

Let's refresh our memory with some proven data on Sophia Holcomb Wingfield. She was born in Pendleton Co., S.C. (1860 LaVaca Co., TX. census) on the 15 Apr 1788 (Bible records). She was married 6 Sep 1806 Warren Co. Kty Marriage Records), and the 'sec" was Joel Holcomb. Her name appears again in the 1850 Lafayette Co., Ark. census, age 62; 1860 Jackson Co. Tx. census, living with son Joel, her age 73, occupation "netting"; and lastly in 1870 Jackson Co., Tx census, age 84, still living with Joel. Bible records show she died Jan 12, 1874.

Last time we suggested that Joel Holcomb and William Wingfield Sr. did not live that far apart, giving substantiating proof that Joel could be Sophia's father. We know Wm. Jr. and Sophia began to move away from Kty shortly after their marriage. Some sources say Mississippi Territory, according to a letter proposedly written by Wm, but of which generation of Wm.'s we are not sure. (A copy is enclosed). We also know from stories told by Charles, son of Wm. Sr. & Mary, that the family experienced the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811-12. As to whether the earthquake shook Warren Co. Kty, only we can guess, but Joel Holcomb would have felt it very strongly. For in Oct. of 1811, he bought 100 acres in New Madrid Co. Mo. from an Edward Robertson. No record has been found as to what happened to this land in further years. Today there is a Holcomb's Island in the middle of the Mississippi River in New Madrid Co. Mo.! Could Joel have been unlucky enough to have his 100 acres sink to the botton of the Mississippi?

Wm. Jr. and Sophia are next located in St. Clair Co., Ill, where in 1813. Wm. enlists for the War of 1812. First son, Wm. Marchbanks states he was born in Ill, and does Joel, b. 22 May 1814, and Jane 1817, and James. Who should also appear in St. Clair Co., but the Holcombs, in 1818, Wm. and Zachariah in St. Clair, and Katy and another Zachariah in Madison Co. In 1820 St. Clair there is William: 3 males (-21) 1m(21-45) 1m (45+) 2f (-18) 2f (18-45) 1f (45+); Joel 1m (21-45) 1f (18-45); and Zachariah, no details (1830 Z. was between 80-90 yrs. old.) The above Joel can not be Sophia's father, too young, more likely a brother.

The greatest amount of information pertaining o the Hocombs is a book entitled HOLCOMBS: NATION BUILDERS, which contains 1400 pages of information on the Holcomb family, none of which is to be taken as gospel. The man who wrote the book compiled his work from descendent's memory rather than documented proof, therefore there are many discrepancies in its recounting. For instance, on one page he states that the Holcomb marriages listed in the Warren Co., records are those of the children of Jonathan Holcomb. I dispute this. Sophia names her own children names of Joel's children; John Wesley, Lewis Garrett, Joel, Susan, Elizabeth, and Jane, while Jonathan's children were names of Doshia, Jeremiah, Preston, Charles, Minerva, Ester Elizabeth, and Neville. These names are not repeated in future generations. It couldn't be just co-incidence that would make Sophia name her children after her cousins rather than her own brothers and sisters. Also Jonathan remained in Warren Co., he never moved, he lived on the south side of the Green R. Joel lived on the northside, as did the Wingfields, and followed the same migratory trails as the Wingfields with his brothers Zachariah and Harmon. Therefore, taking in account A) the name on the marriage bond B) the proximity to the Wingfields in Warren Co. C) the same migratory trails D) the earthquake story E) the names of the children, I propose Sophia's father was Joel Holcomb.

Dear Friends,

Hope that each of you are well, and that bad weather has not been unkind to you. Wonder what cure our ancestors had for Cabin Fever, for we all seem to be going stir-crazy being kept indoors.

Enclosed this time is a copy of a letter that Mrs. Owens sent me some time back. She says that the W. F. writing this letter is the great grandfather of our Cecil who contributes so much to our newsletter. I've typed out what appears to be on the note, to aide in your deciphering.

"Died at 70. William Wingfield (--55?)

With five brothers came to Ohio, Ill, then Kentucky. Ran from Indian massacre with wife and two children, having been warned by Indian woman, went to Mississippi (sic).

But had a chill, and moved to Mo. "Be banged" if he'd live any place where people would freeze to death in hot weather. Came to Arkansas, settled in Hemstead county with five brothers. Then to La., and then went to Texas. Never known to get three miles away from home without overcoat, was frozen to death in Texas. Northerner. Never was known to ride over bridge.

John Wesley, son....."

The note turned sideways goes....

"William Wingfield's wife (Holcomb) (Marchbanks) heard battle of cowpens. Own cousin of Green Nathaniel Green.

Johnson from S. Carolina.

William's brothers (Charley, Jim, Jake,.... the rest is too faded to read)
