

**Ancestry of Elizabeth and brother William Burch of Ohio and Indiana-
Not children of William Henry Burch, Jr (updated 7/28/2012)**

INTRODUCTION

Many researchers have concluded that William Burch and Elizabeth Burch (my direct ancestor), each of whom married a McNutt in 1810 in Ohio and lived their lives on the Ohio/Indiana border, were children of William Henry Burch Jr. and Mourning Mary Harris. I have seen no proof of this assumption. This assumption may come from the fact that William Henry Burch lived the latter part of his life in Monroe County Indiana, about a hundred miles from where William and Elizabeth's families lived.

My own conclusion is that they were the children of a Charles Burch of Hamilton County, Ohio. My analysis is presented here.

ANALYSIS

William Burch (1789-1857) was born in Virginia-See Census 1850 (his), 1880 (children John AJ, Charles, Martha). No middle name was recorded in censuses or on his gravestone in Butler County, Ohio. There is no documentation that he is William Harris Burch, son of William Henry Burch and Mourning Mary Harris that I can find.

Elizabeth Burch (1794-1867) was born in Ohio-U.S. Census 1850 (hers), 1860 (hers), 1880 (children Elizabeth and George say Ohio, although John says Pennsylvania). Also see her obituary. There is no evidence that William Henry Burch ever visited Ohio to have had a daughter born there in 1794.

Both Elizabeth and William were married on 9/10/1810 in Crosby, Hamilton, Ohio (not North Carolina) by Joab Comstock, who came to Hamilton County Ohio about 1801 and died there in 1825. They each married a McNutt, children of John and Sarah McNutt. William Burch (no middle name given) married Sarah McNutt. He was born 1789, she 1785. Elizabeth Burch married Charles McNutt. She was born 1794, he 1784. See **Liberty Hall Newspaper** and **Ohio, The Cross Road of our Nation**. Therefore there is a strong probability that William and Elizabeth were brother and sister, having married a sister & brother on the same day. Both William and Elizabeth lived their adult lives in Franklin County Indiana. William was buried just across the border in Ohio. Elizabeth was buried in Franklin County.

There is no evidence that William Henry Burch ever visited Hamilton County Ohio or that he had a daughter named Elizabeth. Census records of 1800 and 1810 for William Henry Burch, though not definitive, indicate that he was living in North Carolina and not

Ohio. Also, the 1800 census does not indicate any daughter in the household. (The data for this came from Mark Nelson via email)

Elizabeth Burch was 14 or 15 years old when she married in Ohio. She probably lived with her parents until then in Ohio since she was very young. There is documentation of a Charles Burch who lived in Hamilton County, Ohio in 1806-1809 (tax records) and who died there in 1816 (abstract of probate records of that county). He may be the father of Elizabeth and William.

With the help of two other Burch researchers (Jim Elliott and Tom Harp), I have the following information with supporting documents. A Charles Burch came from Maryland (by way of Virginia?) by flatboat to Hamilton County Ohio in 1791 (there is a newspaper article on this in 1921). His will of 1816 names sons William, Christopher, and John G. I believe this is the William Burch who is buried in Reily Township, Butler County, Oh and not William Harris Burch.

Also, Charles Burch the father had at least one documented daughter Hannah who married Richard Dill and moved to Shelby County Ohio (this from records of revolutionary war soldiers buried in Shelby County). My Elizabeth Burch, born in Ohio in 1794, fits with the timeframe and location of Charles Burch. In addition, his will mentions son-in-law Charles M'nutt, undoubtedly the husband of Elizabeth Burch.

The widow of Charles Burch, Margaret Speedy(?) appears to be living with son Christopher according to 1820 census in Hamilton County, OH.

According to researcher Mark Nelson's files, the Charles Burch in Hamilton County probably would have come from Charles County, MD. Mark traces the Burch lineage back to Oliver Burch b 10/30/1647 in Charles County, d 5/27/1729 in Lombey, Charles County. Oliver's father was born in England.

CONCLUSION

The parents of William and Elizabeth Burch (my direct ancestor) were Charles and Margaret Burch who lived in Hamilton County Ohio, NOT William Henry Burch and Mourning Mary Harris of North Carolina.