

# Finding a Wife for John Rakes



Powhatan County, Virginia.

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# Research

For some time I have been working on finding a wife for John Rakes b. abt 1775 - d. abt 1857.

For many years family tradition has shown that the wife of John Rakes was Nancy Sanders the daughter of John Sanders and Sarah Grant.

Court Record of Pendleton County, Kentucky has shown that this Nancy Sanders married Thomas Williams.

These three links shows the information that Nancy is the daughter of John Sanders and Sarah Grant and that she married Thomas Williams. I have verified the first 2 links with microfilm copies from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky. (Pendleton County, Falmouth, Kentucky Marriage Book file # 272800) The third link is Page 9 of Biographical record of Daniel and Mary (Jackson) Williams : early Kentucky pioneers / Julielma M. Kelley.

Abstract of John Sanders Will:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kypendle/Pages/abstracts18051814.htm>

1810

Page 232 - Land Division - John Sanders, "2nd Monday in January, 1810". Land is given to the widow Sarah, to Thomas Williams and Nancy his wife, late Nancy Sanders; Joel Sanders; Joseph K. Glinn, guardian of the heirs of Sarah Glinn, late Sarah Sanders; Rebecah Sanders; John Sanders; James Sanders, Dorcas Sanders; Thomas Bryan and Elizabeth his wife, late Elizabeth Sanders; Luke Bryan and Polley his wife, late Polley Sanders; Joel Sanders.

Marriage of Thomas Williams and Nancy Sanders:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kypendle/Pages/marriages\\_page3\\_pendleton.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kypendle/Pages/marriages_page3_pendleton.htm)

WILLIAMS, Thomas; Nancy Sanders 31 Dec 1801 Minister Alexander Monroe.

Bio of Thomas Williams:

[http://kdl.kyvl.org/catalog/xt74qr4nkj87\\_7?](http://kdl.kyvl.org/catalog/xt74qr4nkj87_7?)

THOMAS WILLIAMS, the eldest son of Daniel and Mary (Jackson) Williams, was born in Falmouth, Virginia, \* Feb. 25, 1777 and immigrated with his parents to Kentucky. He was a successful school teacher, also farmer. December 31, 1801, in Pendleton County, Ky., he married Miss Nancy Sanders, (sometimes written Saunders), born in Yadkin County, North Carolina, March 11th, 1784. She was a daughter of John and Sallie (Grant) Sanders and her maternal grandmother, Mrs Grant, was as sister of the famous Kentucky hunter and pioneer, Daniel Boone. \* In 1840, when advanced in years, Thomas removed with his family to Livingston County, Missouri, where he died, March 30, 1845, and his wife about two years later, Feb. 9, 1847. Their children, who lived to be grown, were: Angelina; Rev. Joel Grant, (a Baptist minister); Dr. James Tully; Daniel Boone; Dr. John S; Dr. Thomas J.; Zerah Grant; Lycurgus; Musidora; and Stanishlaus; and Clementina; Elijah; Melcena; Sarah; and Nancy, who died when young.

I have found Powhatan County, Virginia Court Records that provides documentation that the wife of John Rakes is Nancy Saunders the daughter of Zack Saunders and Jane Radford. This complete court record also shows additional relationships for the Radford and Saunders line. I have attached to this report the documentation that shows this relationship.

This information is found in a Powhatan County, Virginia Chancery Court Record. This court record contains 75 images and the complete record can be viewed at the Library of Virginia web page. ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=145-1850-002](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=145-1850-002))

Attached are three documents:

1. Powhatan Chancery Court Records descendant tree not dated (image 0029)
2. An abstract and summary of the above records by John Barrett Robb. (John is a professional genealogist who is helping me find information about John and Nancy. I sent the court records to him for his evaluation.)
3. My transcription of the Chancery Court descendant tree.

I hope you enjoy the new found information. You are also welcome to visit my website to obtain additional information. ([rwfamilyhistory.com](http://rwfamilyhistory.com)) If you have any corrections or suggestions please share them with me. ([rwells1938@gmail.com](mailto:rwells1938@gmail.com))



*Elizabeth RADFORD et al. vs. Richard RADFORD et al.*

Source: Library of Virginia (LVA) Chancery Cases, [PowhatanCoVA 145-1850-002, 75 images](#)

It appears that this case has been archived as of 1850, though I happened across no date that late in the actual papers. It has been conventional, however, to file chancery cases by the dates of their final disposition, so a close inspection of the papers may turn up such a date after all.

**Genealogical Implications**

This case provides evidence that the wife of John RAKES (of place unspecified) was the husband of Nancy SAUNDERS, daughter of Jane (RADFORD) SAUNDERS, and her husband Zack SAUNDERS, and it shows also that Jane was the daughter of John RADFORD, and outlines the complete RADFORD descendancy from John's father (though without naming him). The land at issue lay in PowhatanCoVA, which was created from CumberlandCoVA 1Jul1777.

**Abstract**

Plaintiffs: John RADFORD's heirs:

his children Elizabeth RADFORD; James RADFORD; Benjamin RADFORD; William RADFORD;  
 Thomas WHITLOCK & wife Rebecca [(RADFORD)] WHITLOCK; and Ann [(RADFORD)] RAKES;  
 the heirs of John's daughter Jane (RADFORD) SAUNDERS, viz.  
 John RAKES & wife nee Nancy SAUNDERS; John BAGBY & wife Martha [nee SAUNDERS];  
 John WOOD & wife Lucy [nee SAUNDERS]; General PHELPS & wife Betsy [nee SAUNDERS];  
 James SAUNDERS; John SAUNDERS; and Rhoda SAUNDERS  
 the heirs of John's son Reubin RADFORD, viz.  
 Edmiston RADFORD; Miles RADFORD; Josiah RADFORD; Benjamin RADFORD Jr; Charles RADFORD;  
 [John] N. RADFORD; Tho[mas] RADFORD; Reubin RADFORD;  
 Jos[eph] SUBLETT & wife Edith [nee RADFORD]; and Fenton GRUPTON & wife Phebe [nee RADFORD]

Defendants: John RADFORD's siblings and their heirs:

brother Richard RADFORD - residence unknown  
 the heirs of sister Elizabeth (RADFORD) BLACKBURN, deceased, viz. William and James BLACKBURN  
 - residence unknown  
 the heirs of sister Susan APPERSON, deceased, viz. Francis and John APPERSON - residence unknown  
 sister Nancy RADFORD who married John C[ONNI?]SON - residence unknown  
 sister Mary RADFORD who married John McCARGO - residence unknown  
 the heirs of sister Agness RADFORD, deceased, who married Joseph BONDURANT, now deceased, viz.  
 Anne MONY, widow of Charles MONY; Elizabeth BONDURANT who married John APPERSON;  
 Lucy [(BONDURANT)] DAVIS, widow of Jeffrey DAVIS; Joseph BONDURANT; Edward BONDURANT;  
 William BONDURANT; and Mary [(BONDURANT)] AYRES, widow of Nathan AYRES

**Complaint** (undated intrinsically)

Facts alleged, and relief prayed in complaint:

George RADFORD died leaving a will, but intestate with respect to a 3a [but later sold as 275a - see image 11] piece of land, which should have passed by the laws of intestacy to his siblings, and in particular to his brother John, and . The heirs of John are here suing the heirs of John's siblings in a fictitious suit pursuant to their interest in the land, and praying the court to order it's sale and the division of the proceeds, since it's too small to be worth dividing. {LVA Chancery Cases, PowhatanCoVA 145-1850-002, images 2-3}

20Oct1830 Complaint caption (on reverse of complaint, with docket) notes filing of suit on this date and answers received from all defendants with known residences except for Lucy DAVIS; continued til 7May1832 pending answer of Lucy DAVIS {4}

[undated] Answer of Lucy DAVIS who concurs with the allegations of plaintiffs and acquiesces to the sale {5-6}

Abstracted by John Barrett Robb; published 28Sep2014

*Elizabeth RADFORD et al. vs. Richard RADFORD et al.*

[undated] second page and caption (on reverse) of the decree of judgement in favor of the plaintiffs ordering the sale of the land {16-17}

20Aug1831 Court notes the sale of the land in question of the suit in pursuance of its former decree, copy attached (but not archived adjacent). The land consisted of the 275a tract belonging to the estate of George RADFORD deceased. and it was sold 17Aug1831 to Joseph B. DAVIS for \$343.75 with about 1/3rd down and the rest on credit {13-15}

20Jun1832 Court order directing that the clerk of the court be appointed receiver of the proceeds of the land sale, to pay the costs of the suit and sale, and then disburse the remaining proceeds to the heirs in equally portions. On the opposite page of this order are a few later accounting entries, one of them a note of deposit to the account dated 12Dec1844 - this is the latest date I've seen in any of these court papers. {18-19}

20Jun1832 Court order appointing Thomas M. BONDURANT receiver (in place of William S. DAVIS) to disburse the sum of \$256.97 to the heirs {9-10}

Other documents of interest:

[undated] descendency tree showing the heirs of the various principals to the suit, which identifies the husband of Jane2 (John1) RADFORD as Zack SANDERS. {29}

14Jul1829 a list, signed William Radford, of the heirs of John Radford, that names "Nancy Rakes late N.Sanders" (under "heirs of Jane Radford") but not Nancy's husband, even though the living husbands of all the other female heirs are named. {34}

The many other documents in the case pertain primarily to the accounting for the proceeds of the land sale.



## George Radford of Powhatan died leaving the following brothers & sisters

1. Jno [John] Radford his brother who left
  1. Elizabeth Radford his Daughter now ??
  2. Jane Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Zack [Zachariah] Saunders and Jane died leaving
    1. Nancy who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] John Rakes
    2. Martha who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Jno [John] Bagby
    3. Lucy who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Jno [John] Wood
    4. Betsy who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Genal: [General] Phelps
    5. James Saunders
    6. John Saunders
    7. Rhoda Saunders
3. James Radford
4. Benjamin Radford
5. Wm [William] Radford
6. Rebeca Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Thomas Whitlock
7. Ann Radford now Ann Rakes the widow of Wm [William] Rakes
8. Reubin Radford who died leaving
  1. Johnson Radford
  2. Miles Radford
  3. Josiah Radford
  4. Benjamin Radford
  5. Charles Radford
  6. Jno [John] Radford
  7. Tho [Thomas] Radford
  8. Edith Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Joseph Sublett
  9. Reubin Radford
  10. Phebe Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Frakorn Grafton
2. Richard Radford
3. Elizabeth Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Blackburn both dead and left
  1. William Blackburn
  2. James Blackburn
4. Susan Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Richard Apperson both of whom are dead leaving
  1. Frances Apperson
  2. John Apperson
5. Nancy Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] John Connifax
6. Mary Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] John McCargo
7. Agness Radford who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] John Bondurant both of whom are dead leaving
  1. Ann Mony the widow of Charles Mony
  2. Elizabeth Apperson who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] John Apperson
  3. Lucy Davis the widow of Jeffery Davis
  4. Joseph Bondurant
  5. Edward Bondurant
  6. William Bondurant
  7. Mary who marry<sup>d</sup> [married] Nathan Ayres

Transcription p 0029 - 145\_1850\_002\_0029 by: Roger W. Wells