

# Proving Samuel Lewis was the son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis

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## Introduction

In 1904, Susan Lewis Sherwood, the daughter of Benjamin Winchell Lewis, youngest son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis, published a unsourced genealogical summary identifying the 13 children of John and Lucretia.<sup>1</sup> Sherwood grew up in proximity to many of those family members and likely received the details she published directly from them.<sup>2</sup> Her work is the only direct evidence that definitively identifies Samuel Lewis as the son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis. Most Lewis family researchers, however, cite *Pioneer Lewis families*, authored by professional genealogist Michael L. Cook in 1978.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, the only reference Cook cites for the information he published about John and Lucretia was the genealogy authored by Sherwood. According to Sherwood, John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis were the parents of:<sup>4</sup>

1. Celestia, b. 19 January 1796, m. Daniel O. Chapel
2. Lydia, b. 22 October 1798, m. Harry Blackman
3. Mary, b. 21 August 1800, d. about age 13
4. Alvah, b. 10 July 1802, m. Mary Rawson
5. Samuel, b. 13 July 1804, m. (1) Lucinda Benton, (2) Electa Benton, and (3) Sarah Brown
6. Emily, b. 14 July 1806, m. Besor Benton
7. Sarah, b. 11 June 1808, m. George McLaughlin
8. Abi, b. 2 August 1810, m. Montgomery H. Fitch
9. Mary, b. 27 October 1812, m. Enos Eaton
10. Amza, b. 2 August 1814, m. Adaline Clark
11. James, b. 23 October 1816, m. Phebe Gregg
12. Edward, b. 21 October 1818, m. Etta Lawrence
13. Benjamin Winchell, b. 28 August 1820, m. Susan Herskey

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Abbreviations: Co. (County), dwell. (dwelling), ED (Enumeration District), fam. (family), fol. (folio), fols. (folios), IGN (Image Group Number), NARA (National Archives and Records Administration), no. (number), p. (page), pp. (pages), pub. (microfilm publication), Twp. (Township), U.S. (United States), vol. (volume). Conventional abbreviations used for U.S. states and territories. All URLs active as of 24 July 2025.

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

<sup>2</sup> For birth, 1880 U.S. Census, Fremont, Sandusky County, Ohio, ED 80, p. 180D, line 49, Susan H. Lewis; NARA pub. T9, roll 1063. Susan is identified as a daughter in the household of Benjamin W. Lewis, age 22, and born in Ohio. For marriage, Sandusky County, Ohio, Marriage Record, vol. 12, 1881-1887, p. 102, Norman Sherwood and Susan H. Lewis, 19 April 1882; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-BPVC-Y>), IGN 004016800, image 87 of 684. For death, Ohio Department of Health, Certificate of Death, no. 68622 (stamped), Susan Lewis Sherwood, 6 November 1942; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GPKP-7V2K>), IGN 004057819, image 233 of 3,265. Susan died in Fremont, Sandusky County, Ohio.

<sup>3</sup> Michael L. Cook, *Pioneer Lewis families*, 5 volumes, (Evansville, Ind.; Cook Publications, 1978) 1:980, 39L1517 – John Lewis; and 1:1013, 39L2241 – Samuel Lewis.

<sup>4</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

Despite an extensive research effort to locate other original sources to prove Samuel Lewis was the son John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis, no additional direct evidence has been found. However, an extensive collection of indirect evidence, combined with analysis of genetic matches among the descendants of these probable siblings, validates the credibility of the information Sherwood provided thereby confirming her assertion that Samuel Lewis was the son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis.

## Samuel Lewis

According to Sherwood, Samuel Lewis was born 13 July 1804.<sup>5</sup> Data from the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses, provides supporting evidence that Samuel Lewis was born about 1804, and identifies his birthplace as the state of New York (Table 1).<sup>6</sup>

Table 1: Correlation of censuses reporting the birth of Samuel Lewis

Year	Census Location	Age	Birthplace
1850	Marquette County, Wisconsin	46	New York
1860	Dane County, Wisconsin	56	New York
1870	Dane County, Wisconsin	65	New York
1880	Mitchell County, Iowa	75	New York

A search of the following records, publications, databases, and repositories provided no additional records related to Samuel’s birth or any of his purported marriages:

- Church & Cemetery Records of Oneida County, New York<sup>7</sup>
- New York, Births and Christenings, 1640-1962 (FamilySearch)<sup>8</sup>
- Church and Civil Births and Baptisms, 1704-1962 (FamilySearch)<sup>9</sup>
- New York, Church Records, 1660-1954 (FamilySearch)<sup>10</sup>
- New York, U.S., Family Bible Records, 1581-1917 (Ancestry)<sup>11</sup>
- U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969 (Ancestry)<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

<sup>6</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Indian Lands, Marquette County, Wisconsin, p. 156, line 35, Samuel Lewis; NARA pub. M432, roll 1002. 1860 U.S. Census, Burke, Dane County, Wisconsin, p. 155, line 29, Samuel Lewis; NARA pub. M653, roll 1403. 1870 U.S. Census, Windsor, Dane County, Wisconsin, fol. 684B, line 12, Samuel Lewis; NARA pub. M593, roll 1709. And, 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Township, Mitchell County, Iowa, ED 315, fol. 579D, line 2, L. Samuel Lewis; NARA pub. T9, roll 356.

<sup>7</sup> Oneida [New York] Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, “Church & Cemetery Records,” typed manuscript, 4 volumes (Utica, NY: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1926-1927); imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/search/film/007769146>).

<sup>8</sup> “New York, Births and Christenings, 1640-1962,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1680842>).

<sup>9</sup> “New York, Church and Civil Births and Baptisms, 1704-1962,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2443988>).

<sup>10</sup> “New York, Church Records, 1660-1954,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2787817>).

<sup>11</sup> “New York, U.S., Family Bible Records, 1581-1917,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4615/>).

<sup>12</sup> “U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60722/>).

- All 10,000 Vital Records of Central New York, 1813-1850 (Ancestry)<sup>13</sup>
- New York, Church and Civil Marriages, 1704-1995 (FamilySearch)<sup>14</sup>
- New York, County Marriages, 1778-1848 (FamilySearch)<sup>15</sup>
- New York, Marriages, 1686-1980 (FamilySearch)<sup>16</sup>
- New York, U.S., Marriage Notices, 1800-1855 (Ancestry)<sup>17</sup>
- New York, Marriage Newspaper Extracts, 1801-1880 (Barbour Collection) (Ancestry)<sup>18</sup>
- Marriage Records, 1803-1890 (FamilySearch)<sup>19</sup>
- *Marriages from Ontario County Newspapers*<sup>20</sup>
- *Marriage index from miscellaneous Ontario County newspapers, 1803-1889*<sup>21</sup>
- *Seneca County, New York, newspapers – deaths and marriages*<sup>22</sup>
- *Marriages and deaths from miscellaneous newspapers, from Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Ovid, Trumansburg and Geneva, 1807-1908*<sup>23</sup>
- Birth, Marriage, and Death (Ancestry.com)<sup>24</sup>
- Old Fulton New York Post Cards<sup>25</sup>
- New York State (NYS) Historic Newspapers<sup>26</sup>
- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYGBS) Online Records and Collections<sup>27</sup>
- Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS)<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> “All 10,000 Vital Records of Central New York, 1813-1850,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61696/>).

<sup>14</sup> “New York, Church and Civil Marriages, 1704-1995,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2373836>).

<sup>15</sup> “New York, County Marriages, 1778-1848; 1908-1937,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1618491>).

<sup>16</sup> “New York, Marriages, 1686-1980,” database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1680847> : searched 22 April 2025).

<sup>17</sup> “New York, U.S., Marriage Notices, 1800-1855,” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/4244/>).

<sup>18</sup> “New York, U.S., Marriage Newspaper Extracts, 1801-1880 (Barber Collection),” database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8936/>).

<sup>19</sup> “Marriage records, 1803-1890,” typescript; images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-SSHG-9>).

<sup>20</sup> “Marriages from Ontario County Newspapers” (unpublished manuscript, n.d.), typescript; imaged, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/library/books/reader/viewer/169264](http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/reader/viewer/169264)).

<sup>21</sup> “Marriage index from miscellaneous Ontario County newspapers, 1803-1889,” typescript, A-M; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS73-SSZC-G>).

<sup>22</sup> Stanley I. Reynolds, “Seneca County, New York, newspapers – deaths and marriages,” typescript, vol. 1, 1817-1885 (New York: Waterloo Library & Historical Society); imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4Y-DQJ6-J>).

<sup>23</sup> Crystal Fegley, compiler, *Marriages and deaths from miscellaneous newspapers, from Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Ovid, Trumansburg and Geneva, 1807-1908*; searchable images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/film/007902327>).

<sup>24</sup> “Birth, Marriage & Death,” category search, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/34/>).

<sup>25</sup> “Old Fulton New York Post Cards,” database, *Fulton History* (<https://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>).

<sup>26</sup> NYS Historic Newspapers (<https://www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>).

<sup>27</sup> “The NYG&B’s Online Records and Collections,” *New York Genealogical and Biographical Society* (<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/online-records>).

<sup>28</sup> “Search Database,” *Ohio Genealogical Society* (<https://www.ogs.org/search-databases/>).

- Chronicling America<sup>29</sup>

In the 1880 census, the birthplace of Samuel's parents was recorded as Connecticut, the documented birthplace of both John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard.<sup>30</sup>

Samuel Lewis died in Mitchell County, Iowa. He and his wife, Sarah, were residents in that location in 1880, but only Sarah was there in 1885.<sup>31</sup> In 1885 Sarah was living with her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Elizabeth (Lewis) and William Winslow, in the household of Knute Oleson.<sup>32</sup> While Sarah was erroneously identified in that census as a 42-year-old female, she was clearly Samuel Lewis' widow based upon the surname, enumeration in a household that included her daughter, and the recorded place of her birth — Canada. Sarah (Brown) Lewis was the only Canadian born member of the Lewis family.<sup>33</sup> Her actual age would have been about 72 (not 42) in 1885, suggesting this was a simple enumeration error or poor penmanship.

A biographical sketch about Edgar Lewis was published in an unsourced history of Mitchell County, Iowa.<sup>34</sup> It identifies Samuel as Edgar's father and provides 7 December 1881 as Samuel's date of death.<sup>35</sup> No other documentation about the death of Samuel or Sarah Lewis was found within the following sources:

- Iowa, U.S., Death Records, 1880-1968 (Ancestry)<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Chronicling America, LOC (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>).

<sup>30</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., IA, ED 315, fol. 579D, line 2, Samuel Lewis [note. For birthplace of John Lewis, see: Guilford, New Haven County, Connecticut, Vital Records, vol. 2, p. 188, John Lewis, 19 February 1773; images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9BY-F3C2-T>), IGN 00731271, image 338 of 529. For baptism location of Lucretia Barnard, see: Albert Carlos Bates, *Records of the Congregational Church in Turkey Hills now the Town of East Granby, Connecticut, 1776-1858* (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1907) 27.

<sup>31</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., Iowa, ED 315, fol. 579B, line 2, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. And, 1885 Iowa State Census, Wayne Township, Mitchell County, fol. 670, Sarah Lewis in the household of Knute Oleson; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939Z-YPQG-6>), IGN 004539626, image 885 of 901; citing Iowa State Historical Society, Des Moines.

<sup>32</sup> 1885 Iowa State Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., fol. 670, Sarah Lewis [note 31].

<sup>33</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Indian Lands, Marquette Co., Wisc., p. 156, dwell./fam. 1552, Sarah Lewis [note 6]. 1860 U.S. Census, Burke, Dane Co., Wisc., p. 155, dwell. 97, fam. 98, Harriet [Sarah] Lewis [note 6]. NOTE: Sarah is recorded as "Harriet" Lewis in the 1860 census, but her age and place of birth correspond to Sarah (Brown) Lewis in all other censuses. 1870 U.S. Census, Windsor, Dane Co., Wisc., fol. 684B, dwell. 186, fam. 196, Sarah Lewis [note 6]. And, 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., Iowa, ED 315, fol. 579, dwell. 81, fam. 97, Sarah Lewis [note 6].

<sup>34</sup> *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties, Iowa*, (Springfield, Ill.: Union Publishing Comp., 1884), 533.

<sup>35</sup> In the 1850 census, Edgar is the inferred son of Samuel and Sarah Lewis, see: 1850 U.S. Census, Marquette Co., Wisc., p. 311, line 38, Edgar Lewis [note 6]. The marriage record of Edgar Lewis identifies Samuel Lewis as his father, see: Dane County, Wisconsin, Marriage Register, vol. 2, p. 47, Edgar Lewis and Carrie Niles, 22 March 1868; *Wisconsin Historical Society*. For Samuel's death date, *History of Mitchell and Worth Counties*, p. 533 [note 34]. Edgar Lewis was living in Mitchell County in 1880 and was still alive when this book was published suggesting he was probably the source of the detailed personal information included in his biographical sketch. He would, therefore, be a primary informant for his father's date of death.

<sup>36</sup> "Iowa, U.S., Death Records, 1880-1968," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61442/>); citing *Iowa, Deaths, 1880-1904* and *Iowa, Deaths, 1920-1951*, State Historical Society of Iowa, State Archives, Des Moines.

- Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992 (FamilySearch)<sup>37</sup> - includes indexes, death records, certificates, and death registers from 98 of the 99 counties in Iowa
- U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Swedish American Church Records, 1800-1952 (Ancestry)<sup>38</sup>
- Iowa, Church and Civil Deaths, 1845-1987 (FamilySearch)<sup>39</sup>
- Iowa, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1758-1997 (Ancestry)<sup>40</sup>
- Iowa, U.S., Deaths and Burials, 1850-1990 (FamilySearch)<sup>41</sup>
- Mitchell County [Iowa] Deaths, 1856-1958 (IAGenWeb Mitchell County Genealogy)<sup>42</sup>
- St. Patrick Cemetery, Wayne Township, Mitchell County, Iowa<sup>43</sup>
- Wayne Cemetery, Wayne Township, Mitchell County, Iowa<sup>44</sup>
- County Recorder, Mitchell County, Iowa<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> "Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2110820>).

<sup>38</sup> "U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Swedish American Church Records, 1800-1952," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61584/>); citing *Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths/Burials (Swedish Churches)*, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, Minnesota.

<sup>39</sup> "Iowa, Church and Civil Deaths, 1845-1987," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/2366613>).

<sup>40</sup> "Iowa, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1758-1997," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9064/>); citing Iowa, County, District and Probate Courts.

<sup>41</sup> "Iowa, Deaths and Burials, 1850-1990," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1674841>).

<sup>42</sup> "Mitchell County Deaths," database, Mitchell County Genealogy, *IAGenWeb* (<https://iagenweb.org/mitchell/deaths/deat5658.htm>).

<sup>43</sup> St. Patrick's Church Cemetery (Wayne Township, Mitchell County, Iowa, Timber Avenue between 490<sup>th</sup> and 500<sup>th</sup> Streets), onsite gravestone examinations, Joseph Tritchler, 4 June 2021. No Lewis gravestone found.

<sup>44</sup> Wayne Cemetery (4685 Windfall Ave., Riceville, Wayne Township, Mitchell County, Iowa,) onsite gravestone examinations, Joseph Tritchler, 4 June 2021. No Lewis gravestone found.

<sup>45</sup> Hannah Elliott, Osage, Iowa, [(helliott@mitchellcoia.us),] to Joseph Tritchler, e-mail, 29 January 2026, "Death records"; privately held by Tritchler [([ancestry.tracker@gmail.com](mailto:ancestry.tracker@gmail.com))], Whitsett, NC.

## John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis Family

John Lewis was born on 19 February 1773 in Guilford, New Haven, Connecticut.<sup>46</sup> John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard were married on 31 January 1796 at the First Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro, in Whitestown, Oneida County, New York.<sup>47</sup> Sometime before 1796, John migrated with his father and brother to Oneida County, New York.<sup>48</sup> Lucretia Barnard was the daughter of David Barnard, baptized 4 January 1778 in East Granby, Hartford, Connecticut.<sup>49</sup> Four years after their marriage John Lewis was still living in Whitestown, and his household included three young females less than 10 years old which correlates exactly with the family structure published by Sherwood.<sup>50</sup> There was one other John Lewis household enumerated in Oneida County, New York, in 1800, but the ages and genders of the household members would indicate it couldn't be the same John Lewis who was married in Oneida County just 4 years earlier (Table 2).<sup>51</sup>

Table 2: John Lewis families of Oneida County, New York, in 1800

Name of Heads of Families	Page	Free White Males					Free White Females				
		<10	10-15	16-25	26-45	45+	<10	10-15	16-25	26-45	45+
John [and Lucretia] Lewis	187				1		3		1		
John Lewis	171	2	1	1	1		2	1	1		1

John Lewis remained in Oneida County, New York, through at least 1810.<sup>52</sup> Of the eight J/Ino Lewis households enumerated in that county, only one household included the appropriate number of household members to be John and Lucretia's family (Table 3).<sup>53</sup> The ages, genders, and number of individuals in that household correlate with the information published by Sherwood with only one minor deviation.<sup>54</sup> The census lists two male children, one less than 10 years old and one 10-15 years of age. According to Sherwood, both boys should be less than 10.

<sup>46</sup> Guilford, New Haven Co., Conn., Vital Records, vol. 2, p. 188, John Lewis, [note 30].

<sup>47</sup> Royden Woodward Vosburgh, editor, "Records of the First Presbyterian Church of Whitesboro in the town of Whitestown, Oneida County, N. Y.," in *Oneida Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, "Church & Cemetery Records,"* (Utica, N.Y.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1927) 4:1, John Lewis and Lucretia Barnard, 31 Jan 1796; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMZ-Y9DG-X>), IGN 007769146, image 715 of 1337.

<sup>48</sup> In 1800, Edward Lewis and Edward Lewis Jun. were enumerated in Whitetown, Oneida Co., New York, on the same page as John Lewis, see: 1800 U.S. Census, Whitestown, Oneida Co., New York, p. 187 (penned), households of Edward Lewis Jun., Edward Lewis, and John Lewis; NARA pub. M32, roll 23.

<sup>49</sup> Bates, *Records of the Congregational Church in Turkey Hills*, 27 [note 30]. While Sherwood uses 1778 as Lucretia's year of birth, she was probably born prior to 1778 given she was baptized with two siblings on that same date. Therefore, her age would be underestimated using 1778 as her birth year.

<sup>50</sup> 1800 U.S. Census, Whitestown, Oneida Co., N.Y., p. 187, John Lewis [note 48]. And, Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

<sup>51</sup> 1800 U.S. Census, Whitestown, Oneida Co., N.Y., p. 171, John Lewis.

<sup>52</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, Oneida County, New York, p. 480, J Lewis household; NARA pub. M252, roll 33. Household included: 1 male 26 thru 44 [John], 1 female 26 thru 44 [Lucretia], 1 male 10 thru 15 [Alvah], 2 females age 10 thru 15 [Celestia, Lydia], 1 male under 10 [Samuel], and 4 females under 10 [Mary, Emily, Sarah, Abi].

<sup>53</sup> "1810 United States Federal Census," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7613/> : 18 April 2025), search criteria: name John Lewis; lived in Oneida County, New York (exact location); results: 8 entries.

<sup>54</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

Table 3: J/Jno Lewis families of Oneida County, New York, in 1810

1810 Oneida County Census Name of Heads of Families <sup>a</sup>	Free White Males					Free White Females				
	<10	10-15	16-25	26-45	45+	<10	10-15	16-25	26-44	45+
<b>John &amp; Lucretia Lewis<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	
J Lewis [p. 390]		1	1		1		1			1
J Lewis [p. 392]	2			1		2	1		1	
J Lewis Jun [p. 407]	1			1				1		
J Lewis [p. 407]					1			2		1
J Lewis [p. 469]	2			1		1			1	
J Lewis [p. 476]					1					1
<b>J Lewis [p. 480]</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	
Jno Lewis [p. 662]	1			1	1	1		1		

**BOLD** added for emphasis and comparison.

<sup>a</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, Oneida County, New York, pp. 390, 392, 407, 469, 476, 480, 662, J/Jno Lewis households.

<sup>b</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1]. This would be the household of John and Lucretia Lewis in the year 1810 according to Sherwood.

In 1820 John Lewis was in Barre, Genesee (subsequently Orleans) County, New York.<sup>55</sup> Barre was the purported birthplace of John and Lucretia’s youngest child, Benjamin Winchell Lewis.<sup>56</sup> Winchell was the maiden name of Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis’ mother, adding further support to the familial relationships proposed by Sherwood.<sup>57</sup> While the three oldest daughters appear to be absent from the 1820 household of John Lewis, the enumerated family membership did include a male of appropriate age to be Samuel Lewis, as well as all other living children reported to be the issue of John and Lucretia Lewis.<sup>58</sup> The 1820 whereabouts of the eldest three daughters has been identified: Celestia Lewis had married Daniel Chapell and they were residing in Lenox, Madison County, New York;<sup>59</sup> Lydia Lewis had married Harry Blackman and his

<sup>55</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Barre, Genesee County, New York, p. 59, John Lewis; NARA pub. M33, roll 72. Household included: 1 male 45 or over [John], 1 female 45 or over [Lucretia], 2 males 16 thru 25 (one of those was 16 thru 18), 2 females 10 thru 15, 4 males under 10, and 2 females under 10.

<sup>56</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

<sup>57</sup> Newton H. Winchell, Alexander N. Winchell, *The Winchell Genealogy: the ancestry and children of those born to the Winchell name in America since 1635 with a discussion of the origin and history of the name and the family in England, and notes on the Winchell family*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Minneapolis, Minn.: Author, 1917) 111, specifically no. 155, Dolly Winchell; imaged, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/library/books/reader/viewer/208950/124](http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/reader/viewer/208950/124)).

<sup>58</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

<sup>59</sup> For marriage to Daniel Chapell, see: Rock Co., WI, Register of Deaths, 2:201, no. 37, Russell O. Chapel; Wisconsin Historical Society. Record identifies Russell's father, Daniel, and mother, Celestia. For residence, 1820 U.S. Census, Lenox, Madison County, New York, p. 19, Daniel Chapel household; NARA pub. M33, roll 73. Household included: 1 male 16 thru 25 [Daniel] and 1 female age 16 thru 25 [Celestia]. The age of the only female in this household corresponds to the expected age of Celestia in 1820.

young family was also living in Barre, New York;<sup>60</sup> and Mary, John and Lucretia's third oldest daughter, had apparently died.<sup>61</sup>

Correlation of the census data from 1800 to 1830 clearly indicates the identified John Lewis households are the same family in each successive selected census, despite changes in location, and provides supporting evidence that the numbers, genders, and ages of household members is consistent with the family structure published by Sherwood (Table 4).

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<sup>60</sup> For marriage, Rock County, Wisconsin, Register of Deaths, vol. 1, p. 240, no. 01099, Lydia Blackman, 29 Jan 1888; Wisconsin Historical Society. For residence in 1820, 1820 U.S. Census, Barre, Genesee County, New York, p. 64, Henry [Harry] Blackman; NARA pub. M33, roll 72. Household included: 1 male 26 thru 44, 1 female 16 thru 25, 1 male under 10, and 1 female under 10.

<sup>61</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1]. No other source document for Mary's death found. However, John and Lucretia named another daughter, born about 1812, Mary.

Table 4: Correlation of John Lewis Census Data

John Lewis Family (Birth year) <sup>a</sup>	1800 Census Oneida Co., NY	1810 Census Oneida Co., NY	1820 Census Barre, NY	1830 Census Barre, NY
John Lewis (1774)	<b>1 male 26-44</b> (John abt. 26)	<b>1 male 26-44</b> (John abt. 36)	<b>1 male 45 or over</b> (John abt. 46)	<b>1 male 50-59</b> (John abt. 56)
Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis (1778) <sup>b</sup>	<b>1 female 16-25</b> (Lucretia abt. 22)	<b>1 female 26-44</b> (Lucretia abt. 32)	<b>1 female 45 or over</b> (Lucretia abt. 42)	<b>1 female 50-59</b> (Lucretia abt. 52)
Celestia (Lewis) Chapell (1796)	<b>3 females under 10</b> (Celestia abt. 4) (Lydia abt. 2) (Mary infant)	<b>2 females 10-15</b> (Celestia abt. 14) (Lydia abt. 12)	Married to Daniel Chapell (Lenox, Madison Co., NY)	Married to Daniel Chapell (Onondaga Co., NY)
Lydia (Lewis) Blackman (1798)			Married to Harry Blackman (Barre, Genesee Co., NY)	Married to Harry Blackman (Seneca Co., OH)
Mary Lewis (1800-1812)			<b>1 of 4 females under 10</b> (Mary abt. 10)	
Alvah Lewis (1802)		<b>2 males under 10</b> (Alvah abt. 8) (Samuel abt. 6)	<b>2 males 16-25 with 1 of the 2 age 16-18</b> (Alvah abt. 18) (Samuel abt. 16)	Out of the home (Location unknown)
Samuel Lewis (1804)				Married to Electa Barnum (Seneca Co., OH)
Emily (Lewis) Benton (1806)		<b>3 of 4 females under 10</b> (Emily abt. 4) (Sarah abt. 2) (Abi infant)	<b>2 females 10-15</b> (Emily abt. 14) (Sarah abt. 12)	Married to Bezer Benton (Seneca Co., OH)
Sarah Lewis (1808)				Out of the home (Location unknown)
Abi Lewis (1810)				Out of the home (Location unknown)
Mary Lewis (1812)			<b>2 females under 10</b> (Abi abt. 10) (Mary abt. 8)	<b>1 female 15-19</b> (Mary age 18)
Amza Lewis (1814)			<b>4 males under 10</b> (Amza abt. 6) (James abt. 4) (Edward abt. 2) (Benjamin infant)	<b>1 male 15-19</b> (Amza age 16)
James Lewis (1816)		<b>2 males 10-14</b> (James age 14) (Edward age 12) (Benjamin age 10)		
Edward Lewis (1818)				
Benjamin Lewis (1820)				
<b>Noted discrepancies between census data and published family structure</b>	No discrepancies	No discrepancies	Enumerated age range of Lucretia inconsistent with estimated age. <sup>b</sup>	1 son, estimated age 10-14, not enumerated in the household.

Notes: Census data is in **BOLD**. Grey boxes identify individuals not enumerated in the John Lewis household in those years.

<sup>a</sup> First column lists John Lewis family members and birth years published in: Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

<sup>b</sup> While Sherwood uses 1778 as Lucretia's year of birth, she was probably born prior to 1778 given she was baptized with two siblings on the same 1778 date. Therefore, her age is probably underestimated based upon an assumed 1778 birth year.

Citations: 1800, 1810, 1820 and 1830 census records for John Lewis household cited in text [notes 51, 52, 55, and 80].

## Western New York

### *Lucinda Benton*

According to Sherwood, Samuel Lewis was first married to Lucinda Benton.<sup>62</sup> If this claim is accurate, the event probably occurred in the mid-1820s in western New York. While there were many Benton families living in that region at the time, the Bethel Benton family is especially noteworthy.

In 1820 and 1831, Bethel Benton was found living in Ontario County, New York.<sup>63</sup> In 1820, Ontario County was geographically located directly to the east of Genesee County, the place in which John Lewis resided during that decade (Figure 1).

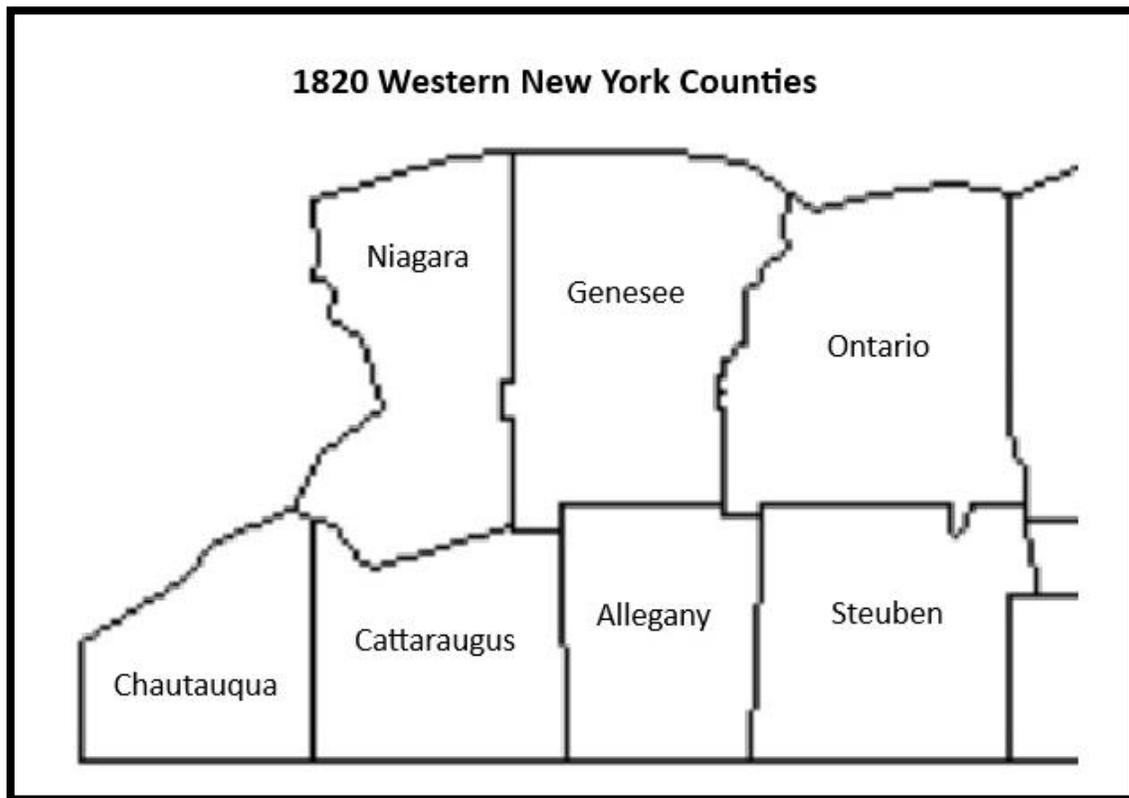


Figure 1: 1820 Map of Western New York Counties

<sup>62</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1].

<sup>63</sup> For 1820 location, 1820 U.S. census, Ontario County, New York, p. 280, no. 653, Bethel Benton; NARA pub. M33, roll 62. For 1831 location, U.S. War Department, *The Pension Roll of 1835*, 4 volumes (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968, reprinted 1992) 2:468.

Bethel had a brother named Zebulon Benton.<sup>64</sup> Throughout most of his adult life Zebulon was a resident of Rowe, Franklin (previously Hampshire) County, Massachusetts.<sup>65</sup> However, for a short period of time in the 1820s, Zebulon was financially strapped and came to live near the family of his brother Bethel in the town of Seneca, Ontario County, New York, for assistance.<sup>66</sup>

Zebulon was the father of several children, all born in Rowe, Hampshire (later Franklin) County, Massachusetts. Among them were:<sup>67</sup>

- Lucinda Benton, born 26 August 1803, and
- Bezer Benton, born 30 July 1807.

According to Sherwood, Bezer Benton was the husband of Emily Lewis, a daughter of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis.<sup>68</sup>

Zebulon's presence near John Lewis in the 1820s creates the geographic feasibility that their children, Lucinda and Bezer Benton and Samuel and Emily Lewis, respectively, might have met and eventually married. Additionally, there are striking similarities in the ages of Samuel (born about 1804) and Lucinda (born 1803), as well as Bezer (born 1807) and Emily (born about 1806). Unfortunately, no documentary evidence has been located to prove the unions of these individuals, so this remains hypothetical conjecture, but the temporal geographic proximity of these individuals adds additional potential credence to Sherwood's published synopsis of the John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis family.

## Central New York

### *Celestia (Lewis) Chapell*

Celestia Lewis was married to Daniel Osborn Chapell, probably about 1819, in New York, probably Onondaga or Madison County.<sup>69</sup> While the only direct evidence of that event comes from the cited unsourced biographical sketch, there is also indirect evidence supporting their marital relationship:

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<sup>64</sup> "US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900," database and images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/file/11260314>), Zebulon Benton, pension no. S.34,000, pp. 15-17, Affidavit of Bezer Benton, brother of Zebulon Benton; citing NARA pub. M804.

<sup>65</sup> "US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900," *Fold3*, Zebulon Benton, p. 23, Affidavit of residents of Rowe, Franklin County, Massachusetts.

<sup>66</sup> "US, Revolutionary War Pensions, 1800-1900," *Fold3*, Zebulon Benton, pp. 15-17 [note 64].

<sup>67</sup> Town of Rowe, Franklin County, Massachusetts, Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1774-1847, p. 18, Lucinda Bent [sic], 26 August 1803, and Bezer Benton, 30 July 1807; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-9979-M9DM-K>), IGN 007009649, image 79 of 172.

<sup>68</sup> Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171 [note 1]. No other sources have been located to verify a marriage between Bezer Benton and Emily Lewis.

<sup>69</sup> *Portrait and biographical album of Rock County, Wisconsin, containing full page portraits and biographical sketches of prominent and representative citizens of the county, together with portraits and biographies of all the governors of the state, and of the presidents of the United States* (Chicago, Ill.: Acme Publishing Co., 1889) 327.

- Daniel O. Chapel sold several plots of land in Wisconsin with his wife, Celestia<sup>70</sup>
- Celestia Chapel is the inferred wife of Daniel O. Chapel in the 1850 census in Rock County, Wisconsin<sup>71</sup>

Soon after their wedding, Daniel Chapel was found living in Lenox, Madison County, New York.<sup>72</sup> Edward Lewis, brother of John Lewis and purported uncle of Celestia (Lewis) Chapel, lived in that same location from about 1810 until his death in 1840.<sup>73</sup>

By 1830, Daniel and Celestia had relocated to the adjacent county of Onondaga and lived in the town of Pompey.<sup>74</sup> They remained in Pompey until their westward migration to Wisconsin in 1841.<sup>75</sup>

### *Electa Barnum*

While Sherwood reports the supposed second wife of Samuel Lewis was Electa Benton, evidence indicates it was Electa Barnum. Given their name similarity, and the supposed surname of Samuel's first wife, conflicting surnames is an easy-to-understand mistake. The evidence reveals that on 30 August 1829 in Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, Samuel Lewis married Electa Barnum.<sup>76</sup> Electa was the daughter of Thomas and Mary/Molly (Whitney) Barnum, born 4 September 1801.<sup>77</sup> If, in fact, Samuel was previously married to Lucinda Benton, she no doubt

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<sup>70</sup> Racine County, Wisconsin, Deeds, vol. M, pp. 66, Daniel O. and Celestia Chapel to Roland Ives Jr, 6 June 1845; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QC-P35R-7>), IGN 008548623, image 590 of 703. Racine County, Wisconsin, Deeds, vol. M, p. 67, Daniel O. and Celestia Chapel to Royal Beach, 31 May 1845; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QC-P35R-7>), IGN 008548623, image 590 of 703. And, Rock County, Wisconsin, Deeds, vol. R, pp. 318-319, Celestia and Daniel Chapel to Alanson B. Vaughan, 8 September 1852; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QW-6S49-3>), IGN 008547587, image 34 of 814.

<sup>71</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Union, Rock County, Wisconsin, pp. 606-607, dwell./fam. 1089, Celestia Chapel in the household of Daniel O. Chapel; NARA pub. M432, roll 1005.

<sup>72</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Lenox, Madison County, New York, p. 19, Daniel Chapel [note 59]. Household included: 1 male 16 thru 25 [Daniel] and 1 female age 16 thru 25 [Celestia]. The age of the only female in this household corresponds to the expected age of Celestia in 1820.

<sup>73</sup> For sibling relationship: Wilma J. Moore, compiler, *The Barbour collection of Connecticut town vital records, Guilford 1638-1850* (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999) 216-217, Edward Lewis, son of Edward & Jane, b. 2 June 1766, and John Lewis, s. of Edmund [sic] & Jane, b. 19 February 1773. For Lenox, Madison County, residence: 1810 U.S. Census, Lenox, Madison County, New York, p. 779, E Lewis; NARA pub. M252, roll 28. And, Madison County, New York, Will Book, vol. C, 1843-1850, p. 46, Edward Lewis, 7 February 1840; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YHY-PTT>), IGN 005113971, image 435 of 614.

<sup>74</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, p. 284, Daniel Chappel; NARA pub. M19, roll 100. Household included 1 male 30-39 [Daniel], 1 female 30-39 [Celestia], 1 male 10-14 [unidentified], 2 females 5-9 [Sarah and Lucretia], and 2 females under 5 [Mary and Jane].

<sup>75</sup> *Portrait and biographical album of Rock County, Wisconsin*, p. 327 [note 59].

<sup>76</sup> Polly (Barnum) Squire, "Family Record," marriages, Electa Barnum and Samuel Lewis, 30 August 1829; manuscript (unpublished), privately held by Matt Sanders; Ellen Squire to Joseph Tritchler [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], 26 June 2022; images, *WikiTree* (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Barnum-221>) > image table > BARNUM Family Records 2 and 5. Provenance: Matt Sanders is married to the 3<sup>rd</sup> great granddaughter of Polly (Barnum) Squire. He obtained these records from his mother-in-law [PRIVATE], who received them from her grandmother, a granddaughter of Polly (Barnum) Squire.

<sup>77</sup> Polly (Barnum) Squire, "Family Record," Schedule A, Electa, born 4 September 1801; image, *WikiTree* (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Barnum-221>) > image table > BARNUM Family Records 4.

died prior to 1829. No death or burial record of that event has been located. A visit to Samuel's supposed sister, Celestia (Lewis) Chapell (who was living in Pompey), as well as other Lewis family in the area, following his first wife's death would have provided Samuel the opportunity to meet and marry his second wife. Electa's family were established residents of Pompey.<sup>78</sup>

## Midwest Migrations

### *Ohio Migration*

Probably not long after their wedding, Samuel and Electa (Barnum) Lewis departed New York and migrated to Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, where they were found living in 1830.<sup>79</sup> His presumed father John Lewis was still living in Barre, Orleans (previously Genesee) County, New York, at that time.<sup>80</sup> However, Samuel's relocation apparently included other family members. In the 1830 census for Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, Samuel's household was enumerated immediately following Harry Blackman, the spouse of Lydia Lewis, and immediately preceding Bezer Benton, the presumed husband of Emily Lewis.<sup>81</sup> Samuel's household included only two individuals, one male and one female, both of appropriate age to be Samuel and Electa (Barnum) Lewis.

Miles Lewis, the son of Samuel and Electa (Barnum) Lewis, was born about 1830 in Ohio, probably in Seneca County.<sup>82</sup> Proof that Electa (Barnum) Lewis was his mother, was found in the 1838 will and probate records of Electa's father and Miles' grandfather, Thomas Barnum.<sup>83</sup> Miles Lewis "of some part of Ohio," a son of Electa Lewis, deceased, was identified as an heir of his grandfather. Electa (Barnum) Lewis died on 18 December 1832, probably in Seneca County, Ohio, leaving the widower Samuel Lewis as the sole parent of their very young son, Miles.<sup>84</sup>

John Lewis, with his wife and 5 children, migrated to Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, in December 1833.<sup>85</sup> Several of John and Lucretia's other purported offspring also settled in this same Ohio region providing further indirect evidence, based upon parallel migrations and proximity of life events, of the validity of Sherwood's published genealogical summary (Figure 2).

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<sup>78</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, p. 33, Thos Barnum Jr.; NARA pub. M252, roll 34. And, 1820 U.S. Census, Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, p. 127, Thomas Barnum Jun.; NARA pub. M33, roll 67. And, 1830 U.S. Census, Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, fol. 283, Thomas Barnham [sic]; NARA pub. M19, roll 100.

<sup>79</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, p. 135, Samuel Lewis household; NARA pub. M19, roll 140. Household included: 1 male 20 thru 29 and 1 female 20 thru 29.

<sup>80</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Barre, Orleans County, New York, p. 14, John Lewis household; NARA pub. M19, roll 115.

<sup>81</sup> 1830 U.S. Census, Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, p. 135, Samuel Lewis [note 79].

<sup>82</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Indian Lands, Marquette County, Wisconsin, fol. 156A, line 37, Miles Lewis in the household of Samuel Lewis [note 6].

<sup>83</sup> Surrogate's Office, Onondaga County, New York, Wills, vol. F, pp. 436, 439-440, Thomas Barnum, will dated 17 November 1838, proved 12 February 1839; images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YCX-KBG>), IGN 005116325, images 253-255 of 606.

<sup>84</sup> Polly (Barnum) Squire, "Family Record," Deaths, Electa [note 76].

<sup>85</sup> *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: Warner, Beers & Co., 1886), p. 436.

- Alvah Lewis was buried at Cleveland Street Cemetery in Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio<sup>86</sup>
- Sarah (Lewis) McLaughlin was residing in Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, by 1840 and was buried in 1892 at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Melmore, Seneca County, Ohio<sup>87</sup>
- Mary (Lewis) Eaton was residing in Melmore, Eden Township, Seneca County, Ohio in 1850 with her husband Enos and their eight children<sup>88</sup>
- Amza Barnard Lewis married (1) Mary Maria Rogers Gorden on 7 November 1844 in Seneca County, Ohio<sup>89</sup>
- Benjamin Winchell Lewis was living in Sandusky County, Ohio, in 1850 and was buried in 1887 at Oakwood Cemetery in Fremont, Sandusky County, Ohio.<sup>90</sup>

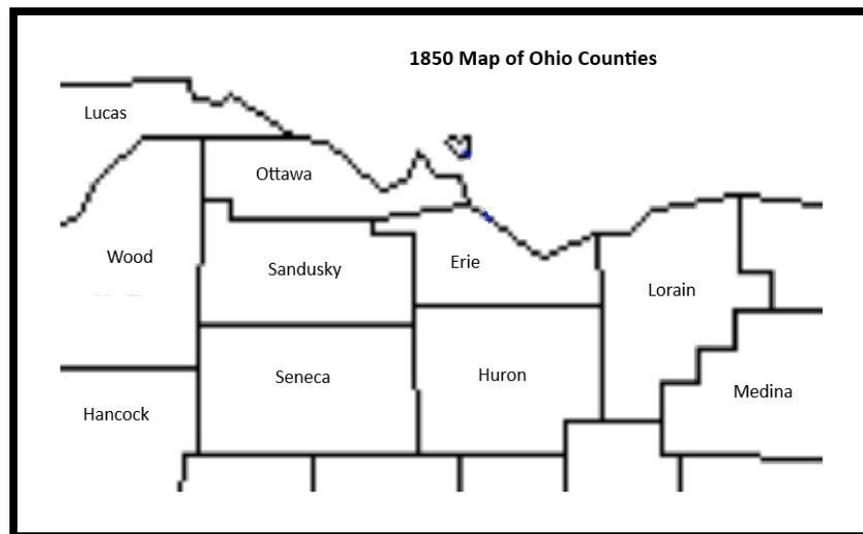


Figure 2: 1850 Map of North Central Ohio Counties

<sup>86</sup> *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/28748416/alvah-lewis>), Alvah Lewis (1802–1873), memorial ID [28748416](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/28748416), created by Denise Shelton Innes, tombstone photo by Sweet Pea; citing Cleveland Street Cemetery, Amherst, Lorain County, Ohio.

<sup>87</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Seneca County, Ohio, Bloom Township, fol. 141, George McLaughlin household; NARA pub. M704, roll 426. *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/103313549/sally-mclaughlin>), Sally Lewis McLaughlin (11 Jul 1808–2 Oct 1892), memorial ID 103313549, created by Robin Behm, tombstone photo by “sheila amore”; citing Chapel Hill Cemetery, Melmore, Seneca County, Ohio.

<sup>88</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Melmore, Eden Township, Seneca County, Ohio, fol. 379A, line 2, Mary Eaton; NARA pub. M432, roll 1009.

<sup>89</sup> Seneca County, Ohio, Marriage Records, 1841-1865, vol. 2, p. 205, Amza B. Lewis to Mary Maria Gordon (alias Mary Maria Rogers), 7 November 1844; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-BJ3B-CR>).

<sup>90</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Ballville, Sandusky County, Ohio, p. 486B, line 3, Benj Lewis; NARA pub. M432, roll 726. And, *Find a Grave*, database and images ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156157457/benjamin\\_winchell-lewis](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/156157457/benjamin_winchell-lewis)), Benjamin Winchell Lewis (26 Aug 1820–28 Feb 1887), memorial ID 156157457, created by My2Angels; citing Oakwood Cemetery, Fremont, Sandusky County, Ohio.

Melmore, Eden Township, Seneca County, Ohio, was the final residence of John and Lucretia Lewis. Lucretia passed away 29 January 1843, and John died on 7 April 1848. They were both laid to rest at the Rock Creek Cemetery in Eden Township, Seneca County, Ohio.<sup>91</sup>

*Sarah “Sally” Brown*

Sometime between 1832 and 1839, Samuel Lewis married Sarah “Sally” Brown, probably in Seneca County, Ohio.<sup>92</sup> Sarah was presumably the daughter of Ezra and Elizabeth (Newell) Brown.<sup>93</sup> There has been some question about whether Sarah Brown’s middle name was Jane. The only original source document found to substantiate that claim was the death certificate of Mary Elizabeth (Lewis) Winslow, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Brown) Lewis. The maiden name of Mary (Lewis) Winslow’s mother is recorded as Sarah Jane Brown, birthplace Montreal, Canada.<sup>94</sup> The informant for her death record was her grandson, Dale Winslow Hair, indicating the information is secondhand at best. The only other potential indirect evidence that Sarah Brown’s middle name might have been Jane is based upon the naming of her children. Samuel and Sarah (Brown) Lewis named their first daughter Sarah Jane Lewis.<sup>95</sup> Given this scant evidence, a middle name is not recommended for Sarah “Salley” (Brown) Lewis at present.

Sarah was apparently born about 1812 in Canada.<sup>96</sup> Ezra Brown had migrated to Canada near the turn of the century and remained there until the War of 1812 which prompted his eventual

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<sup>91</sup> Seneca County Genealogical Society, compilers, “Seneca County, Ohio, Cemetery Inscriptions 1987,” (Bucyrus, Ohio: A-1 Printing Center, 1987, reprinted 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1995) 391; image, Seneca County Digital Library, *Tiffin-Seneca Public Library* (<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p15005coll27/id/24075>), Row 13, no. 2, J. Lewis and no. 3, Lucretia [Lewis], w/o John.

<sup>92</sup> For evidence of marriage, 1850 U.S. Census, Indian Lands, Marquette Co., Wisc., p. 156, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., Iowa, ED 315, p. 579D, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. Minnesota Department of Health, Certificate of Death, Edgar Lewis, 11 February 1919; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9T2-7S4R-P>), IGN 004226809, image 1524 or 2399. Parents identified as Samuel Lewis, birthplace New York, and Sarah Brown, birthplace Canada. Also, Iowa Department of Health, Certificate of Death, Mrs. Wm [Achsah] Shook, 14 Nov 1923; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS3B-J324-X>), IGN 101768568, image 1257 of 5388. Parents identified as Samuel Lewis, birthplace New York, and Sarah Brown, birthplace Canada.

<sup>93</sup> Harriet Brown Paul, “Six Generations of Browns: Thomas to Erie Newell,” typed manuscript, (Naugatuck, Conn.: unpublished, 1977) p. 6, Ezra Brown; imaged, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/library/books/idviewer/354760](http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/idviewer/354760)), page viewer image 9 of 19.

<sup>94</sup> Minnesota Department of Health, Certificate of Death, Mary Elizabeth Winslow, 31 December 1938; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9T2-WPYN>), IGN 004228374, image 1835 of 2244.

<sup>95</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Indian Lands, Marquette Co., Wisc., p. 156A, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. Dane County, Wisconsin, Marriage Record, vol. 5, p. 170, Hosea Marcus Rood and Anna Bishop Smith, 13 March 1889. Anna Bishop Smith’s parents identified as Lewis Keeler Smith and Sarah Jane Lewis.

<sup>96</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Indian Lands, Marquette Co., Wisc., p. 156, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. 1860 U.S. Census, Burke, Dane Co., Wisc., p. 155, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. Sarah is recorded as “Harriet” Lewis in the 1860 census, but her age and place of birth correspond to Sarah (Brown) Lewis in all other censuses. 1870 U.S. Census, Windsor, Dane Co., Wisc., fol. 684B, p. 28, Samuel Lewis [note 6]. And, 1880 U.S. Census, Wayne Twp., Mitchell Co., Iowa, ED 315, fol. 579, L. Samuel Lewis [note 6].

return to the U.S.<sup>97</sup> By 1820, he had settled his family in Huron County, Ohio.<sup>98</sup> In 1824 Seneca County was created from Huron County. Ezra and his brother Case Brown were among the early settlers of Seneca County and purchased tracts of land in 1822 on which the community of Melmore, Eden Township, Seneca County, Ohio, developed.<sup>99</sup> Sally [AKA Sarah] Brown witnessed a Seneca County land transaction between Ezra and Sabrina Brown and George Eaton on 25 October 1830, confirming her presence there.<sup>100</sup> George Eaton was the father of Enos Eaton who married John and Lucretia's youngest daughter Mary.<sup>101</sup>

### *Wisconsin Migration*

In September 1839, Samuel Lewis moved to Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin.<sup>102</sup> He was first enumerated there in 1840.<sup>103</sup>

About mid-year of 1841, Daniel and Celestia (Lewis) Chapell, along with their daughter and son-in-law, Sarah Ann (Chapell) and Bela Beebe, emigrated from Onondaga County, New York,

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<sup>97</sup> Paul, "Six Generations of Browns," p. 4 [note 93]. And, William Lang, *History of Seneca County, from the close of the revolutionary war to July, 1880; embracing many personal sketches of pioneers, anecdotes, and faithful descriptions of events pertaining to the organization of the county and its progress* (Springfield, Ohio: Transcript Printing Co., 1880), 151-152.

<sup>98</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Ridgefield Township, Huron County, Ohio, fol. 72 (stamped), line 47, Ezra Brown; NARA pub. M33, roll 88. Household of Ezra Brown included 12 individuals: 1 male 26 thru 44 [presumably Ezra Brown], 2 males 10 thru 15, 1 male under 10, 1 female 26 thru 44 [presumably his wife Elizabeth], 2 females 16 thru 25, 1 female 10 thru 15, 4 females under 10. Data includes female of appropriate age to be Sarah Brown who would have been 8 years old in 1820.

<sup>99</sup> Bureau of Land Management, "Search Documents by Type: Patents," database with images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>), Location: Ohio, Names: Case Nelson, patent dated 13 November 1822, Land Description: W ½ SW ¼ Township 1N, Range 15E, Section 23, document no.: 1451. Bureau of Land Management, "Search Documents by Type: Patents," database with images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>), Location: Ohio, Names: Ezra Nelson, patent dated 13 November 1822, Land Description: E ½ SW ¼ Township 1N, Range 15E, Section 23, document no.: 1450. Lang, *History of Seneca County*, 151, 162, 525 [note 97]. Consul Willshire Butterfield, *History of Seneca County Ohio* (Sandusky, Ohio: D. Campbell & sons, 1848) 100-101. "History of Eden Township and Melmore," typescript, Seneca County Digital Library, *Tiffin-Seneca Public Library* (<https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p15005coll27/id/29648>), p. 5, paragraph 2.

<sup>100</sup> Seneca County, Ohio, Deed Book, 1830-1831, vol. 2, p. 171, Ezra and Sabrina Brown to George Eaton, 25 October 1830; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4R-9BF6>), IGN 007900812, image 87 of 558.

<sup>101</sup> For father of Enos Eaton, Seneca County, Ohio, Will Book, vol. 1, p. 265-266, George Eaton, 9 March 1847, proved 5 July 1848; image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-99QK-X3R9>), IGN 005865712, images 325-326 of 696. For husband of Mary Lewis, 1850 U.S. Census, Eden Township, Seneca County, Ohio, fol. 379A (stamped), p. 757 (penned), dwell. /fam. 88, household of Enos and his presumed wife Mary Eaton; NARA pub. M432, roll 728.

<sup>102</sup> Julius P. Bolivar MacCabe, "Notes on the villages of Union, Cooksville and Catsfish, in Rock County, Wisconsin", in *Janesville [Wisconsin] Gazette*, 13 June 1846, p. 2, col. 4.

<sup>103</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin, fol. 100, p. 199 (penned), Samuel Lewis household; NARA pub. M704, roll 580.

to the Territory of Wisconsin. Samuel Lewis traveled to New York to assist them.<sup>104</sup> The Chapell's initially settled in Racine County, Wisconsin.<sup>105</sup>

On 21 May 1842, Samuel Lewis petitioned the Supreme Court of the Territory of Wisconsin for bankruptcy and identified Daniel Chapell, a resident of Mount Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin, as a creditor to whom he owed the sum of \$60.00.<sup>106</sup>

On 1 October 1845, Samuel and Sally Lewis sold land in Rock County, Wisconsin, to Celestia Chapell.<sup>107</sup> In 1850, Celestia Chapell was enumerated in Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin.<sup>108</sup>

Between 1845 and 1850, Amza Barnard Lewis, migrated from Bloom Township, Seneca County, Ohio, to Brooklyn Township, Green County, Wisconsin.<sup>109</sup> In 1852, the probate court of Rock County, Wisconsin, appointed Samuel Lewis and Amza B. Lewis to appraise the property of a person who died intestate.<sup>110</sup> Amza died 22 February 1855 at the age of 40 years and 6 months, making his birth August 1814 which is consistent with the birth month/year reported by Sherwood.<sup>111</sup> Amza was buried at the Jug Prairie Cemetery in Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin. Green County is directly west of and adjacent to Rock County.

In 1860, Lydia Blackman, another purported sister of Samuel Lewis, was living in Union, Rock County, Wisconsin, in the household of H. Blackman.<sup>112</sup> Lydia died in Rock County, Wisconsin, in 1888. Her death record identified her birthplace as New York and her parents as

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<sup>104</sup> *Portrait and biographical album of Rock County, Wisconsin*, p. 384 [note 69]; specifically Lewis B Beebe.

<sup>105</sup> Bureau of Land Management, "Search Documents by Type: Patents," database and images, *General Land Office Records* (<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>), Location: Wisconsin, Name: Celestia Chapell, Land Description: Township 3N, Range 21 East, Section 11, Racine County, Wisconsin, Patent document no. 8468; dated 3 March 1843.

<sup>106</sup> Supreme Court of the Territory of Wisconsin, Petition of Bankrupt, Schedule A – List of debts, case no. 108, Samuel Lewis, 21 May 1842; National Archives at Kansas City, Missouri; copy in author's files.

<sup>107</sup> Rock County, Wisconsin, Deed Records, vol. S, p. 139, Samuel Lewis and Sally Lewis to Celestia Chapell, 1 October 1845; images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QW-6S7N-7>), IGN 008547587, image 270 of 814.

<sup>108</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin, pp. 606-607 [note 71].

<sup>109</sup> For 1845 Ohio location, Seneca County, Ohio, Tax Assessment, 1845, p. 47, Amza B. Lewis; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PPN-SSP3>), IGN 004849410, image 398 of 721. For 1850 Wisconsin location, 1850 U.S. Census, Green County, Wisconsin, Brooklyn, p. 272B, line 25, A. B. Lewis; NARA pub. M432, roll 999.

<sup>110</sup> Rock County, Wisconsin, Probate Court, Estate Case Files, estate of Caroline M. Smith, appointment of appraisers, Samuel Lewis, Allen Minor, and Amza B Lewis; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9Y1-N99S-L>), IGN 007708606, image 717 of 1598.

<sup>111</sup> *Find a Grave*, database and images ([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31061797/amza\\_b-lewis](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31061797/amza_b-lewis): accessed 23 July 2025), Amza B. Lewis, memorial ID [31061797](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31061797), photo of original contemporary tombstone by Jenean Hamilton; citing Jug Prairie Cemetery, Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin. Tombstone inscription: "AMZA B LEWIS DIED Feb. 22, 1855 AE. 40 ys. 6 mo." And, Sherwood, *The Lewis Letter*, 14(11):171.

<sup>112</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin, p. 743 (penned), Lydia Blackman; NARA pub. M653, roll 1431.

John Lewis and --- Lewis, providing direct evidence that John Lewis was the father of Lydia (Lewis) Blackman.<sup>113</sup>

#### *A wedding family gathering*

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 1852, Miles Lewis, the son of Samuel and Electa (Barnum) Lewis, made application for a marriage license in Fayette County, Iowa, to wed Mary Ann Finch, the granddaughter of Lydia (Lewis) Blackman.<sup>114</sup> Among those that apparently attended the nuptial were the families of: Gilbert Blackman (the son of Lydia (Lewis) Blackman); Solomon Finch (the son-in-law of Lydia (Lewis) Blackman and father of the bride); and Samuel Lewis.<sup>115</sup>

## DNA Evidence

Autosomal DNA matching identified 17 distant genetic cousins of Joseph Edward Tritchler. The lineage of 9 matches descended from probable siblings of Samuel Lewis could be appropriately documented back to their most recent common Lewis ancestor (MRCA). The other 8 matches were all descendants of Samuel Lewis. Analysis of the constructed and sourced pedigrees of the 9 matches showed no evidence of pedigree collapse or the influence of endogamy.

The amount of shared DNA with all lineage-proven matches of Joseph Tritchler was consistently within the expected range, as well as one standard deviation of the mean for the pedigree defined kinship that existed between them (Tables 5 and 6).<sup>116</sup>

The DNA results provide conclusive genetic evidence of a sibling relationship between Samuel Lewis and Celestia (Lewis) Chapell, Lydia (Lewis) Blackman, Sarah (Lewis) McLaughlin, and Amza B. Lewis. Since Lydia (Lewis) Blackman's death record identifies her father as John Lewis, he would therefore also be the father of Lydia's four genetically proven siblings.

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<sup>113</sup> Rock County, Wisconsin, Register of Deaths, p. 240, no. 01099, Lydia Blackman, 29 Jan 1888; *Wisconsin Historical Society*, microfilm 116, vol. 1, p. 240, sequence no. 029760; imaged copy in author's files.

<sup>114</sup> District Court, Fayette County, Iowa, Naturalization & Marriage Record, vol. A, p. 1, Miles Lewis and Mary Ann Finch, 12 February 1852; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D517-SVF>), IGN 004320617, image 499 of 661.

<sup>115</sup> 1852 Iowa State, Fayette County, Auburn Township, households of Gilbert Blackman, Miles Lewis, Solomon Finch, and Saml Lewis;; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-13RT-J3PT>), IGN 008986100, image 222 of 505.

<sup>116</sup> The pedigrees of all 17 matches were researched, constructed, and sourced by Joseph Tritchler. For matches, "AncestryDNA ThruLines® for John and Lucretia Barnard," DNA matches to the Mayflower Society applicant Joseph E Tritchler, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>). AncestryDNA identified John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis as the most common recent ancestral (MCRA) couple of these matches.

Table 5: Relationships and Shared DNA with Proven Lewis Descendants

Match	Descended from	Proven kinship with J. Tritchler	Shared DNA	Expected Shared DNA Mean <sup>a</sup>	Std Dev <sup>a</sup>	Acceptable range of shared DNA <sup>a</sup>	Deviation from mean <sup>b</sup> ( $\sigma$ )
22	Celestia Lewis → Sarah Beebe	5C	20 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	-0.28
23	Celestia Lewis → Lucretia Lawson	5C	13 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	-0.67
24	Celestia Lewis → Mary Ann Bell	5C	10 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	-0.83
25	Celestia Lewis → Russell Chapel	4C 1R	9 cM	28 cM	20	0 – 126	-0.95
26	Lydia Lewis → Gilbert Blackman	5C	9 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	-0.89
27	Lydia Lewis → Lester Blackman	5C	26 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	+0.06
28	Lydia Lewis → Sally Blackman	5C	18 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	-0.39
29	Sarah Lewis → Elizabeth McLaughlin	5C 1R	14 cM	21 cM	15	0 – 80	-0.47
30	Amza B Lewis → Emma Bennett	5C	18 cM	25 cM	18	0 – 117	-0.39

*Abbreviations:* Std Dev = Standard deviation  
*Citations:*  
<sup>a</sup> Blaine Bettinger, "The Shared cM Project 4.0 tool v4," *DNA Painter* (<https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4> : updated 26 March 2020).  
<sup>b</sup> Deviation from the mean ( $\sigma$ ) = (Shared DNA – Expected mean shared DNA)/standard deviation

Table 6: Source Proven Lewis Lineage of DNA Matches

Match	Lewis lineage to Most Recent Common Lewis Ancestor (MRCLA) (Identifies privatized as appropriate)
22	→ PRIVATE → Edna Carver → Rhoda Beebe → Sarah Chapel → Celestia Lewis → MRCLA
23	→ Helen Lawson → James → James → Lucretia Chapel → Celestia Lewis → MRCLA
24	→ Evelyn Hill → Genevieve Bell → Robert → Mary Ann Chapel → Celestia Lewis → MRCLA
25	→ PRIVATE → Flora Chapel → Russell → Celestia Lewis → MRCLA
26	→ Harry Marks → Bessie Blackman → Gilbert → Gilbert → Lydia Lewis → MRCLA (John Lewis) <sup>a</sup>
27	→ George Perona → Mae Bell Hyde → Celestia Blackman → Lester → Lydia Lewis → MRCLA (John Lewis) <sup>a</sup>
28	→ Frank Ellis → Lucille McDonald → Mary Johnston → Sally Blackman → Lydia Lewis → MRCLA (John Lewis) <sup>a</sup>
29	→ PRIVATE → PRIVATE → Ferne Stuckey → Emma Mesnard → Elizabeth McLaughlin → Sarah Lewis → MRCLA
30	→ Emelie Devine → Lewis → Blanche Ruddy → Emma Bennett → Amza B Lewis → MRCLA

<sup>a</sup> Rock County, Wisconsin, Register of Deaths, p. 240, no. 01099, Lydia Blackman, 29 Jan 1888; *Wisconsin Historical Society*, microfilm 116, vol. 1, p. 240, sequence no. 029760; imaged copy in author's files. Record indicates father of Lydia Blackman was John Lewis.

## Conclusion

John Lewis and his descendants were apparently a family of frontiersmen, not intimidated by the burdens of long-distance travel and establishing new homes in rugged unsettled areas. As a result, they frequently settled in places where record keeping, and documentation of local events, was not well established. This creates a significant hurdle for those who wish to unveil their lives and family relationships.

Fortunately, extended family migrations, frequent family interactions, and recurrent use of common family names, provides indirect evidence of their apparent familial ties. This indirect evidence combined with direct evidence validation of several of John and Lucretia family member event details (i.e. birth, death or marriage), along with DNA findings linking multiple descendants of John and Lucretia through several of their children, reinforces the accuracy of the only piece of direct evidence — the unsourced genealogical summary published by a granddaughter of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis.

Samuel Lewis was most certainly the son of John and Lucretia (Barnard) Lewis. He was born in 1804, in Oneida County, New York. He likely married (1) about 1825 in western New York, Lucinda Benton, born 26 August 1803 in Rowe, Franklin County, Massachusetts, the daughter of Zebulon Benton. Lucinda probably died in New York before 1829. Samuel married (2) on 30 August 1829, in Pompey, Onondaga County, New York, Electa Barnum, the daughter of David and Mary/Molly (Whitney) Barnum. Electa was born on 4 September 1801 in Pompey. She died 18 December 1832, probably in Seneca County, Ohio. Samuel's last wife was Sarah "Sally" Brown. Sarah was born about 1812 in Canada, the daughter of Ezra and Elizabeth (Newell) Brown.

Samuel Lewis and Sarah Brown were probably married in Ohio between 1833 and 1837. The evidence supporting that assertion includes:

- Sarah Brown was apparently still a single adult when she witnessed her father's sale of land in Seneca County, Ohio, on 25 October 1830.
- Samuel's second wife, Electa Barnum, died 18 December 1832, leaving Samuel with one small child.
- In 1840, the household of Samuel Lewis included 2 males under 5 years old suggesting their births occurred between 1835 and 1839. The household also included one male age 5 through 9 which was unquestionably Miles Lewis, the son of Samuel by his second wife, Electa Barnum. Miles was apparently born in the latter months of 1830 because he was not included in Samuel Lewis' household in the 1830 census and he is 20 years old in the 1850 census.
- By 1839, Samuel had moved to Union Township, Rock County, Wisconsin. In 1840, his household included a female age 20-29. Sarah would have been about 28 years old that year.

While there are limited sources directly supporting two of the three marriages of Samuel Lewis, indirect evidence clearly heightens the probability that all three marital unions, as reported by Sherwood, occurred.

Samuel Lewis died 7 December 1881 in Wayne Township, Mitchell County, Iowa. Sarah (Brown) Lewis died sometime after her enumeration in the household of her daughter Mary Elizabeth (Lewis) Winslow, in the 1885 Iowa state census. The location of her death remains unknown. Until her death, Sarah probably continued living with one of her children, the closest of which were living in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin after 1885.