

## Chapter XI

### Return to Fort Smith

#### William and Sarah Titchenal's families 1839 to 1849

Williams brothers fight in the Mexican war and die in Mexico City

The family bible and Champaign County, Ohio marriage records show that on January 29, 1839, **William Henry Titchenal** and **Sarah Ann (Dickason) Titchenal** were married by Peter Ivie, a long time resident of Urbana and the justice of peace. It was just one month after Christmas of 1838, which the Dickasons and the Harberts had joyfully celebrated, together with their families.

**William** and **Sarah** may have stayed in Urbana a while to work with **William's** lawyers to make sure everything was in order to complete his mother, **Rebecca's**, law suit against Thomas Harbert & etc. (discribed in chapter's seven, eight and nine), but, as soon as possible after their marriage, they traveled back to the Fort Smith area to establish their own home. **William** had been raised and trained as blacksmith, farming and teaming, cattle and stock raising by his father. Now he was completely on his own and anxious to start a new life with his new wife.

Artist conception of how **William H. Titchenal** and **Sarah Ann (Dickason) Titchenal** may have looked when they returned to Fort Smith in 1840.

**William's** life had always been full of many drastic and sometimes traumatic changes. Compared to **William**, **Sarah's** life had been tranquil, she had been born and raised in the same village, the move to Fort Smith was her first. **Sarah's** life was about to change, her life with **William** for the next thirty years would be full of major changes and traumatic events. Not only for **Sarah Ann** and **William Titchenal**, but, also for their respective families, both in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Champaign County, Ohio.

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**Sarah** was welcomed in Fort Smith by **William's** family. His Mother, **Rebecca**, her new husband, William Henry McMurty, and their young growing family, which now included **William's** sister, Sarah Ann (now 16), his younger brothers, John(13), David (11), his young sister, Susan Elza (9), and two new half brothers, James (3), and, Samuel (1) McMurty. **Sarah** understood why **William** was anxious to settle on his own place, there was no more room at home.

His sister, Mary Ellen Falconer, was particularly nice to **Sarah** and offered to let **William** and **Sarah** stay with her until they could find a place of their own. They first settled on rented property at a place now called Jenson, a suburb of Fort Smith south of the town about where Cavanaugh Road is presently located.

After she arrived in Arkansas, **Sarah** was lonely for news of her family and Champaign County and kept in touch with her family in Ohio by corresponding with her father, **Charles**. It wasn't long after **Sarah** got settled in Fort Smith that she heard from her father: Early in the year, sometime before January 27, 1840, her grandfather, **John Dickason** died. **Sarah** had never met her grandfather, **John Dickason**, but she had heard about her grandfather's move from New Jersey to Hampshire County , Virginia in 1773. Her father and three of his brothers were born there, after which they moved to Monroe County, Virginia. Two more sons and two daughters were born there.

**John's** personal property was auctioned off that day. It is not known if her father, **Charles**, got money or property from his father's estate. Nor is it believed he traveled to Monroe County, Virginia for the auction.

On Sept 10, 1840, **Charles**, purchased a part of Virginia Military Tract # 4182, near the headwaters of Buck Creek in Wayne Township, Champaign County from William R. Tanquary for \$128. **Charles** must have moved there, as he appeared in the 1840 census as residing in Wayne Township with his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Her father, who had been always been interested in politics was excited, and wrote her about a large political convention held in Urbana in 1840.

Beer's book, *The History of Champaign County* , discribed the convention:

"When William Henry Harrison ran for president and John Tyler for vice president in 1840, he used the campaign slogan, "Harrison of Tippecanoe and Tyler too". One of his largest political conventions in the state was held in Urbana September 15, 1840. People came from miles around to meet him. Twelve tables, each over 300 feet long were set up and laden with provisions. Oxen and sheep were barbecued, an abundance of cider supplied the drink of the day. Delegations and processions carried flags and emblems with various strange mottos. Among them was a banner, on which was this sentence; The People is "Oll Korrect". It is thought this was the origin of the use of the letters "OK."

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On October 8, 1840, **Charles** and his wife Elizabeth, sold 50 acres on the head waters of Buck Creek, Part of Virginia Military Tract # 4182 in Wayne Township for \$650. (This time at a profit). On Oct 13, 1840 he was still listed on the Wayne Township election poll book. Where they lived in between is not known, but in 1841, **Sarah's** father wrote that he purchased two acres and forty poles of land for \$400 in Salem Township for his wife, Elizabeth Ann, and family. They were very happy with the new home.

Back in Fort Smith, **William** and **Sarah**, worked hard on their rented farm for about one year, but it wasn't satisfactory. In order to make a better living **William** thought he needed a bigger farm. Fortunately, around May of 1841, **William** and his mother **Rebecca** got a letter and a check for \$120 from her brother, Thomas, as he had been able to sell some of their father's Ohio property. Her suit in Champaign County had been settled in her favor on April 1, 1841.

**William** used the money to purchase about 100 acres of land about a mile from the present town of Hackett, where he and **Sarah** lived until they left for Texas and California in 1849. He and **Sarah** weren't alone for long, they soon had neighbors.

**Rebecca** may have gotten more money from the sale of her father's Ohio property and gave some of it to help her daughter Sarah Ann. On August 12, 1841 **William's** sister, Sarah Ann (now 18), married, Jeremiah Hackett Jr.. The family had met Jeramiah, when Sarah Ann was a little girl of 13, shortly after he came to the area in 1836. Jeremiah and Sarah Ann bought some land and built a home not far from where **William** had bought land earlier that year.

Jeremiah was the same age as **William**, and Jeremiah Hackett Jr.'s lineage in America<sup>[5]</sup> is almost as early as the **Titchenals** and dates back to Sir Thomas Hackett who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1667. Thomas Hackett came to America in 1674 with his wife Elizabeth, on the good ship "Dover" under Captain Samuel Groom. They settled in Dorchester County, Virginia. He and **William** became good friends and were very influential in each other's lives.

In 1843, **Sarah Ann Titchenal's** father, **Charles**, wrote to tell her how lonesome it was for him and Elizabeth Ann. Nobody was left in Champaign County. First she, **Sarah**, had moved to Fort Smith, and now her sister, Cynthia Barritt, and her husband moved to McDonough County, Illinois. Then a few months later, her brother, Samuel Dickason, also moved and settled there.

On July 27, 1845 the final tragedy struck her father. **Charles** wrote, her step mother, his second wife, Elizabeth Ann, died after less than ten years of marriage. She was buried in the Kings Creek, Baptists Church cemetery, Salem Township, in the Harbert family plot.

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One year after Elizabeth Ann's death her father was still very lonesome and discouraged, so on May 1846, **Charles** (59) sold the 2 acres and 40 poles of land in Salem Township to Elizabeth Shook for \$300, a loss of \$100. (the same property he had purchased five years before for \$400).

**Charles** was no doubt discouraged, but it is difficult to understand why he bought this property, then turned around and sold it to someone else at a loss on at least two different occasions. He thought about going to Fort Smith, to be with **William** and **Sarah**, but, **Sarah** discouraged him. After the last sale, he left Ohio and moved with his son, Charles, and daughters, Melissa, and Martha Jane. <sup>[6]</sup> to Chalmers Township, McDonough County, Illinois, to join the rest of his family.

### The Hackett and Titchenal families

The town of Hackett had not been established while **William** Titchenal lived there. It was not founded until after the Civil War in December 1876 by, Benjamin Frankland Hackett, son of Jeremiah Hackett Jr., **William's** brother-in-law.

John Luce, my principle source of information about life in Fort Smith, was unable to find much information about the life **John R.** and **Rebecca Titchenal** or their sons, **William**, David and John Jr. in Fort Smith. He did find considerable information about the life of **John** and **Rebecca** daughters, Mary Ellen (Titchenal) Falconer, and her sister, Sarah Ann (Titchenal) Hackett. They were John Luce's great grandmother and great aunt.

As mentioned before, **William's** sister, Sarah Ann (Titchenal) Hackett, and he husband, Jeremiah Hackett Jr., built a home shortly after they were married, August 1841 not far from where her brother, **William**, bought farm land earlier the same year. It was to be Sarah and Jeremiah's homestead and they lived on the farm for 57 years. Not much is known about **William** or Jeremiah during the 1840s, but the information about their lives in later years can serve as indication of their young years.

The obituaries<sup>[3 & 4]</sup> of Sarah and Jeremiah Hackett are very informative and provide many clues to their life in Fort Smith. In 1891, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the home in 1891. They both were highly regarded citizens. Sarah died in 1900 (age 77) and Jeremiah in 1902 (age 85). They had eleven children, Fifteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren when they died.

Major Jeremiah Hackett Jr. was of southern sympathies, feelings and affinities, but he was also one of those sturdy, old fashioned Americans who loved the stars and stripes and worshipped the memory of Washington, Franklin and other heroes who had dyed the flag with their blood to establish the Union, so when war broke out he joined the Union soldiers and served his time with distinction and bravery. His obituary said, that during his long life he was one of the few to whom his fellowmen could point with pride and say, "behold an upright Mason".

**Major Jeremiah (43) and Sarah Ann (37) Hackett's family about 1860**

Left to right standing: Thomas P., Mary J., Albert A., John P.

Left to right sitting: Trajetta, Jeremiah, Rose Alis, Sarah Ann and Benjamin F.

**Jeremiah Hackett age 74 years**

**Sarah Ann Hackett age 68 years**

On their 50th wedding Anniversary, 1891

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The fact that **William Titchenal**, Jeremiah Hackett, and William Falconer, were brother-in-laws, and were Masons brought all three of them close together. They became friends as well as relatives. Their families lived close together, so surely the families also had a close relationship and interacted with each other.

### The Falconer and Titchenal families

**William Titchenal's** sister, Mary Ellen, also married a prominent local man, William Andrew Falconer. In 1979, John Luce, outlined the history of the Falconer family for an article written by Bernice Cole. The article was published in the *Southwest Times*, a Fort Smith paper, to help save the Falconer cemetery from being covered over for a parking lot for the nearby Coca-Cola bottling plant:

“William Falconer came to the area in 1829 from a wealthy Baltimore family. He was born in 1809 to Peresrine and Eliza Falconer. At the age of 20, he went to work for the DuVal brothers in the mercantile business. He was a clerk in their store in Skullyville, Indian Territory, about 40 miles west of Van Buren. He never lived in Van Buren, but attended the Trinity Episcopal Church there. By 1836, Van Buren was the county seat of Crawford County (which included Sebastian and Franklin Counties) and was the social metropolis of the border. Many business and professional families lived in Van Buren before Fort Smith was even platted out or became a town. Van Buren is across the Arkansas River from Fort Smith and The **Titchenals** and the Falconers had to take a ferry to attend church.

In 1834, Mary Ellen **Titchenal** attended a party in Van Buren, at the home of Dr. Jonathan McGee. William Falconer was attracted by the graceful dancing of this lively young woman. They immediately fell in love and were married at the home of Dr. and Mrs. McGee in 1835. When he wrote to his mother in Baltimore, he described Mary as a beautiful “little prairie wild flower.” Her beauty did not interfere with the sturdy qualities necessary for a pioneer wife and mother.

The newlyweds, moved to Skullyville, Indian Territory to be near his business, and their first child, Henry Irving, was born there, November 2, 1836. A daughter, Susan Eliza, was born February 2, 1838. In 1838 William Falconer, entered his bid to buy 80 acres of land for \$100.00 [\$1.25 an acre]. \$50.00 of which he borrowed from his widowed mother in Baltimore. The rest of the money he raised by selling cattle and other stock. They moved back to Arkansas, and settled on the Massard Prairie, about four and one half miles south of Belle Point and Fort Smith which was undergoing extensive rebuilding of the fortifications at that time.

Shortly after, he entered another bid for 160 acres of adjoining land, making 240 acres in all. He wrote his mother that he could now sell his land for \$5.00 an acre, but he wanted the land to settling myself and leave something behind. He also borrowed \$200.00 from John Rogers to hold other land (the founder of Fort Smith), but never used it.) In January of 1840 he paid back the entire loan. The Massard Prairie, was near where Mary Ellen had grown up with her family. Her mother, **Rebecca Titchenal**, had remarried and still lived there near the border of Indian Territory (about two miles west and north of the future site of Hackett) with her new husband, William McMurtry.

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By all accounts the Falconer's new home was a busy and happy one. However, two years later, June 11, 1841, the grief-stricken parents buried Susan on a beautiful knoll on the ranch. This tiny grave was the beginning of the Falconer Cemetery.

About that time, Mary Ellen's brother, **William Titchenal**, and his new wife, **Sarah Ann**, returned from Urbana, Ohio and settled a little farther south in Jenson, near the present town of Hackett. The shock of Mary Ellen's daughter's death was a little easier to bear as her family (mother, sister and brothers) were now close to her.

John Luce's History Continues:

Four more sons and a daughter were born to the couple: William in 1841[?], George on July 15, 1843, John Perry in 1845, Septimus on February 27, 1847 and Margaret, in 1848.

William Falconer was a very industrious man. His original land purchase of 80 acres grew to hundreds of acres. Land that was purchased at \$1.25 an acre is now worth millions. The land that once belonged to the family is now occupied by the city airport, Ben Geren Park, some of Fort Smith's largest corporations, homes, churches and schools.

### **William Falconer- married- Mary Ellen Titchenal** 1835 in Van Buren, Arkansas

b. 1809	b. Aug. 8, 1815
p. Baltimore, Maryland	p. Harrison County, Virginia
d. August 28, 1848	d. November 27, 1878
p. Sebastian County, Arkansas.	p. Sebastian County, Arkansas
age 39	age 63

Placeholder for Geneology Chart not yet converted

2nd marriage to Thomas McCarron date. 1855, widow with two daughters, no additional children

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In addition to breaking the virgin sod on his ranch and tending his livestock, he started a school at his home, at one time the school had thirteen pupils including the two Titchenal boys John and David. He was also was active in the practice of medicine.

He did not possess a medical degree, but acquired his knowledge of medicine, as so many others of the day, by studying with medical men. He studied under Dr. Mgee for a while. In a letter to his brother in 1846, William stated that he “rode day and night in my practice.” He never refused to answer a call when needed and his natural gift for healing soon made Dr. Falconer a favorite. He always refused to take pay for his services, except those that could afford to pay.

In a later letter to his mother, he acquainted her with life on his ranch and the preparations for the Mexican war:

I killed the past season and put in my smoke house the rise of 3,000 pounds of pork which will be used exclusively by my own family. We are a carnivorous set. Unless we have meat three times a day with plenty in between meals, they think we are on short rations.

My place of residence is on the main road leading from the north to the south to military posts on the Red River and the frontiers of Texas. We have had quiet times with volunteers for the war. The mustering the marching has been gone through and quietness once more restored. About 400 of the regulars passed the other day for the seat of the war, under a broiling sun. They all called for water, the only kind of liquor I had to give them.”

**William** and **Sarah Ann Titchenal** did not live far from Mary Falconer’s ranch. The location of the ranch had considerable affect on **William Titchenal** and his family. Certainly, the location was crucial in the lives of his two younger brothers, John and David. They liked to be with their brother-law, William Falconer, and spent a lot of time visiting and helping him on projects at his ranch. They also watched the army regulars march by on their way to the Red River.

The new stone-walled Fort Smith had been started in 1839 and completed in 1845. In the meantime cantonment Belknap was the home of General (then Colonel) Zachary Taylor. He and his men would have been a familiar sight to the Titchenal boys. No doubt they had friends at the post.

War with Mexico had been talked about ever since the Texas declaration of independence in 1837, and Texas wanted to become part of the Union. Texan- Americans had been more or less at odds with Mexico since 1837. New immigrants had been streaming into Texas, New Mexico and California. Mexico was not doing much about stopping them. Most western pioneers wanted the United States to take over the lands to the Pacific and complete the “Manifest Destiny” for America. When the war actually started in May of 1846, Mary and **William Titchenal’s** younger brothers, John and David were 20 and 18,

Mexico had always been a popular place. The imagination called up a place of glitter and land glamour, silver mines, volcanoes and desert. The “Halls of Montezuma” was a

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phrase on everyone's tongue, and the youth of the land couldn't get to the recruiting offices fast enough. The U.S. Army only had a total of 8,000 men.

The Army asked for 50,000 volunteers and had no trouble getting them. John and David Titchenal were caught up in the excitement of the times along with everyone else. They told their mother they wanted to join. Most likely, as young men, they just wanted some of the glory and adventure as well as a chance to see the next frontier, Mexico, or to help get California for America. Excitement ran high in Fort Smith, several brigades were formed from Arkansas.

In addition to spending a lot of time at the Falconer ranch, they had been told many times about the exploits of their grandfather, **David** and great grandfather, **Moses Titchenal**, in the Revolutionary War, and great grandfather, **Thomas Harbert**, Indian Fighter and Revolutionary War soldier and about their grandfather, **Thomas Harbert Jr.** as a soldier in the war of 1812. Maybe heard about the "Texas headrights" and they thought they would reap some land rewards for their service, like their grandparents before them.

Just ten years before, their mother, **Rebecca**, had lost her husband, **John**, in a sudden and, maybe violent death. Both **Rebecca's** father and grandfather had died violent deaths. She had lost three small children in Missouri and couldn't face the thought of losing her two grown sons also. She and her daughter, **Mary**, as well as her son, **William**, tried to convince them to stay in Fort Smith and help their mother.

They did not heed the advice, they joined early, war was declared in May and they enlisted May 12th. Whatever the reason, they decided to join the Army, over the objections and begging of their mother, **Rebecca**. The enlistment records show John was a farmer, had hazel eyes, dark hair, fair complexion and was 5ft. 10in. David was also a farmer, had gray eyes, dark hair, fair complexion and was 5ft. 6in. tall. They both enlisted May 12, 1846 at Fort Smith. Where they first trained and were first assigned is not known.

For the first part of the war, the Mexicans did not put up too much resistance. The Mexicans had been told tall tales about the cruel "Norteamericanos," but when the Mexicans saw them, the "Norteamericanos," were average size, and slouchy to boot. It was an Army without gold braid. They did not violate the nunneries and rob the altars in their course. They didn't steal anything. In fact they were friendly. It was the Mexican Army that glittered with gold braid while they plundered their own people, that stirred fear in the Mexican heart.

As the American army advanced closer to Mexico City, it was a different story. General Santa Ana and the Mexican armies manning the approaches to Mexico City put up a very good fight; many bloody battles were fought. General Winfield Scott called for reinforcements.

On February 11, 1847, the 12th Infantry Regiment was activated. By then, John and David were privates assigned to the 12th Infantry Company C, under General Pierce.

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General Pierce's Brigade consisted of the Ninth, Twelfth and Fifteenth Infantry Regiment.

The Regiment left American soil June 1847, to meet with General Wenfield Scott. In the five weeks that followed, until the expedition reached General Wenfield Scott, four engagements were fought. These were at National Bridge, Paso de Ovejas, again at National bridge, and at Plan del Rio. The regiment totaled 2500 soldiers by the time it met with General Wenfield Scott in Puebla, Mexico August 9, 1847.

Two days before this, General Scott, knowing of the approach of reinforcements, resumed his march on Mexico City. General Pierce's brigade joined this march. On August 19th, when this march was held up at Contreras, a battle ensued which is notable for its brilliance and for the part which the Twelfth played, both in the engagement, and in the pursuit of the defeated enemy.

The battle of Contreras was an enveloping movement of the Mexican forces then holding a fortified position. The City of Contreras occupied a commanding position on the road to Mexico City. It is a natural fortress, and was equipped with a lot of heavy artillery. The main element was an envelopment by two brigades with a frontal attack on the fort by the Ninth and Twelfth Infantries.

The following extract from the official history of the Regiment describes the part the Twelfth Infantry played in the war:

"Valencia, the Mexican Commander, endeavored in vain to crush the persistent advance, with his overwhelming and superior volume of fire, but with no apparent success until the line had advanced to within two hundred and fifty yards of his batteries. Colonel Ransome of the Twelfth was forced to halt to allow General Smith with the artillery an opportunity to close in the rear, and as General Smith closed in, Captain Wood with "C" Company of the Twelfth charged the front of the Mexican position. The battle was won, the Mexicans fled. ( Note: David and John Titchenal were both in "C" Company)

Colonel Bonham, commanding the Twelfth, was disabled in the fight and the command fell to Captain Wood of "C" company. The pursuit of the retreating Mexican force was taken up by four companies of the Twelfth [Companies B, C, H & K] with Captain Wood In Command. After defeating the Mexicans again at San Antonio, they drove them on the following day, August 20th, beyond the village of Churbusco and into Tete du Pont, thus causing a detour of the key fortification southeast of Mexico City known as Tete du Pont, and allowing the enemy to seek shelter with a force of seven thousand Mexicans, four thousand infantry and three thousand cavalry, under Santa Ana. This force was the 'flower of the Mexican Army'.

When Valencia arrived at this place of safety he turned upon his pursers and opened fire. The four companies from the Twelfth, despite the fact they were outnumbered by tremendous odds, tired and battle worn, held back the enemy for one-half hour until reinforcements arrived. After this victory General Scott offered an armistice which was accepted on August 23, 1847. An armistice was in effect Aug. 24 to Sept. 6, then fighting continued until Sept. 16th when the final armistice was signed."

By the time the fighting started again on September 7th the Twelfth was garrisoned at Mexcano. It had borne the brunt of the fire, was depleted in numbers, and saw no further action. However, on September 14th, when the Mexicans surrendered their capital and General Scott made his triumphant entry into Mexico City, he asked the entire Regiment join him in order to participate in the ceremony. The object of the campaign having been attained and a successful peace concluded, the Regiment was mustered out June 8, 1848".

John and David were heroes, along with everybody in the Twelfth Regiment. Unfortunately for John and David, they did not share the glory for long. They certainly were not able to share the glory at home in Fort Smith. The armistice did not come soon enough to save them. In a twist of fate, they were either injured in the battle to take the key fortification southeast of Mexico City known as "Tete du Pont." and hospitalized for a month, or they got sick after they got into Mexico City. Paradoxically, their military records show they died in Mexico City three days apart. David died October 4th and John October 7, 1847. What happened to them, and how they happened to be, together, when tragedy struck will have to remain an enigma.

One wonders how they were able to stay together all through the war and if they ever wrote home to their family to tell about their experiences; or when and how their mother **Rebecca**, was finally told of their death. The only thing I know for sure is that they never returned to Fort Smith to tell their story. Their mother's worst fears came true. She must have shed many tears for a long time.

The Mexican War was over and the country was celebrating the great victory. America now reached all the way to the Pacific Coast. The **Titchenals** didn't feel like celebrating; both of **William's** younger brothers were dead. Although more than 20 of his and his parent's ancestors had fought in America's wars, David and John were the first close relatives to be killed while fighting for their country. **William** had been very close to his brothers. They had made great plans about what to do after the war. They had even talked of going to Texas or California together.

The treaty ceded all of New Mexico and all of upper California to the U.S.A. After ratification by Mexico and the U.S.A., it went into effect May 30th, 1848. His brothers had made the ultimate sacrifice to help complete the Manifest Destiny of America. **William** may have thought the least he could do was to go to California to give meaning to his brothers lives.

Before the war and before California became part of the union, **William** and his brothers had read many advertisements about California in the Fort Smith press. For years many pioneers, tempted by good farm land and the climate, left Missouri and Arkansas to go to the Sacramento Valley in California. Immigrants were moving through Fort Smith to both Texas and California. **William** had talked to many of them and helped them outfit their wagons as they passed through Fort Smith, assuring them that the first part of the trip

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through the Indian Nations would be peaceful.

**Rebecca** may have blamed her second husband, William McMurtry, for their leaving. I doubt John and David had ever gotten along well with their stepfather. They may have felt their stepfather treated their mother badly, and wanted them out of the house, either to get married and/or leave home and be out on their own. Life was hard for all of them, and the house was a little small. **Rebecca's** daughter, Susan Eliza, was 17 at the time, but there were three new young McMurtry sons, six, eight and ten for **Rebecca** to take care of. **Rebecca's** daughter, Mary Ellen, tried to comfort her mother as best she could, but little did Mary know she would face the same type of tragedy less than a year later.

John Luce's History continues:

“Dr. William A. Falconer was always busy, mostly helping others. In addition to his ranch, family, school and medical practice, he also found time to become involved in civic affairs. He was instrumental in getting the Masonic order established in Fort Smith. He was also an active member of the Episcopal church at Van Buren where Reverend Townsend was pastor.

Trying to be true to Reverend Townsend's wishes for a church in Fort Smith, Falconer began to build a new church on his own property. While he was engaged in this project, he suffered a heat stroke, which later led to pneumonia and his death on August 29, 1848.

Dr William A. Falconer, age 39, was laid to rest beside the grave of little Susan. Mary, his beloved “little prairie wild flower” was left alone to rear her five sons, Henry, age 14, William, age ten, George, age five, John Perry, age three, Septimus, age one, and the child she carried. In January 1849, her only daughter, Margaret Falconer, was born after her husband, William had died”.

Mary Ellen struggled, much as her mother did in 1831 when her father died. After seven years of trying to keep things together, in 1855 Mary, married Thomas McCarron a widower with two small daughters. For a while they lived in Fort Smith, but later they moved back to the farm.

Not only did William Falconer organize the first Masonic Lodge in Fort Smith, he practiced the Masonic tenets and lived a life reflecting them. My Great grandfather, **William Titchenal**, admired William Falconer and his life style. Both of their beliefs were very similar and **William Titchenal** became very interested in the Masonic beliefs. His new brother-in-law, Jeremiah Hackett, was also a Freemason. They both may have joined the society in Fort Smith in the 1840s. **William Titchenal** continued to be a Freemason for over forty years. He organized at least six lodges in California and remained a member of a lodge until he demitted from the Santa Ana Lodge in 1881, just ten years before he died. I believe his work with the Masons provides us with clues to his personality, morals and life style. The following information, and other information included in the footnotes can help us better understand the Masons and **William's** response to them as well as how their beliefs and actions affected **William**.

Excerpt from *Born in Blood*, by John J. Robinson:

“Freemasonry was (and is) a secret society, but it was not a religion, rather it was (and is today) a philosophy that believes in a Supreme Being and that all men belong to the Brotherhood of Man. Therefore, all men are created equal in the eyes of the Supreme Being. It was the duty of all Freemasons to practice brotherly love and friendship transcending the differences in men looking only at their similarities.”

As a frontier man its principles of brotherliness, charity, and mutual aid made sense to **William Titchenal**, and made him feel good when he participated in these activities. However, the fact that the Masonic society was secret, and the members had to take a bloody oath to even keep the oaths secret, caused **William** to suspect them once in a while, especially when the secrecy would get the Masons into trouble with the public and churches from time to time, which made **William** uncomfortable.

Also the fact that the central tenet of Freemasonry only requires a man to believe in a Supreme Being, with no requirement as to how he worships the deity of his choice, appealed to individualistic men like William Falconer, **William Titchenal** and Jeremiah Hackett. Freemasons also glorify the Temple of Solomon as the first temple built to a monotheistic god.

In **William’s** time, and today, the Roman Catholic church and other orthodox churches, understandably, take issue with the monotheistic concept, since these churches, recognize only the trine God of the Holy Trinity. Actually, the Masonic perception of God may be the only monotheistic perception in all of Christianity, other than the Unitarian Church because their teaching makes no mention of a devil or Satan.

Both Masonic and Unitarian leaning encourage the individual to advance toward the hope of resurrection and immortality through personal merit and acts of charity. Freemasonry is open to men of many creeds. They may believe in the teaching of any organized religion, or they may even have their own religious convictions that are theirs alone, as did Thomas Jefferson and John Locke. So long as one believes in a Supreme Being, Masonry and Unitarianism have welcomed Jews, Moslems, Sikhs, and others. This is a concept that upsets many Christian creeds which maintain that salvation is attained only through belief in Christ, but with William’s constant traveling he had to believe his own and his family’s actions would bring them salvation. See footnote <sup>[1]</sup> page 189 for more information on The Masons.



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Gold was discovered in California in May, 1848. After that, it seemed as if each city went crazy as the news traveled from city to city. Soon the world was crazy for gold, no story about finding gold was too wild. The news soon reached Fort Smith, Many citizens got the gold bug; it was the talk of the town. **William** already had many reasons to leave Fort Smith, now he had a good reason. He was 32 and anxious to get on with his life and seek a fortune, like everybody else.

On Sept. 21, 1848, the New York Herald newspaper steamed with the wildest stories and letters from California, which were repeated in Fort Smith. It said, "Any able bodied man with a simple shovel and sieve can procure about \$50.00 worth of gold a day. In some cases, however, it is said that persons have collected as much as a pound of gold in a single day valued at over two hundred dollars".

No story was too extravagant to be believed. Nothing was questioned. A man had written a book saying that in ten days he had picked up gold worth more than \$50,000. Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, New York-every port city was infected. In the interior of the country, cities along the Mississippi Valley, especially St. Louis, were feverish. The rest of the world went mad along with them. Soon the air was filled with would-be miners singing a popular folk song of the day.

Set to the tune of Stephen Foster's "Camptown Races" the words described the boundless enthusiasm of the gold seekers. It was titled, " Sacramento" and went like this:

A bully ship and a bully crew dooda dooda a bully mate and a captain too dooda dooda day. Then blow ye winds hi oh for California To Sacramento's a hell of a way Dooda Dooda day. There's plenty of gold so I've been told On the banks of the Sacramento Oh around Cape Horn we're bound to go Dooda dooda Around Cape Horn through sleet and snow Dooda Dooda Day.	Ninety days to Frisco Bay Dooda Dooda Ninety days is dam good pay Dooda dooda day To Sacramento we're bounaway Dooda dooda
--	---

Extensive trade had developed between the east coast and California as early as the 1830s. In the first nine months of 1849, 550 ships docked at San Francisco. Half of them from the United States. The sailing ships and steamboats were the favored way of travel for the men from the Atlantic sea ports. The trip around the horn was a journey of 17,000 miles and could take from four to nine months. The second choice was to sail to Panama, leave the ship, cross the isthmus by foot, canoe, and mule-back, then catch another boat to San Francisco. By 1856, nearly 40,000 Forty-niners went by sea, 90% from states east of the Appalachian Mountains.

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It was estimated that a “forty niner” needed \$750 to pay his ship fare, buy clothing, supplies and food, and still have some capital left when he reached the gold fields. This was a large sum of money in those days. Presses were turning out guide books to the gold fields as fast as they could be written. These books were full of advice about how to go and what to do when you got there.

For Americans living west of the Appalachian Mountains, in the Mississippi area and the deep south the overland trails were closer. There were two major land routes, the northern route starting at Independence, Missouri and the southern route starting at Corpus Cristi, Texas or Fort Smith Arkansas. about 30,000 miners took the northern trail, while about 15,000 took the southern route.

The ten years after **William Titchenal** and **Sarah Ann** married were spent in the Fort Smith area. William had property where he farmed and raised stock. They were successful and made some money, but he was envious of the greater success of his sisters families, the Falconers and the Hacketts.

**William** was not happy. Maybe his **Titchenal** “gotta travel on” genes were acting up. He didn’t see his future in Fort Smith, like his sisters. He wasn’t impressed with Ohio, Missouri and Illinois like his **Titchenal** uncles, or his **Harbert** and **Dickason** in-laws, uncles or cousins. For years, **William** had lived along the trail to Texas and California. He had talked to travelers and helped them make up Wagon Trains. He soon got the gold bug along with everybody else. He was anxious to go west, where it seemed as if new land and opportunities were opening up every day. He didn’t see any reason to stay in Fort Smith.

His brothers were dead; his two older sisters seemed happy. Mary Ellen’s husband had already died, but he left her quite well off and she had children and an established home. His youngest sister, Susan Eliza, was 18, and still living at home with her mother.

He didn’t like his stepfather, William McMurtry. His mother was not happily married and she might have liked to travel again with him. But she felt too old at 53: and besides, had three new sons, her daughters and grandchildren seemed to like Fort Smith and planned to stay. In fact, everybody but **William** and **Sarah** seemed settled for life in Fort Smith.

In addition to everything else, the slavery question had been troublesome for **William** for years. Arkansas had been admitted to the union as a slave state in 1836. In 1837, Texas fought the Mexicans at the Alamo and became an independent republic. Texas and Arkansas were both heavily populated by southern emigrants.

The Republic of Texas had been annexed to the union in 1846, without the slavery question settled. It was still a hot topic. It was likely California would be admitted to the union as a free state, but it didn’t join the union until 1850. It was a turbulent time for everyone.

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**William's** father's family had always been against slavery. In fact, the **Titchenals** and the **Harberts** who stayed in West Virginia fought on the Union side in the Civil War. A Titchenal was part of the delegation to make West Virginia a free, non slave state, separate from Virginia.

His mother's father, **Thomas Harbert**, had kept slaves in Virginia, the Falconers had slaves in Arkansas and were pure southerners, they believed in slavery and state rights. This could have made for many arguments. **William** was a strong minded man, no doubt the rest of the family were strong minded also. He was ready to leave the arguments with his family about slavery behind, So was **Sarah**.

He was right about the coming problems, The state of Arkansas, his nephews, William and John Perry Falconer, both fought on the side of the Confederacy in the Civil War. **William's** brother-in-law, Jeremiah Hackett, however went to Missouri when the Civil war started and joined the Union Army. Jeremiah's mother-in-law, **Rebecca (Harbert) Titchenal**, and many of the local residents disliked him for a long time after the war; his sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Falconer, never really forgave, Jeremiah, or his son, Benjamin, for fighting for the Union. **William** never regretted leaving these arguments behind him, but he was sorry to leave his mother with so much unsettled.

Life had never been easy for his mother, **Rebecca**, not only had she lost her two sons, but she never had the luxury of time to grieve. The little home was crowded, and she had a very troubled second marriage. She may have learned about Mr McMurry's first family in Missouri, shortly after **William, Sarah** and their family left Fort Smith.

She took their three children and left William McMurry sometime around 1849. She and her children moved in with her daughter, Sarah Ann Hackett. In 1852, when William McMurry, died she had more trouble. **Rebecca** and her three sons moved back into the old home she had shared with John McMurry. But, William McMurry had walked out and left two children and another wife in Missouri. When they learned of his death, one of the two children of his former wife, sued **Rebecca** and won a court fight preventing **Rebecca** from getting her former home or any part of William McMurry's estate.

Jeremiah and Sarah Ann Hackett adopted her "McMurry" children about 1855. **Rebecca** wound up living with her daughter, Susan Eliza Browne, by the time 1860 census was taken.

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William's last views of Fort Smith

**The home of Mary Ellen Falconer, built about 1848 taken around 1850 to 1855**

The "Stoned-walled Fort" at Fort Smith

**built from 1839 to 1845**

Placeholder for pictures not yet scanned

**Village of Fort Smith from an Early sketch (about 1840 -5)**

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### Footnotes for Chapter XI:

[1] Even in **William's** time, this could be considered heresy by the Church. But in 14th to 16th century Catholic Britain such a belief would have been a crime of heresy and subject to extreme punishment. Such an independent belief made sense of the mysterious Freemasonry's "Old Charges", the ancient rules that still govern the conduct of the fraternity, The charge says that no Mason should ever reveal the secrets of a brother that may deprive him of his life and property. [With severe penalties it they do.]

More excerpts from "***Born in Blood***" ,

"Historically, England rejected the Roman Catholic Church as a State Religion in 1701. Masonry made itself known in London in 1717 (and shortly afterwards in America) Masonry traces it's roots back to Egyptian Pyramids, and some believe to the ancient organization of the "Knights Templar" The Knights Templar order was founded in Jerusalem in 1118, in the aftermath of the First Crusade. It's name came from the location of the knights first headquarters on the site of the ancient Temple of Solomon.

Helping to fill a desperate need for a standing army in the Holy Land, the Knights of the Temple grew in numbers, wealth and political power. They also grew in arrogance, and their Grand Master, de Ridfort, was a key figure in the mistakes that led to the fall of Jerusalem in 1187. The Latin Christians managed to hold onto a narrow strip of territory along the coast, (Lebanon) where the Templars were among the largest owners of land and fortifications. This led to a chain of events that caused the Pope to order King Philip [of France] to have every Templar in France arrested and put in chains at dawn on Friday, the thirteenth of October 1307. Their hideous torture for confessions of heresy began immediately.

When the Pope's orders to arrest the Templars arrived at the English court, young Edward II <sup>[2]</sup> took no action at all. He protested to the pontiff the Templars were innocent. Only after the pope issued a formal bull was the English king forced to act. In January 1308, Edward finally issued orders for the arrest of the Knights Templars in England. Three months of warning had been put to good use.

The Templars had to go under ground. They were never heard of again, it is believed the oaths, the symbols and practices evolved from the "Knights Templar" need to stay safely in hiding. However, later after England rejected the Roman Catholic Church as a State Religion in 1701, it is believed the Templars rose again in England as Freemasons."

**William** may have known many of the American founding fathers were either Masons or Unitarians, maybe both. Washington, Hamilton, Paul Revere, John Paul Jones, Benjamin Franklin, Marquis de Lafayette and Benedict Arnold were Masons. Jefferson, Madison, Paine were Unitarians and/or Deists. They believed God to be the principle of organization and intelligence in the universe, When they used the term "God", it meant "Cosmic Law" not the Judo-Christian God of the Bible. This is the primary reason the first amendment of the Bill of rights covers the separation of state and religion, freedom of religion as well as freedom from religion.

Other quotes from excerpts from "***Born In blood***" "

"Other revolutions against both the church and state were also led by Freemasons, some were; Bonito Juarez, Simon Bolivar, Guseppe Garibaldi, and Sam Houston. Some of the Kings and Emperors who took the Masonic oath include Edward VII, Edward VIII, George VI, in England, Frederick the Great of Prussia, George I of Greece, and Haakon VII of Norway.

Other U.S.A. Presidents include Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan. The list goes on and on with both British and American leaders and Generals in WWII. In music Freemasons include John Philip Sousa, Gilbert and Sullivan, and Amadeus Mozart, whom some say was murdered for revealing Masonic secrets in his opera the Magic Flute.

Impressive as the list of modern Masons, they pale against the revelations of early Masonic historians, who claimed the Masonic Membership for Adam, Abraham, Noah. Moses, Solomon, Ptolemy, Julius Caesar, and Pythagor"

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In spite of the fact the bloody oaths did not make sense to **William** in 1840 nor do they make sense today, the Masons continue to take them to this day. They consider them part of a ritualistic initiation into a Fraternity. As a matter of fact, the words of the oath only make sense if they were part of the language used by the Templars to keep from being discovered and tortured during the early centuries. The oaths have been branded as bloody, brutal, sickening and etc. Indeed to have ones tongue torn out by the roots, heart plucked from the breast, the body cut in two with the entrails burned to ashes, appears to be overkill, and literally against the law, as well as the tents of any religions whose members are welcomed into the brotherhood.

"In 1826, the Masonic penalties came close to destroying the order entirely in the United States, based as it was on allegations of murder. On March 13, 1826, Captain William Morgan of Batavia, NY, signed a contract for the printing of a book that he said would reveal the secret grips, signs and rituals of Freemasonry. In the consternation that broke out among the local members of the order, the printers shop was set on fire and, in what was termed an act of harassment, Morgan was arrested and jailed for nonpayment of debt.

An anonymous benefactor paid the debt for him, but as Morgan left the jail he was sized by men waiting out in front and forced in a coach. He was taken to the abandoned Fort Niagara and held as a prisoner.

Five Masons confessed to the abduction and confinement but they said he was released, or escaped, and fled to Canada. The anti-Masonic story was that his captors had taken Morgan out on the river in a boat, where he was tied to heavy stones and rolled overboard. No body was ever recovered.

As arrests were made and the trial date set, the public learned that the local sheriff, the judge, and some of the jurors were Masons. The sheriffs of the towns through which the kidnappers had passed were Masons. So was the secretary of state of the United States, and it came out that New York Governor DeWitt Clinton was past Grand Master. It appeared that Freemasonry might be functioning as an underground government.

Impromptu Masonic conventions were called at which the murder of Morgan was condemned, and thousands of practicing Freemasons resigned from the order. An Anti-Masonic party was organized as a third party from the order, with formal fund raising, its own newspapers, and the first national convention at which a nominee for president was selected. The most vocal champion of the "Anti-Masonic" party was Congressman John Quincy Adams, who had served as sixth president of United States.

Masons claimed the alleged murder of Morgan was just an excuse to attack Freemasonry, that he was bitter that he had been denied a second term as president because of the popularity and political machinations of Freemason Andrew Jackson. Adams proposed that Freemasonry be outlawed in the U.S.A.

He almost had his wish, Morgan's book was published by the burned out printer, who restored his shop the following year, 1827, under the title, "Illustrations of Masonry by one of the Fraternity who devoted Thirty Years to the Subject. God said, Let there be light, and there was light". It is still published today under a shorter title "Freemasonry Exposed"

William Falconer, Jeremiah Hackett and **William Titchenal** must have known of these allegations in the 1840s but they continued to stay with Freemasonry anyway. The Anti-Masonic party dwindled away in a generation, but criticism of the Masonic oaths was still alive in 1852. In a book about "Secret Societies" published in Columbus OH. by William Hanby. This book took any and all secret societies to task, pointing out all were against God and the Bible. He took all Deists to task, particularly Jefferson, for his rewriting of the Bible. William Hanby told the story of the murder of Morgan by Masons in great length and detail, quoted John Quincy Adams, published copies of his letters. He pointed out the Masonic practice of allowing men of all religions and beliefs to join the lodges was against God and forbidden in the Bible.

Again in 1869 in a book published by Reverend C.G. Finney, the president of Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH. wrote about the evils of Freemasonry, citing the oaths and their acceptance of men of any creed.

In 1884 Pope Leo XIII issued a papal encyclical that classed Freemasonry in a group of societies in the "Kingdom of Satan". (which included; the Salvation Army, the Baptist church, the Buddhists and the Mormons). In fact he condemned every thing but the Catholic Church.

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We know the **Titchenals** were a religious family, starting with the Puritan, **Martin** in 1644. **Moses** was a Presbyterian in New Jersey in 1743 and a Methodist in Maryland, and maybe Baptist in Harrison County Virginia. **William** started the first Methodist church in Santa Ana in 1869. I have his second "big" Bible, which he bought in 1875, it is well used. Our family record was preserved by his son David Jackson, who copied the records from the first Bible after it wore out, into the new one. (The old one may have been purchased in 1839 when **William** got married)

With all the work he did to promote Freemasonry, **William** could not have believed there was a conflict between the church and the Masons. If **William Titchenal** had read or talked about the "Anti-Masonic" party of 1826, the books or stories in the 1850, 1869 and 1884, may have shaken his beliefs in the Masons a bit, but the books did not discourage him. He remained a member and promoted the Masons almost to the end of his life. He was a charter member and/or prime organizer of at least six Lodges in California starting in 1852 and ending with the starting of the Santa Ana Lodge in 1875, to which he continued to belong until February 2, 1881, at which time just ten years before his death, he asked for and was granted a demit from the Santa Ana Lodge. No one knows why.

He may have just been tired, or it may have been for religious reasons. In his later life he attended the holiness branch of his church, which may have conflicted with his Masonic membership.

Were any other **Titchenals** in the Masons before William? Several of his cousins in Harrison County were Masons. We don't know, if George Washington and other founding fathers were Masons, **Moses** must have known about Free Masonary around the time of the revolution, but there is no evidence of **Moses** or his sons joining a lodge.

[2] Elizabeth Baldwin Tichenor was the 19th living generation from King Edward II. She was the wife of Daniel Tichenor, the great (4) grandfather of William Titchenal. See first chapter. (pages 23, 33, & 37)

[3] Sarah Ann's Obituary printed in the Fort Smith Elevator Newspaper, Friday February 16, 1900

Sarah Ann (Titchenall) Hackett died at the "old home" near Hackett, Arkansas February 10, 1900. Mrs Hackett was born on the banks of the Arkansas River just in back of the old Garrison at Fort Smith, December 23, 1823. She was 77 years old at the time of her death. She was married to Jeremiah Hackett August 12, 1841, They moved to the old home the following year, 1842 where they have resided for over 57 years.

Mrs Hackett is the last known of seven [*William claimed he was one nine children*] children born to John and Rebecca Titchenall. She was the mother of eleven children, six of whom survive her. Namely : Mrs C.D. Swisher, of Hackett, Judge B.F. Hackett, of Antlers, IT; Dr T.P. Hackett, of Spiro, IT. Mrs. William A. Harrison of Birmingham, Alabama; Perry Hackett and Miss Myrtle Hackett at the "old homestead". Her husband is 82 years old and very frail in body but with a clear, strong mind. He keeps well posted on all the news of the day, and especially with Boers, He has many friends, all of whom sympathize with him in this his greatest of ordeals that he has passed through. Mrs, Hackett's last words were that she is ready and that her husband will soon follow.

No death has occurred in this section in a long time, that has occasioned us more genuine regret than that of Mrs. Hackett. She belonged to a class of people upon God puts the sign of nobility at the time of her birth. She lived long and labored hard, and those who knew her best can tell best how well her work in the world has done. To the now lonely companion who walked with her for so many years over life's troublesome road, and their sorrowful children, we extend deepest Sympathies. — Editors Elevator.

[4] Jeremiah Hackett's Obituary ; printed in the Fort Smith Elevator; A PIONEER IS GONE, Friday March 14, 1902

Major Hackett was born in Gallia County. Ohio, on the 12th day of April 1817, and died at Hackett City, Arkansas on the 11th day of March 1902. His wife Sarah Tichnal, was born on the banks of the Poteau River, near the fort, on a place now owned by General Bonnerville. She was the daughter of David Tichnal, (David is not correct of course, John was her father), one of the first settlers of Sebastian County, and died on the 10th of February 1900. They were married on the 12th of August 1842 and lived on the homestead farm near

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Hackett City fifty-nine years. They had four sons-two daughters living, -two daughters deceased, and the aged couple has fifteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Major Hackett was a member of the Belle Point Lodge and of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was buried in the Hackett City Graveyard Tuesday with Masonic ceremonies. During his long life he was one of the few to whom his fellows could point with pride and say, "Behold an upright Mason."

Jerre Hackett could tell truthful tales of his early adventures in California, of his experiences in war under the roar of battle, of his successful culture of the grape, which was killed by a cranky legislature, of his struggles as a pioneer, with the wolves at night howling in the clearing, of log rolling, of rolling and rail splitting; but he was modest and unassuming, or using a vulgar phrase, he was nor a "blow gun".

Jerre Hackett was not a man of so-called "common sense"; he was a man of good sense, in every sense that the word implies. He was sensible and conservative in all his views of politics, religion and government. He was of southern sympathies, feelings and affinities, but he was one of those sturdy, old-fashioned Americans who loved the Stars and Stripes, who worshipped the memory of Washington, Franklin, Putnam, Marin and other heroes who had dyed the flag with blood to establish the union, and like Jackson and Houston, he could not endorse secession, so when the war broke out in 1861 he joined the Union soldiers and served his time with distinction and bravery.

The "golden occasion" of their fiftieth wedding anniversary will be long remembered, long tables under the trees seated over two hundred to feast on barbecued meats and post nuptial delicacies, The Hackett City band blared and stringed orchestra thrummed dancing music to the young and gay. Twice since have these pleasant family festivals been repeated, Car loads have left the city to greet their hosts under their vine and fig trees. The writer has seen his aged friends kiss and embrace him as they clasped his hands, not only Union men but Confederates, who fought him. What stronger evidence of personal worth and affection could we give?

W.J.W.

[5] Jeremiah Hackett Jr.'s lineage in America is almost as early as the **Titchenals** and dates back to Sir Thomas Hackett who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1667. Thomas Hackett came to America in 1674 with his wife Elizabeth on the good ship "Dover" under Captain Samuel Groom. They settled in Dorchester County, Virginia.

Their son Thomas Hackett Jr., was born in Jamestown, Virginia in 1727. When he was five years old he was kidnapped by a band of marauding Indians and carried to the lake region near what is now known as Syracuse N.Y. He was held for eleven years, when he was ransomed on condition of servitude.

In 1755 he volunteered in one of two companies sent from New York to aid General Braddock in his attempt to capture Ft. DeQuene, at the head of the Ohio River. He was seriously injured and was cared for by his mother who recognized him by his birthmark, and told him who he was. He had been going by the name Pickett. After that he took his right name Tom Hackett.

In 1777 he enlisted in The Continental Army and served with Col. George Washington Regiment in the siege of Quebec. He served through all the campaigns of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania until 1780, when he was transferred south and served under General Green. Thomas Hackett Jr. may have even met the Titchenals during the Revolutionary War. It is interesting to note: General Green is the General that replaced General Gates, whom **David Titchenal** escorted to safety, after Gates career ended in flight from the battle of Camden, North Carolina in 1780.

It would be interesting if Thomas Hackett Jr. had met **Moses Tichenor** or **David, John Titchenal's** father and grandfather, when Washington's army spent the winter in Morristown in 1777 or in the battle of Camden. Then 50 years later their grandsons and granddaughter marry in a new frontier thousands of miles west in a country they didn't even know about.

Thomas Hackett Jr.'s grandson Jeremiah Hackett Jr. was born in Gallia County, Ohio April 12, 1817 and came to western Arkansas in 1836. He was a farmer and stockman. During the Civil War, he was a Captain of

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Company H. 2nd Arkansas Cavalry, later promoted to Major. After the war he held a number of Civil offices and was elected to the Arkansas Legislature in 1866.

[6] I am not sure when **Charles** left Ohio and moved, but in the Illinois, 1850 McDonough County census, **Charles** was listed as head of household age 60 (he was actually 63) with son Charles Jr, and daughters, Melissa and Martha Jane.

There is no record of what happened to Martha Jane, but Charles Jr. married Sarah Ann McCown July 31, 1857. Melissa was first married to Joseph Dunsworth June 9, 1853, and then to John Taylor April 4, 1858.

The 1860 McDonough County census, lists **Charles**' age as 80 and living with his daughter and son-in-law John and Melissa Taylor. (he was actually 73)

John and Melissa had two daughters, Fannie and Elizabeth. Her second husband John Taylor died sometime after her half sister **Sarah Ann Titchenal** moved to Santa Ana. Melissa Taylor and her two daughters came to Santa Anna, California to visit her sister. After visiting with **Sarah** for a while, Melissa decided to stay in California. Melissa died in Santa Anna March 30, 1892.

John Taylor may have died before 1870 and **Charles** had to move to live with his oldest daughter. The Illinois 1870 McDonough County census lists **Charles**' age as 95 (he was actually 83) and was now living with his son-in-law John Barritt and daughter, Cynthia Barritt.

**Charles Dickason** died in McDonough County, The tombstone reads "Died, August 28, 1874 at the age of 87". They finally got his age correct. (Note: My father **Charles Elmer Titchenal**, born in Santa Anna May 4, 1890 was named after his great grandfather **Charles Dickason**, as was his uncle.)