

## Chapter X

### The Dickason Family

The family's history and life in Champaign County, Ohio  
**William Titchenal** meets and marries **Sarah Ann Dickason**

Not much is known about the life of **Sarah Ann Dickason** before she married **William**, except that she was born in Champaign County, Ohio on November 13, 1818. She was descended from a pioneer family that lived in Hampshire County, (W) Virginia at least as early as 1783. There is no evidence that **William Titchenal's** grandfather, **David**, or great grandfather, **Moses**, knew this family, although both families lived in the same area about the same time.

**Sarah's** father, **Charles Dickason**, was born in Hampshire County, (W) Virginia in 1775. His father, **John Dickason**, was born around 1760 and was married in Hampshire County about 1783. We don't know where **John Dickason** was born. It may have been New Jersey, as some **Dickason** families were living there at the time he was born. He may have served in the Revolutionary War. He was certainly the right age and in the right place to be involved, but there is no record of his service.

**John Dickason** had four sons in Hampshire County, (W) Virginia. The sons were, Samuel, born 1784, Ruben, born 1785, **Charles**, born 1787, and Jacob, born 1789. About 1794, they moved to Monroe County, (W) Virginia at the southern end of the state. Two more sons and two daughters were born there: Elizabeth, born 1794-1800, Levi, born 1794-1804, Jesse born, 1798, and Peggy, 1800-1810. They lived along the waters of Dropping Creek on the 159 acre farm of **John Dickason**.

At least five of his children stayed and died in Monroe county. **Charles** went to Ohio and Ruben went to Kentucky. **John** died in Monroe county sometime before January 27, 1840.

His personal property was auctioned that day. It consisted of five pages worth of farm items, household goods, live stock and farm products totaling \$519.87. The list included:	
2 pair of Sheep shears \$ .80	*1 bureau bed & furniture \$20.52
1 bay horse ..... 59.00	1 bed & furniture ..... 8.625
1 gray mare ..... 21.50	9 chairs ..... 3.56
1 old sorrel mare ..... 0.125	1 set razors and straps..... 1.50
1 cow with one horn ... 5.00	1 brass kettle ..... 1.02
*1 red heifer ..... 8.00	1 set of pewter plates ..... 2.25
*1- 4 year old heifer ... 30.25	6 glass tumblers ..... 2.45
1 old cow ..... 5.50	1 coffee mill ..... 0.9325
* 66 bushels of corn ... 23.52	30 bushels of wheat ..... 22.70
38.5 bushels of rye ..... 14.635	1 gun ..... 6.75
390 lbs of bacon ..... 29.185	*Barrel and brandy ..... 7.315

Both of his son's Jacob and Jesse were at the auction. Jesse bought the items marked\* and Jacob bought a few miscellaneous items.

**The John Dickason Family**

Probably born in New Jersey about 1760

Wife's name is unknown but he is believed to have been married  
in Hampshire county, Virginia about 1783.

Placeholder for geneology chart not yet converted.

According to Strauss and Howe's book, *Generations*, people born between 1767 and 1791 are part of the Compromise Generation. **Charles Dickason**, born in 1774, and both **John Titchenal** and Thomas Harbert III, born in 1791 are part of this generation.

## The Titchenal Saga    The Rivers Run West

The *Generations*, book says:

“This generation consisted of protected and thankful children during the glorious years of nation founding. Also, as with Daniel Webster and many other notables of their generation, they were fated to careers of secret turmoil and hidden frustration. For example in 1804, Lewis and Clark set out with forty-four young civil servants to inventory the vast territories acquired by their next elders. They obeyed President Jefferson’s request to observe “with great pains and accuracy” and to “err on the side of safety.” (only one man died in route.) But soon after returning, Lewis suffered from emotional depression and died in 1809 mysteriously—probably a suicide. Clark for thirty years a kindly Indian Commissioner for the western territories, later regretted his complicity in the Jacksonian policy of Indian removal that led to the 1838 Cherokee ‘Trail of Tears.’

Few Americans ever groomed themselves so carefully for national leadership as Webster, Clay and Calhoun. Yet at critical moments they invariably stumbled; collectively they were zero for twelve runs for the presidency.

This generation lived an awkward lifecycle. Outwardly, fortune blessed them. They were coddled in childhood, suffered little in war, came of age with quiet obedience, enjoyed a rising lifetime of rising prosperity, and managed to defer national crises until most of them had died. Born in 1767 to 1774, the eldest (Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams and our **Charles Dickason**) watched the Revolution as children and came of age when military and political triumphs of Republicans were already complete.

The stunning victories of Jackson and Oliver Perry late in the war of 1812 only culminated a pointless and blundering conflict declared by elder Republicans. Two decades later the social upheaval was fueled by the younger Transcendentals.

“The youngest (which include both **John Titchenal** and Thomas Harbert III, born in 1791) reached adulthood just ahead of the new youth movement of religion and literature. The “Transcendental Awakening Generation” that followed hit most of the “Compromise Generation” at a unsettling time— squarely in midlife. Having spent their early years emulating their celebrated elders, they spent their later years trying to please or calm their children’s coming of age. Compromisers were content to split the difference. They sought “the middle course”— between two regions (North and south), Two parties (Whig and Democrat), and two peer personalities (confident manliness and moral passion).

Their confusion spilled over into self-conscious cruelty toward slaves and Indians, chronic ambivalence about economic and territorial expansion, —and late in life— paralyzing irresolution in the approaching collision between abolitionism and King Cotton.

At the same time the political leaders defended pluralism, due process, and the two party system. Their professionals methodized industry. Their writers leavened American culture with romantic sensitivity. (James Fenimore Cooper and Washington Irving). Their clerical elite, prodded by William Ellery Cahnning’s Unitarian Church was the first to suggest that society itself may be responsible for the ills of modern life.”

The lives of **John Titchenal**, Thomas Harbert, III and **Charles Dickason** all fit the pattern of the “Compromise Generation” to some degree .

**John Titchenal** no doubt tried to emulate his father, **David**, his grandfather, **Moses**, and his father-in-law, **Thomas Harbert, Jr.** **John** not only was frustrated in his efforts, but died early. **Charles Dickason** moved west to new lands, but was not very successful in making his fortune. Thomas Harbert, III fought in the war of 1812, but it did not bring him fame. He spent a large part of his life in frustrated attempts to regain his father's land.

About 1809, **Charles** (22) married **Hannah Legg**, probably in Monroe County. There is no record of the marriage, however in 1810, **Charles** appears in the federal census for Monroe County, Virginia as head of household with one female (wife) age 16 to 26. About 1811, they moved to Goshen Township, Champaign County, Ohio.

Beer's book on Champaign County tells us:

"The county was formed from Green and Franklin counties March, 1805. About half of it is level or slightly undulating, one quarter rolling, one-fifth rather hilly and 5 % prairie. The country is drained by the Mad River, which flows through a beautiful country, and with it's tributaries furnished extensive mill sites. Urbana was laid out in 1805 by Col. William Ward who named the town from the word urbanity. (Meaning suave, polished and elegant in manner. Characteristics of urban rather than country folk.)

Captain Abner Barritt, an early settler (who's son later married, Cynthia Dickason, the first child of **Hannah (Legg)** and **Charles Dickason**) tells an anecdote about the famous Shawanoe Indian Chief, Tecumseh (1768-1813). Around 1803 a stout Kentuckian came to Ohio to explore the lands along the Mad River and he lodged one night at the house of Abner Barritt, residing on the headwaters of Buck Creek.

Tecumseh, the white man called him. To his own people, he was known as Tecumiha. It was a name filled with spiritual power, an abbreviation of a phrase meaning "celestial panther lying in wait." The Shawnee was indeed very like a panther in war; waiting, however was not to his taste-especially waiting for friendship to bloom between Indians and Long Knives. Secretary of War Henry Knox had reasoned in a 1799 letter to President Washington concerning the establishment of a national policy toward the continent's native inhabitants. "It cannot be taken from them unless by free consent, or by right of conquest in case of a just war.

Congress turned Knox's ideas into laws. Some tribes were called "distinct and independent political communities" and should be treated as foreign nations. But such lofty doctrine proved to be a sham from the start.

## The Titchenal Saga    The Rivers Run West

Tecumseh and other indian leaders painfully discovered that American laws, offered them no more from exploitation than had previous agreement they had signed with the British and the French. Almost with out pause, the Long Knives contened to wrest land from them-by chicanery, bribery, or simple theft. But in 1803, Tecumseh was still friendly, He had met and liked some of the American pioneers (including Captain Barritt) and was still hoping that American laws would work for the indians.

Beer's book on Champaign County continues to relate the story about an evening in Capitan Barritt's home in 1803:

"In the course of the evening, Capitan Barritt, learned some Indians were camped within a short distance from his house. Shortly thereafter the door of the was suddenly opened. Tecumseh entered with his usual stately air and he paused in silence and looked around. At length his eyes were fixed upon the stranger, who was showing symptoms of alarm and did not look the stern savage in the face. Tecumseh turned to his host and pointing to the agitated Kentuckian he exclaimed, "A big baby! A big baby!" He then stepped up to him, slapped him on the shoulder several times, repeating with a contemptuous manner, the phrase, "A big baby! A big baby!" to the great alarm of the astonished man, and the amusement of all present."

From Time-Life Book, *The Mighty Chieftains*:

"Around 1810 Chief Tecumseh had enough and undertook the organization of a defensive tribal confederacy to resist the western movement of white settlement. The British governor in Canada, as well as fur traders, actively supported Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet. When extensive Indian activity during the summer of 1811 created fear among the frontier settlers, the people of Vincennes adopted resolutions calling for the destruction of the Indian capital on Tippecanoe Creek.

The settlers finally induced General William Henry Harrison, governor of the Indian Territory to take action against Tecumseh. Leading a force of 1000 men, Harrison marched from Vincennes for the Indian capital 150 miles north. They encamped about a mile from the Indian village. In a surprise dawn attack the Indians descended upon the Americans. After a day long battle, Harrison's men, despite heavy losses, beat back the Indians and razed the Indian village.

The Westerners acclaimed the battle of Tippecanoe as a great victory. Although the British took steps to cut off aid to the Indians, the event increased anti-British sentiment along the frontier and resulted in loud demands for expelling the British from Canada. Indian raids broke out again (April 1812) along the frontier, even though Tecumseh chose to remain on the defensive. It was generally thought that open war with the Indians would necessarily be a part of a declared war against the British.

Tecumseh labored tirelessly to hold the indian confederacy together. In the spring of 1813 he still had more than 1000 warriors at his disposal, and in late April joined a British force to take on Harrison, who had been put in command of America's frontier forces.

As part of a plan to advance methodically, Harrison had built Fort Meigs on the Maumee River not far from the Fallen Timbers battle site. Where in 1794 with an hour long,

showdown frenzied battle, American General (Mad Anthony] Wayne, had defeated a large band of Shawnees Indians. One of the indians later said "we could not stand against the sharp end of their guns." and they fled to Fort Miami only to be turned away by their erstwhile British allies, who feared antagonizing the Americans at that time.

On May 1, 1813, and the war with America underway, the British began a bombardment, but Harrison Engineers had built a system of earthworks that kept casualties to a minimum, Harrison knew a brigade of Kentuckians were marching to reinforce him and refused to surrender. The Kentuckians engaged the British on May 5-and ran into disaster. Tecumseh's Warriors pinned the Americans against the Maumee River and cut them to pieces, killing nearly 599 and capturing 150; only 150 managed to reach Fort Meigs. Yet the day of triumph gained little. Although the British commander, Colonel Henry Procter had promised Tecumseh that Harrison would be his personal prisoner, he was unprepared to maintain a siege, Instead he withdrew, taking the American prisoners back to his headquarters. Procter then looked the other way as the indians begin torturing the captives, When Tecumseh arrived, he stopped the massacre, Survivors later told how Tecumseh knocked down several Indians and verbally assaulted Procter for failing to maintain order. Tecumseh had condemned a similar massacre on the Raisin River four months earlier. He realized that if Indians were ever to gain a state of their own, they would have to make peace with Americans and be recognized foe humanity on white mans terms.

In late July, Tecumseh and Procter made another attempt on Fort Meigs, but the post had been strengthened, and they failed again. As word of the setbacks spread and Harrison continued to build up his forces, tribes throughout the area began to reconsider their alliance with the British. Then came catastrophe. On September 10, 1813, Captain Oliver Hazard Perry, commander of a newly built American fleet on Lake Erie, won a crushing victory over the British fleet, sinking or capturing every vessel.

Tecumseh learned of the debacle nine days later from Procter, who related more bad news, He informed the assembled officers and Indian leaders that the British had decided to bow to the reality of American strength and retreat. HE hoped that Tecumseh and the other Indians would join in the defence of Canada. Tecumseh was stunned. Dressed in buckskin, with an ostrich plume in his hair, he glared at the British commander. Then began to speak. His words electrified the audience:

*"Father, listen to your children! Our great father, the king, is our head, and you represent him. You always told us that you would never draw back, your feet off British ground; but now we see you are drawing back, and we are sorry to see our father doing so without seeing the enemy. We must compare out father conduct to a fat animal that carries its tail upon its back, but when frightened, he drops it between his legs and runs off. Father! You have got the arms and ammunition that our great father sent for his red children, If you have an idea of going away, give them to us, and you mat go and welcome. AS for us, our lives are in the hands of the great Spirit. We are determined to defend our lands, and if it be his will, we wish to leave our bones upon them."*

Procter promised to get back in three days. The British did not dare risk another public confrontation. Instead they offered a compromise; they would retreat about 50 miles up the Thames river beyond reach of Perry's squadron-and make a stand there if Harrison pursued them. Tecumseh dependent upon British supplies had no choice but to accept. Tecumseh tried to keep his Indian allies together but they started to drift away or retreated with th British toward the Thames.

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On September 27, Harrison and 3000 troops crossed Lake Erie into Canada, In a desperate effort to slow him down, Tecumseh and his remaining warriors began destroying bridges to slow him down. Harrison brushed them aside with artillery, In that encounter, Tecumseh received a slight arm wound.

On October 5 came the showdown, Procter and Tecumseh chose to meet Harrison army on the north side of the Thames, not far from Moratown. The British established a their lines across a road where it traversed a swamp; the Indians waited in the thickets on either side of the road. Harrison ford the thames and marched toward them. "Father, Tecumseh advise Procter, "tell you men to be firm and all will be well" But when the forces met in the afternoon, the British collapsed and began retreating. Procter watching from the rear galloped away. Tecumseh fought on, shouting encouragement. But it was hopeless, Harrison forces delivered overwhelming firepower into the underbrush, A bullet caught Tecumseh in th chest. The previous night, some of his warriors later recounted, he had calmly said, "My body will remain on the battle field." Now the light , dimmed, and his vision of Indian unity and strength faded with the afternoon sun. The yells and percussion of guns grew distant, then fell silent. The indian Moses was dead.

Tecumseh body was never found. It had vanished , along with his farsighted dream. Six years later, the *Indiana Centinel* of Vincenes wrote: "Every school boy in the Union now knows that Tecumseh was a great man. He was truly great-and his greatness was his own, unassisted by science or the aids of education. As a statesman, a warrior, and a patriot, take him in all, we shall not look upon his likes again".

Tecumseh hold on American imagination of the time was unparalleled. There were tails of his humanity, his nobility, his wisdom, even of romance with a young white woman. But the white mans title of the Greatest Indian or Red Napoleon provided no consolation to his people, Just as Tecumseh had foreseen, the forces of history pushed the Indians farther and farther from their ancestral lands. The Shawnee eventually landed west of the Mississippi."

**Charles Dickason** didn't get involved himself, but he knew all of Urbana's early settlers that were involved in the war of 1812 with England. It is recorded that in 1812, a Captain Arthur Thomas of Urbana was ordered with his troops to guard the public stores and to guard against Indian attacks."

The Harbert family tells a story that Thomas Harbert III fought in the war with General Harrison and was present when Tecumseh was shot. Thomas Harbert III probably told the story of Tecumseh's life and death over and over again. He and Captain Barritt must have met and told each other about their brush with Tecumseh.

**Charles and Hannah Dickason's** first child, Cynthia Dickason, was born In Champagne County, Ohio, October 11, 1812.

Their son, David, was born about 1814 to **Charles** and **Hannah**.

On August 8, 1818, **Charles** purchased 100 acres on the waters of the Little Darby from Samuel Baldrige and his wife, Lucinda, for \$125 [\$1.25 an acre].

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Their second daughter, my great grandmother, **Sarah Ann**, was born November 3, 1818.

Another son, Samuel, was born in 1820 to **Charles** and **Hannah**.

**Charles** appeared in the 1820 census of Champaign County, Goshen Township with a wife, two sons and two daughters. under ten years of age: Cynthia, David, **Sarah Ann** and Samuel.

A third daughter, Martha Jane, was born in 1823.

In 1827, **Charles** was taxed on the 100 acres on the Little Darby (value \$114.00), two horses (\$80) and four cattle (\$32) that he owned.

A third son, Charles Jr., was born in 1827.

In 1830, **Charles** was still in Goshen county his with wife, **Hannah**, three sons and three daughters. These would be Cynthia (18), David(16), **Sarah Ann** (12), Samuel (9), Martha Jane (7), and Charles (3).

On June 26, 1831, Cynthia (19) married John Barritt. John must have been a son of the early settler Captain Abner Barritt.

There is no record of **Charles** selling his land on Little Darby, but some strange land transactions began occurring about this time.

In 1832, Charles purchased 102 acres from Abner Barritt, part of 162 acres conveyed by the state of Ohio to Abner Barritt on December 23, 1831. A little more than one year later, **Charles** and his wife, **Hannah**, sold the same 102 acres to Edward D. Orrick for \$700.

In 1833, a chancery suit was filed by **Rebecca (Harbert) Titchenal** in Champaign County against her brothers, Thomas Harbert, III, William and etc.. The suit clammed the Elias Harbert estate owed a debt of \$78.00 plus interest from April 1821 to **William Titchenal** (age 16) (son of **Rebecca Titchenal**). This is the first recorded contact between **Rebecca** and her brothers in Ohio since the filing of the law suit against their mother in Harrison County, Virginia about 1822. (see chapter IX, page -)

I don't know if the **Charles Dickasons** and Harberts knew each other at this time, but it is probable they did.

Some time around 1834, **Charles'** wife, **Hannah**, died leaving **Charles** (47) with five children at home: Charles Jr (4), Martha Jane (10), Samuel (12), **Sarah Ann** (15), David (19), Cynthia (22), of course, was married.

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On Oct 16, 1835 **Charles** (48) married his second wife, Elizabeth Ann Springer.

On March 19, 1836 he purchased the same 102 acres that he sold in 1832 for \$700 back from Edward D. Orrick for \$800 (\$7.84 per acre). Eight months later, on November 7, 1836, **Charles** sold the same 102 acres to Samuel Keener for \$240.25, (\$2.35 per acre) for a loss of \$459.75.

We can never know **Charles'** situation, or the financial climate in Champagne County at that time, or why **Charles** took these actions. These transactions may sound bizarre and strange to us today, but **Charles** must have had a good reason to buy and sell the same property twice at an apparent loss of \$660 over a four or five year period.

**Charles'** wife, **Hannah**, died in 1834. She may gotten sick shortly after he bought the property in 1832. He may have needed the money in 1833 and sold the property at a loss to cover the cost of her illness. He married again in 1835, his new wife may have wanted the property, so he bought it back again in 1836, but why he sold it eight months later, I can't guess.

On May 20, 1837 his daughter, **Sarah Ann** (19), applied for a marriage license that was never used with a James Bayless. James Bayless married another woman a few years later. Both James Bayless and his wife lived and died in Urbana.

**Charles'** son, David (23), married Mary Ann Gault March 25, 1838. **Charles** and his second wife, Elizabeth had a daughter, Melissa C. born later the same year.

In the *History of Orange County* **William Titchenal** is quoted as saying, " In 1838, I went from Arkansas on visit to his friends in Ohio, where I met and married Miss Sarah Ann Dickason, January 29, 1839". He may have also gone as early as 1833, but whatever the date he arrived, **Sarah Ann** (21) married **William Titchenal** (22) January 29th 1839. in Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio. and probably left shortly thereafter to go to Fort Smith, Arkansas.