

## BROOKS FAMILY FILE

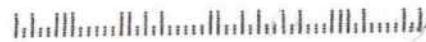
1. Letter to Kathryn Owen from Wylie A. Brooks, Jr. dated Sept. 7, 1997 concerning Abijah Brooks, Jr., Nancy Strode.
2. Letter to William E. Eldridge from Kathryn Owen dated March 5, 1978 concerning families of Clark Co. That moved to Clay County, Missouri; includes a copy of newspaper article about moving graves from old cemetery.
3. Family Group Record for Abijah Brooks and Nancy Strode prepared by Wylie A. Brooks, Jr.
4. Letter to Kathryn Owen from Wylie A. Brooks, Jr. dated Oct. 5, 1997 with information on Abijah Brooks, Jr. .

Wylie A. Brooks, Jr.  
5330 West 100th Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66207-3118



Miss Kathryn Owen  
423 East Broadway  
Winchester, KY 40391

40391-2213 06



September 7, 1997

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Miss Kathryn Owen  
423 East Broadway  
Winchester, Kentucky

Dear Miss Owen :

I am writing to you hoping that my letter will reach you. I have been researching my family history for several years. About four years ago, I found an article in one of the local genealogical libraries from the Winchester newspaper showing graves being unearthed in the Strode Station cemetery, along with your picture and that of Floyd Osborne and Leon Pace.

Last Wednesday, I found a copy of a letter you had written to Mr. William E. Eldridge, Clay County Recorder of Deeds on March 5, 1978, expressing your interest in Abijah Brooks, and others, formerly of Clark County who migrated to Clay County, Missouri.

Abijah Brooks, Sr. was my fourth great grandfather, whose grave was unearthed and moved to Winchester cemetery. His wife was Nancy Strode, daughter of Captain John Strode, who founded Strode's Station near Winchester in the eighteenth century. He and Abijah Brooks, Sr., and others, formed Clark County from Montgomery County and also founded Winchester. After the death of Abijah, Sr., in 1812, Nancy married Jacob Wilson.

Abijah Brooks, Jr. 120 acres of land from his father, and after his father's death, he traveled for about a year, going to New Orleans, Ohio and farther East. At 25 years of age, he married Harriet Brooks, a cousin, a native of Massachusetts and was there reared to womanhood, afterward accompanying her parents to Ohio. Abijah and Harriet were married February 27, 1821 and returned to Kentucky where they lived until moving to Clay County, Missouri in 1826 with 91 other families and slaves.

Abijah Brooks, Sr. and Nancy Strode had eleven children. Van W., Robert and Abijah, Jr. were the sons who came to Clay County. Also, Mary, Eleanor, Elizabeth and maybe Ann Weir also came. I have not researched enough at the present time to confirm this.

The patent for the land where I was born was obtained by Van W. He was married to Clemency Young, cousin of Samantha, his brother Robert's wife. Van W. died around 1852, I don't have the exact date at my fingertips right now, and in his will he stipulated that some of his land was to be sold and the proceeds were to be used to build a house for his wife and children. His wife died before the estate was settled. But, to make a long story a little shorter, I went to the Courthouse in Liberty, Missouri to trace ownership of this land and find that it was sold to settle the estate for his children. Later the banks who held the mortgage on the land foreclosed and a sheriff's sale took place where my great grandfather, Samuel J. Brooks, bought the land and later sold it to his son, Eugene Allen, and from there it passed on to my father and then to me and my brothers. The house which was built for Van W.'s wife and children was taken down when my father and mother were married in 1920. I believe that my father lived in this house before his marriage.

I am in the process of researching my family and history of Clay County so that I can write a book. It has taken so much time, but I believe it is a must to put it in a book for future generations.

Yes, there were quite a number of families who came to Clay County from Clark County as well as other counties in Kentucky. I am related to so many families in Clay County, it is hard to find one that I am not related. So many families intermarried in Kentucky as well as in Clay. I believe that all 16 of my great, great grandparents came from, or lived in Kentucky and all were born in the United States in the eighteenth century except one, Samuel Fleming, who was born in Ireland.

Enough about me and my family. I do hope that this letter finds you and that you are in good health. I thought you might enjoy knowing what happened to one family who came to Clay County, since you witnessed the removal of Abijah's grave.

I would like to hear from you and to learn something about your life.

Sincerely,



Wylie A. Brooks, Jr.  
5330 West 100<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Overland Park, KS 66207

423 East Broadway  
Winchester, Kentucky  
March 5, 1978

Mr. William E. Eldridge  
Recorder of Deeds, Clay County  
Liberty, Missouri 64068

Dear Mr. Eldridge,

Thank you so much for the Index to Clay County Original Grants. (The "TO" doesn't belong there). I have found it very interesting and it surely is a very valuable piece of work. So many of our Clark County families migrated to Missouri, many to Clay County and I have found some in the book which are almost certainly ours.

Abijah Brooks, Jr. was of interest to me because about 12 years ago I was present at the excavation of the old Brooks graveyard where Abijah's father, Abijah, Sr. and his family were buried. A.B., Sr. was a Rev. war veteran and died in early 1800 all of the children, or most of them were apprenticed out as was the custom of the times and I have wondered whatever became of them. The State Department of Highways was in charge of the excavation, which took in the old Strode Station cemetery also. In the Brooks graveyard they came up with an iron, viol shaped casket which when opened was found to contain the body of a woman, clothed in a grey dress, with a bonnet tied with a large bow under the chin. Wearing blue cloth gloves. The cask weighed about 700 pounds. It was likely the daughter of Capt. John Strode who married A. Brooks. Also I found in this book another son, Van Brooks. Also the name of Enos Vaughn who (if our Enos) married the daughter of Captain John Holder and she claimed to have been the first white child born in Kentucky.

Then there is Benjamin L. Lampton who has to be of the Lampton family who settled here in pioneer days. One Benjamin was father of Mark Twain's mother, this could be the one. I believe that Stephen Strode in the book was the son of Captain John and of the story is told that during the War of 1812 he was captured by Indians and was about to be forced through the gauntlet. To show his defiance he jumped upon a rock and flapped his arms and cawed like a rooster. This so delighted the Indians they spared him the ordeal and gathered about him laughing, and begging, "White man chicken again, white man chicken again." I see too the name of Thomas Gordon, Samuel Owens (I think is my lost Samuel), David Hagans, Richard Grooms, James Dunlap. Men of those names were here in Clark County. Thank you again for your generosity, it is much appreciated.

With best wishes,

*Atkins Owen*

# History Unearthed In Old Cemetery Site

## One Grave Believed That Of Founder Of Strode's Station

By MALCOLM PATTERSON  
Herald Assistant State Editor

WINCHESTER, Ky., Sept. 17—History literally was being unearthed near here today.

And the day's activities were climaxed by a local history buff's identification of what she hailed as a long-sought "find."

It is a grave marker which Miss Kathryn Owen of Winchester, who commented, "History is my hobby," declared "I'm absolutely certain" is that of a prominent pioneer Kentuckian, Capt. John Strode.

He founded Strode's Station in the 18th Century just west of this Clark County seat near where U.S. 60 now is located. And, investigators said, there's quite a story involved in his illustrious career.

Just one example cited: Though he was the leader in his pioneer community, he didn't want the county seat located there because he didn't want to rear his family in a "big city."

### Remains Are Reburied

The marker was among a few found as remains of pioneers were hunted and those discovered were removed for reburial in a special section of the Winchester Cemetery.

And, as the past yielded to the future and also some of its own lore, it all was part of another step in what's dubbed 20th Century "progress"—the locating and building of another modern road.

Most of the graves found—the 67th was discovered just before 4 o'clock this hot, sunny afternoon—were unmarked, or only had fieldstones nearby. Through the years, authorities said, the land on the

farm now owned by J. O. Tyler Jr. had been plowed.

In one excavation was found an iron casket somewhat in the shape of a human form. Coroner Leon Pace, owner of Scobee Funeral Home, which has a contract with the State Highway Department for moving the remains, said he opened the casket before its reburial. It contained the body of a woman whose hands were covered with gloves.

"I removed one glove and found the hand well-preserved," Pace said. He added there was a veil around the head, the material extending around the neck where a large bow was tied.

### Baby Buried Atop Adult

Atop the iron casket, the coroner said, was found the remains of what appeared to be a baby and a plate inscribed, "My Darling." There were buttons and safety pins, too, he added. It was speculated the mother had died in childbirth and the baby buried along with her.

The casket was found among other remains on a hilltop, which Miss Owen said was believed to have been a later graveyard of the Abijah Brooks family. Most of the graves were found on the higher ground.

The Strode marker was found later, downhill, where work was in progress today, in what the historian said was the Strode's Station cemetery. She added that one of Strode's daughters married a Brooks.

### Some Shallow Graves

Some of the bodies had been buried two deep, Pace said. Rusty, square-shaped nails were found frequently, apparently from wood coffins which rotted.

Most of the information about the pioneers, Miss Owen said, came from an interview that William Clinkenbeard, a resident of Strode's Station, gave in 1780 to the Rev. John B. Shane, a Presbyterian minister. This now is part of the Draper collection in Wisconsin, she added. She recounted:

A Revolutionary War veteran, Captain Strode first came to Kentucky in 1776, marked and improved land, and in December 1779 received a land grant of 1,000 acres. He started building a cabin in the winter of 1779-80 at the station. He returned to Virginia and brought his family to Kentucky in 1784. He had 12 children.

### Letters On Marker

The marker Miss Owen said is that of Strode bears letters, "I. S." or "J. S." She said the latter is more likely, with a part of the first letter being obscured by age. It also says, "Died Aug. 18, 1805." There is also a figure "7." Miss Owen said Strode's will was probated Aug. 26, 1805, strengthening her conviction the marker is his.

Another marker bears no inscription; a third, merely "August 1799," and a fourth, what appears to be "1791" and the distinct letters "J.D.D.," beneath which is "A 68," apparently the last referring to an age.

The remains of Strode's two

sons had been moved years ago to the Winchester Cemetery.

Coroner Pace said the reburials, begun early this week, are expected to be completed Tuesday.

The site from which the remains are being taken is just south of U.S. 60 and within sight of the four-lane superhighway, Interstate 64.

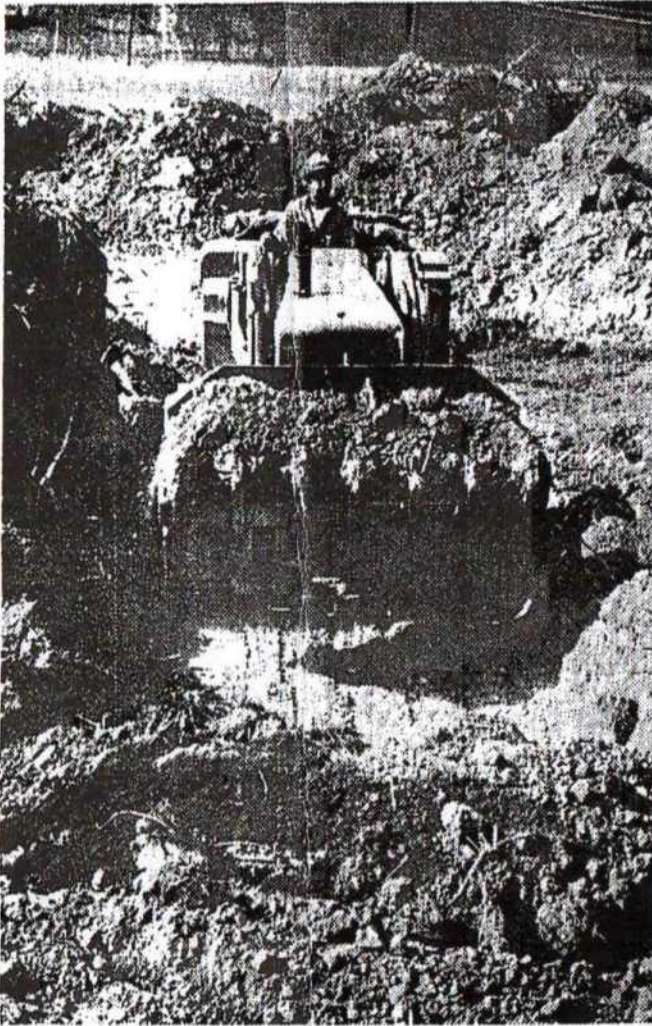
The Van Meter Road, which links I-64 and U.S. 60, is to be extended southward, and the graves' site is right in the path; hence the transferrals. Ultimately, the road will be a bypass around Winchester to join U.S. 227 south of the new George Rogers Clark Memorial High School.

Bids were opened today by the State Highway Department on the road project involving the old burying grounds. It extends from U.S. 60 south to the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Co. tracks, a distance of 0.704 mile. The apparent lowest bidder was Watts & Call Construction Co., Lexington, at \$177,098.



Staff Photos by Frank Anderson

**PIONEERS' REMAINS, GRAVE MARKERS MOVED**—Four grave markers found as pioneers' remains were moved for a highway right of way near Winchester are examined, top photo, by Floyd Osborne, superintendent of the Winchester Cemetery, where reburials are taking place, and Miss Kathryn Owen, Winchester, who said, "History is my hobby." Gordon Tracy, lower left, operates a high lift used to excavate, seeking the grave sites, just before the 67th remains were found yesterday. Clark County Coroner Leon Pace, lower right, in charge of the removal, points to a fieldstone believed to be the marker of another grave. Work, begun early this week, is expected to be completed Tuesday, Pace said.



1965

## Family Group Record

<b>Husband Abijah Brooks</b>		
Birth	5 Aug 1759	Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts
Death	12 Nov 1812	Bath County, Kentucky
Burial		
Marriage	1791	Clark County, Kentucky
Father	Samuel Brooks (b 12 Aug 1710)	
Mother	Abigail Hastings (b 8 Mar 1727/28)	
<b>Wife Nancy Strode</b>		
Birth	2 May 1770	Berkeley County, Virginia
Death	6 Jul 1855	Strode's Station, Clark County, Kentucky
Burial		
Father	John Strode (b 11 Jan 1729)	
Mother	Mary (Polly) Boyle (b 22 Feb 1734)	
Other spouse	Jacob Wilson	
<b>Children</b>		
1	<b>F Mary (Polly Ann) Brooks</b>	
	Birth	15 Dec 1792 Clark County, Kentucky
	Death	
	Burial	
	Spouse	Joseph Duncan (m 8 May 1809)
	Spouse	Nicholas Fortune (m 11 Nov 1841)
2	<b>F Eleanor (Nelly) Brooks</b>	
	Birth	21 Dec 1794 Clark County, Kentucky
	Death	
	Burial	
	Spouse	Thomas Duncan (m 18 Dec 1810)
3	<b>M Abijah, Jr. Brooks</b>	
	Birth	14 Aug 1796 Clark County, Kentucky
	Death	15 Sep 1849 Clay County, Missouri
	Burial	Brooks Family Cemetery, Smithville, Clay County, Missouri
	Spouse	Harriet Brooks (m 27 Feb 1821)
	Spouse	Harriet Brooks
4	<b>F Ann Weir Brooks</b>	
	Birth	18 Aug 1798 Clark County, Kentucky
	Death	25 Jul 1888 Clark County, Kentucky
	Burial	
	Spouse	John Breckenridge (m 3 Feb 1820)
5	<b>M Samuel Brooks</b>	
	Birth	25 Nov 1800 Bourbon County, Kentucky
	Death	4 Aug 1875
	Burial	
	Spouse	Mary (Polly) Gass (m 25 May 1826)
	Spouse	Elvira "Eliza" Scott (m 7 Feb 1854)
6	<b>M John Strode Brooks M.D.</b>	
	Birth	26 Sep 1802 Bourbon County, Kentucky
	Death	3 Apr 1863
	Burial	
	Spouse	Mary Jane Kerr (m 5 Mar 1838)
7	<b>M Thomas Brooks</b>	
	Birth	31 Jul 1804
	Death	16 Sep 1825
	Burial	
	Marriage	
8	<b>F Abigail Hastings Brooks</b>	
	Birth	4 Jun 1806
	Death	
	Burial	
	Spouse	David Hopkins (m 28 Oct 1828)
9	<b>F Elizabeth Brooks</b>	
	Birth	4 Oct 1808
	Death	
	Burial	
	Spouse	John Ecton

# Family Group Record

Husband **Abijah Brooks**

Wife **Nancy Strode**

Children

10 M **Robert Brooks**

Birth 30 Jun 1811

Death

Burial

Spouse **Samatha Young**

11 M **Van William Brooks**

Birth 19 Apr 1813

Death

Burial

Spouse **Clemency Young**

12

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

13

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

14

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

15

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

16

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

17

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

18

Birth

Chr

Death

Burial

Marriage

Prepared 5 Oct 1997 by:  
 Wylie A. Brooks, Jr.  
 5330 West 100th Terrace  
 Overland Park, Kansas 66207-3118

(913) 341-0420

Comments:

October 5, 1997

Miss Kathryn Owen  
423 East Broadway  
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Dear Miss Owen;

It is very exciting to get your letter of September 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for writing.

Abijah Brooks was born August 5, 1759 in Medford, Massachusetts. He served in the American Revolutionary War. He married Nancy Strode in 1791 in Clark County, then Montgomery County. He died on November 12, 1812, in Bath County, on one of his farms, so he would have been 53 years of age. His last child, Van William, was born April 19, 1813, after his death. His first child, Mary (Polly Ann) was born December, 1792, so she was 20 when he died. The birth dates of the children you have would probably be the last 9 children whose ages ranged from 16 to less than 1 year.

I am enclosing Family Group Record giving information that I have. Does the information match the birth dates that you have on the children?

Kentucky Cemetery Records - Vol. 1 - Kentucky Society DAR Mrs. Fred Osborne, "Abijah Brooks Burying Ground on Thomas Hampton farm, 2 ½ miles from Winchester-Lexington Pike.

Abijah Brooks, d. Nov. 5, 1812, aged 47 years

Nancy, formerly wife of A. Brooks & lastly wife of Jac. Wilson, b. May 21, 1770, d. July 6, 1855.

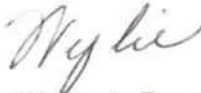
Thomas Brooks, b. July 31, 1804, d. Sept. 16, 1825."

A letter from Floyd Osborne, Supt. Winchester Cemetery, "The bodies were all moved to Winchester Cemetery several years ago to single section No. 7."

Again, thank you for writing. If you have any information on the Brooks family in Clark County, I would be interested in having it.

Do you know if there is any kind of marker or stone where the Brooks' are buried?

Sincerely,



Wylie A. Brooks, Jr.  
5330 West 100<sup>th</sup> Terr.  
Overland Park, KS 66207