

# Wood(s) Surname DNA Study – An update

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After more than a year, a group of similar DNA results is forming that provides some clues about the origins of Samuel Wood, the Revolutionary War patriot who settled 50 acres on the left fork of Cow Creek in the early 1800s. The popular belief has been that Samuel Wood followed the typical Scotch-Irish migration through Virginia, into the Carolinas and, then, into the beautiful hills of Kentucky. Early DNA results indicate this, indeed, may be true.

## WHAT DO WE KNOW FOR SURE ABOUT OL' SAM WOOD?

- 1775: Samuel Wood enlisted in South Carolina as a soldier at the commencement of the Revolutionary War. [Clay County Court records, 8 July 1819]
- 1781: A private in South Carolina's 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry regiment, Samuel Wood lost a horse in the Battle of Ninety Six. [South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History, Accounts Audited, Stub Indent Book, stub #248 dated 5 April 1787 for provisions & horses lost during service under Col. Hopkins and "also for provisions from General Greene's army on his retreat from 96." Stub #247 was William Wood's claim. Stub #355 was Thomas Wood's claim. Could they be brothers?]
- 1785: Sam Wood's eldest son, John, was born in South Carolina. [1850 U.S. Census, Owsley County, Kentucky; Roll: M432\_216; Page 297; Image: 385]
- By 1808: The family was located in Clay County when the eldest son, John, was married to Darkey Abney on December 12. [Clay County Marriage Records]
- 1811: Samuel Wood had a wife named Elizabeth when their daughter Peggy married Andrew Turner. [Clay County Marriage Contract: "This is to certify that Samuel Wood and his wife Elizabeth are both willing for Andrew Turner to marry their daughter Peggy and give him \_\_\_\_\_ to marry her." Signed by James Turner, Samuel Wood & Abner Baker.
- He died at the home of Jacob Gabbard. [Clay County Court Order Book B, 26 June 1826, entry #193: "And on motion of John Wood, administrator as aforesaid -- Satisfactory proof was made to the court by the Testimony of two creditable witnesses (to wit Jacob Gabbard and Edward Gabbard) that said Samuel Wood died at the house of Jacob Gabbard in the county of Clay and state of Kentucky on 13 Dec 1825 and that said Samuel Wood dec'd was to their knowledge a Revolutionary pensioner...."]

## WHAT ADDITIONAL CLUES DO WE GAIN FROM THE DNA STUDY?

- DNA results are the same for family surname Wood and Woods. This would seem to end the discussion about which is the correct spelling of the surname.
- There is an **exact DNA** match between a direct male descendent of Pleasant Woods (believed to be grandson of Samuel Wood through his son Sam Jr.) and John Wood born circa 1764 in Rowan County, North Carolina, believed to be a son of Jarrett Wood. This John Wood migrated to Arkansas. There were quite a few Woods and quite a few Scotch-Irish in Rowan County, NC. Some are matches and some are not.
- There is a **near match** (99% likelihood of a shared ancestor) between my uncle Tom Wood, a direct male descendant of Ol' Sam Wood's son John, and the direct male descendant of Pleasant Woods.

- There is a **near match** (again 99% likelihood) that all three of the previously mentioned men (two from Kentucky and one from Rowan County, NC) are related to descendants of Jonathan Wood born 1755 in Orange County, New York. This family never migrated from the New York/Pennsylvania area. This information contributes to the theory that the Kentucky Woods followed the typical migration pattern of the Scotch-Irish and most likely entered the U.S. in the port of Philadelphia.
- There is **no DNA match** with Archibald Woods from Botetourt County, VA; Michael Woods from Albemarle County, VA; Samuel Wood born in Anne Arundel, MD; Captain Samuel Wood who married Margaret Holmes and quite possibly is the Samuel Wood who purchased about 1000 acres on Paint Lick; and a group of Wood brothers from Granville County, NC.

Does anyone remember a legendary Boston Red Sox pitcher named “**Smokey**” **Joe Wood** (1889-1985)? In 1912, at the age of 22, he pitched 10 shut-outs in 16 consecutive games and won three World Series games that year earning him the nickname “Smokey” for the “great balls of fire” he threw from the mound. He’s a descendant of the NY/Pennsylvania line. He had relatives in Kentucky. I bet he didn’t know it.

**WHAT’S NEXT?** It’s puzzling, but not unusual, that two descendants of Ol’ Sam Wood are not exact matches. Other direct male descendants are encouraged to participate in the DNA study. More clues are always helpful.

### ***Known Descendants of Samuel Wood***

#### **JOHN WOOD**

Born about 1785 in SC, Died about 1855 in Owsley County,  
Burial Reynolds Graveyard, Booneville

Married Darkey Abney 12 Dec 1808 in Clay County

Children:

Henry Wood

Polly Wood

John Wood b. about 1809

William Wood b. 05 Jan 1814, d. 09 June 1863

Married Nancy Morris

Joseph Wood b. 20 Mar 1820 in Clay Cty, d. 28 April 1886 in Rockcastle Cty

Married Martha Pennington

Susan Wood b. about 1832

Thersey Wood b. 08 June 1833

#### **SAMUEL WOODS JR.**

Born about 1790 in SC, Died before 01 June 1830,

Burial Reynolds Graveyard (Booneville) next to brother John

Married Rebecca Wilson 11 May 1813 in Clay County

Children:

Mary “Polly” Woods b. 1814

Married Henry Gabbard

John C. Woods b. 1815

Married Elizabeth

Margaret “Peggy” Woods (10 Dec 1820-12 July 1907)

Married Elijah Peters

Elizabeth Woods b. 1822

Married Jacob Gabbard

Pleasant Woods b. abt. 1825 d. before 1880

Married Margaret Gabbard

#### **PEGGY WOOD**

Born about 1793 in Clay County

Married Andrew Turner 04 July 1811 in Clay County