

Proving the parentage of Samuel Lewis

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Problem: Although no direct evidence has been located to prove the blood line from Samuel Lewis (generation 6) to his mother Lucretia Barnard (generation 7), multiple indirect sources and additional compelling evidence are presented including several autosomal DNA matches, published historical and genealogical accounts, a death record, and census records spanning more than 8 decades.

Evidence:

- Susan Lewis Sherwood, at age 46, published a genealogy identifying the 13 children of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis.¹ While this authored genealogy provides direct evidence identifying Samuel Lewis as the son of John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard, the publication itself is unsourced. However, Susan Sherwood was the granddaughter of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis, the daughter of their youngest son Benjamin Winchell Lewis. She probably knew many of these aunts and uncles personally.
- John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard were married on 31 January 1796 at the First Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro, in Whitestown, Oneida Co., NY.²
- John Lewis is enumerated in the 1800 and 1810 censuses in Oneida Co., NY. In 1820 he is listed in Barre, Genesee Co., NY. In both the 1810 and 1820 censuses the household of John Lewis includes a male of appropriate age to be Samuel Lewis.³
- Samuel Lewis is enumerated in the 1830 census in Bloom Twp., Seneca Co., Ohio.⁴ The household listed immediately above Samuel is that of Harry Blackman, who was married to Samuel's presumed sister Lydia Lewis. The head of household immediately below Samuel is Bezer Benton, the husband of Emily Lewis, another one of Samuel's presumed sisters. Samuel is the only male in his household and his age categorization is appropriate for his census derived birth year, 1804.

¹ Susan Lewis Sherwood, "Chapter CCCXI," in *Lewisiana or The Lewis Letter*, 17 volumes (Guilford, CT.: The Lewis League, 1887-1907), May 1904, v. 14, no. 11, p. 171; image, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/lewisianalewislette00elli/page/n349/mode/2up> : accessed 20 Feb 2024).

² New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, transcribers, "Records of the First Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro," in DAR, New York, Oneida Chapter, *Bible, Cemetery & Church Records*, vol. 4, p. 204, marriages, John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard, 31 Jan 1796; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMZ-Y9DG-X> : accessed 20 Feb 2024).

³ 1800 U.S. Census, Whitestown, Oneida Co., NY, p. 187, John Lewis household; NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 23. 1810 U.S. Census, [town not stated], Oneida Co., NY, p. 480, J Lewis household; NARA microfilm publication M252, roll 33. And, 1820 U.S. Census, Barre, Genesee Co., NY, p. 59, John Lewis household; NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 72.

⁴ 1830 U.S. Census, Bloom Twp., Seneca Co., OH, Samuel Lewis household; NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 140.

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- John Lewis, with his wife and 5 children, migrated to Bloom Twp., Seneca Co., Ohio, in December 1833.⁵
- Samuel Lewis is enumerated in Union, Rock Co., WI, in 1840.⁶ By 1850, his presumed sister, Celestia [Lewis] Chapel was in that same location.⁷
- In 1860, Lydia [Lewis] Blackman, another probable sister of Samuel Lewis, was found in Union, Rock Co., WI, in the household of H. Blackman.⁸ Lydia died in Rock Co., WI, in 1888. Her death certificate identifies her father as John Lewis, her mother as --- Lewis, and her place of birth as New York, providing direct evidence that John Lewis is the father of Lydia (Lewis) Blackman.⁹
- The 1850 census indicates Samuel was of an age to have been born in 1804, in the state of New York.¹⁰ Data in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses is consistent with that of the 1850 census.¹¹
- The 1880 census also indicates Samuel's parents were both born in CT, the established birth places of John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard.¹²
- Samuel Lewis is not enumerated with his wife, Sarah, in the 1885 Iowa State Census. Sarah is living in a household with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary E. and William Winslow.¹³ Sarah Lewis is erroneously identified in the record as a 42-year-old female but she is listed immediately below Mary Winslow, Sarah's daughter, and she is clearly Samuel's wife based upon the surname and the recorded place of birth, Canada. Sarah (Brown) Lewis was the only Canadian born member of the Lewis family. Her actual age would have been about 72 in 1885 suggesting this was a simple enumeration error.

⁵ *History of Seneca County, Ohio: containing a history of the county, its townships, towns, villages, school, churches, industries, etc.; portraits of early settlers and prominent men; biographies; history of the northwest territory; history of Ohio; statistical and miscellaneous matter, etc., etc.*, (Chicago, IL: Warner, Beers & Co., 1886), p. 436; digital copy, HathiTrust (<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=loc.ark:/13960/t9v12c17h&view=1up&seq=438> : 21 Feb 2024).

⁶ 1840 U.S. Census, Union Twp., Rock Co., WI, fol. 100, p. 199 (penned), Samuel Lewis household; NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 580.

⁷ 1850 U.S. Census, Union Twp., Rock Co., WI, fol. 304 (p. 607), Celestia Chapel; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 1005.

⁸ 1860 U.S. Census, Union Twp., Rock Co., WI, p. 743 (penned), Lydia Blackman; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1431.

⁹ "Wisconsin Pre-1907 Vital Records Collection," Death Index, Lydia Blackman, 29 Jan 1888; *Wisconsin Historical Society*, microfilm 116, vol. 1, p. 240, sequence no. 029760.

¹⁰ 1850 U.S. Census, Indian lands district, Marquette Co., WI, fol. 156, p. 311, Samuel Lewis; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 1002.

¹¹ 1860 U.S. Census, Burke, Dane Co., WI, p. 155, Samuel Lewis; NARA microfilm pub. M653, roll 1403. 1870 U.S. Census, Windsor, Dane Co., WI, p. 28, Samuel Lewis; NARA microfilm pub. M593, roll 1709. 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., IA, ED 315, fol. 579D, p. 12, Samuel Lewis; NARA microfilm pub. T9, roll 356.

¹² 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., IA, Samuel Lewis. And, SAR RC 165089, Gen. 7, John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard.

¹³ 1885 Iowa State Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., fol. 670, Sarah Lewis in the household of Knute Oleson; State Historical Society, Des Moines.

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- An unsourced history of Mitchell County, Iowa, includes a brief biographical sketch of Edgar Lewis, the son of Samuel Lewis.¹⁴ The biographical sketch indicates Edgar's father died 7 Dec 1881.¹⁵ Edgar was still living when this county history was published. At that time, there was a nationwide effort for all counties to publish a county history as part of the United States' centennial celebration. To help offset the cost of publishing some of these historical records, many sold page-space for individuals to include a brief biography, the contents of which were provided by the person who was the subject of the life profile. Clearly, the details provided in Edgar Lewis' biographical sketch indicates he had to be the source of the information. As such, he would be considered a primary informant of his father's death date and that date is corroborated by Samuel's presence in the 1880 census and absence from the 1885 census.
- Autosomal DNA matching identified 17 distant genetic cousins of this SAR applicant who have been confirmed by conventional genealogic research to all be descendants of Celestia (Lewis) Chapel, Lydia (Lewis) Blackman, or Samuel Lewis, providing solid evidence of their sibling relationships.¹⁶

Conclusion:

Genetic evidence supporting the sibling relationship of Celestia Chapel, Lydia Blackman and Samuel Lewis confirms a shared parentage. Lydia Blackman's death record indicates her father was John Lewis. John Lewis and his wife Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis would therefore also be the parents of Celestia and Samuel. The geographic movements of Samuel Lewis, Lydia (Lewis) Blackman, Celestia (Lewis) Chapel and John Lewis reveals parallel westward migrations from New York to Seneca Co., Ohio, and Union Twp., Rock Co., Wisconsin. This was a common occurrence within families in the early 19th century which lends additional indirect support to a familial relationship among them. And, while the only direct evidence that states implicitly that Samuel Lewis was the son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis comes from an unsourced publication, authored by a granddaughter of John Lewis, the indirect and genetic evidence adds credence to that author's assertions. Samuel Lewis was most certainly the son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis, born abt. 1804, in Oneida Co., New York. He apparently died in Mitchell Co., Iowa, on 7 Dec 1881.

¹⁴ 1850 U.S. Census, Marquette Co., WI, fol. 156, p. 311, Edgar Lewis in the household of Samuel Lewis.

¹⁵ *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa*, (Springfield, IL: Union Publishing Comp., 1884), 533.

¹⁶ "AncestryDNA ThruLines® for John and Lucretia Barnard," DNA matches with the SAR Applicant, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : 20 February 2024.)