

## Searching for Old John Martin and his son William Harvey Martin

In his family history, my grandfather, I.J. Martin wrote:

Sarah Scott Martin and all her six sons with their families (if all were married) left Kentucky about the year 1803 or soon thereafter. Most of them came to the region of Southern Illinois known as Sand Prairie near the present city of Olney.” Martin, R.E., *Fragments of Martin Family History*, 1990, at 102.

I.J. was wrong about the timing but right about the place.

As a reminder, the progenitor parents of this flock of Martins were John Martin (“Old John”) and his wife Isabella Scott Martin, whom I.J. called “Sarah.” The sons whose families came to Illinois were James Scott, Samuel, and William Harvey.

James Scott Martin is thought to have been the oldest son of John and Isabella Scott Martin. He was probably born in 1779 or 1780 according to later census reports of his age. Samuel, perhaps the second son, brought his family to Illinois with the other Martins. He was listed in the 1818 census for Crawford County. He died shortly after because his widow, Sarah, married Moses Williams July 8, 1819. William Harvey Martin was the youngest of the three brothers, born March 7, 1784. Jane was the oldest daughter of John and Isabella; we do not know her birth year, but she married Charles Neely on September 23, 1797, which would make her about the same age as her brother James Scott.

In a letter to his daughter Olive, I.J. Martin on August 4, 1936, wrote about William Harvey Martin that he was “a pioneer baptist preacher who while living in what is now Coles County organized the first Moultrie County church, Lynn Creek, in 1829 or 1830. He moved to this county [Moultrie] before 1833 and died about 1854.”

In my *More Fragments of Martin Family History*, 2014, I summarized what we had learned since *Fragments* (1990) about the family’s move to Illinois. In 1817 John Martin, Sr., James Martin, William Martin, and Lewis Martin, as well as Charles Neely, were still in Kentucky, listed as taxpayers on land they owned in Logan County. (*Id.*, 102.) Some time in late 1817 or 1818 they moved to Illinois. James Scott Martin “of Logan Co.,” sold his land in Logan County, Kentucky, in late 1817. (*Id.*, 169, 185.) Charles Neely (husband of Jane Martin Neely) sold 194 acres in Logan County on August 1818. He had already moved by that time, as he was identified in that transaction as “Charles Neely of Crawford County, Illinois Territory.” (*Id.*, 164.) Charles might have been in Clark County as early as 1816, but he was surely there in 1818. (*Id.*, 167.)

The surveying of Illinois bounty lands had been delayed by the war of 1812, but it progressed rapidly during 1816-17. Warrants were issued after October 1817, land was distributed by lot, with sales made to both settlers and speculators. Land along the

Wabash river, where the Martins and Neelys settled, was sold by the land office in Vincennes. Land offered at auction for \$2 or more per acre; if not purchased that way, it was sold at the land office in 80 or 160 acre tracts, one-twentieth down and 25% due in 40 days — the remainder over four years. Most land was sold on the credit system for the minimum amount. *Illinois in 1818*, Buck, 1917, at 43-46.



Extent of Settlement in 1818  
*Illinois in 1818*,  
Solon J. Buck, Springfield, 1917, 59.



Population per Square Mile in 1820  
*The Frontier State, 1818-1848*,  
Theodore C. Pease, 1922, at 5

Probably the family traveled from southwest Kentucky to Southern Illinois via Louisville and Clarksville, on the Indiana side of the Ohio, and then via the “Buffalo Trace” to Vincennes, Indiana, where they would have crossed the Wabash River. Wikipedia reports that the trackway from the Falls of the Ohio to the Wabash near Vincennes was “originally formed by millions of migrating bison ... often 12 to 20 feet wide in places, was well known and used by American Indians. Later European traders and American settlers learned of it, and many used it as an early land route ... into Indiana and Illinois.” A ferry began operating across the Wabash at Vincennes as early as 1805.

One historian has described the “Buffalo Trace” road this way: “The Louisville to Vincennes section was dismal and unhealthy; the road [across the Wabash into Illinois] to St. Louis was worse.” *The Movers: A Saga of the Scotch-Irish*, Nancy Baxter, at 371. Part of the trace was paved by Indiana not long after statehood in 1816. The Buffalo Trace followed roughly the route of today’s U.S. 150. In 1817-18 the 114-mile trip from Clarksville on the Ohio to the Wabash River on horseback would take about three days, likely longer in a wagon. *Lost and Forgotten Historic Roads: The Buffalo Trace*, Sam Snell and Angie Krieger, at p. 5.



The family seems to have split up as they moved to Illinois. Analysis is complicated because of the shifting county boundary lines in Illinois.





## The Clark County Martins and Neelys

The families of James Scott Martin, Samuel Martin, and Charles and Jane (Martin) Neely settled near what would become Darwin, on the Wabash River. In late 1817 and 1818 that place was part of Crawford County, Illinois Territory. Statehood occurred on December 3, 1818. In 1819 the northern part of Crawford was hived off to form Clark County, which included Darwin.

In the 1818 Illinois state census, James, Samuel, and Charles Neely were in Crawford County. In the 1820 census, they were in Clark. James Martin, almost certainly our James Scott Martin, was listed there as head of a household of 14. Also, there was Moses Williams, who had married brother Samuel Martin's widow Sarah and was now the head of that household. Charles Neely and his wife Jane Martin Neely were also there. *More Fragments*, at 176-77. Charles Neely was reportedly a member of the Mill Creek Baptist church in Clark County.

In the 1830 census, "James S. Martin" was listed in Clark County with a household of 11, including one male 50-59 and one female 40-49. After Coles County was created out of Clark in December 1830, James S. Martin became one of the early county Commissioners. *History of Coles County*, 1879, at 246.

## The Lawrence County Martins

William Harvey Martin's family, along with his father and mother, Old John and Isabella, settled about 45 miles south of Darwin, in or near Bridgeport township in what would become Lawrence County. In late 1817 and 1818 that place was part of Edwards County, just south of Crawford. On January 16, 1821, Lawrence County was created out of Edwards.

The *History of Edwards, Lawrence & Wabash Counties, Illinois*, Philadelphia, 1813, reports that (at 327-28):

William Martin, a Yankee, as the early settlers termed him, also came in the year 1817. He located with his family on section 18, where he erected a cabin, tilled some ground and lived for about ten years, and then left the county. His father, John Martin resided with him until his death, which occurred a few years after he came. (*Id.*, at 327; emphasis supplied.)

See also “Historical Notes on Lawrence County, Illinois,” Mary Tracy White, in *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, April 1917, at 367, 376, 380.

The county history added that:

The first school was taught by John Martin, on section 18 in a little log-cabin in the year 1819. Among the scholars were David D. Lanterman, Lettie Lanterman, the Miller children and the Fish children. In a year or two 1820-21, a log school-house, with greased paper windows was built on the southwest corner of section 17, T.3 — 12 near which was built a hewed log church by the “new Lights” (Christians) about the same time, which were known as the Spring Hill church and school house so named on account of there being a perennial spring near by. William Kinkaid was the earliest resident preacher in the neighborhood. ... A burial ground was started here, and the first person interred therein was James Flanagan.

\* \* \*

Spring Hill, two miles southwest of Bridgeport was built as early as 1820, and used as a school-house This house was open to other denominations. The cemetery still marks the spot where the old veterans of the cross worshipped. Their first preachers were D. Travis and William Kinkade ....: (Emphasis supplied, at 328.)

\* \* \*

Another indication that the Spring Hill church was sometimes used by other denominations, probably including the Baptists, is that when the Shiloh Baptist church, one mile to the east of Spring Hill, was constituted on December 9, 1839, the first minutes indicated that the congregation had earlier been meeting at Springhill Meeting house. A compilation by Margaret Ruth Fish, published in 1972, is entitled “Springhill Christian Church Cemetery (New light), circa 1819-1853: Bridgeport Township, Lawrence Co., Illinois.”

The government of Lawrence county was initiated in 1821 with John Dunlap, James Lanterman and William Martin as county commissioners ...” (White, 380)

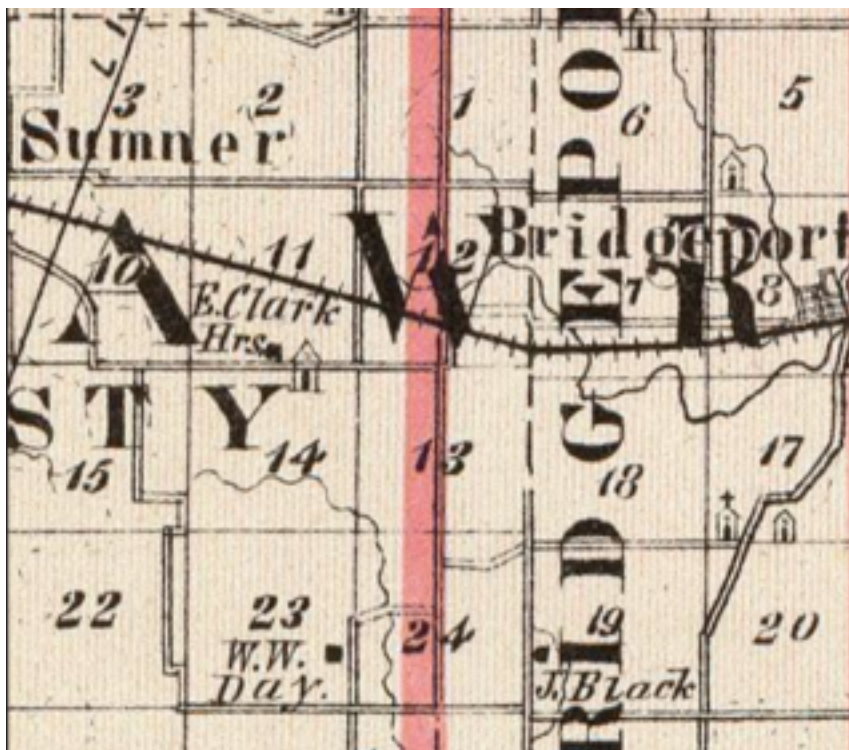
During the ten years or so that he was there, William Martin lived in two different places near Bridgeport, quite near each other as the map below shows.

William’s first home was in Section 13, Township 3-13, as reported in the county history: On “May 12th, 1818, William Martin entered the N.E. quarter of section 13, (T.3 — 13). Frequently the settlers would ‘squat’ on the land and make an improvement, and live on it for a time before entering the tract.”



Eight years later, in 1826, William purchased land about a mile to the east in Section 18 — the south 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 18, T.3 N. Range 12 West. (*More Fragments*, at 210.)

Thomas Fish also settled on the southwest quarter of section 18 in 1818. (327) James Lanterman arrived in April 1818 and settled on section 17, just east of Section 18, where William and John Martin lived. (327) The Lanterman and Fish children went to school to John Martin, as reported in the county history, in a log cabin school in Section 18, probably near the Spring Hill church and cemetery in the southwest part of Section 18 (lower right quadrant, below).



**Clip from Map of Richland and Lawrence Counties, Warner & Beers, 1876.**

In 1876 when this map of Lawrence county was made, the Spring Hill church, formerly located at the southwest corner of Section 18 — roughly the “D” in vertical “Bridgeport” — had disappeared and the cemetery was not marked. The nearby church shown in Section 17 is the Shiloh church.

William Martin’s first home, in 1817-18, had been in the northeast quarter of Section 13, just west of Section 18. His second home, acquired in 1826, was in the south half of the northeast quarter of adjacent Section 18.

William Martin left Lawrence County, according to the county history, after living there “about ten years.” (327) That would make his departure sometime in the late 1820s. By 1830 he was gone, as we know from both the property records and the census.

William bought his first property in Lafayette Township of Coles County, 88 acres, on December 2, 1830, and his second nearby, on May 25, 1831. (A few months before William bought his first Coles property, in early 1830, his older brother, James Scott Martin, had purchased his first property in Coles County.) William did not sell his Bridgeport property in Section 18 until April 29, 1847, when he sold it to Thomas Perkins for \$27.50 (Book E, p. 451-452; *More Fragments*, at 210-11.)

\* \* \*

The census reports are another source of information. In 1820 John Martin and William Martin were listed in Edwards County. John, almost certainly our “Old John,” was listed in the census as a male 45 or over, with one female 45 and over, as well as 1 male between 10 and 15. Just below them in the census appeared the name of William Martin, head of a separate household.

In 1830 a William Martin and his family were listed in the U.S. census as being in Shelby County, precinct 3. The reported ages of the members of his family do not fit with our relative William Harvey and wife Cynthia. I.J. Martin in his history of the family reported that “William Harvey Martin had visited the Waggoner settlement [in Whitley Point, Moultrie County] in 1829 or 1830 and was instrumental in organizing the Baptist Church of Lynn Creek, the oldest church organization in what is now Moultrie County. ... Uncle Billy moved his family to a farm near the old church in 1831, and he was the pastor until his death in 1854.” (*Fragments*, at 107.) Moultrie County was carved largely out of Shelby County in 1843. The *Combined History of Shelby and Moultrie County* reports that William Martin settled in Whitley Point in 1836. (At 49.)

William Harvey Martin’s first wife, Abigail Whitaker Martin, was still living in 1820, but she died soon after. William married his second wife, Cynthia Clarke, in December 1821 — in Lawrence County, which had been formed out of Edwards in 1821. William’s father, John Martin, was the minister — “Minister of the Gospel” — who married them, as reported on the marriage certificate. (*More Fragments*, at 210.)

One might question whether the William Martin referred to in the Lawrence county history was our relative as he was clearly not a “Yankee.” We can be pretty sure he was “ours.” Land records report that our William acquired land in Section 18, just southwest of Bridgeport in 1826, where the county history says William settled. The land William acquired in Section 18 was sold in 1847 by William H. Martin and Cynthia Martin “of Moultrie County.”

\* \* \*



When did Old John die? According to the Lawrence county history, William Harvey lived on Section 18 southwest of Bridgeport “about ten years,” and John Martin “resided with him until *his death, which occurred a few years after he came.*” (Emphasis supplied.) Old John was there at least from 1818 until December 13 1821, when he performed the second marriage of his son. How much longer did Old John live? And where might he be buried? What happened to his wife, Isabella (Sarah), who was alive at the time of the 1820 census?

Sharon and I took a driving trip through Lawrence County on our way to French Lick, Indiana, on June 25, 2017.

There are four church cemeteries near Bridgeport where John and Isabella Martin might be buried. They are:

1. Shiloh Baptist Church, just southwest of Bridgeport.
2. Spring Hill cemetery in Section 18 — the church no longer stands.
3. Antioch cemetery — a few miles west of Bridgeport — once in Lawrence County, now in Richman County. The church no longer stands.
4. Union Baptist — not far from Antioch. Again, the church no longer stands.

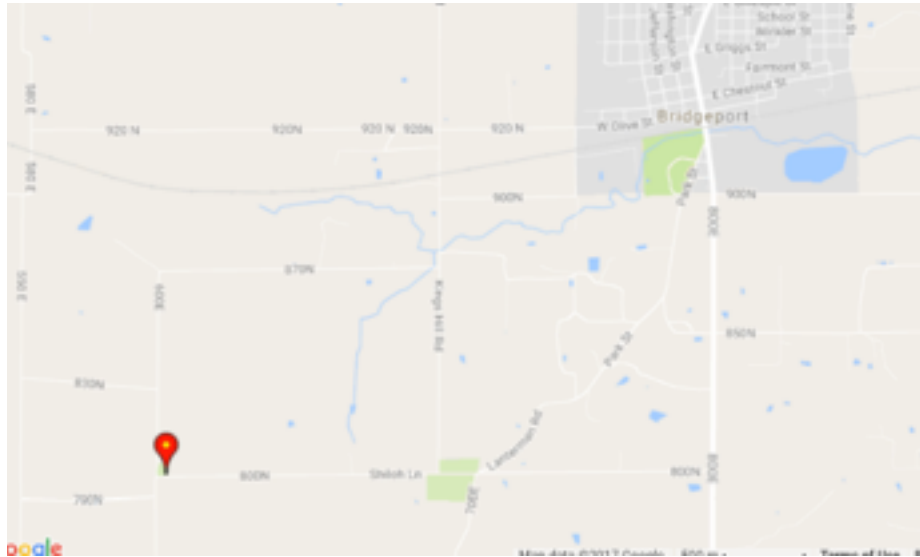
## **SHILOH**

Our first thought was that Old John might be buried in the cemetery of the Shiloh Baptist Church. The Shiloh church is located a mile east of Spring Hill, at 7194 Shiloh Lane, an east-west street at the south end of Section 18. It is an old church with an old cemetery. But not old enough, apparently. The Shiloh web site identified the church as having existed “since 1839.”

## **SPRING HILL**

A pleasant young woman volunteering at Shiloh on a warm Sunday afternoon directed us to another old church cemetery a mile west on the same road. It turned out to be Spring Hill cemetery, GNIS ID 418963. Although the church had been constituted as early as 1815 by William Kinkaid as a congregation of “New Lights,” later known as the “Christian” church, the county history states that the Spring Hill church facility “was open to other denominations.” Probably Baptists met there. Perhaps some Baptists, possibly even old John Martin, are buried there. Unfortunately, there are not any old records or surviving gravestones which provide a record as early as the mid 1820s. Such early records of the church as do exist make no mention of any of our Martins. See *History of the Disciples of Christ in Illinois, 1819-1914*, Nathaniel Smith Haynes, Cincinnati, 1915, pp 255-258; *Springhill Christian Church cemetery (Newlight), circa 1819-1853: Bridgeport Township, Lawrence Co., Illinois*, Margaret Ruth Fish, 1972.

The Spring Hill cemetery at the southwest corner of Section 18 is marked on the map below.



## **ANTIOCH**

John M. King, a local historian, referred me to Elder Robert L. Webb, whose library of Baptist records that show William H. Martin was an elder of the Antioch Church. His ministry there began in 1822 or 1823. That church, once in Lawrence County, is now in nearby Richland County, a few miles west of Bridgeport — west of Sumner and east of Olney. Richland county was created from portions of Clay and Lawrence Counties on February 24, 1824. It would have been an easy matter for William and his family, and old John, to ride by buggy from their first home in Section 13 to Antioch Church via the old Vincennes-St. Louis “Buffalo” Trace, the way of today’s U.S. route 50, connecting Bridgeport, Sumner, and Olney.

Students of Martin family history may remember that I.J. Martin had written about the Martin family having first settled in southern Illinois near Olney -- a reference to which I had never given much thought.

On today’s map the Antioch Church cemetery is at the intersection of county road 1000N and country road 2000E, about 1-1/2 miles east of Claremont on the east side of Prairieton Road, just south of the intersection with Antioch Lane.

## UNION/BRINKLEY

Baptist church records also state that William H. was minister at a successor church called Union Baptist, organized in late 1827. The cemetery of that church is sometimes now referred to as Brinkley. A few years ago it was reportedly in a wooded area with few tombstones remaining. A short surviving list of burials at Union/Brinkley lists no Martins. (*Cemetery Inscriptions of Richland County*, Barbara Craddock) Union Baptist was a few miles west of the earlier Antioch church -- and both are only a few miles west of Bridgeport where William H. lived and old John taught school. The map below shows the proximity of the two churches -- I'd guess about 2-3 miles apart.

Some early records of the Union church are reprinted in "Footprints Past and Present," *Richland County Genealogical Society* (Vol. 7, No. 4). (Courtesy of John M. King.) The earliest show that the "Union Primitive Baptist Church" was constituted by "the arm of the Baptist Church of Christ at Antioch" which met on November 7, 1827, and that one of the three Brethren helping from Antioch was "Wm. Martin." The assembled Brethren on that day were found to be "in Gospel order" and pronounced to be "a Gospel Church, by two Elders: Daniel Parker and Wm. Martin, along with Deacon Thomas Carney. On November 23, 1827, the Church "Agreed that we chuse a suply or preacher and accordingly chose Brother William Martin."

Less than a year later, on August 23, 1828, the Church met and, "By request of Brother Wm Martain agreed that we give him a letter of recommendation." This indicates that William Martin was about to leave or perhaps had already left the community and wanted evidence that would enable him to join or minister to a church somewhere else.

A summary of the Antioch and Union church records found on the internet describes the two churches — Antioch (near Olney) and Union (the Union cemetery is sometimes referred to as Brinkley cemetery):

## Church and Family History Research Assistance for Primitive Baptist Churches in Richland County, Illinois

### CHURCHES:

#### ANTIOCH (OLNEY)

Antioch Church was organized in about 1823. It is believed to be the first church of any faith in the county. Early members included Elder William H. Martin, Thomas Banks, A. Banks, Asa Smith, Asa Hammond, E. Brant and others. Elder William H. Martin, a pioneer from Kentucky, was the first pastor. The first meeting house was a log structure situated about five miles east of Olney on the "trace road." It may have been built as early as 1822; it was also used for a school. Antioch Church was a member of the Little Wabash Association from 1825 until 1891, when the Central Association was formed. The church may have met part of the time in Lawrence County, also. In the early 1900's the members of Antioch Church moved as a body to Arkansas.

#### SURNAMES OF MEMBERS:

Banks, Bass, Besley, Brant, Brines, Courter, Gaddy, George, Hammond, Jones, Lambert, Leatherland, Martin, Milburn, Smith, Turpley, Wabser, Wilson (very incomplete list due to loss of records).

#### UNION (CLAREMONT)

Union Church was organized November 7, 1827, at the home of Brother Richard Gardner, having previously met as an arm of Antioch Church. The charter members were as follows, viz., Richard Gardner, Polly Marshall, Mason Marshall, Sarah Morehouse, Lewis Check, Mary Bullard, Briant Bullard, Elizabeth Check, Elizabeth Blanchard, Thaddeus Morehouse, Elizabeth Bullard, Benjamin Coats, Elizabeth Blanch, John Nelson, Cynthia Chauncy, Benjamin Bogard, Lois Bullard, John Bullard, Sarah Bunch, William Check, Martha Gardner, Elijah Gibbs, and Nancy Blackmon. The presbytery was composed of Elders Daniel Parker, William Martin, and Elias Roberts, and other Brethren, Coles Beasley, Asa Hammon, William Herron, Lot Sams, and Thomas Carney.

These Baptist records say Antioch Church was organized "about 1823" and "Elder William Martin, a pioneer from Kentucky, was the first pastor." It was on the "trace road" — thus about 10 miles, an easy buggy ride, from Section 18 in Bridgeport Township. The first log meeting house was "also used for a school" — probably where Old John taught school.

Then the Union Church was organized November 7, 1827, though it may have met "previously" — for how long, we do not know. The presbytery was composed of "Elders Daniel Parker, William Martin, and ..." We know from I.J.'s family history that the Martins were associated with the well-known minister, Daniel Parker. A transcription of the record book of the Union Primitive Baptist church exists; and John M. King informs me that Willis Blanchard appears in the transcription.

Willis Blanchard had been associated with the Martins back in Logan County, Ky. An 1813 church record discloses that the Center Church in Logan County “received a petition from Brothern John Martin, Charles Neeley, Samuel Martin, Moses Williams, Willis Blanchard & Sisters Izebelah Martin, Jane Neeley, Sarah Martin & Lizzey Martin requesting help from us to look into their standing and constitute them into a church if found ripe for the same.” This new church apparently became the Bethany Church. See *Fragments of Martin Family History*, 1990, at 16. James Scott Martin and wife Jane joined the Center Church a month later, in March 1813.

Willis Blanchard married Betsy Montgomery, daughter of Alexander Montgomery **Sr.**, November 25, 1806, in Logan County, before the move to Illinois. The youngest son of Old John and Isabella, Phillip Wesley Martin, born 1801, married Mary or “Polly” Montgomery (born 1804), daughter of Alexander Montgomery, **Jr.**, the son of Alexander Sr. Betsy Montgomery Blanchard was thus an aunt of “Polly” Montgomery, Mrs. Phillip Wesley Martin. See will of Alexander Montgomery, Sr., probated in 1817, quoted in *More Fragments of Martin Family History*, at 230. Alexander Montgomery Sr. had owned a tract of land in Logan County adjacent to land owned by Old John Martin and Charles Neely. *More Fragments*, at 158.

A map in the “Footprints” article shows where the Union Church was located — in Section 32, Claremont Township, Richland County, “the one to the NW,” at the bottom of the upper-right quadrant, just north of the old trace road.

Below you will see a map of Section 32 in Claremont Township from a 1901 Plat map. The two cemeteries are plainly marked. The Union Baptist Cemetery is the one to the NW. The Utterback is the one located along what was the old Trace Road. U.S. Route 50 was built just north of the old trace road in the late 1940's and the Utterback Cemetery is now located between the two roads.



These two churches — the parent Antioch church, and Union/Brinkley — were very near each other, both just a few miles west of Bridgeport, where Old John and Isabella evidently lived, near their son William Harvey and his family. Antioch was near the present-day Lawrence Correctional Center and is marked with a “Q”; Union/Brinkley cemetery is located a short distance to the west (in red).



Union Church was not the only one William Harvey Martin helped organize. The records indicate that he helped organize the Fox Prairie Church in Clay County, Ill., in 1827. And in or about 1829 he helped organize the Little Bethel Church in Coles County and the Lynn Creek Church in what became Moultrie County.

Because William and John Martin had turned up in 1817-18 in the standard history of Lawrence County — *Combined History of Edwards, Lawrence & Wabash Counties, Illinois*, Philadelphia, 1883, — and because William Harvey had owned property there and Old John had reportedly taught school there, I had previously neglected to consult the history of nearby Richland County: *Counties of Cumberland, Jasper and Richland, Illinois*, Chicago, 1884. That book confirms that William Martin was the “preacher usually in attendance” at Antioch church, east of Olney on the “trace road.” The Richland County history also confirms that Willis Blanchard was an early settler, who settled on the “trace road” near the Antioch and Center churches.



It is characteristic of the settlement of Richland County that the church influences early made their way here. The earliest denomination was the Baptist, of what is popularly termed the "Hard-shell" variety. They built the first place of worship in the county, as early as 1822. This was a log structure called "Antioch" and situated five miles east of Olney on the "trace road." This served for school purposes as well as a place for worship and attracted the devout for miles about on preaching days. William **Martin**, of Kentucky, was the preacher usually in attendance here. The second church building was erected soon after the first by the same denomination. Its site was on the Fox Prairie, two miles southwest of the present village of Fransonia. This was known as the "Union" Church and was served by a Rev. Mr. Roberts. A few years later, "Shiloh" Church was erected five miles west of Olney on Andrew Evans' property on the "trace road."

Louis, and every night, save two, in the week, two stages with their passengers found lodging here. In addition to these names should be added those of Cornelius Delong, James Gilmore and Willis **Blanchard**, who settled on the "trace road," west of the village of Claremont; John Jeffers and John Mathis, early settlers near the Watertown settlement; William Walls, John Rogers and Matthew Duckery, on the Sugar Creek Prairie.

Old John may have died before the Union church was formally organized in late 1827, though perhaps he was part of the congregation during the time it met informally, "previous" to the formal organization. Based on the age of John's children, it's a good guess that he was born about 1755, which would have made him about 70 in 1825.

So — if old John died before late 1827, it is possible that he is buried in the cemetery at Antioch church. The cemetery is still there and there are published lists of people buried there, but no graves date back as far as the mid 1820s. Nor do the records of the Center church cemetery go back that far.

What happened to Old John's wife, Isabella? I.J. Martin in his family history stated that she — he called her "Sarah" — had come with her family to Illinois from Kentucky. She would surely have been living with her husband Old John in Bridgeport. She was likely the female "over 45" listed in the 1820 Edwards County census as part of John Martin's household. I.J. reported the family story that Old John's widow "used to tell her granddaughters in Illinois about her life in the Kentucky fort — about molding bullets for the men who were defending the stockade during the Indian attacks." These granddaughters would have included Ann Neely Martin — a daughter of Charles and Jane Neely and I.J.'s grandmother — who was born in 1804, and so would have been about 13-14 at the time of the move to Illinois.

In any event -- we can be pretty sure that Old John and Isabella were living near their son in Bridgeport, and that Old John died (1) a “few years” after arriving in 1817/18, but (2) before his son William moved away in the fall of 1828. John was a minister, so he would likely have been buried on church grounds. His son was minister at Antioch in the mid 1820s. Union church would not have had its own cemetery until after it was formally organized, in late 1827 or perhaps even later when a church structure was built.

As between Old John and Isabella being interred in the Baptist church cemetery (Antioch) or their neighborhood church cemetery about half a mile from his home (Spring Hill), a church said to have been used not only by the “New Lights” but by other denominations, ... I think it’s a toss-up.



**Antioch Cemetery**



**R.E. Martin at Spring Hill Cemetery, June 2017**


\* \* \*

After William Harvey and Cynthia left Lawrence perhaps in the fall of 1828 (when he asked for a “letter of recommendation” from Union Church), where did they go? One of three places: (a) Clark County, (b) that part of Shelby County which later became Moultrie, or (c) Coles County. Edgar had been formed out of Clark in 1823; and Coles was organized out of Clark and Edgar on December 25, 1830.





Here are the three William Martin households in Clark County in 1830. None of these summaries fits with what we know of our William Harvey Martin.



[View Record](#)  
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|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| NAME:                                                   | <b>William Martin</b>  |
| HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE):                     | <b>Clark, Illinois</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 5 THRU 9:                  | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 15 THRU 19:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 60 THRU 69:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 5 THRU 9:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 50 THRU 59:              | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20:                          | <b>3</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49:                        | <b>1</b>               |
| TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS:                               | <b>6</b>               |
| TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): | <b>6</b>               |

First, we have William Martin with a household of 6, including two little kids and one male 60-69 and one female 50-59.

Our Old John would have been about 75 in 1830, but he reportedly died in Lawrence County. Isabella, whose first child came along in about 1779, would have been well over 59 in 1830.

We also have one other male 20-29 but no female in that age bracket. William H. was 46 in 1830. Cynthia Clark was 16 when she married William Harvey Martin in 1821 — making her 25 or so in 1830.

Doesn't fit. (So must acquit?)




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|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| NAME:                                                   | <b>William Martin</b>  |
| HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE):                     | <b>Clark, Illinois</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 5 THRU 9:                  | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 15 THRU 19:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 30 THRU 39:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - UNDER 5:                 | <b>2</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 5 THRU 9:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 10 THRU 14:              | <b>2</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 20 THRU 29:              | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20:                          | <b>7</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49:                        | <b>3</b>               |
| TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS:                               | <b>10</b>              |
| TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): | <b>10</b>              |

Here is the second William, with a household of 10, including no males over 39 and no females over 29. Two male children under 19. Five female children.

But William Harvey would have been about 46.



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---

NAME: **William Martin**

HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE): **Clark, Illinois**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - UNDER 5: **1**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29: **1**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 15 THRU 19: **1**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20: **2**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49: **1**


TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS: **3**

TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): **3**

Here is William number 3 — household of 3. Two children in the household (some may have left already). Male 20-29 and no female over 19.

William was 46 in 1830. Doesn't fit.

## Shelby County ?



[View Record](#)  
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---

NAME: **William Martin**

HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE): **Precinct 3, Shelby, Illinois**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - UNDER 5: **3**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29: **1**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - UNDER 5: **1**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 20 THRU 29: **1**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20: **4**

FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49: **2**

TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS: **6**

TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): **6**

Here is the William Martin of Shelby County in 1830, when I.J. believed he founded the Lynn Creek church in Whitley Point, then in Shelby but later Moultrie County. Six people in the household. One male between 20-29. One female 29-29.

But I.J. Martin wrote that William H. lived in Coles County before coming to Moultrie in the early 1830s. Also, the ages don't fit well with what we know about "our" William Martin and his children. (*More Fragments*, at 215-16.)



**Coles County** — was created out of Clark County in December 1830.



Coles became a separate county only at the end of 1830. There apparently was no census in that county in 1830. William H. Martin and Elder Daniel Barham reportedly organized the Little Bethel Church in Coles County in 1829, the same year William H. organized the Lynn Creek Church at Whitley Point, in what became Moultrie County.

Moultrie County — just west of Coles — was created out of Shelby and Macon Counties in February 1843.

Land records show that “William H. Martin” purchased land in Coles Section 18 on June 13, 1831. He acquired more land in Section 13 in 1834. “Rev. Mr. Martin” was identified as one of “the early preachers of Coles County.” *Coles County History*, 1879, at 262, also 493.

In a marginal note on his copy of the Coles County history, I.J. identified this as “William H. Martin who founded the first church in Moultrie County in 1829 or 1830 and moved to the Lynn Creek neighborhood [Whitley Point] soon after.” Another marginal note by I.J. (at 300) states: “William H. Martin moved to what is now Moultrie County about 1833.”

Property records show that “William H. Martin” acquired land in Moultrie County on October 1, 1833, Section 28 in Township 15N 5E; also further land in 1838 in Section 17, Township 12N 6E.

\* \* \*

So far we’ve been looking for William H. Martin after he left Lawrence County. Now let’s circle back to the other Martins in Clark County:

There were two John Martins in Clark County in 1830. Neither was our Old John.



[View Record](#)

[SEE MORE](#)

|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| NAME:                                                   | <b>John Martin</b>     |
| HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE):                     | <b>Clark, Illinois</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - UNDER 5:                   | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - UNDER 5:                 | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 5 THRU 9:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 20 THRU 29:              | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20:                          | <b>3</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49:                        | <b>2</b>               |
| TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS:                               | <b>5</b>               |
| TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): | <b>5</b>               |

This first John Martin was listed on the census page just ahead of Jane Neely, widow of Charles Neely. Her daughter Ann Neely had married John Neely, son of James Scott Martin, in 1824. So here are I.J. Martin's grandfather and grandmother.

Male 20-29, and female 29-29. But no older Martins with them. No Old John and no Isabella.



[View Record](#)

[SEE MORE](#)

|                                                         |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| NAME:                                                   | <b>John Martin</b>     |
| HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE):                     | <b>Clark, Illinois</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29:                | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - UNDER 5:                 | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 20 THRU 29:              | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20:                          | <b>1</b>               |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49:                        | <b>2</b>               |
| TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS:                               | <b>3</b>               |
| TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): | <b>3</b>               |

Here is the second Clark County John Martin in 1830.

One male 29-29, and one female 20-29.

Clearly not Old John and Isabella.

It is unlikely that this is John D. Martin, son of Samuel and Sarah, who was reportedly born in 1813. (*More Fragments*, at 219.)

Also on the 1830 Clark census page is Jane Neely — widow of Charles Neely.



[View Record](#)  
[SEE MORE](#)

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NAME: **Jane Neely**  
HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE): **Clark, Illinois**

|                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 15 THRU 19:                | <b>1</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 20 THRU 29:                | <b>1</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 5 THRU 9:                | <b>1</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 10 THRU 14:              | <b>1</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 15 THRU 19:              | <b>1</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 50 THRU 59:              | <b>1</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20:                          | <b>4</b> |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49:                        | <b>1</b> |
| TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS:                               | <b>6</b> |
| TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): | <b>6</b> |

Jane was between 50-59 — about right if she was born c 1779-80. Oldest male in his 20s.

Next on the 1830 page — “James S. Martin” — i.e. James Scott Martin, Jane’s brother.



[1830 United States Federal Census](#)  
[SEE MORE](#)

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NAME: **James S Martin**  
HOME IN 1830 (CITY, COUNTY, STATE): **Clark, Illinois**

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 10 THRU 14:                | <b>1</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 15 THRU 19:                | <b>3</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - MALES - 50 THRU 59:                | <b>1</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 5 THRU 9:                | <b>2</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 10 THRU 14:              | <b>2</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 15 THRU 19:              | <b>1</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - FEMALES - 40 THRU 49:              | <b>1</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - UNDER 20:                          | <b>9</b>  |
| FREE WHITE PERSONS - 20 THRU 49:                        | <b>1</b>  |
| TOTAL FREE WHITE PERSONS:                               | <b>11</b> |
| TOTAL - ALL PERSONS (FREE WHITE, SLAVES, FREE COLORED): | <b>11</b> |

James S. heads a household of 11. Oldest male 50-59. Oldest female 40-49.

James S. was about 50-51 in 1830.

No Old John or Isabella here.

So — bottom line, as the accountants say?

The Lawrence County history reported that Old John died in Bridgeport “a few years after” the Martins came from Kentucky in 1817-18. My guess is that means sometime in the mid-1820s. His wife Isabella probably died sometime during that same decade, before son William and family moved away from Bridgeport in late 1828 or shortly after. Old John and Isabella are surely buried in the same cemetery, one of those near their home.

\* \* \*

As for William Harvey Martin, I.J. wrote in his family history (*Fragments*, 1990, 107) that William Harvey visited the Whitley Point settlement in 1829 or 1830 and was instrumental in organizing the Baptist Church of Lynn Creek, the oldest church organization in what is now Moultrie County. I.J. thought he moved his family from Coles County to a farm near the old Lynn Creek church in the early 1830s and remained there until his death in 1852.

\* \* \*

### **The Kickapoo Creek Community, Coles County.**

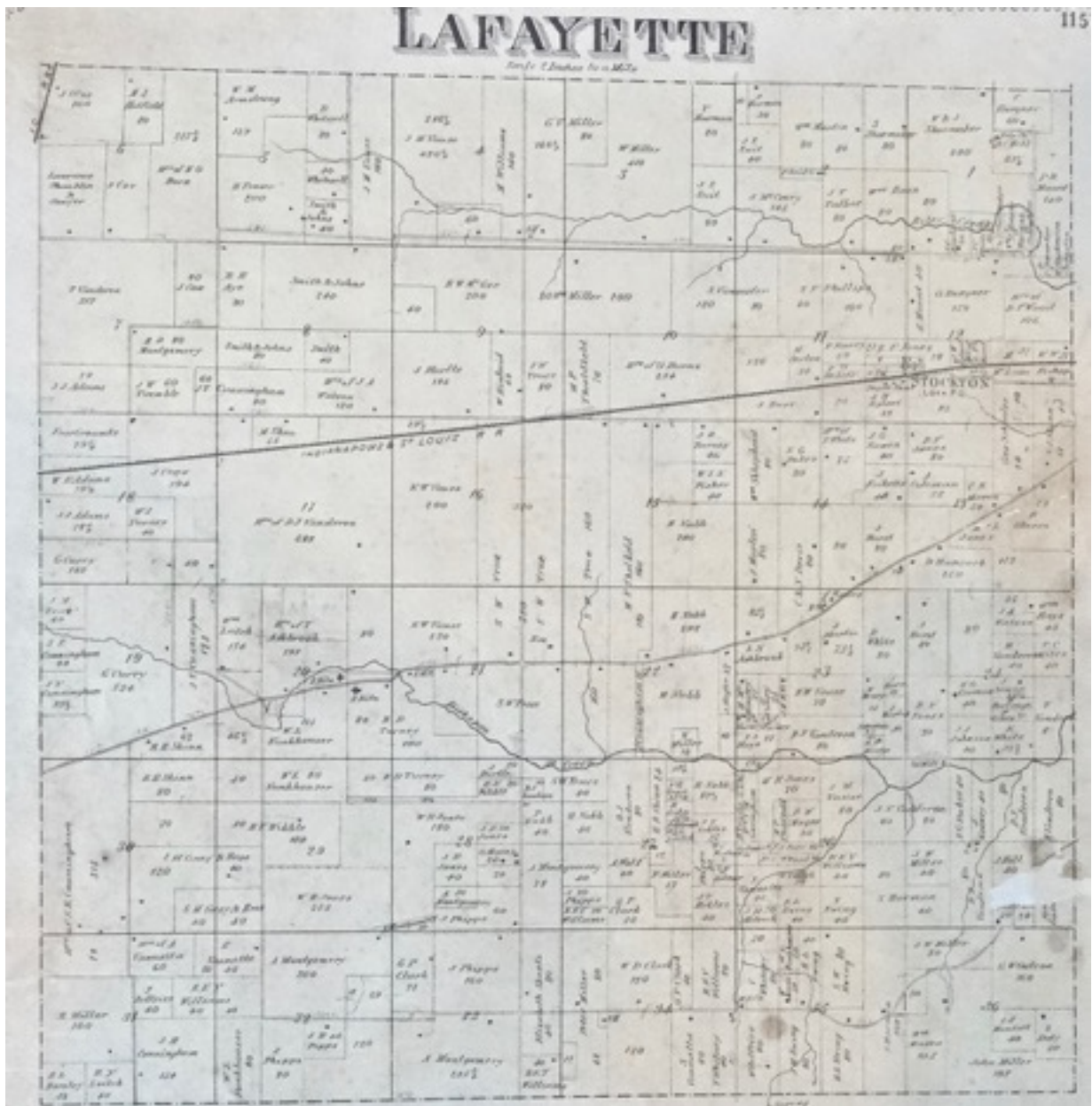
The Martins and Jane Martin Neely settled for a while in Lafayette and Charleston Townships of Coles County in an area sometimes called the Kickapoo Creek community. Their land acquisitions appear in *More Fragments*, 187-191.

Below appears a map of Lafayette Township, Coles County, published in 1869. It shows the Kickapoo Creek running west to east in the lower half of the township.

In section 2 (upper right quartile), far from Kickapoo Creek, appears Wm. Martin with 110 acres. Our William Harvey Martin Sr. died in Moultrie County, November 19, 1852. I have not been able to connect this Coles County William Martin in 1869 to our family.

In sections 14 and 23 (just right of center) appear parcels owned by “J. Martin,” a son of Samuel and Sarah Martin — thus one of the grandsons of Old John and Isabella. Moses Williams, who had been in the same church congregation with many of the Martins in Logan County, Kentucky, had married Sarah, the widow of Samuel Martin on July 8, 1819, in Clark County. He became a much-loved stepfather to that family. Moses was listed in the 1830 U.S. Census in Edgar County, with 5 people in his household. Moses acquired land in Coles County near the other Martins and Neelys in

Section 14, Lafayette Township, just north of Kickapoo Creek. (*Fragments*, at 104; *More Fragments*, at 187.) That land descended first to Samuel's son John D. — the "J. Martin" on the map — "Cousin John" as I.J. and apparently lots of other Martins called him. He lived to be about 80 and died about 1880. His son, Alexander J. — or "Alex" — was born in 1844 and "lived on the old Kickapoo home place until his death about 25 years ago," or about 25 years before I.J. wrote his family history in 1943. Alex reportedly "died May 17, 1914 in the log home where he was born." The Kickapoo farm was part of what is now Coles County Airport. (*More Fragments*, at 221.)





Three miles to the west of J. Martin's property and a little south of Kickapoo Creek, in Sections 19 and 30, just below the main east-west road, appear two parcels totaling 142 acres belonging to B. B. Shinn. Shinn was identified in the Coles County History, 1879, as a farmer living in Lafayette Township, owns 142 acres. In the margin of page 655 of his copy of the county history, I.J. Martin wrote these words:

"Shinn owned the farm which my grandfather once owned and on which my father was born in 1833."



**The B.B. Shine farm, 1869, Sections 19 and 30,  
Map of Lafayette Township, Coles County**

Once owned by John and Ann Martin, where  
John Neely Martin, I.J.'s father, was born in 1833.

