FOR MEMAW BO

The bottom line, up front

Memaw Bo, your Cherokee family is real, and now it is proved.

Your great-great-grandmother was **Elizabeth Grace Walker**, a Cherokee woman born in Tennessee in 1826. Her name is on the government's Cherokee rolls from 1851 to 1884, and in 1896 she signed her own application for Cherokee citizenship.

Her father was **John Walker Jr., called Chief Jack**, a Cherokee leader of the Hiwassee country in Tennessee, shot from ambush in 1834 for backing the move west. Her mother was **Emily Meigs**, a granddaughter of **Col. Return J. Meigs**, a hero of the Revolution who became the United States agent to the Cherokee.

Jack's father was **Major John Walker**, who led Cherokee soldiers beside Andrew Jackson in the Creek War of 1813 and 1814, kept the ferry on the Tennessee River, and owned the land where Calhoun, Tennessee, now stands. Jack's mother, **Betsy Lowrey**, was a sister of George Lowrey, the assistant chief of the Cherokee Nation.

Every one of those links is backed by records made at the time: wills, deeds, court papers, the Cherokee rolls and letters. Where no single paper names a parent, the case was built the way professional genealogists require, under the Genealogical Proof Standard of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and it passes.

By blood you are about one part in sixty-four Cherokee. The share is small, and it does not matter: the Cherokee Nation counted this family on its rolls for seventy-five years, and your line to it is proved.

Two stories are still being chased. The family always said Jack Walker's grandmother was **Nancy Ward**, the Beloved Woman of the Cherokee; the records point that way, and none yet says it outright, so she is on the tree with a dashed line. And **Belle Starr**, the outlaw you always said was in the family: if the Nancy Ward link holds, her husband Sam Starr was a cousin of ours. Not blood kin, but kin.

You always said there was Cherokee on your side of the family. You were right.

Brent, November 2026

The Walkers of the Cherokee Nation

Memaw Bo's Cherokee line, traced and proved from the records



Memaw Bo, Oleva Barnes, born 1930 at Oakland City, Indiana.

Memaw Bo's great-great-grandmother Elizabeth Grace Walker (1826–1903) was a daughter of John Walker Jr., a Cherokee of the Hiwassee country in southeast Tennessee, and his white wife, Emily S. Meigs. Her father named her in his will in 1830, and the county court named her among his "minor orphans" in 1837. In 1851 she swore that she was "the daughter of Major Jack Walker dec'd and the grand daughter of Major John Walker Senr." The Cherokee rolls of 1835, 1851 and 1884 list her or her household, and in 1896 she swore again that she was "a daughter of John Walker Jr. who was a Cherokee." In 1900 the Dawes Commission enrolled her as a Cherokee by blood, one quarter.

John Walker Jr., remembered as Chief Jack, was the son of Major John Walker, a Cherokee leader of the same country and a major of Cherokees in the War of 1812, and his wife Elizabeth, called Betsy, a sister of Col. George Lowrey, and her only child by the Major. Published genealogies and a cousin's recollection of 1908 carry the line on, through the Major's mother Katy, to Nanye'hi, the Beloved Woman Nancy Ward, but no record yet names the Major's mother.

Memaw Bo always said there was Cherokee on her side of the family. She was right.

Cherokee ancestor	John Walker Jr., "Chief Jack" (about 1800–1834)
His father	Maj. John Walker, a major of Cherokees in the War of 1812 (died by 1838)
His mother	Elizabeth (Betsy) Lowrey, a sister of Col. George Lowrey (died 1839)
Home	The Hiwassee country: McMinn and Bradley counties, Tennessee
His daughter	Elizabeth Grace Walker (1826–1903), Memaw Bo's great-great-grandmother
Her standing	Cherokee rolls of 1851 and 1884; admitted a Cherokee citizen by blood in 1896; Dawes roll no. 4381, one quarter
Memaw Bo	One sixty-fourth Cherokee by descent; 3% Indigenous American in her DNA test
Proof	Deeds, a will, county court and estate records, federal letters and rolls, court suits and sworn statements, 1821–1907

Prepared for Brent Batla and the family, November 2026, from original records on FamilySearch, Ancestry and the National Archives catalog. Every quotation is from a record image that was read for this history. The records themselves are in the Family papers on the family website.

FROM THE BELOVED WOMAN OF CHOTA TO BRENT

The line

MEMAW BO'S 6TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
Nanye'hi (Nancy Ward) — **Full** Cherokee
about 1738 – by 1826 · Ghigau, Beloved Woman of Chota
married Kingfisher, by the published genealogies
Her grandson's sworn application, 1906 · his recollection, 1908 · published genealogies

MEMAW BO'S 5TH GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
Catherine (Katy), later Harlan — **Full** Cherokee
died by 1842 · Nancy Ward's daughter
married John Walker, a white trader, by the published genealogies
A cousin's recollection, 1908 · published genealogies; no record yet

MEMAW BO'S 4TH GREAT-GRANDFATHER
Maj. John Walker — **1/2** Cherokee
died by 1838 · Cherokee leader of the Hiwassee country; a major in the War of 1812
married Elizabeth (Betsy) Lowrey, half Cherokee, died 1839
His father's deed of gift, 1821 · the commissioners' letter, 1839 · Eight Killer's statement, 1842

MEMAW BO'S 3RD GREAT-GRANDFATHER
Maj. John Walker Jr., "Chief Jack" — **1/2** Cherokee
about 1800 – 1834 · Cherokee; shot in 1834 over removal
married Emily S. Meigs, white, a granddaughter of Col. Return J. Meigs
Her father's will, 1830 · guardianship, 1837 · federal letters, 1841 · her own oaths, 1851 and 1896 · roll of 1884

MEMAW BO'S 2ND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
Elizabeth Grace Walker — **1/4** Cherokee
1826 – 1903 · Cherokee by blood, one quarter (Dawes roll no. 4381)
married James M. Coleman
1850 census · her parents' affidavit and the Cherokee roll, 1851 · 1877 death register

MEMAW BO'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
Mary Emily Coleman — **1/8** Cherokee
1850 – 1877 · Enrolled as a Cherokee at one year old
married Wiley B. Powell
Lula's 1907 application · her 1951 death certificate

MEMAW BO'S GRANDMOTHER
Lula Elizabeth Powell — **1/16** Cherokee
1871 – 1951 · Applied for her Cherokee share in 1907
married Emmet Barnes
His death certificate, 1960 · Lula's sworn application, 1907 · 1910 census

MEMAW BO'S FATHER
Wiley Powell Barnes — **1/32** Cherokee
1900 – 1960
married Edith May Walker
Her birth certificate, 1930

Memaw Bo (Oleva Barnes) — **1/64** Cherokee
born 1930
Living memory

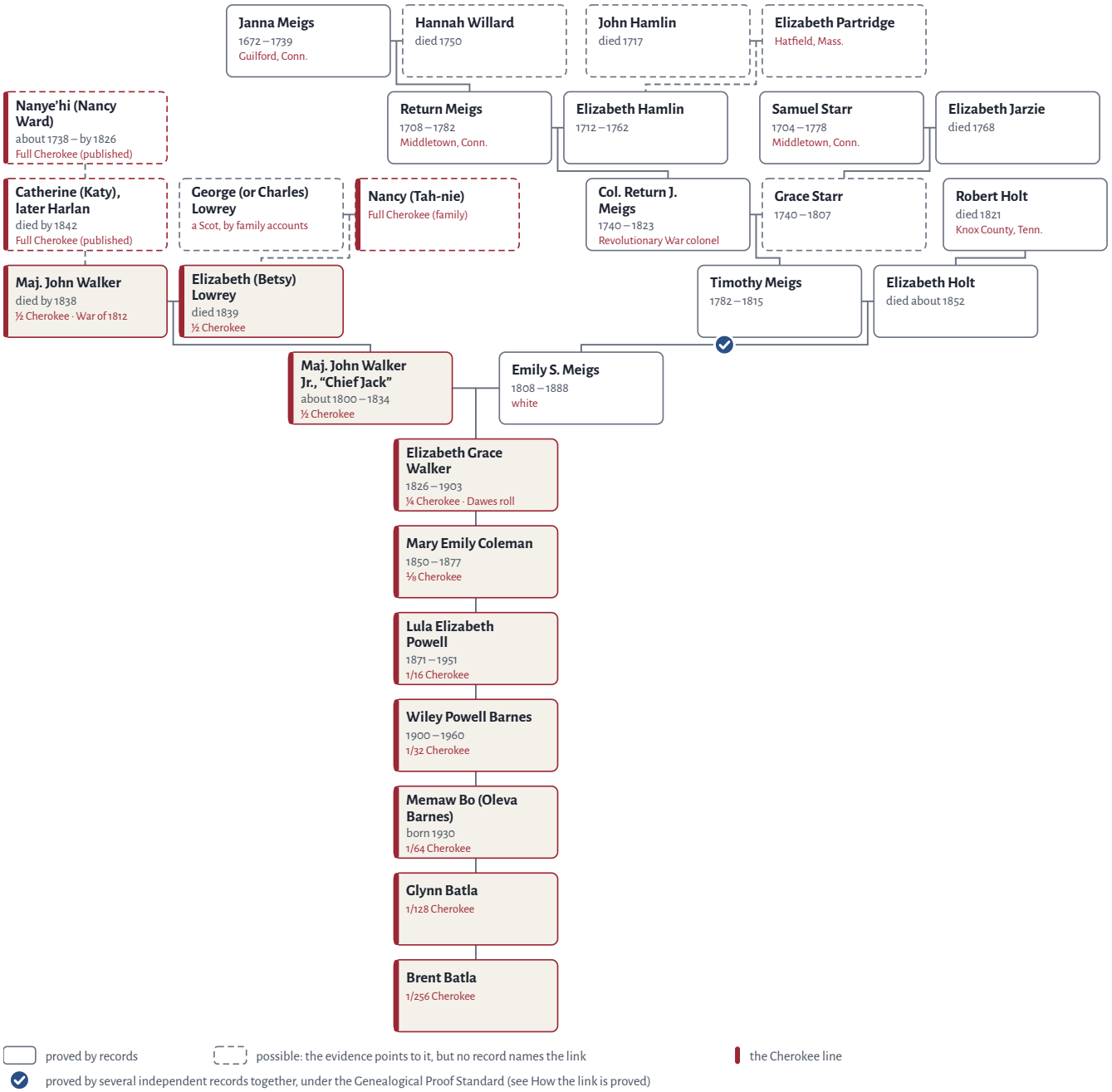
Glynn Batla — **1/128** Cherokee
Living memory

Brent Batla — **1/256** Cherokee

proved by records possible: published genealogies and a grandson's account. Fractions are Cherokee by descent: the Major's and Betsy's one half and Elizabeth's one quarter are from the records, and "full" rests on the published accounts.

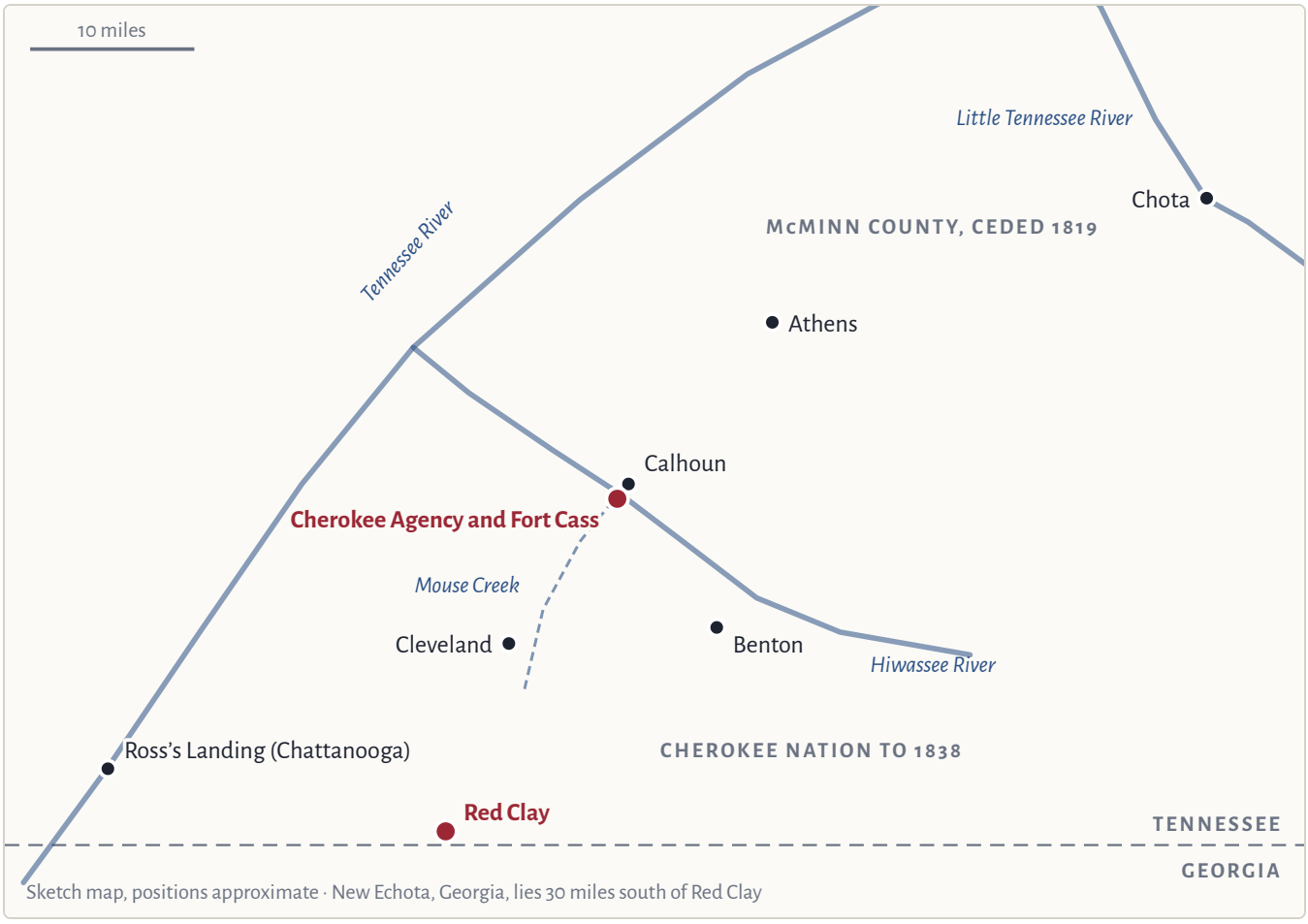
The family tree

Solid boxes and lines are proved by records. Dashed ones are possible: the evidence points to them, but no record yet names the link.



SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE, 1738–1838

The Cherokee country



The Hiwassee country. Calhoun grew up on Major John Walker's land; the Cherokee Agency and Fort Cass stood across the river; the Nation's council met at Red Clay from 1832 to 1838; and in the summer of 1838 thousands of Cherokees were held in camps along Mouse Creek and the streams near Fort Cass.

The Walkers lived in the Hiwassee country, where the Hiwassee River runs west out of the mountains to the Tennessee River in southeast Tennessee. In the early 1800s this was the heart of the Cherokee Nation. The old town of Chota stood a day's ride to the north on the Little Tennessee, and it was there that Nanye'hi, known to the settlers as Nancy Ward, was born about 1738. After she fought beside her husband Kingfisher at the Battle of Taliwa in 1755, the Cherokee named her Ghigau, Beloved Woman, with a voice and a vote in their councils. She spoke for peace with the settlers and against giving up more land, and she died about 1823 near the present town of Benton, where her grave can still be visited.

In the treaty of 1819 the Cherokee gave up their land north of the Hiwassee. That land became McMinn County, which was organized at Major John Walker's house, and in 1820 the town of Calhoun was laid out on his land and named for John C. Calhoun, the Secretary of War. A Cherokee head of family who chose to stay on the ceded land could take a reservation of 640 acres, and the Walkers took several. Across the river from Calhoun, at what is now Charleston, stood the Cherokee Agency, the United States government's office in the Nation. Its

agent from 1801 until his death in 1823 was Col. Return J. Meigs. Emily Meigs, who married the Major's son Jack Walker, was his granddaughter.

South of the river the land stayed Cherokee. When Georgia outlawed Cherokee government within its borders, the Nation moved its council ground in 1832 to Red Clay, just north of the Georgia line in what is now Bradley County. Eleven general councils met there under Principal Chief John Ross, each drawing thousands of people, and the great question before them was removal. Most Cherokees refused to leave their country. A minority came to believe that the Nation could survive only by moving west, and John Walker Jr. was one of the first to say so openly. He went to Washington to argue for a treaty, and soon after he came home, in the summer of 1834, he was shot from ambush near his home and killed. His killing led to a case in the Tennessee Supreme Court, State v. Foreman (1835), in which the court held that Tennessee law reached Cherokee land and people inside the state, one of the legal steps that made removal possible.

The treaty Jack Walker had argued for came a year later. On 29 December 1835 a small Treaty Party signed the Treaty of New Echota, giving up all the Cherokee land in the East. The council at Red Clay rejected it, but the Senate ratified it by one vote in May 1836, and it gave the Cherokees two years to leave. In May 1838 the army began rounding up the families who had not gone. Fort Cass, built at the Agency across from Calhoun, was General Winfield Scott's headquarters, and by late July more than 4,800 Cherokees were held in camps along Mouse Creek, Chatata Creek, Rattlesnake Springs and the other streams nearby. From there twelve detachments set out west between late August and early December 1838, on the journey remembered as the Trail of Tears.

Jack Walker's family did not go with them. Emily was white, and after his death, a neighbor swore in 1842, "his family left the nation and removed to Athens Tennessee, his Children all being small." In the Cherokee census of 1835 the widowed Emily was farming on Mouse Creek with her four children. In 1843 she, and Elizabeth with her new husband, enrolled to emigrate west, but they did not go then. Over the next seventy years the government counted the family again and again on its rolls of the Cherokees who had stayed in the East, until several of Elizabeth's children, and at last Elizabeth herself, moved to the Cherokee Nation in the West.

GENERATION BY GENERATION

The family

POSSIBLE ANCESTORS

Nanye'hi, Nancy Ward (about 1738 – by 1826), and her daughter Katy

Beloved Woman of Chota, of the Wolf clan, honored for her part in the battle of Taliwa and for her efforts at peace with the settlers. On the Cherokee women's talk to the National Council of 1817 her own address says, "I have great many grand children which I wish them to do well on our land." Late in 1818 she registered a reservation on Mouse Creek and left it to Jenny McIntosh. The agency register calls Jenny her "beloved daughter," but two witnesses swore in 1842 that Nancy Ward was "the grand mother of Jane McIntosh," who took her in when she fell ill. She had died by the end of 1826, when R. J. Meigs of Athens wrote that Jack Walker had bought her reservation.

Her daughter Catherine, called Katy, married last the trader Ellis Harlan. She registered her own reservation in 1818 at Pumpkin Town, where the Major's wife registered hers, and the state surveyed it in 1820 as a life estate of 640 acres on the Tellico River. In 1906 her grandson Jack Hilderbrand swore that his grandmother was "Katie Harlan" and his great-grandmother "Granny Ward," and in 1908 he recalled that Nancy Ward "was the grandmother of old Walker," meaning the Major, and that Jack Walker "was my first cousin." The Cherokee Supreme Court's record book shows her in October 1825 as "Katy Harlin (widow)," deeding to her daughter Sarah West slaves that had "descended to me, as the lawful heir of my beloved brother Five Killer," Nancy Ward's son, and in November 1826 the court decided "Sarah West vs. Jno. Walker Sr. & Katy five Killer," the one record of their lifetimes that puts the Major and Katy on the same side of a case. Published genealogies, beginning with Emmet Starr's History of the Cherokee Indians (1921), make Katy the Major's mother by an earlier husband, a white trader named John Walker. No record made at the time names the Major's mother, so Katy and Nancy Ward are shown on the tree as possible ancestors; the case for Katy, item by item and scored against the five tests of the Genealogical Proof Standard, is behind the proof mark beside the Major's parents on the family tree.

4TH GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

Major John Walker (died by 1838) and Elizabeth (Betsy) Lowrey

A Cherokee leader of the Hiwassee country. In 1792 Governor Blount called the young John Walker one of "two young half breeds, who have been raised among and by the white people," and in the Creek War of 1813–14 he was a major in Col. Gideon Morgan's regiment of Cherokees, the source of his title. He kept ferries and a mill, for which the treaty of 1819 gave him reservations, and Calhoun was laid out on his land; in 1820 and 1821 the McMinn County court met at his house. In 1821 he gave three enslaved children to "my loving and dutiful son John Walker Junr," and a Cherokee named Eight Killer swore in 1842 that the Major had told him "he had given his Ferry which he owned on the Tennessee River to his Son John Walker Jr." In 1829 and 1830 he and the Cherokee agent told the War Department that he was the kinsman of Five Killer, Nancy Ward's childless son, and claimed Five Killer's slave girl as his heir under a will that could not be found; Katy, Five Killer's sister by her own deed of 1825, was sued with him over the same estate in 1826. The records say kinsman, not son, so Katy stays a possible mother; the case, scored against the five tests, is behind the proof mark on the family tree.

His wife Elizabeth, called Betsy, was a sister of Col. George Lowrey, one of the Nation's leading men. Her great-great-granddaughters swore in 1907 that her parents were "George Lowry born in Scotland" and "Nancy, wife of George Lowry," and her brother's descendants named the same pair; a family account written in 1889 by her brother's granddaughter calls them Charles Lowrey, "a Scotch trader," and "a cherokee woman named Tah-nie." No record of their own time names them, so they are shown on the tree as possible parents. Nancy was the Cherokee parent. The Cherokee agent wrote in 1826 that the couple kept their property separate, "as was formerly the practice with Indians," and that she had "only one Child (a son) by Major Walker." That son was Jack. In February 1839, when Betsy was old and poor, the federal commissioners at the agency wrote that her greatest misfortune had been "the loss of her only son Majr. John Walker Junr.," on whom she had relied "as her stay & prop in old age," and who "fell a victim to his efforts in inducing his brethren to cede their Territory." In her young days Betsy had lived at Toqua on the Little Tennessee River, where she planted an orchard on land she claimed through her mother; by 1826 she kept "an indian family separate & distinct from that of Major Walker." The records call each of them half Cherokee. The Major had died by 1838. Betsy died in Bradley County between February and April 1839.

3RD GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

John Walker Jr., "Chief Jack" (about 1800–1834), and Emily S. Meigs

Jack Walker was educated, well off and outspoken. He married Emily S. Meigs in Rhea County on 10 January 1824. He signed his will in 1830 as "John Walker Jr. of the Cherokee Nation," leaving interests in reservations in Jackson County, Alabama, and in the Calhoun ferry, and asking that "my children Timothy, Elizabeth and Jane have a Liberal English Education." Published accounts say he also took a Cherokee wife, Nannie Bushyhead, by whom he had two more children. He was shot on 23 August 1834 by Cherokees who opposed removal and died of the wound on 11 September.

Emily was white, the daughter of Timothy Meigs and Elizabeth Holt and a granddaughter of the agent Col. Return J. Meigs; she had been a pupil at the Brainerd Mission school. Her children with Jack were Timothy Meigs (born 1824), Elizabeth Grace (1826), Minerva Jane (1829) and John Osborn Walker. In the Cherokee census of 1835 the widowed Emily headed a farm of 200 acres on Mouse Creek with twenty buildings, and her four children were counted as one quarter Cherokee. She outlived Jack by more than fifty years and died at the Hatcher House in Cleveland on 20 January 1888, aged 79.

2ND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

Elizabeth Grace Walker (June 1826 – May 1903)

She was eight when her father was killed. In 1837 the county court made William Lowry guardian of the four children, and in 1838 each received $511.25 from the federal commissioners as a share of their father's estate. Elizabeth married James M. Coleman in McMinn County in October 1840, at fourteen. They kept a mill on Spring Creek until 1843 and then lived near Cynthiana, Kentucky, where most of their children were born, among them Mary Emily. In August 1851 she swore before the county judge at Cynthiana that she was the daughter of Jack Walker and the granddaughter of Major John Walker, and in May 1852 the government paid her $464.75 for herself and her four children through the Cynthiana postmaster.

After James died she married William P. (Pryor) Smith in Nashville in 1868 and lived near Nolensville, Tennessee. In 1893, at 67, she moved to Fort Gibson in the Cherokee Nation, where three of her children already lived, and in 1896 she was admitted a Cherokee citizen by blood. She died at Fort Gibson on 21 May 1903 and is remembered with a marker in the Citizens Cemetery there.

GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

Mary Emily Coleman (1850–1877)

Called Emily, after her grandmother. She was enrolled as a Cherokee at one year old in 1851. She married Wiley B. Powell, a blacksmith, in Nashville in 1866, and died of typhoid fever in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, at 27, leaving young children, among them Lula.

GRANDMOTHER

Lula Elizabeth Powell (1871–1951)

Lula married Emmet Barnes in 1887. In 1907 she applied for a share of the Eastern Cherokee fund, swearing that her mother had been on the 1851 roll and that her grandmother Elizabeth was a daughter of "Jack Walker and Emily Walker" and a granddaughter of "Major Jack and Betsy Walker." The government's commissioner rejected her application, and those of her brother and sister, by filing them with the case of an unrelated North Carolina family who claimed a different Betsey Walker. Her uncle James A. Coleman, on the same family facts, was admitted, and in 1910 the commissioner refused all 136 exceptions filed in the group hers had been put in. Every part of her account that can be checked has now been found in the records.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER

Wiley Powell Barnes (1900–1960) and Memaw Bo

Lula's son Wiley, named for her father, was born at Spottsville, Kentucky. He served in the Navy as a fireman from 1919 to 1921, married Edith May Walker in Pike County, Indiana, in 1923, and about 1941 moved the family to Houston, Texas, where he died in 1960. Edith's Walkers, of Kentucky and Indiana, are a different family. Their daughter Oleva, Memaw Bo, was born at Oakland City, Indiana, in 1930. Her AncestryDNA test shows 3% Indigenous American, and on her father's side the records now show where it came from.

How Cherokee were they?

The records give the family's degree of Cherokee blood at two points. The War Department wrote in 1814 that "Major Jno Walker is Half Blood," and the Cherokee census of 1835 counted a Betsey Walker of Mouse Creek, very likely the Major's wife, as a half-blood. Betsy's descendants swore in 1906 and 1907 that her father was a Scotsman, George Lowrey, and her mother Nancy, and a family account of 1889 calls the mother Tah-nie, so Nancy was her full-blood parent. In 1835 the census counted Jack and Emily's children as one-quarter Cherokee, and in 1900 the Dawes Commission enrolled Elizabeth as one quarter. Each generation after her halves the fraction, down to one sixty-fourth for Memaw Bo and about one two-hundred-fifty-sixth for Brent. The published accounts and Jack Hilderbrand's family make Nancy Ward and Katy full-blood Cherokees.

The English names are no puzzle. By the late 1700s many Cherokee families had a white trader as father, Scots, Irish or English, and the children took his surname: Walker, Lowrey, Ross, Vann, Adair, Hicks. A Cherokee belonged to the Nation through the mother and her clan, so these children were fully Cherokee whatever their fraction, and many had Cherokee names as well. Principal Chief John Ross was one-eighth Cherokee. The Cherokee Nation still sets no minimum degree of blood for citizenship.

THE WAR OF 1812

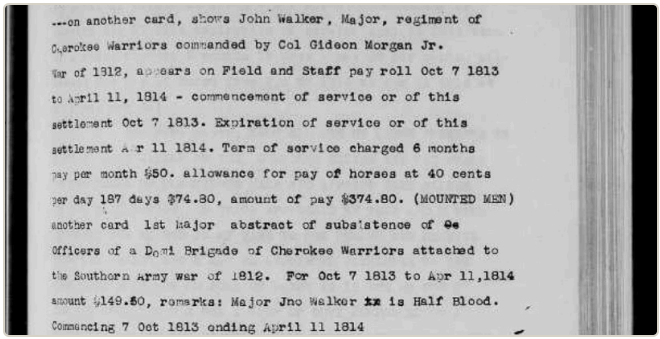
Maj. John Walker and the Creek War

Service	Major, Col. Gideon Morgan Jr.'s Regiment of Cherokee Indians, Creek War, War of 1812
Dates	7 October 1813 to 11 April 1814, mounted
Service file	No. 1410 (National Archives, Record Group 94)
Recorded as	"Half Blood"
Battle	His regiment fought at Horseshoe Bend, 27 March 1814

When the Red Stick Creeks went to war in 1813, the Cherokee Nation sent warriors to fight beside the United States. Major John Walker served as a major in Col. Gideon Morgan Jr.'s regiment of Cherokees, "a Corps of Cherokee Warriors in the service of the U.S.," from 7 October 1813 to 11 April 1814, mounted, at fifty dollars a month. The officers' subsistence abstract adds a remark found nowhere else: "Major Jno Walker is Half Blood." A Cherokee soldier's bounty-land papers of 1852 name "Cap John Walker" as his company commander under Morgan from January to April 1814.

Morgan's Cherokees crossed the Tallapoosa and attacked the Red Stick town from the rear at Horseshoe Bend on 27 March 1814, the battle that ended the Creek War. That falls within the Major's service, though no record yet found places him on the field. In 1816 he gave Gideon and Rufus Morgan his power of attorney to collect his pay, "because I am not a good scribe," and signed by mark.

He had been in the public eye for twenty years. In 1792 Governor William Blount described John Walker and John Fields as "two young half breeds, who have been raised among and by the white people," and called Walker "quite a stripling." After the treaty of 1819 the new McMinn County held its first courts "at the house of Major John Walker," and the town of Calhoun was laid out on his reservation.



...on another card, shows John Walker, Major, regiment of
Cherokee Warriors commanded by Col Gideon Morgan Jr.
War of 1812, appears on Field and Staff pay roll Oct 7 1813
to April 11, 1814 - commencement of service or of this
settlement Oct 7 1813. Expiration of service or of this
settlement Apr 11 1814. Term of service charged 6 months
pay per month $50. allowance for pay of horses at 40 cents
per day 187 days $74.80, amount of pay $374.80. (MOUNTED MEN)
another card 1st Major abstract of subsistence of 9e
Officers of a Detachment Brigade of Cherokee Warriors attached to
the Southern Army war of 1812. For Oct 7 1813 to Apr 11,1814
amount $149.60, remarks: Major Jno Walker xx is Half Blood.
Commencing 7 Oct 1813 ending April 11 1814

Abstract of Major John Walker's War of 1812 service record (file no. 1410): Col. Gideon Morgan Jr.'s Cherokee regiment, 7 October 1813 to 11 April 1814, with the remark "Major Jno Walker is Half Blood."

the time he set out with Watts for war, ate and drank constantly at my table, was treated in the kindest manner, and made the strongest professions of friendship during his stay, and at his departure. His visit had not even the color of business, nor could it be extracted from him what he had seen or heard at Pensacola. It would seem as if he had come as a spy.

It also appears that there were sundry young warriors of the Cherokees along with Watts, besides those who live in the five Lower towns, particularly John Walker and John Fields, two young half breeds, who have been raised among and by the white people, in whom every body who knew them had the utmost confidence. The former is quite a stripling, and apparently the most innocent, good natured youth I ever saw. They were both at the treaty of Holston, and have been repeatedly here since. They acted as the advance, or spies to Watts' party, and killed Gee and Clayton.

The Cherokees say the Creeks have long been boasting that they were men and warriors, but that they proved to be great cowards, and that most of them kept such a distance from the station, that they could hardly shoot a ball to it.

Watts is called Colonel Watts since his return from Pensacola.

KNOXVILLE, *November 5th*, 1792.

More particular information of the warriors of the Cherokees who were with Watts, besides those of the Lower towns, namely:

From Highwassee, 16; Kuihei, 1; Cannasauga, 5; Springstons, 1.

Highwassee lies on the river of that name, forty miles south of Chota, and eighty miles above the Lower towns.

WM. BLOUNT.

Governor William Blount, Knoxville, 5 November 1792: "John Walker and John Fields, two young half breeds, who have been raised among and by the white people."

BY virtue of an execution that issued from the worshipful Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Mc' Minn County, I shall sell, at the house of Major John Walker, (the place of holding court for said County of Mc' Minn) on Monday the 30th day of April next, all the right, title, claim & interest that Templeton W. Ross has to SIX HUNDRED and FORTY

Acres of Land,

lying on Hiwassee River, below and adjoining the tract of Maj John Walker, whereon he now lives, it being the tract reserved to Eliza Ross in Calhoun's treaty with the Cherokees, and known and designated as Ross' Reservation, to satisfy a judgment and ex

Knoxville Register, 20 March 1821: a sheriff's sale "at the house of Major John Walker, (the place of holding court for said County of Mc'Minn)."

THE REVOLUTION, AND EMILY'S FAMILY

Col. Return Jonathan Meigs

Born	17 December 1740, Middletown, Connecticut
1775	Marched with Arnold to Quebec as a major; taken prisoner in the assault on the city
1777	Led the raid on Sag Harbor, Long Island; Congress voted him a sword
1779	Commanded a regiment of Wayne's light infantry at Stony Point
1788	Led the first settlers to Marietta, Ohio
1801–1823	United States agent to the Cherokee, at the agency on the Hiwassee
Died	28 January 1823, at the agency; buried in the Garrison Cemetery, Rhea County

Emily S. Meigs married Jack Walker in Rhea County on 10 January 1824. In January 1835 her cousin R. J. Meigs of Athens, a grandson of Col. Return Jonathan Meigs, wrote to the Secretary of War that Jack's widow was "a grand daughter of Col. Meigs." When she died at Cleveland in January 1888, aged 79, the Knoxville paper called her a daughter of Return Jonathan Meigs and the Chattanooga paper "a sister of Return J. Meigs."

The colonel, born at Middletown, Connecticut, in 1740, marched to Quebec with Arnold in 1775, led the raid on Sag Harbor in 1777, for which Congress voted him a sword, and commanded a regiment at Stony Point. In 1788 he led the first settlers to Marietta, Ohio, and from 1801 until his death in 1823 he was the United States agent to the Cherokee, living at the agency on the Hiwassee beside the Walkers. His son Timothy kept his accounts there: in 1809 the colonel wrote of "my Son Timothy Meigs who is Clerk in my business here." Timothy kept a store at the agency with his wife and "little ones" and died there in 1814 or 1815.

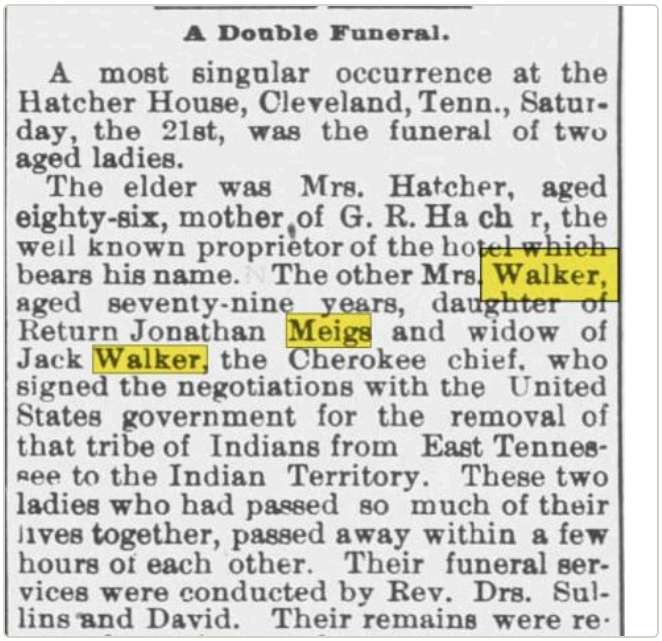
Emily was Timothy's daughter. The colonel's grandson would not have called her his granddaughter if she were his own sister, and the colonel's eldest son, Governor Return J. Meigs Jr. of Ohio, had only one child, a daughter. In June 1817 the Brainerd Mission school entered Grace and Emily Meigs on the same day, each a "White girl, granddaughter of the Agent." In 1906 Emily's nephew Return Robert Meigs, of the Cherokee Nation, swore that his grandparents were Timothy and Elizabeth Meigs and that Emily was one of their children, and in 1907 the children of Emily's sister Betsie Jane (Meigs) Hawk swore that their mother's brothers and sisters were Robert, John, Grace and "Emily Meigs (married Chief Jack Walker)," and that their grandmother "was a Holt." Robert Holt's will of 1821 names "my Daughter Elizabeth Meigs," and in 1836 Elizabeth Meigs gave property to "my Daughter Grace Calloway, late Grace Meigs," whose obituary in 1853 called her a "grand daughter of Col. Return J. Meigs." After Timothy's death his widow and children lived with the colonel at the agency: a letter of about 1819 sends regards "to your Daughter in Law & to your Grand children." Emily's marriage bond of 1824 was given by her cousin J. Meigs Jr. The colonel's estate was settled in McMinn County in 1823, and at the sale at the agency John Walker Jr. was among the buyers.

How the link is proved

No single record names Emily as the daughter of Timothy and Elizabeth (Holt) Meigs. Few records of the 1810s named children at all. The link is proved instead by the Genealogical Proof Standard, set by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and taught by the National Genealogical Society: the standard U.S. genealogists use to prove a relationship that no record states outright. Its five tests are a reasonably exhaustive search, complete citations, analysis and correlation of the evidence, resolution of any conflicts, and a written conclusion.

All five are met. Fifteen independent pieces of evidence agree, and every one points the same way: the Brainerd school roll of 1817; five letters of 1816 to 1821 that place Timothy's widow and children in the colonel's household, one of them naming "Miss Grace Meigs" and "her Grand Papa"; the colonel's own letter of 1818 about taking "Mrs. Meigs & children" to Mr. Holt's; her cousin's letter of 1835; Elizabeth Meigs's deeds of 1836 to two of Emily's sisters and Robert Holt's will of 1821; Grace's obituary of 1853; Emily's place in Grace's household, and Elizabeth's in Betsy Jane's, in 1850; sworn statements from two separate branches of the family in 1906 and 1907; the colonel's other son's family; the family genealogy of 1901; and the DNA. The conflicts, the 1888 notices and the Hawk family's naming of the colonel as their grandfather, repeat a family mix-up between the colonel and his son; the Cherokee Nation branch named Timothy correctly.

The gap, noted: no record from Emily's childhood names her parents outright, so the link rests on the agreement of fifteen independent records rather than on one document, and it is marked on the family tree with a proof mark that explains it. The Rhea County records of 1815 to 1820, requested from the Tennessee State Library and Archives in November 2026, are the last place such a record could be. This assessment was made in this research and has not been reviewed by a certified genealogist.

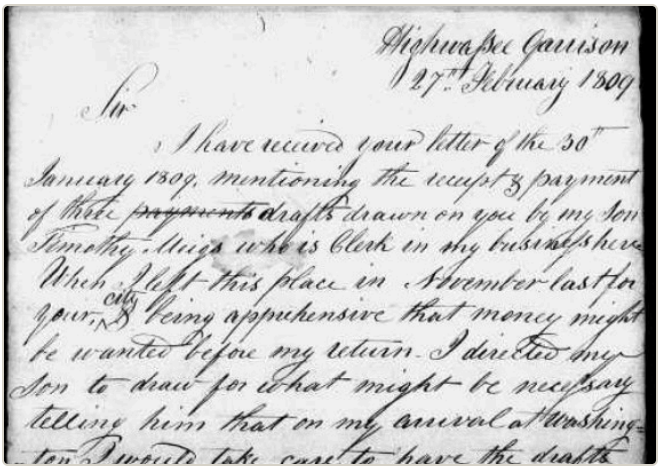


A Double Funeral.

A most singular occurrence at the Hatcher House, Cleveland, Tenn., Saturday, the 21st, was the funeral of two aged ladies.

The elder was Mrs. Hatcher, aged eighty-six, mother of G. R. Ha ch r, the well known proprietor of the hotel which bears his name. The other Mrs. Walker, aged seventy-nine years, daughter of Return Jonathan Meigs and widow of Jack Walker, the Cherokee chief, who signed the negotiations with the United States government for the removal of that tribe of Indians from East Tennessee to the Indian Territory. These two ladies who had passed so much of their lives together, passed away within a few hours of each other. Their funeral services were conducted by Rev. Drs. Sullins and David. Their remains were re-

Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 24 January 1888: "The other Mrs. Walker, aged seventy-nine years, daughter of Return Jonathan Meigs and widow of Jack Walker, the Cherokee chief."

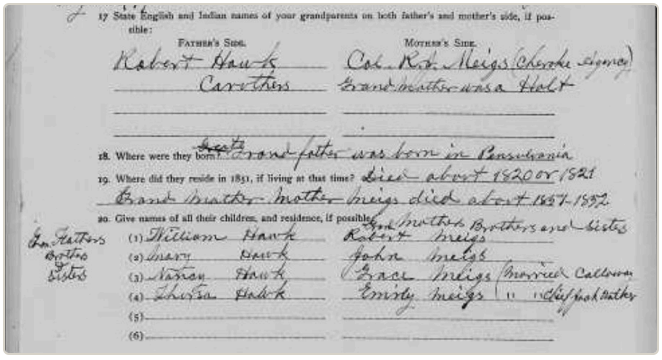


Hiwassee Garrison
27th February 1809

Sir

I have received your letter of the 30th January 1809, mentioning the receipt & payment of three ~~payments~~ drafts drawn on you by my Son Timothy Meigs who is Clerk in my business here. When I left this place in November last for your City being apprehensive that money might be wanted before my return I directed my Son to draw for what might be necessary telling him that on my arrival at Washington I would take care to have the drafts

Return J. Meigs, Hiwassee Garrison, 27 February 1809: "drafts drawn on you by my Son Timothy Meigs who is Clerk in my business here."



17 State English and Indian names of your grandparents on both father's and mother's side, if possible:

	Father's Side.	Mother's Side.
	Robert Hawk	Col. R. J. Meigs (Cherokee Agency)
	Carrithers	Grandmother was a Holt

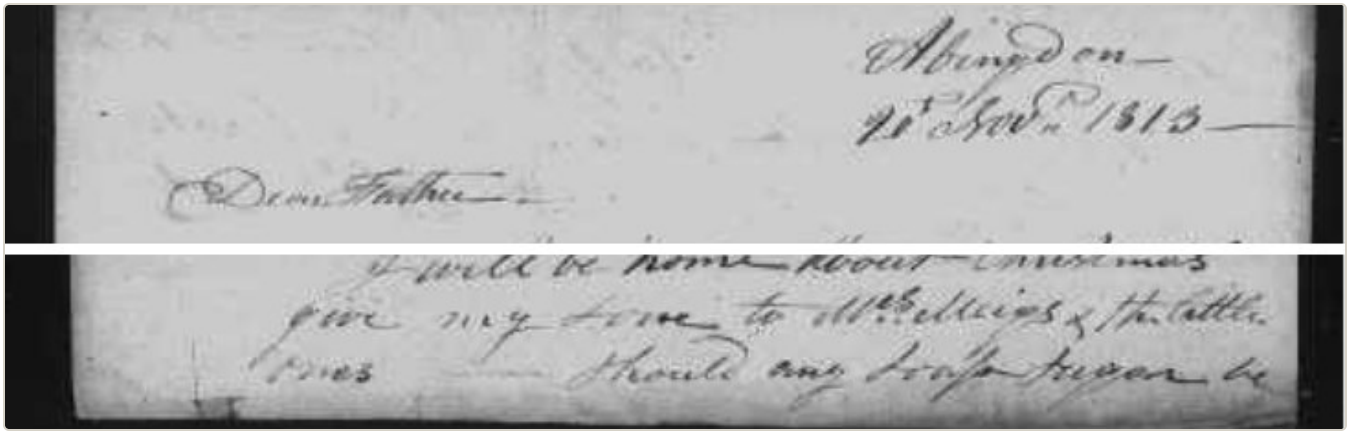
18. Where were they born? Grandfather was born in Pennsylvania

19. Where did they reside in 1851, if living at that time? Lived about 1820 or 1821
Grandmother Meigs died about 1857-1852

20. Give names of all their children, and residence, if possible.

	Father's Brothers and Sisters	Mother's Brothers and Sisters
(1)	William Hawk	Robert Meigs
(2)	Mary Hawk	John Meigs
(3)	Nancy Hawk	Grace Meigs (married Calhoun)
(4)	Louisa Holt	Emily Meigs (married Chief Jack Walker)
(5)		
(6)		

Eastern Cherokee application of Madison A. Brewer, 1907: grandparents "Col. R. J. Meigs (Cherokee Agency)" and a Holt; her mother's brothers and sisters include "Emily Meigs (married Chief Jack Walker)."

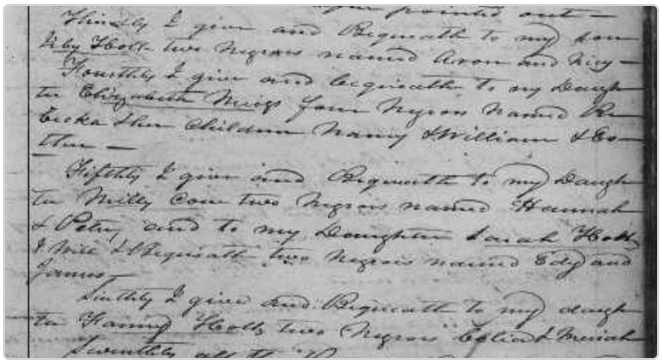


Abingdon
20th Nov. 1813

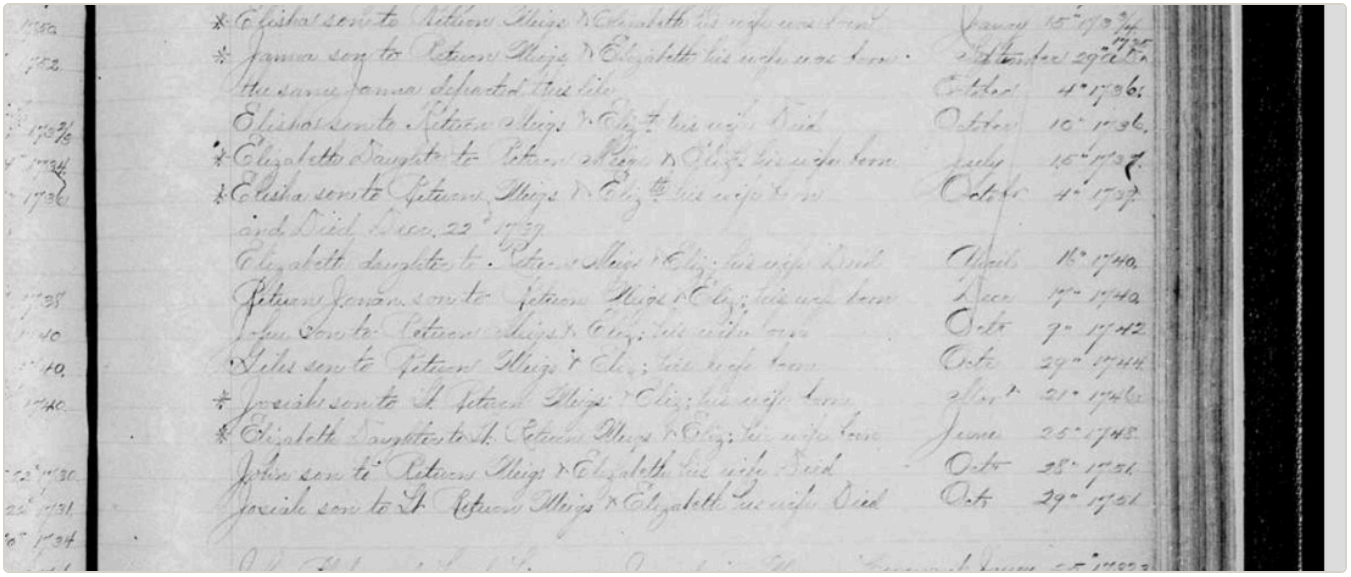
Dear Father

I will be home about Christmas
give my love to Mrs Meigs & the little ones
Yours
should any troops happen to be

Timothy Meigs to his father, Abingdon, 20 November 1813: "Dear Father … give my love to Mrs Meigs & the little ones."



Will of Robert Holt, Knox County, recorded 1821: “to my Daughter Elizabeth Meigs four Negroes.”



Middletown, Connecticut, town records: “Return Jonan. son to Return Meigs & Eliz: his wife born Decr 17th 1740.”

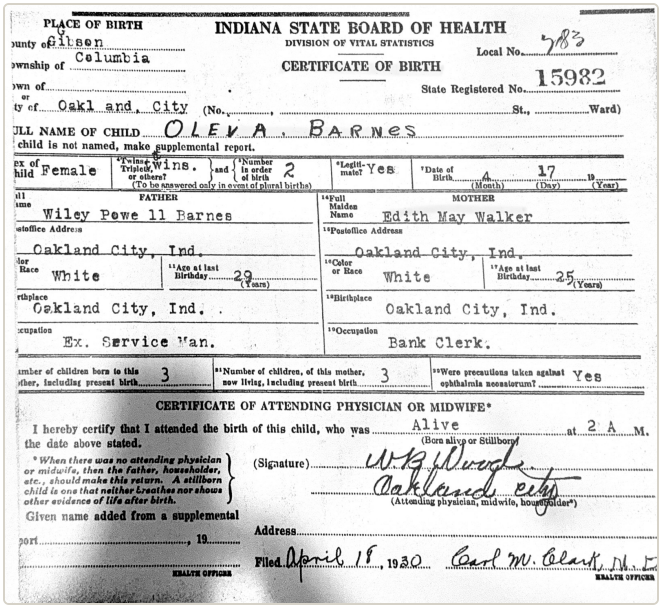
HOW WE KNOW

The proof, link by link

Each step from Memaw Bo back to John Walker Jr.'s parents rests on records made at the time; the last step, to Katy and Nancy Ward, does not yet.

1 Memaw Bo to her father, Wiley Powell Barnes

Memaw Bo's Indiana birth certificate, filed at Oakland City on 18 April 1930, names her parents as Wiley Powell Barnes and Edith May Walker.



PLACE OF BIRTH — INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH — DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS — CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

County of Gibson — Township of Columbia — Town of — or City of Oakland City (No. , St., Ward) — Local No. 783 — State Registered No. 15982

FULL NAME OF CHILD: OLEV A. BARNES (If child is not named, make supplemental report.)

Sex of Child: Female — Twin, Triplet, or other? Twins. — Number in order of birth: 2 — Legitimate? Yes — Date of Birth: 4 (Month) 17 (Day) 1930 (Year)

FATHER	MOTHER
Full Name: Wiley Powell Barnes	Full Maiden Name: Edith May Walker
Postoffice Address: Oakland City, Ind.	Postoffice Address: Oakland City, Ind.
Color or Race: White	Color or Race: White
Age at last Birthday: 29 (Years)	Age at last Birthday: 25 (Years)
Birthplace: Oakland City, Ind.	Birthplace: Oakland City, Ind.
Occupation: Ex. Service Man.	Occupation: Bank Clerk.

Number of children born to this mother, including present birth: 3 — Number of children, of this mother, now living, including present birth: 3 — Were precautions taken against ophthalmia neonatorum? Yes

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was Alive (Born alive or Stillborn) at 2 A M. the date above stated.

* When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.

(Signature) W. B. Powell — Oakland City (Attending physician, midwife, householder*)

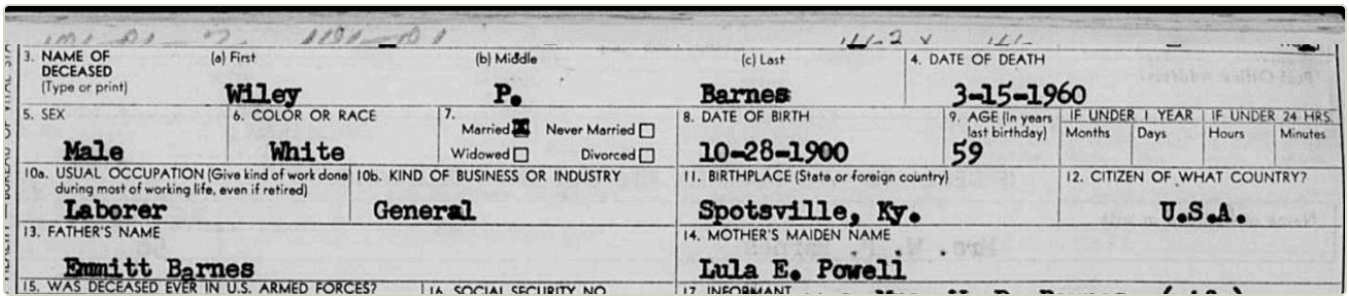
Given name added from a supplemental report, 19 — Address

Filed April 18, 1930 — Earl W. Clark, M.D. — HEALTH OFFICER

Memaw Bo's birth certificate, Oakland City, Indiana, 1930: father Wiley Powell Barnes; mother Edith May Walker.

2 Wiley to his mother, Lula Powell Barnes

Wiley was born at Spottsville, Kentucky, on 28 October 1900, before Kentucky issued birth certificates. His Texas death certificate of 1960 names his father as Emmitt Barnes and his mother as Lula E. Powell. Lula's own sworn application to the Court of Claims in 1907 lists her children living in 1906 as Gilley Wilson Barnes, 18, George Washington Barnes, 13, and "Wiley Powell Barnes," 6, born October 28. The 1910 census lists Wiley, 9, as the son of Emmet and Lula Barnes at Winslow, Indiana, and his 1923 marriage record in Pike County, Indiana, names his parents as Emmett Barnes and Lula Powell.



3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print)	(a) First	(b) Middle	(c) Last	4. DATE OF DEATH
	Wiley	P.	Barnes	3-15-1960

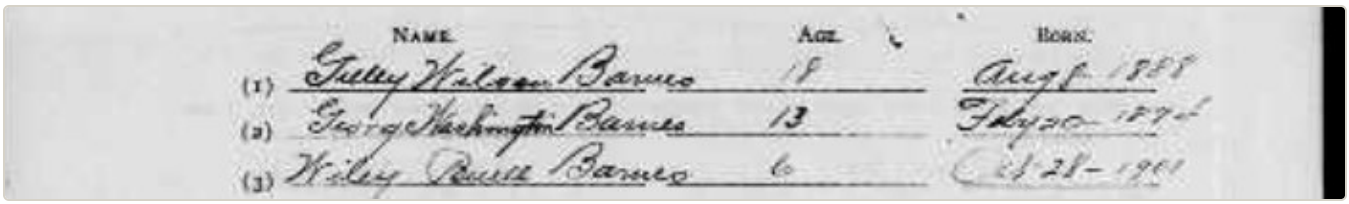
5. SEX	6. COLOR OR RACE	7.	8. DATE OF BIRTH	9. AGE (In years last birthday)	IF UNDER 1 YEAR		IF UNDER 24 HRS	
					Months	Days	Hours	Minutes
Male	White	Married ☒ Never Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐	10-28-1900	59				

10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)	10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)	12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY?
Laborer	General	Spotsville, Ky.	U.S.A.

13. FATHER'S NAME	14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
Emmitt Barnes	Lula E. Powell

15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? | 16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. | 17. INFORMANT

Wiley P. Barnes's death certificate, Houston, Texas, 15 March 1960: born 10-28-1900 at Spotsville, Kentucky; father Emmitt Barnes; mother's maiden name Lula E. Powell.

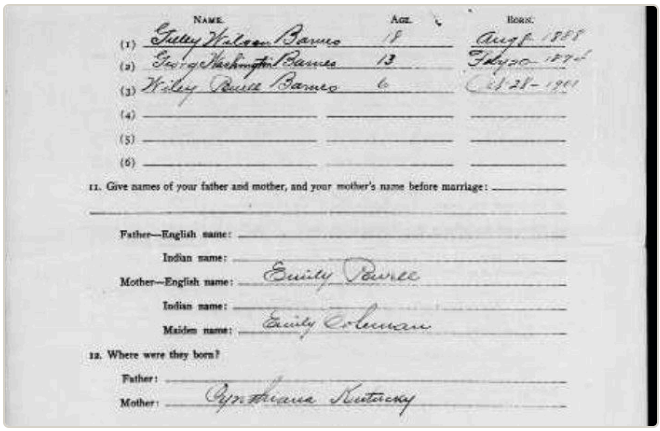


	NAME.	AGE.	BORN.
(1)	Gilley Wilson Barnes	18	Augt 1888
(2)	Geo Washington Barnes	13	Tokyo 1894
(3)	Wiley Powell Barnes	6	Oct 28-1901

Lula E. Barnes's application, 1907: her children Gilley Wilson Barnes, 18, George Washington Barnes, 13, and Wiley Powell Barnes, 6, born October 28.

3 Lula to her mother, Mary Emily Coleman

Lula's sworn Cherokee application of 1907 names her mother as Emily Powell, born Emily Coleman at Cynthiana, Kentucky, who died on 24 September 1877. The Muhlenberg County death register lists Mary E. Powell, died that day, daughter of "J & M E Coleman." Lula's 1951 death certificate names her mother as Emma Coleman and her father as Wyle Powell, and the 1880 census lists "Lulia," 9, as W. B. Powell's daughter.



	NAME.	AGE.	BORN.
(1)	Gilley Wilson Barnes	18	Augt 1888
(2)	Geo Washington Barnes	13	Tokyo 1894
(3)	Wiley Powell Barnes	6	Oct 28-1901
(4)			
(5)			
(6)			

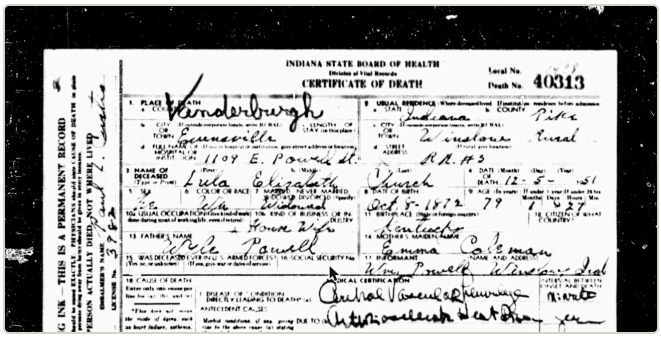
11. Give names of your father and mother, and your mother's name before marriage:

Father—English name:
Indian name:
Mother—English name: Emily Powell
Indian name:
Maiden name: Emily Coleman

12. Where were they born?

Father:
Mother: Cynthiana Kentucky

Lula's application, 1907: her mother Emily Powell, maiden name Emily Coleman, born at Cynthiana, Kentucky.



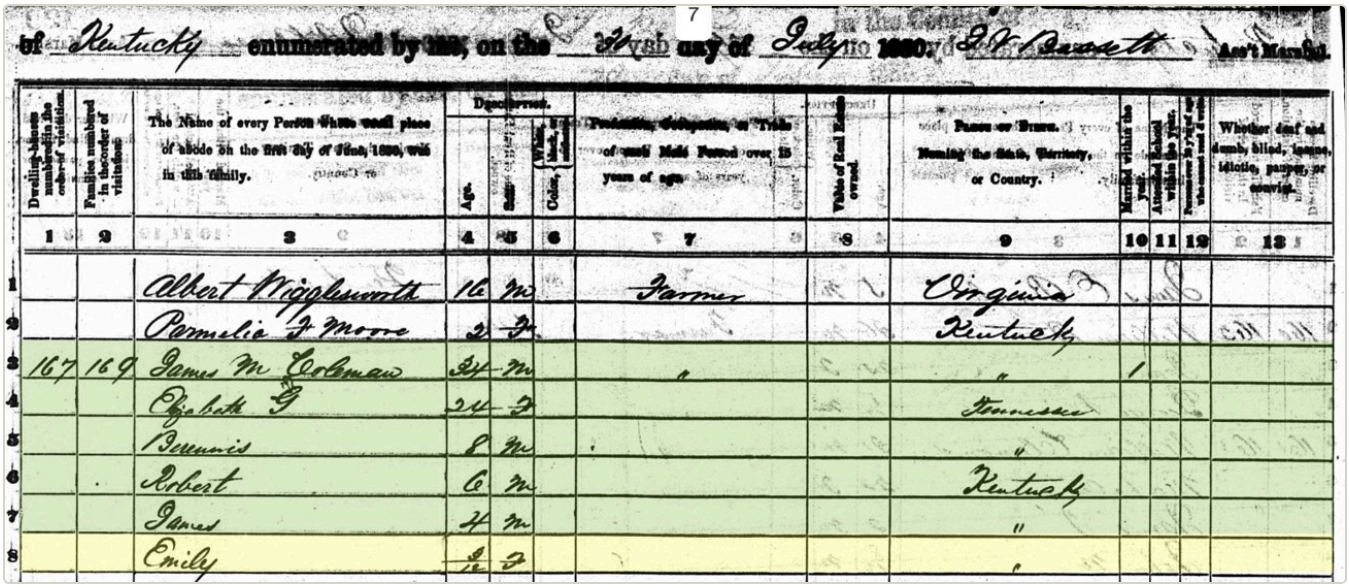
INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Local No.
Death No. 40313

1. PLACE OF DEATH: Henderson
2. USUAL RESIDENCE: Indiana, Pike, Evansville, Winslow, 1109 E. Powell St., R.R. #3
3. NAME OF DECEASED: Lula Elizabeth Powell
4. SEX: Fem
5. COLOR OR RACE: White
6. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED: Widowed
7. DATE OF BIRTH: Oct 5-1872
8. AGE: 79 Y 1 M 27 D
9. BIRTHPLACE: Kentucky
10. USUAL OCCUPATION: Home Duties
11. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY:
12. FATHER'S NAME: Wyle Powell
13. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: Emma Coleman
14. INFORMANT: Mrs. Powell Wife
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES?
16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec 5-1951 to Dec 5-1951, that I last saw her alive on Dec 5-1951, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 1:00 A.M.
Cause of death: Cerebral Vascular Hemorrhage
Contributory (secondary but not related to cause given in item 17): Hypertension
Duration: Unknown
Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?
Date of injury:
Where did injury occur?
How did injury occur?
Was injury accidental, suicidal or homicidal?
Was coroner notified?
Was autopsy performed?
Were findings considered in determining cause of death?
Signature and address of physician: Chas. Vaucle Evansville Ind
Date signed: Dec 5-1951
Burial, cremation or removal: Burial
Date: Dec 7-1951
Undertaker: Hoffmeister
Address: Evansville Ind

Lula's death certificate, Evansville, Indiana, 1951: father Wyle Powell; mother Emma Coleman.

4 Mary Emily to her mother, Elizabeth G. Walker Coleman

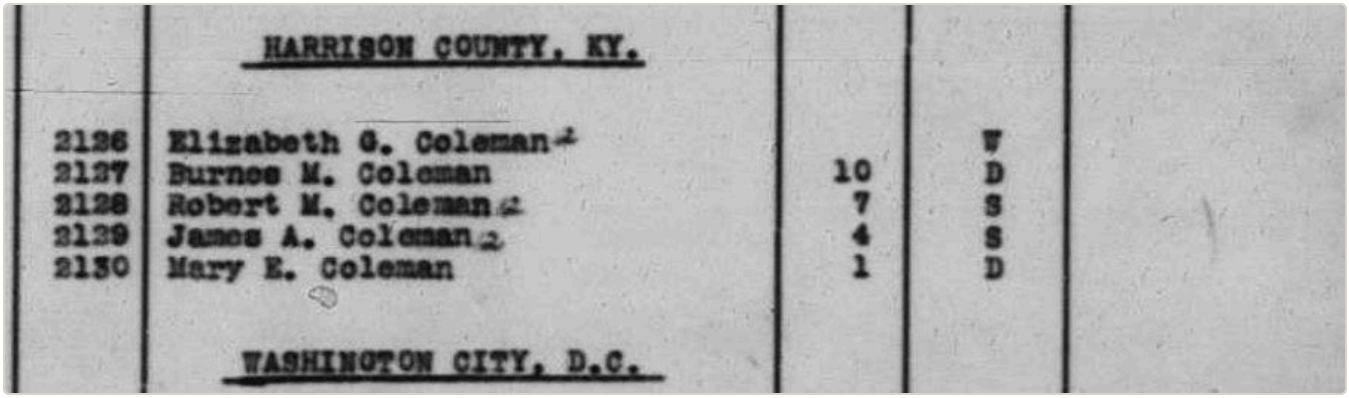
The 1850 census of Harrison County, Kentucky, lists the infant Emily in the household of James M. and Elizabeth G. Coleman. On 14 August 1851 James and Elizabeth swore before the Harrison County judge that their children were Berenice, Robert, James and "Mary E Coleman who was born the 11th of April 1850," and the 1851 Cherokee roll lists Elizabeth with those four children, the last "Mary E. Coleman, 1." In May 1852 Elizabeth received the Cherokee payment for herself and the four children, and in 1896 her other children swore that she was their mother.



of Kentucky enumerated by me, on the 30th day of July, 1850. D. P. Demaree, Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in the order of visitation	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age	Sex	Color (White, Black, or Mulatto)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age	Value of Real Estate owned	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country	Married within the year	Attended School within the year	Person over 20 years of age who cannot read and write	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Albert Wigglesworth	16	M		Farmer		Virginia				
		Pamelia J. Moore	2	F				Kentucky				
167	169	James M. Coleman	34	M		"		"	1			
		Elizabeth G.	24	F				Tennessee				
		Burnis	8	M				"				
		Robert	6	M				Kentucky				
		James	4	M				"				
		Emily	1	F				"				

1850 census, Harrison County, Kentucky: James M. Coleman, 34; Elizabeth G., 24, born Tennessee; and their children, the youngest the infant Emily.



HARRISON COUNTY, KY.

2126	Elizabeth G. Coleman			W
2127	Burnes M. Coleman		10	D
2128	Robert M. Coleman		7	S
2129	James A. Coleman		4	S
2130	Mary E. Coleman		1	D

WASHINGTON CITY, D.C.

The 1851 Cherokee roll (typed copy), Harrison County, Kentucky: Elizabeth G. Coleman and her children, the last "Mary E. Coleman, 1."

5 Elizabeth to her father, John Walker Jr., and her mother, Emily

This is the link the family story rested on, and it is now proved many times over, by records made by different hands over seventy years:

His will, 1830. "It is my wish that my children Timothy, Elizabeth and Jane have a Liberal English Education." Recorded in McMinn County, Tennessee, in December 1834.

The county court, 1837. William Lowry appointed guardian to "Timothy M. Walker, Elizabeth Grace Walker, Minerva Jane and John O. Walker, minor orphans of John Walker Jur."

The federal government, 1838 and 1841. Paid $511.25 to Lowry for each minor heir, "John, Timothy, Elizabeth and Jane." In April 1841 James M. Coleman wrote to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that he had married "Elizabeth J. Walker, daughter of John Walker Jr. deceased, late a Cherokee."

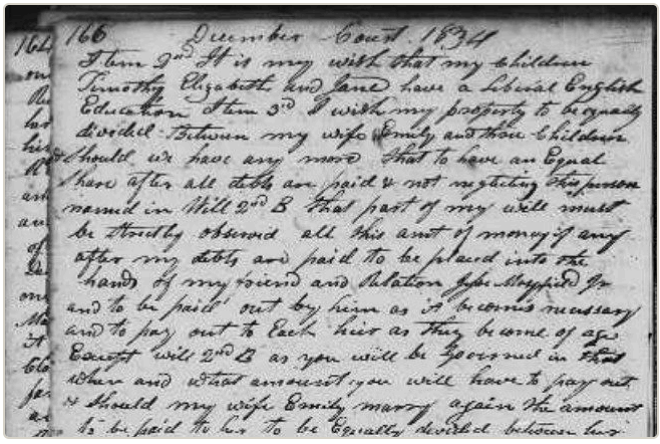
The marriage and the estate, 1840–1845. McMinn County issued a licence on 29 October 1840 for James M. Coleman to marry "Miss Elizabeth G. Walker," and her father's executor paid "James M Coleman & wife" in 1841 and 1845.

Her own oath, 1851. At Cynthiana on 14 August 1851 she and her husband swore before the presiding judge of the Harrison County Court that she was "the daughter of Major Jack Walker dec'd and the grand daughter of Major John Walker Senr." The federal agent filed their affidavit with his 1851 roll, and in 1852 the government paid her $464.75 "in her own right and as the guardian of her four Children."

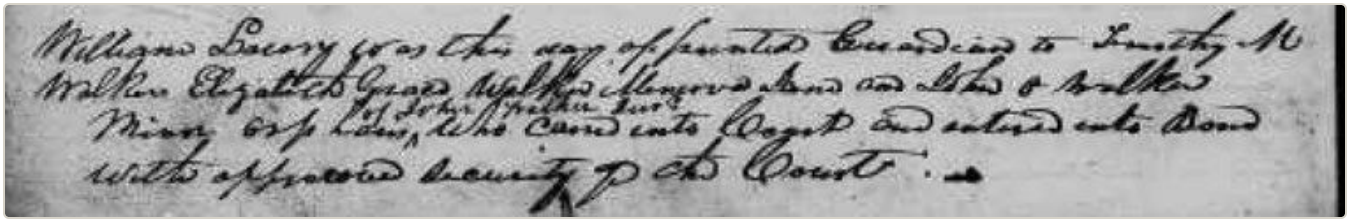
The roll of 1884. Elizabeth G. Smith, 56, of Nolensville, listed as the daughter of "Emily & Jack Walker," with Emily Walker, widow of Jack Walker, aged 74, on the line above.

Her children and grandchildren, 1906–1907. In their Eastern Cherokee applications her son James A. Coleman, her daughters Berenice Wade, Lorella Smith and Nora Fortner, and four grandchildren swore that Elizabeth Grace Walker was the daughter of John (Jack) Walker and Emily Walker. Two grandchildren of her brother Timothy, filing separately, swore to the same grandparents and named Elizabeth as Timothy's sister. Nora, writing "from family records in my possession," gave John Walker's death in 1834 and her mother's two marriages.

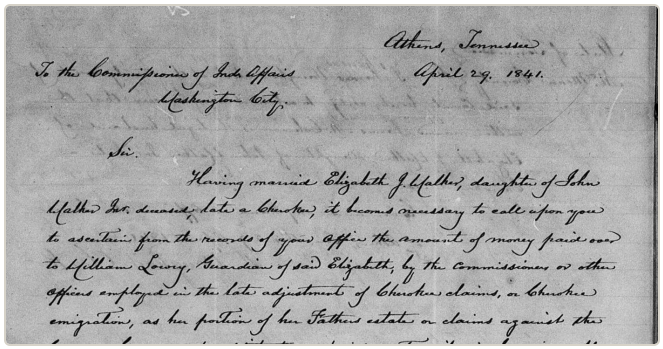
Her own oath, 1896. At Fort Gibson she swore that she was "a daughter of John Walker Jr. who was a Cherokee." Her children swore to the same, and Mary J. Ross, widow of the Cherokee principal chief William P. Ross, swore that she was "the daughter of Emily S. Walker whose maiden name was Meigs." Her Dawes card of 1900 names her father as John Walker, Cherokee, and her mother as Emily Walker, not a citizen.


166 December Court 1834
I Item 2nd It is my will that my children
Timothy Elizabeth and Jane have a Liberal English
Education Item 3rd I wish my property to be equally
divided between my wife Emily and those children
Should we have any more that to have an Equal
share after all debts are paid & not neglecting the person
named in Will 2nd B that part of my will must
be strictly observed all the amt of money if any
after my debts are paid to be placed into the
hands of my friend and Relation John Mayfield Jr
and to be paid out by him as it becomes necessary
and to pay out to Each heir as they become of age
Except will 2nd B as you will be governed in that
when and what amount you will have to pay out
& Should my wife Emily marry again the amount
to be paid to her to be Equally divided between her

John Walker Jr.'s will, recorded December 1834: "my children Timothy, Elizabeth and Jane."


Williams Lacey [illegible] as this day appointed Guardian to Timothy M
Walker Elizabeth Grace Walker Minerva Jane and John O Walker
Minor Orphan Heirs, who came into Court and entered into Bond
with approved security &c &c Court.

McMinn County court, 6 November 1837: guardian appointed for "Timothy M. Walker, Elizabeth Grace Walker, Minerva Jane and John O. Walker, minor orphans of John Walker Jur."



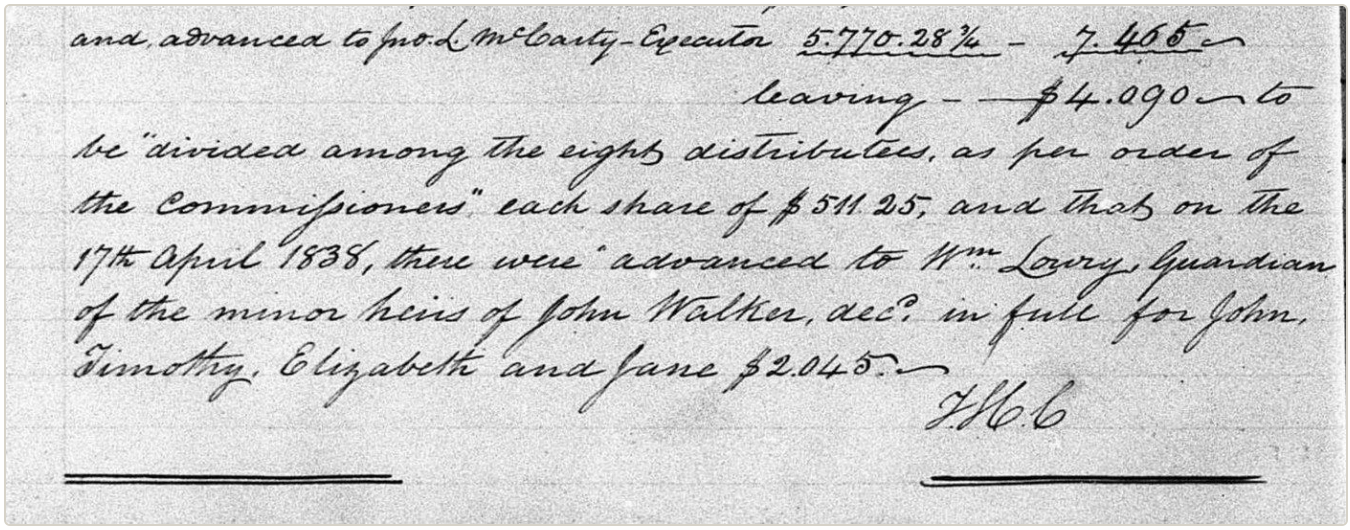
Athens, Tennessee
April 29. 1841.

To the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington City.

Sir.

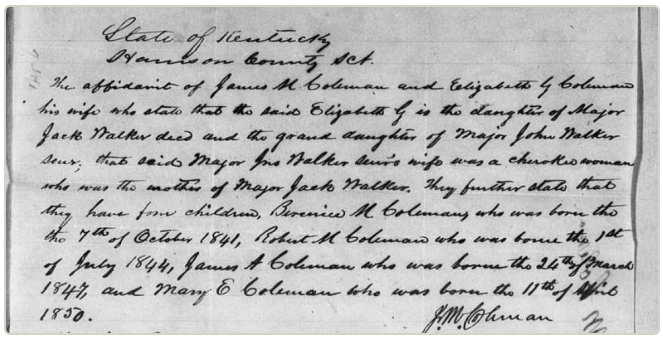
Having married Elizabeth J. Walker daughter of John Walker Jr. deceased late a Cherokee, it becomes necessary to call upon you to ascertain from the records of your office the amount of money paid over to William Lowry, Guardian of said Elizabeth, by the commissioners or other officers employed in the late adjustment of Cherokee claims, or Cherokee emigration, as her portion of her Fathers estate or claims against the

James M. Coleman to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 29 April 1841: "Having married Elizabeth J. Walker, daughter of John Walker Jr. deceased, late a Cherokee."



and advanced to Jno. L. McCarty - Executor 5.770.28¾ - 7.465 -
leaving - - $4.090 - to
be "divided among the eight distributees, as per order of
the Commissioners" each share of $511.25, and that on the
17th April 1838, there were advanced to Wm. Lowry, Guardian
of the minor heirs of John Walker, decd. in full for John,
Timothy, Elizabeth and Jane $2.045 -
J.H.C

The reply, 13 May 1841: paid to the guardian "of the minor heirs of John Walker, decd. in full for John, Timothy, Elizabeth and Jane."

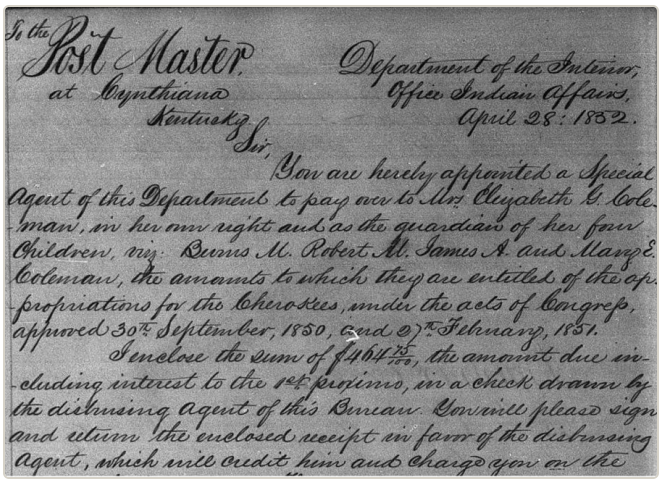


State of Kentucky
Hardin County Sct.

The affidavit of James M. Coleman and Elizabeth G. Coleman his wife who states that the said Elizabeth G. is the daughter of Major Jack Walker decd and the grand daughter of Major John Walker Senr; that said Major Jno Walker Senr's wife was a cherokee woman who was the mother of Major Jack Walker. They further states that they have four children, Berenice M. Coleman who was born the the 7th of October 1841, Robert M. Coleman who was borne the 1st of July 1844, James A. Coleman who was borne the 26th of March 1847, and Mary E. Coleman who was borne the 11th of April 1850.

J.M. Coleman

James M. and Elizabeth G. Coleman's affidavit, sworn at Cynthiana, Kentucky, 14 August 1851: Elizabeth "is the daughter of Major Jack Walker dec'd and the grand daughter of Major John Walker Senr," whose wife "was a Cherokee woman who was the mother of Major Jack Walker"; their children Berenice, Robert, James and Mary E., "born the 11th of April 1850."



To the Post Master
at Cynthiana
Kentucky

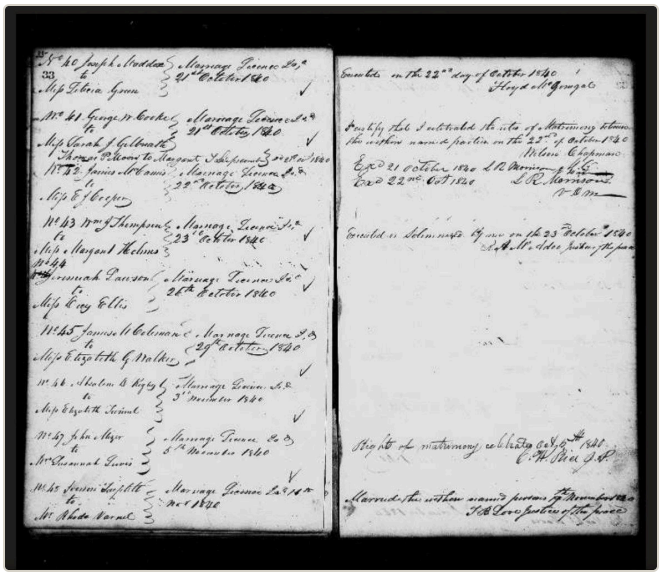
Department of the Interior,
Office Indian Affairs,
April 28: 1852.

Sir,

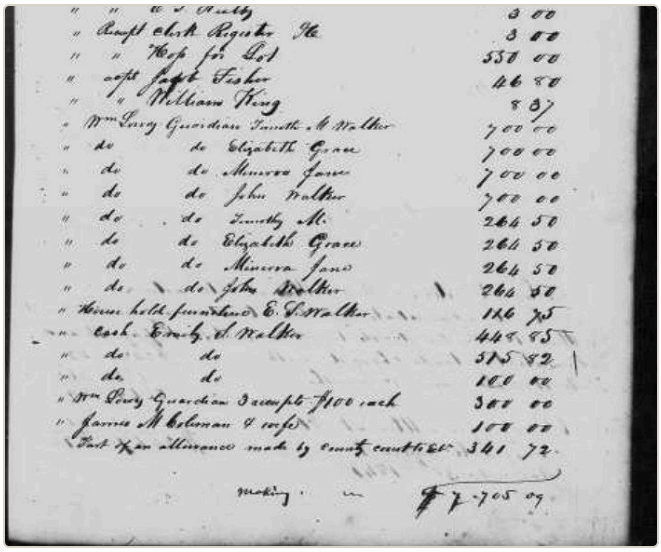
You are hereby appointed a Special Agent of this Department to pay over to Mrs. Elizabeth G. Coleman, in her own right and as the guardian of her four Children, viz: Berns M. Robert M. James A. and Mary E. Coleman, the amounts to which they are entitled of the appropriations for the Cherokees, under the acts of Congress, approved 30th September, 1850, and 27th February, 1851.

I enclose the sum of $464.75/100, the amount due including interest to the 1st proximo, in a check drawn by the disbursing agent of this Bureau. You will please sign and return the enclosed receipt in favor of the disbursing agent, which will credit him and charge you on the

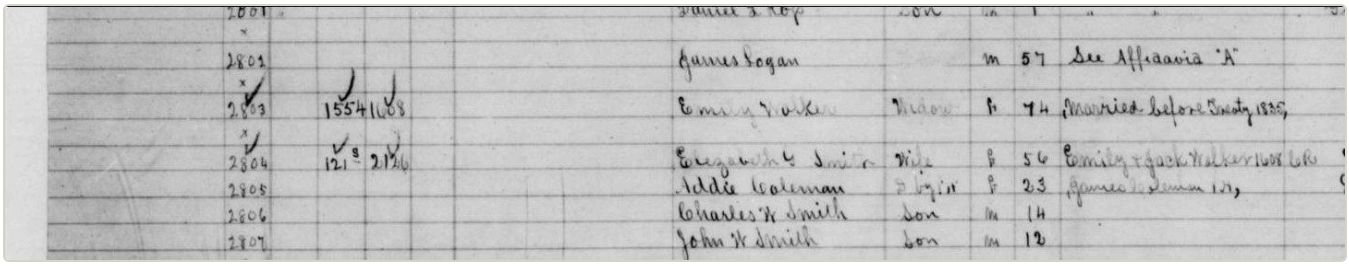
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs to the postmaster at Cynthiana, 28 April 1852: appointed to pay "Mrs. Elizabeth G. Coleman, in her own right and as the guardian of her four Children," enclosing $464.75.



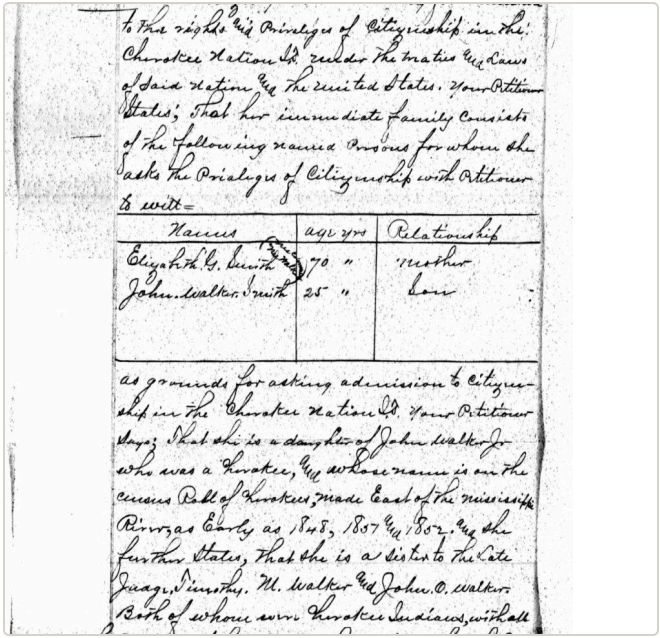
McMinn County marriage register, no. 45: "James M Coleman to Miss Elizabeth G. Walker," 29 October 1840.



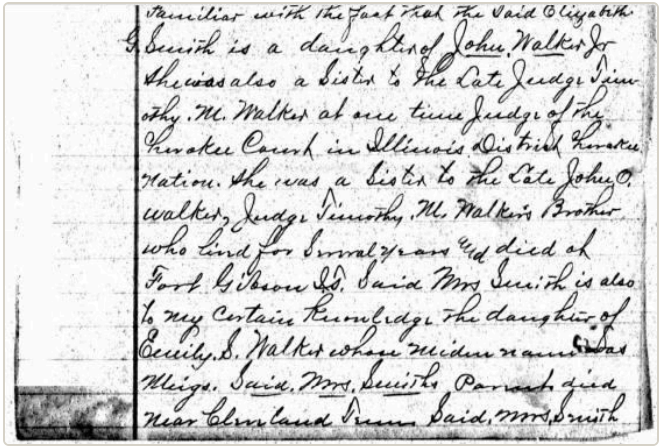
The executor's account, 1841: payments for Elizabeth Grace and her brothers and sister, to Emily S. Walker, and to "James M Coleman & wife."



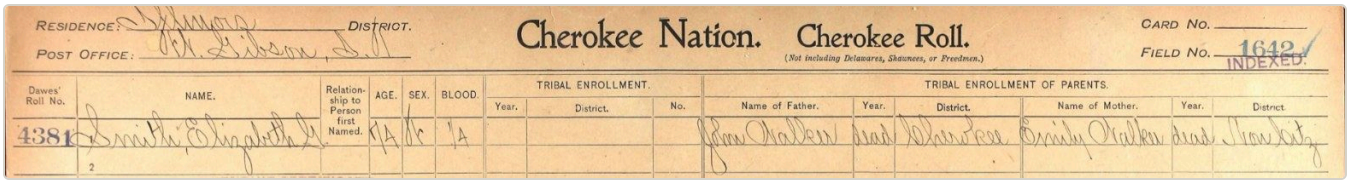
The 1884 Cherokee roll: 2803 Emily Walker, widow, 74; 2804 Elizabeth G. Smith, 56, daughter of "Emily & Jack Walker."



Elizabeth's application, Fort Gibson, 1896: "That she is a daughter of John Walker Jr. who was a Cherokee."



Mary J. Ross's affidavit, 1896: "the daughter of Emily S. Walker whose maiden name was Meigs."



RESIDENCE: _____ DISTRICT.
POST OFFICE: Ft. Gibson, I.T.

Cherokee Nation. Cherokee Roll.
(Not including Delawares, Shawnees, or Freedmen.)

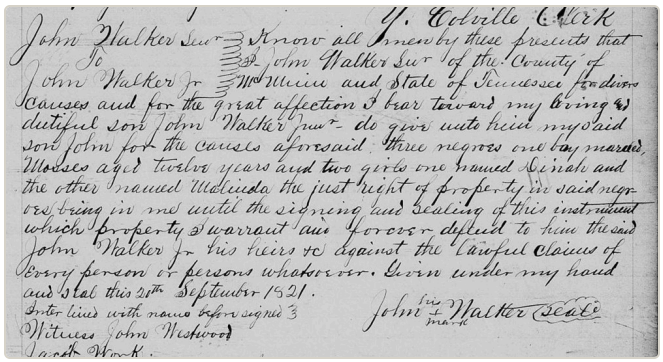
CARD NO. _____
FIELD NO. 1642 INDEXED.

Dawes' Roll No.	NAME.	Relationship to Person first Named.	AGE.	SEX.	BLOOD.	TRIBAL ENROLLMENT. Year.	District.	No.	TRIBAL ENROLLMENT OF PARENTS. Name of Father.	Year.	District.	Name of Mother.	Year.	District.
4381	Smith, Elizabeth J.		1/4	F	1/4				John Walker	dead	Cherokee	Emily Walker	dead	Not Citz

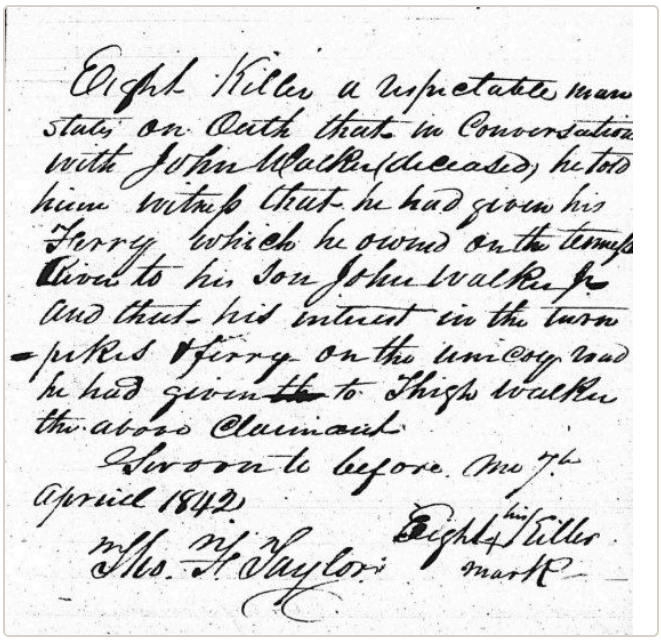
Elizabeth's Dawes card, Cherokee by blood, roll no. 4381: one quarter; father John Walker, Cherokee; mother Emily Walker, not a citizen.

6 John Walker Jr. to his father, Major John Walker

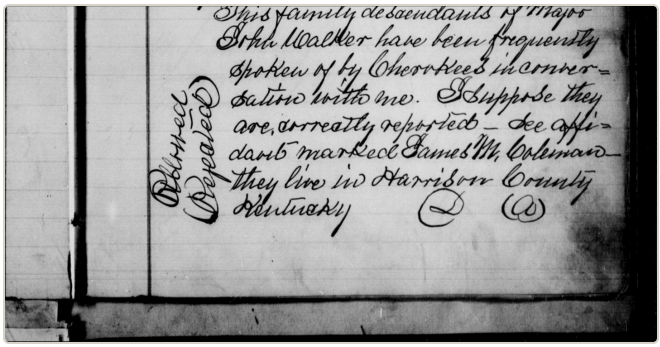
On 20 September 1821 "John Walker Senr of the County of McMinn" gave three enslaved children, Moses, Dinah and Malinda, "for the great affection I bear toward my loving and dutiful son John Walker Junr," by a deed of gift he signed with his mark. On 7 April 1842 a Cherokee named Eight Killer swore that Major John Walker had told him "that he had given his Ferry which he owned on the Tennessee River to his Son John Walker Jr." The treaty of 1819 lists reservations for both John Walker Senior and John Walker Junior. In 1851 Jack's daughter Elizabeth swore that she was "the daughter of Major Jack Walker dec'd and the grand daughter of Major John Walker Senr," and the federal agent who enrolled her called the family "descendants of Major John Walker," who "have been frequently spoken of by Cherokees in conversation with me."



John Walker Senior's deed of gift, McMinn County, Tennessee, 20 September 1821, "for the great affection I bear toward my loving and dutiful son John Walker Junr," signed with his mark.



Eight Killer's sworn statement, 7 April 1842: Major John Walker gave his ferry "to his Son John Walker Jr."



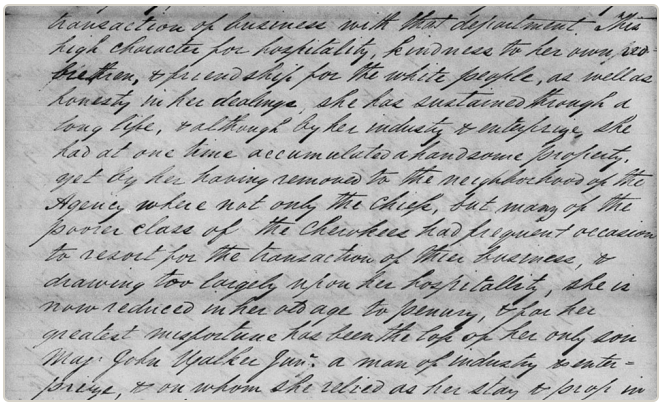
The 1851 roll, on Elizabeth G. Coleman's family: "This family descendants of Major John Walker have been frequently spoken of by Cherokees in conversation with me."

7 John Walker Jr. to his mother, Elizabeth (Betsy) Lowrey

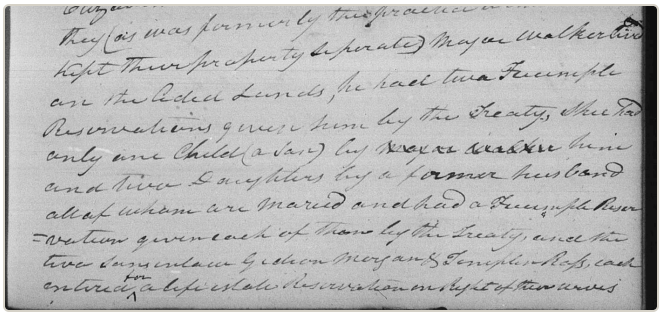
On 15 February 1839 the three federal commissioners at the Cherokee agency wrote to Washington about a claim of "Elizabeth Walker, widow of the late Maj. John Walker, Senr.," for feeding chiefs and poorer Cherokees at her house beside the agency. Now "reduced in her old age to penury," they wrote, "her greatest misfortune has been the loss of her only son Majr. John Walker Junr. a man of industry & enterprize, & on whom she relied as her stay & prop in old age, who fell a victim to his efforts in inducing his brethren to cede their Territory East of the Mississippi." That is Jack Walker, killed in 1834 for supporting removal.

The Cherokee agent had written in 1826 that the Major's wife Elizabeth had "only one Child (a son) by Major Walker," and in 1827 that Col. George Lowrey had "but three Sisters Mrs Walker, Sally Lowry & the widow Fallen." In 1851 Jack's daughter Elizabeth Coleman swore that the Major's wife "was a Cherokee woman who was the mother of Major Jack Walker," and in 1906 four of the family's applications, from two branches, named Jack's parents as Major John Walker and Betsy Walker or Lowrey.

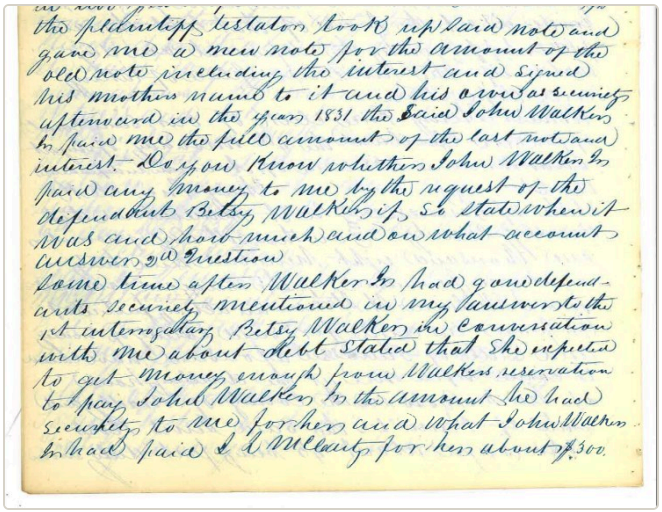
In a suit Jack's executor brought against Betsy, Lewis Ross swore in her presence in November 1838 that Jack had taken up her note and "signed his mothers name to it and his own as security." After Betsy's death in 1839 her son-in-law and administrator, Gideon Morgan, sued Jack's executor in the chancery court at Madisonville. In his sworn bill of 1842 he called Jack "son of your orator's intestate," Betsy Walker, and "she and her son being native Cherokees, tho' he was an educated man." In 1843 a Calhoun merchant, A. R. Turk, testified in the same suit that between 1830 and 1834 "Elizabeth Walker the mother of John Walker Jr." had parted from John Walker Senior.



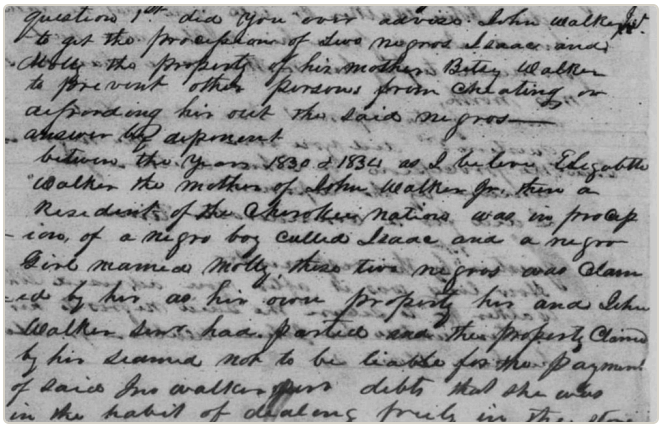
The Cherokee commissioners to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 15 February 1839, on the claim of Elizabeth Walker, widow of Major John Walker Senior: "her greatest misfortune has been the loss of her only son Majr. John Walker Junr."



The Cherokee agent Hugh Montgomery, 1826: Elizabeth Walker, wife of Major Walker, "had only one Child (a son) by Major Walker and two Daughters by a former husband."



Deposition of Lewis Ross, 30 November 1838, with Betsy Walker present: John Walker Jr. "signed his mothers name to it and his own as security."



Deposition of A. R. Turk, Calhoun, 13 November 1843, in Gideon Morgan, administrator of Betsy Walker, against John Walker Jr.'s executor: "Elizabeth Walker the mother of John Walker Jr. then a Resident of the Cherokee nation."

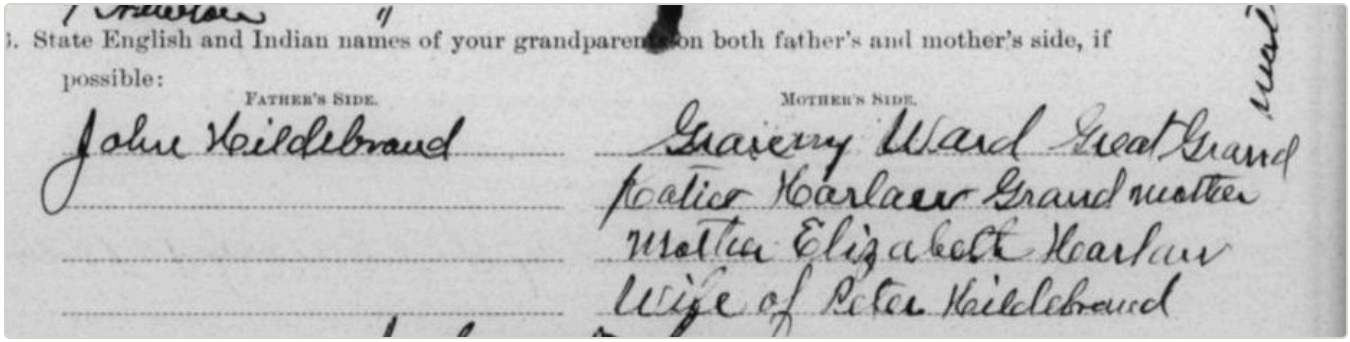
8 Beyond the Major: Katy and Nancy Ward

Published Cherokee genealogies, beginning with Emmet Starr's History of the Cherokee Indians in 1921, make Major John Walker the son of a white trader named John Walker and of Catherine, called Katy, the daughter of Nanye'hi, the Beloved Woman Nancy Ward. Starr gives no source, and every later account repeats him. No record made in the Major's lifetime names his parents. Governor Blount in 1792 and the War Department in 1813–14 called him a "half breed" and "Half Blood," which fits a white father and a Cherokee mother.

The best evidence comes from Katy's grandson John Walker "Jack" Hilderbrand (1818–1910). In his sworn Eastern Cherokee application of 1906 he named his grandmother as "Katie Harlan" and his great-grandmother as "Granny Ward," listing only Katy's Harlan children. In recollections taken down in 1908 he said that Nancy Ward "was the grandmother of old Walker," meaning the Major, and that Jack Walker "was my first cousin." Records of the time tie the families together: Nancy Ward, Caty Harlan, Jenny McIntosh and the Major's wife Elizabeth are named together on the Cherokee women's talk of 1817; Caty Harlan's reservation of 1818 was

entered at Pumpkin Town, where Elizabeth Walker registered hers; and by 1826 Jack Walker had bought Nancy Ward's Mouse Creek reservation.

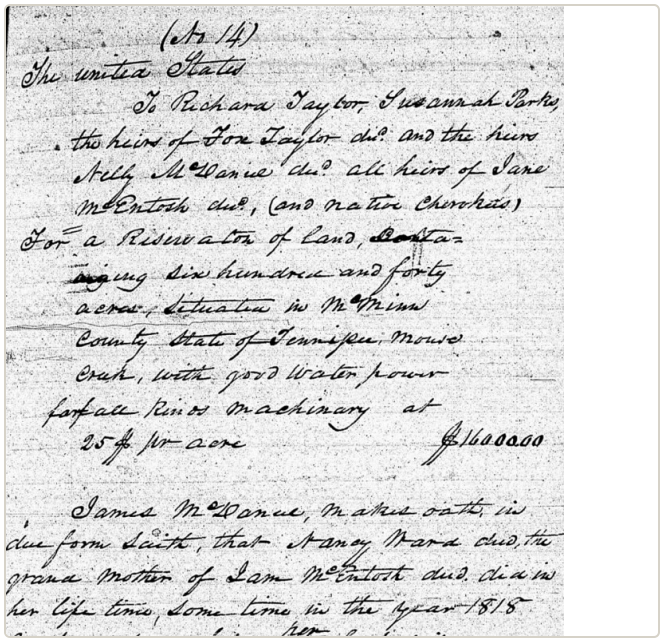
That makes the Major Nancy Ward's grandson and Jack her great-grandson, not her grandson as the state marker says. Because the link rests on a grandson's memory and the published genealogies rather than a record that names the Major's mother, Katy and Nancy Ward are shown on the family tree as possible ancestors, with dashed lines.


State English and Indian names of your grandparents on both father's and mother's side, if possible:

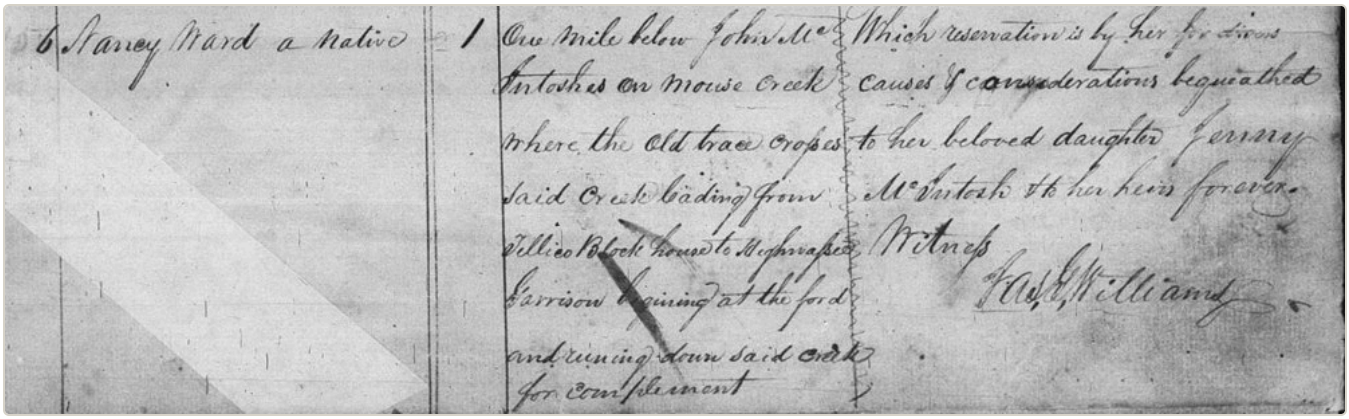
FATHER'S SIDE. John Hildebrand

MOTHER'S SIDE. Granny Ward Great Grand / Katie Harlan Grand mother / Mother Elizabeth Harlan / Wife of Peter Hildebrand

Jack Hilderbrand's sworn Eastern Cherokee application, 1906: his mother's side, "Granny Ward Great Grand mother / Katie Harlan Grand mother / Mother Elizabeth Harlan Wife of Peter Hildebrand."


(No 14)
The united States
To Richard Taylor, Susannah Parks, the heirs of Fox Taylor dec'd and the heirs Polly McDaniel dec'd all heirs of Jane McIntosh dec'd, (and native Cherokees)
For a Reservation of Land, containing six hundred and forty acres, situated in McMinn County State of Tennessee, Mouse Creek, with good Water power for all Kind of machinary at 25 ℔ pr acre $1600.00
James McDaniel, makes oath, in due form saith, that Nancy Ward decd. the grand mother of Jane McIntosh decd. did in her life time, some time in the year 1818

Cherokee claim of 1842, no. 14: James McDaniel swears "that Nancy Ward decd. the grand mother of Jane McIntosh decd. did in her life time, some time in the year 1818 make a will."



6 Nancy Ward a native | 1 | One mile below John McIntoshes on Mouse Creek where the old trace crosses said Creek bading from Willies Block House to Highwassee Garrison beginning at the ford and running down said creek for compliment | Which reservation is by her for divers causes & considerations bequeathed to her beloved daughter Jenny McIntosh & to her heirs forever. Witness Hugh L. Williams

The register of reservations under the treaty of 1817, late 1818: "Nancy Ward a native," one mile below John McIntosh's on Mouse Creek, "bequeathed to her beloved daughter Jenny McIntosh & to her heirs forever."

IF KATY IS PROVED

The Belle Starr connection

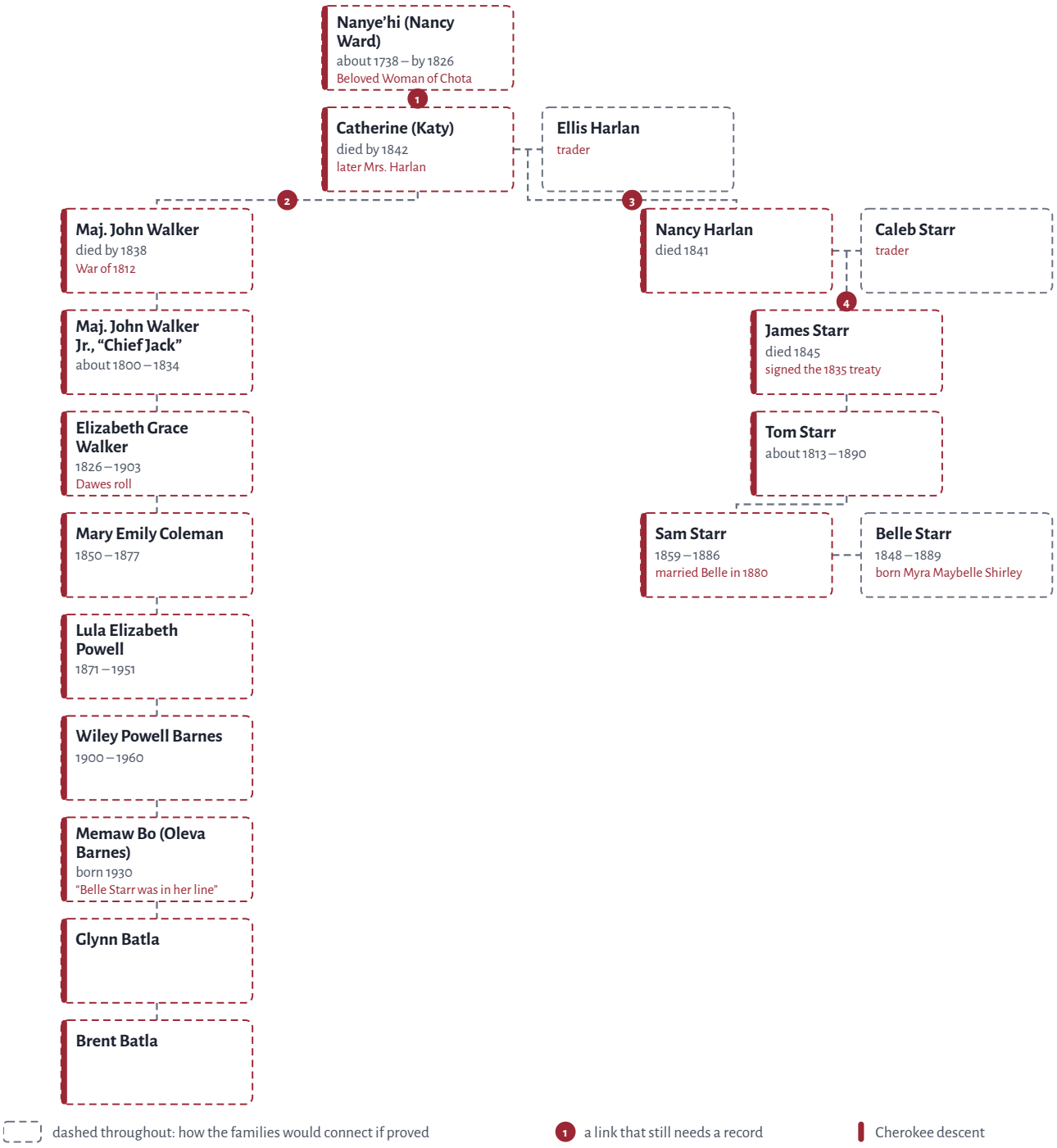
Memaw Bo has always said that Belle Starr, the outlaw newspapers called the Bandit Queen, was in her line. Belle was born Myra Maybelle Shirley in Missouri in 1848 and took the Starr name when she married Sam Starr, a Cherokee, in 1880. They had no children; her son and daughter were by her first husband, Jim Reed. So no one descends from Belle through the Starrs, and Belle was not a blood relation. But Sam Starr's family may be Memaw Bo's own.

Sam was the son of Tom Starr and the grandson of James Starr, who signed the Treaty of New Echota in 1835. The published Starr and Harlan genealogies make James a son of Caleb Starr, a white trader, and Nancy Harlan, a daughter of Ellis Harlan and Katy, and Jack Hilderbrand's sworn application of 1906 lists a Nancy among Katy's Harlan children. If Katy was also Major John Walker's mother, the Major and Nancy Harlan were half-brother and half-sister. Mary Emily Coleman and Sam Starr, born nine years apart, were then half third cousins, Sam was Brent's half third cousin five times removed, and Belle was the wife of that cousin.

The chart shows that connection with every box and line dashed, because it is not proved. The numbered links are the ones that would need a record:

1. Nancy Ward as Katy's mother. Jack Hilderbrand's sworn application of 1906 names "Granny Ward" and "Katie Harlan," and Katy's own deed of 1825 in the Cherokee Supreme Court's record book calls Five Killer, Nancy Ward's son, "my beloved brother"; no record names Nancy Ward herself as Katy's mother.
2. Katy as Major John Walker's mother. Hilderbrand's recollections of 1908, the Major's own claim of 1829 to be Five Killer's heir, the 1826 suit against him and Katy together, the 1799 Moravian visit, and the published genealogies; no record names the Major's mother. The full case, scored against the five tests, is behind the proof mark beside the Major's parents on the family tree.
3. Katy as the mother of the Nancy Harlan who married Caleb Starr. Hilderbrand lists a Nancy among Katy's Harlan children, and the 1825 record gives Katy the Harlan name; that her husband was Ellis Harlan and that Nancy was Caleb Starr's wife come from the published genealogies (Harlan, 1914; Starr, 1921), which is why Ellis is drawn here and not on the main tree.
4. Caleb and Nancy Starr to James, Tom and Sam Starr. Published Starr family history, not yet checked here against records.

From Major John Walker down to Brent, every link is proved by records. Memaw Bo's DNA match list includes about fifteen people whose family trees run through Caleb Starr and Nancy Harlan; but Ancestry's match lists cannot tell whether she shares that DNA through Katy or through other families that intermarried with the Starrs, so the DNA neither proves nor rules out the connection.



1835–1909

On the Cherokee rolls

The government counted the family on its Cherokee rolls for seventy-five years.

YEAR	RECORD	WHAT IT SHOWS
1835	Cherokee census (Henderson roll), McMinn County	Emily Walker heads a household on Mouse Creek: four children, counted as one quarter Cherokee and descendants of a reservee.
1838	Cherokee commissioners	$511.25 paid for each of Jack Walker's four minor children.
1843	Roll of families enrolled to emigrate west	Emily S. Walker, "widow of Jack Walker," and on the next line J. M. Coleman, "White, Cherokee Wife."
1851	Siler roll of Eastern Cherokees	Elizabeth G. Coleman and four children, "descendants of Major John Walker," allowed; Emily Walker, widow, in Bradley County.
1852	Chapman payment roll	Emily paid $92.79. Elizabeth's family listed; because she lived in Kentucky, they were paid $464.75 through the Cynthiana postmaster in May.
1884	Hester roll of Eastern Cherokees	Elizabeth G. Smith, daughter of "Emily & Jack Walker"; Emily, 74, widow of Jack Walker.
1896	Cherokee citizenship case no. 5354	Elizabeth admitted a Cherokee citizen by blood at Fort Gibson.
1900	Dawes card 1642, roll no. 4381	One quarter Cherokee; father John Walker, Cherokee.
1906–07	Eastern Cherokee applications	Elizabeth's children and grandchildren swear that she was the daughter of Jack and Emily Walker.
1909	Guion Miller roll of Eastern Cherokees	Her children and grandchildren admitted on her 1851 enrollment; Lula's application rejected by being filed with another family's case.

What the DNA says

Memaw Bo's AncestryDNA test, viewed in November 2026, agrees with the records. Ten of her matches descend from Elizabeth's brothers Timothy Meigs Walker and John Osborn Walker, sharing 10 to 63 cM with her, and every one of the six through Timothy also matches descendants of Elizabeth's own children. That includes descendants of her son Charles W. Smith, who have no Coleman, Powell or other Walker kin to explain the link. She also shares small amounts of DNA with descendants of three of Emily Meigs's brothers and sisters, Grace (Calloway), Betsie Jane (Hawk) and Robert H. Meigs, and most of those cousins also match descendants of Emily's own children, a pattern her unrelated matches do not show. That fits Emily being their sister, though DNA at this distance cannot tell a full sister from a half sister. Matches descended from Betsy Lowrey's brothers George and John fall mostly on Bo's father's side and share with descendants of Jack's children far more often than matches to a Cherokee family she does not descend from, which fits the records naming Betsy as Jack's mother.

Above Jack Walker the DNA is thin. Nine small matches descend from other children of Major John Walker, and thirty-four are placed by other members' trees through other children of Katy, Nancy Ward's daughter. Most of these group with one another in Starr and Hildebrand clusters, and the few that also match Memaw Bo's proven Walker relatives could share DNA with her through other families, because the Starrs, Hildebrands, Taylors, Lowreys and Walkers intermarried for generations. The same check cannot even pick up descendants of the Major's documented son Thigh, so Ancestry's match lists cannot test the Katy descent at this distance; only a comparison of the shared segments themselves could. Memaw Bo's 3% Indigenous American is about twice the one sixty-fourth (about 1.6%) her descent would leave on average. That is within the normal range, since each generation passes on a random share and estimates this small are rough.

Cherokee citizenship today

Because Elizabeth is on the Dawes Rolls as a Cherokee by blood (roll no. 4381), her direct descendants appear to meet the Cherokee Nation's basic rule for citizenship, which asks for descent from an original Dawes enrollee and sets no minimum degree of blood. The Nation's Tribal Registration office decides each application from original birth and death certificates linking every generation; DNA tests and family trees are not accepted as proof.

Still to find

- A record naming the parents of Major John Walker. Every source online has been searched, including John Howard Payne's papers, the Draper calendars, the governors' papers, the Office of Indian Affairs letters and the Moravian records as printed, and none names them; the records of 1825 to 1830 make him Five Killer's kinsman and claimed heir and Katy Five Killer's sister, which is as close as they come. On paper only: the Moravian brethren's German report of 1799 (Bethlehem), the Cherokee Supreme Court's record book and the Allen Collection's Vann and Walker folder (Tennessee State Library and Archives), the Delaware District claims of 1842, Waterhouse's diary of 1813 (University of Tennessee), and Hampton's Nancy Ward and Her Descendants (2022).
- A single record that names Emily Meigs herself as Timothy Meigs's daughter, to add to a proof that now rests on the agreement of independent records: the Rhea County court minutes and court papers of 1815 to 1820, Elizabeth Meigs's estate of about 1852, and the 1824 marriage bond, which is privately held.
- A record of their own time that names Betsy (Lowrey) Walker's parents. Sworn family statements of 1906 and 1907 name George Lowrey, a Scotsman, and Nancy, and a family account of 1889 names Charles Lowrey and Tah-nie; the published accounts disagree about her mother, and Penelope Johnson Allen gave two different pairs of parents in 1934 and 1936. Every source online has been searched. On paper only: the Allen Collection's Lowrey folder (Tennessee State Library and Archives), the Cherokee Advocate of 1852 (Oklahoma Historical Society), the Wahnenauhi manuscript (Smithsonian), the Indian-Pioneer Papers, and the Tellico factory ledgers.
- The Cherokee commissioners' register of payments for 1838 ("Book D") and their papers on John Walker Jr.'s estate, which should name all eight of his heirs. Both are at the National Archives in Washington and have never been filmed; a request was sent on 6 November 2026.

Sources

- Will of John Walker Jr., 31 October 1830, McMinn County, Tennessee, Wills vol. B, pp. 165–167; county court minutes, 6 November 1837; guardian's report, 1839, Wills vol. C, pp. 134–136; executor's accounts, 1841 and 1845, Wills vol. D, pp. 74–75 and 276; marriage register vol. C, p. 33 (FamilySearch).
- James M. Coleman to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 29 April 1841, and the reply of 13 May 1841; R. J. Meigs to the Secretary of War, 20 January 1835; roll of Cherokees enrolled for emigration, 1843 (National Archives M234 and M21, on FamilySearch).
- James M. and Elizabeth G. Coleman's affidavit, 14 August 1851, filed with D. W. Siler's report of 17 October 1851; the Commissioner of Indian Affairs' letters of 18 March, 28 April and 20 May 1852; J. M. Coleman's letters of 20 April 1852 and 26 April 1853 (National Archives M234 rolls 95 and 96, M21 rolls 45 and 46, and M18 roll 40, on FamilySearch).

- Hugh Montgomery, Cherokee agent, letters of 1826 and 1827 (National Archives M208); the Cherokee commissioners to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 15 February 1839 (M234 roll 83); Gideon Morgan, administrator of Betsy Walker, v. John L. McCarty, executor of John Walker Jr., chancery court at Madisonville, Tennessee, 1842–1843 (FamilySearch); Cherokee claims of 1838 and 1842, including Eight Killer's statement of 7 April 1842 (Tennessee State Library and Archives).
- Cherokee census of 1835 (Henderson roll); Siler roll and supplement, 1851; Chapman roll, 1852; Hester roll, 1884 (National Archives M1773 and T496, in the National Archives catalog).
- Cherokee citizenship application no. 5354, 1896 (National Archives M1650); Dawes card 1642, roll no. 4381, and application jacket (M1186 and M1301); 1900 census, Cherokee Nation; letters of administration, Muskogee, 1905.
- Eastern Cherokee applications nos. 12, 13, 20, 2180, 10346, 11871, 17584, 24386, 24916, 26840, 32572, 32611 and 32612, and Guion Miller's reports (National Archives M1104 and M685).
- 1850 census, Harrison County, Kentucky; Muhlenberg County death register, 1877; Lula Church's death certificate, 1951; Oleva Barnes's birth certificate, 1930; Wiley P. Barnes's death certificate, Texas, 1960; 1910 census, Pike County, Indiana; Pike County marriage record, 1923; Edith Barnes's family memoir.
- McMinn County Deed Book A, p. 31 (1821); register of reservations under the treaty of 1817 (National Archives M208 roll 13); R. J. Meigs to the Secretary of War, 31 December 1826 (M234 roll 72); American State Papers, Indian Affairs, vol. 1, p. 444 (1793); the Cherokee women's petition of 2 May 1817 (Andrew Jackson Papers, Library of Congress); recollections of Jack Hilderbrand, 1908, ed. David Keith Hampton (1994); Emmet Starr, History of the Cherokee Indians (1921); David Keith Hampton, Descendants of Nancy Ward (1975); Duane H. King and E. Raymond Evans, "The Death of John Walker, Jr.," Journal of Cherokee Studies 1 (1976); Tennessee Historical Commission marker 2A 71, Cleveland, Tennessee.
- War of 1812 service record of Major John Walker, file no. 1410, as abstracted in Annie Walker Burns's typescript (FamilySearch); Gov. William Blount, 5 November 1792, American State Papers, Indian Affairs, vol. 1, p. 331; Knoxville Register, 20 March 1821; C. R. Hicks, 25 June 1819 (M208 roll 8); Gideon Morgan, 22 May 1826 (M234 roll 72); Tennessee Supreme Court case files 28040 and 32337 and the Bradley County circuit court minutes, 1834–1844 (Tennessee State Library and Archives; FamilySearch); Eastern Cherokee application no. 1256, John Walker Hildebrand, 1906; Cherokee claims of 1842, Flint District, nos. 14 and 83; Hiwassee District land entries, 1820.
- Rhea County marriage record, 10 January 1824; Knoxville Journal and Tribune, 24 January 1888, and Chattanooga Daily Times, 21 January 1888; Return J. Meigs's letter of 27 February 1809 and Timothy Meigs's of 20 November 1813 and the letter of 23 October 1815 (M208); will of Robert Holt, Knox County, 1821; McMinn County Deed Book E, p. 157 (1836); Eastern Cherokee applications nos. 30949, 35063 and 35064, 1907; Middletown, Connecticut, town records; Revolutionary War bounty-land warrant 1376; Henry B. Meigs, Record of the Descendants of Vincent Meigs (1901); Burgis Pratt Starr, A History of the Starr Family (1879); Penelope Johnson Allen, "Leaves from the Family Tree," Chattanooga Times, 1934 and 1936.
- Board for Certification of Genealogists, Genealogy Standards (2nd ed., 2019), the Genealogical Proof Standard; Rhea County marriage records, WPA typescript, p. 216, and Bettye J. Broyles, A Compendium of Rhea and Meigs Counties (1980), pp. 288 and 407; John Rogers to Col. Meigs, about 1819 (M208); McMinn County will book, 1819–1830, estate of Col. Return J. Meigs (FamilySearch).
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- The Brainerd Journal, ed. Joyce B. and Paul Gary Phillips (1998), p. 419; The Athens Post, 11 November 1853; 1850 census, McMinn County; Eastern Cherokee applications nos. 7580 and 1363, 1906 (M1104); the Moravian Springplace diary, October 1815 (McClinton, ed., 2007); the Wahnenauhi manuscript of 1889 (Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 196, 1966).
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