 1865 (PA-IN)	1814	1820	Clark, IN	16 - 25	1830	Clark, IN	30 - 39	1840	Clark, IN	40 - 49	1850	Clark, IN	52	1860	Clark, IN	50
Nancy Prather 1794 - 1832			Clark, IN	> 10		Clark, IN	30 - 39		na	deceased		na	deceased		na	deceased
Airy 1815 - 1880 (IN - IL)	na		Clark, IN	> 10		Clark, IN	15 - 19		Clark, IN	20 - 29		Clark, IN	33		Clark, IN	40
Elizabeth 1818 - 1905 (IN - IL)	1840		Clark, IN	> 10		Clark, IN	10 - 14		married IL			married IL	31		married IL	42
unknown daughter cir 1820 possibly Sarah Ann 1820 - 1902 (IN - IL)	1840		Clark, IN	> 10		Clark, IN	10 - 14		married IN			married IN	28		married IL	41
Abraham 1822 - 1887 (IN - IL)	1850 1st			na		Clark, IN	5 - 9		Clark, IN	15 - 19		Jacob**	26		own IL	36
unknown son cir 1824-25 possibly William	??			na		Clark, IN	5 - 9		Clark, IN	15 - 19		??	??		??	??
unknown daughter cir 1826 - possibly Sophia (1826 - 1836)				na		Clark, IN	5-9		na	deceased		na	deceased		na	deceased
Wiley Uriah 1827 - 1917 (IN -IL- NE)	1850			na		Clark, IN	< 5		Clark, IN	10 - 14		own	25		own IL	??
unknown son cir 1831				na		Clark, IN	< 5		Clark, IN	< 5		??	??		??	??
Elizabeth Prather 1811 - 1839	1832			na					na	deceased		na	deceased			
John F. 1834 - 1882 (IN - IA)	1858			na					Clark, IN	5 - 9		Clark, IN	16		own	26
Telithah/Tabitha 1837 - 1867				na					Clark, IN	5 - 9		Clark, IN	13		own	21
James W. 1839 - 1866	na								Clark, IN	< 5		Clark, IN	11		own	22
Julia Ann Adams Stewart 1810 - 1870	1839			na					Clark, IN	30 - 39	***	Clark, IN	39			50
George E. 1844 - 1901	1868			na					Clark, IN			Clark, IN	6		Clark, IN	16
Ransom 1847 - 1939 (IN - NE - WA)	1882			na					na			??	??		Clark, IN	10
Julia Ann 1849 - 1893	1870			na					na			Clark, IN	1		Clark, IN	10

** residing in Jacob Swartz household

*** Julia's 3 children from previous marriage in household 2 males 10 - 14, 1 female 5 – 9

sources for chart 1 - 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 10, Schwartz, John jr; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 8 Sep 2019); citing NARA M33, roll 13. 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 47, Schwartz, John; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M19, roll 28. 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, (population schedule) p. 289 (stamped page number), Swartz, John; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M704, roll 75. 1850 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 380, dwelling 651, family 701, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M432, roll 138. 1860 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 499, dwelling 58, family 58, Swartz, John household; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com); citing NARA M653, roll 248.

Census Analysis-

John's first wife, Nancy Prather Swartz, died in 1832.⁴⁰ In the 28 years between their 1814 marriage and her death there were 2 censuses. In chart 1, above, the previously identified children of the couple are in black and potential children in red.

In the 1820⁴¹ census there is 1 unknown female under age 10. Given her age she is not a domestic worker. None of Nancy's numerous half-siblings were married and creating households. John's older sisters are married; however, all their children are accounted for in their 1820 households.⁴² There are roughly 6 years between

⁴⁰ "Hiram Prather Recollections" Dr. Ray R. Knight to Mrs. Harvey Morris, September 1927. also, Clark, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1808 - 1951, C: 100, Schwartz-Prather, 1832; FHL microfilm 1,415,842 shows John's remarriage in December 1832.

⁴¹ 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule, Jeffersonville, p. 10, Schwartz, John jr.

⁴² 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule, Jeffersonville, p. 7, Solomon Jacobs; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 17 Oct 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M33, roll 13. 1820 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana population schedule, Charlestown, p. 5, line 11, Samuel Bottorff; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 Mar 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M33, roll 13.

John's marriage and this census. 3 children would not be unusual in 6 years, especially if the youngest is an infant.

In the 1830 census⁴³ there are 3 young women, who have aged the appropriate amount since 1820, and there are 4 additional children listed. Between identified sons Abraham and Wiley are 2 unknown children – a male born about 1824 and a female born about 1826. Again, neither are old enough to be domestic or farm help. Again, all the children of John's married siblings are accounted for in their 1830 households.⁴⁴ Nancy's half-siblings have begun their families, but all of their children born before 1830 are accounted for in the appropriate household. There is one more child apparently born of this marriage -a son born circa 1831, just shortly before Nancy's death, and shown in John's household in 1840.⁴⁵ Again, given the age of the child in 1840 it is highly unlikely this is a farm worker. It is more difficult to say for sure that this is not a child "placed" temporarily within a sibling's household since the households of both John and Nancy's siblings are now considerably larger, however, in general, no known child is missing from those households in 1840.

Conclusion – John Swartz and Nancy Prather probably had 8 children during the 28 years of their marriage spaced roughly 2 years apart. This is not an unusually large family for this time and place – in fact, the number 4, usually given by researchers, is somewhat small. It seems certain that at least 2 of these children died young. The youngest daughter on the 1830 census does not appear in 1840 when she would have been roughly 14. That is too young to be married by the standards of the area at this time, although it would not be too young to be placed in another household as a domestic helper. Evidence from the full census histories of the identified children in John's household suggest that if this young woman were alive, she would have been residing in her parents household. (A search of marriage, cemetery and census records between 1830-1850 reveals an "unattached" Sophia Schwartz born in 1826 and died in 1836 who may very well be this child.⁴⁶) The youngest son who appears in 1840⁴⁷ does not appear again in 1850. No record such as cemetery, census or marriage records provides a name for an "unattached" Swartz male born roughly 1831 but it seems likely the child did not survive.⁴⁸

The remaining 2 unknown children lived to be recorded on at least 2 censuses. The unknown son, born circa 1825, appears on the 1830 census and then appears, aged appropriately, on the 1840 census.⁴⁹ However, no

⁴³ 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 47, John Schwartz; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 17 Oct 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M19, roll 28.

⁴⁴ 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Jeffersonville, p. 45, Solomon Jacobs; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 17 Oct 2019); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M19, roll 28. 1830 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Charlestown, p. 57, line 21, Samuel Bottorff; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 Mar 2020); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M19, roll 28.

⁴⁵ 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 289 (stamped page number), Swartz, John; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 Mar 2022); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M704, roll 75; Indexed on Ancestry as "John Schwenty."

⁴⁶ Find a Grave, (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72238716/sophia-schwartz> : accessed 26 April 2023), memorial page for Sophia Schwartz (3 Apr 1826–23 Mar 1836), Find a Grave Memorial ID 72238716, citing New Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery, Watson, Clark County, Indiana. *There is no stone for this grave, only an entry in the cemetery records.*

⁴⁷ 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 289 (stamped page number), Swartz, John household.

⁴⁸ Records searched no result - search parameters Schwartz/Swartz (and variants) male born 1830-1835. 1850; Clark and Floyd Counties, Indiana; digital images, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8054/> : accessed 7 Mar 2022); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M432; Roll: 138. 1860; Clark and Floyd Counties, Indiana; digital images, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7667/> : accessed 7 Mar 2022); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm M653; Roll 248. Ancestry.com. Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810-2001 (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60282/> : accessed 7 Mar 2022.) <https://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 23 Jan 2023. "Cemetery Directories" (vertical file, 03/03/1996, Jeffersonville Township Public Library, Jeffersonville), volume 2, New Chapel Cemetery; *relevant page photocopies in files of the author.*

⁴⁹ 1840 U.S. census, Clark, Indiana, Utica, p. 289 (stamped page number), Swartz, John household.

"unattached" Swartz male appears in Clark or Floyd counties Indiana is in the 1850 census and there is no cemetery record that is relevant.⁵⁰ (There is one marriage of a William Schwartz, who apparently moved out of state before 1860.⁵¹ He may have immigrated shortly after his marriage, if he was a descendant of John and Nancy Swartz perhaps to Illinois with his Spangler relatives or Iowa with his Jacobs cousins, or perhaps he died and there is no cemetery record giving his name and dates.) The final unknown daughter's 1820-1840 census appearances match what we know of Sarah Ann Swartz Bennett born Clark County, Indiana about 1820, married there in February 1838⁵² and therefore no longer part of her parental household in 1840.

Next Steps

Clark County, Indiana 1820-1880 for parent and sibling candidate Swartz households, Marquis Bennett household and identified F.A.N. Pre-1850 census, land records both purchase and sale, court records, church membership and newspapers. Land records will need to be mapped onto a Clark County Map giving section numbers for the Illinois Grant Survey aka Clark's Grant Survey of 1785.

⁵⁰ see footnote 41 – search parameters Schwartz/Swartz (and variants) male born 1823-1827. No results.

⁵¹

⁵² Clark, Indiana, Marriage records 1810-2001, D: 176, Bennett-Schwartz, 1838; digital images, Ancestry, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 25 Apr 2023); FHL microfilm #1415852.