

# Elder Wilson Thompson's Genealogy

The following was originally intended as part of an appendix to Alvy Ray Smith, *Edwardian Riggses of America I: Elder Bethuel Riggs (1757–1835) of Morris County, New Jersey, and His Family Through Five Generations* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2006) (hereafter referred to simply as Smith, *Bethuel Riggs*). It was removed for space considerations. See the bibliography of the published book for full explanation of references below.

The following genealogical information is principally extracted from *The Autobiography of Elder Wilson*, first published in 1867, from the fourth edition, printed in 1962.<sup>[1]</sup> Information from other sources is so indicated.

1. —<sup>1</sup> **JONES**, born in Wales, married, perhaps in America, an English-woman.

Children, in the order given by Elder Wilson Thompson:

- 2 i **JAMES<sup>2</sup> JONES**, elder son, born in America, died in old age.
- 3 ii **THOMAS<sup>2</sup> JONES**, born in America, died in old age, married, and had a large family.
- 4 iii **NANCY<sup>2</sup> JONES**, born in America, died in old age, married — **WHITAKER**, and had a family.
- + 5 iv **MARY<sup>2</sup> JONES**, older than Jane, born in America, married (1) — **MCDONNELL**, and had one son, married (2) **JAMES WILSON**, and had four daughters.
- + 6 v **JANE<sup>2</sup> JONES**, born in America, married (1) — **LEE**, and had two children, married (2) **CLOSS THOMPSON**, and had at least four more children.

5. **MARY<sup>2</sup> JONES** (1—<sup>1</sup> *Jones*) was born perhaps about 1726 in America, died about 1801, aged 75, Campbell Co., Ky., and married (1) — **MCDONNELL**, and had one son. Mary's husband died, and she married

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1. Wilson Thompson, *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson, Embracing a Sketch of His Life, Travels, and Ministerial Labors, in Which Is Included a Concise History of the Old Order of Regular Baptist Churches*, (Greenfield, Ind.: D. H. Goble, 1867; repr. Ohio: Elders Aleshire and Bradley, 1962; repr. Conly, Ga.: Old School Hymnal Co., 1978; repr. Reprint Services Corp., 1991).

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(2) **JAMES WILSON**, who was born perhaps about 1726 in Ireland, and died about 1801, aged 75, also in Campbell Co.<sup>[2]</sup>

Children of the second marriage, to James Wilson:

- 7 i **ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup> WILSON**, married **JOSEPH HOLMAN**.
- + 8 ii **NANCY<sup>3</sup> WILSON**, married **CHARLES REYNOLDS**, and had at least one child.
- 9 iii **MARY<sup>3</sup> WILSON**, married **WILLIAM WILSON**.
- 10 iv **REBECCA<sup>3</sup> WILSON**, married, in N.C., her first cousin, **CLOSS THOMPSON JR.**, son of Jane<sup>2</sup> (Jones) Thompson, and had at least four children. See Closs Thompson Jr., person 13, for continuation of this line.

6. **JANE<sup>2</sup> JONES** (1<sup>-1</sup> Jones) was born in America, died at age 104 (although I am unable to substantiate this ancient age), and married (1) – **LEE**. When he died, Jane married (2), about 1787, in North Carolina, **CLOSS THOMPSON**, of Scotch-German descent.

Children of the first marriage, to – Lee:

- + 11 i **JAMES<sup>3</sup> LEE**, married, and had at least two children.
- 12 ii **NANCY<sup>3</sup> LEE**, married **BETHUEL RIGGS**, a prominent early Baptist known as Elder Bethuel Riggs. This family is the focus of Smith, *Bethuel Riggs*, which see for continuation of this line.

Known children of the second marriage, to Closs Thompson:

- + 13 iii **CLOSS<sup>3</sup> THOMPSON JR.**, first-born in this marriage, born in North Carolina, married his cousin, **REBECCA WILSON**, daughter of Mary<sup>2</sup> (Jones) Wilson, and had at least four children.
- 14 iv **LAWRENCE<sup>3</sup> THOMPSON**, Closs Jr.'s "next brother," born in North Carolina.
- 15 v **JOSEPH<sup>3</sup> THOMPSON**, married.<sup>[3]</sup>

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2. *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson*, 10, where Wilson stated that he had entered his 13th year, but "during this time," meaning between his 11th and 13th birthdays, both his grandparents had died, at about age 75. Since it is possible that his memory of his 11th year was really a memory from his sixth year (Mouth of Licking Church founded that year, 1794, rather than his remembered year of 1799), these dates could be as much as five years too high.

3. *Ibid.*, 62, 197, "My uncle, Joseph Thompson, my father's brother, and his wife;" Bethuel Riggs Revolutionary War pension file, which includes an affidavit, dated 27 Aug. 1832, Hamilton Co.,

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16 vi BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> THOMPSON.<sup>[4]</sup>

8. NANCY<sup>3</sup> WILSON (<sub>5</sub>Mary<sup>2</sup> Jones, —<sup>1</sup> Jones) married CHARLES REYNOLDS.

Known child:<sup>[5]</sup>

17 i JOHN<sup>4</sup> REYNOLDS.

11. JAMES<sup>3</sup> LEE (<sub>6</sub>Jane<sup>2</sup> Jones, —<sup>1</sup> Jones) married, and his widow outlived him.<sup>[6]</sup> James was a prominent early Baptist known as Elder James Lee.

Some time after Wilson Thompson's marriage on 24 May 1810, probably in 1811, James was living near the mouth of Twin Creek, Butler Co., Ohio, when he was visited by Wilson.<sup>[7]</sup>

Known children, in arbitrary order:

18 i JOHN<sup>4</sup> LEE, lived about 1815 near Elk Creek Church, Trenton, Butler Co., Ohio.<sup>[8]</sup>

+ 19 ii SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> LEE, married HANNAH POTTER, and had four children.

13. CLOSS<sup>3</sup> THOMPSON JR. (<sub>6</sub>Jane<sup>2</sup> Jones, —<sup>1</sup> Jones) (fig. 1) was born about 1763 in North Carolina, and died about 1819, Indiana. He married his first cousin, 14 Sept. 1787 (bond date), Wilkes Co., N.C.,<sup>[9]</sup> REBECCA WILSON (<sub>5</sub>Mary<sup>2</sup> Jones, —<sup>1</sup> Jones), who was born about 1767, and died about 1823, Indiana. Closs Jr. was a prominent early Baptist known as Elder Closs Thompson. He died at age 53 years, and was buried in the Indian Creek burial ground, "this being the church of which he was

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Ohio, in which Joseph Thompson swore that he had known Bethuel Riggs for upwards of 50 years, from the time of the Revolutionary War in Wilkes Co., N.C.

4. *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson*, 84, 115. Benjamin had moved to Mo. before 1811, to about 12 miles from Cape Girardeau.

5. *Ibid.*, 84, "in the care of my brother Jeremiah and a cousin, John Reynolds."

6. *Ibid.*, 197, "I visited the widow of Elder James Lee. Lee had moved from Miami to Honey Creek [Henry Co., Ind.], and had settled his family on new land, and died soon afterwards."

7. *Ibid.*, 81.

8. *Ibid.*, 190. See p. 293 for the location of Elk Creek Church.

9. *Wilkes and Burke Cos., N.C.—Coffey Marriage Bonds*, bride Rebeckah Wilson, groom Closs Thompson, bond date 14 Sept. 1787, Co. Wilkes, record 2: 240, bondsman Benjamin Coffey, witness Wm Lenoir, bond no. 167637.

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a member.” Rebecca, who was four years younger than Closs Jr., died about four years after he died.<sup>[10]</sup>

Closs Thompson Jr. was deeded grant no. 1859 on Beaver Creek in Wilkes (the part that is now Ashe) Co., N.C., in the period after 1777 when the Earl of Granville’s lands were confiscated by the state and then granted to its citizens for a small fee. Benjamin Cleveland received several such grants, one on Beaver Creek and two others on Cranberry Creek.<sup>[11]</sup>

From *The Indianapolis Star*, 27 Feb. 1923:

In the winter of 1815 and 1816, Closs Thompson II and his son Wilson, from Ohio, came ‘to look at the land’ along White Water river, Indiana. They traveled as far as the west fork of the White Water, where Closs entered 160 acres of land on Indian creek, near Miller’s mill. Closs and family moved to the land in the fall of 1817. About 1819 Closs died and was buried in the Indian creek burying ground. This burying ground had surely been established several years at this time.<sup>[12]</sup>

Closs Jr. was mentioned in the letter by his mother, Jane (Jones) (Lee) Thompson, written 21 Aug. 1832, from Bath Co., Ky., in the pension file of Bethuel Riggs, her son-in-law. In it she stated that Pvt. Closs Jr. served under Capt. Bethuel Riggs in the Revolutionary War.<sup>[13]</sup>

Known children:<sup>[14]</sup>

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10. *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson*, 189. The death occurred in Oct., but the year is not known.

11. *Abstracts of Upper New River Valley Land Grants from Wilkes Co. Records 1778–1783, Wilkes Co. Deed Book 1*. The Cleveland grants were nos. 248, 701, and 729.

12. “A Hoosier Listening Post,” *Indianapolis Star*, Indiana, Tuesday, 27 Feb. 1923, p. 6, col. 7, quotes Mrs. Grace Thompson Pentecost, photocopy courtesy of Frank James<sup>7</sup> Gruber.

13. Bethuel Riggs Revolutionary War pension file, which includes affidavits, signed the same day in Bath Co., swearing to the veracity of Jane Thompson, by John Jones, John R. Jones, Francis Jones, and Samuel Jones, who live in the neighborhood of Jane, with one of them (unnamed) living in the same house with her. Francis Jones signs with his mark. The four claim to have known Jane from twenty to forty years. James might be Jane’s brother, who would probably be the one living with her, and the other three might be sons of her other brother, Thomas, known to have had a large family.

14. *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson*, 62, 197, Wilson stated (p. 81), “so my wife, and oldest sister, and I went with him to his boats.” Thus there must have been at least two daughters as well.

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- + 20 i **WILSON<sup>4</sup> THOMPSON**, first born, born 17 Aug. 1788, Hillsborough, Clear Creek, Woodford Co., Ky., married **MARY GRIGG**, and had at least three children.
- 21 ii **JEREMIAH<sup>4</sup> THOMPSON**.<sup>[15]</sup>
- 22 iii **[DAUGHTER]<sup>4</sup> THOMPSON**, married **JOSHUA HALE [HALES]**.<sup>[16]</sup>

19. **SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> LEE** (<sub>11</sub>*James<sup>3</sup> Lee, Jane<sup>2</sup> Jones, -<sup>1</sup> Jones*) married<sup>[17]</sup> **HANNAH POTTER**, daughter of Benjamin and Phebe (Squier) Potter.<sup>[18]</sup> Hannah married, second, James Emmons, and had a son, Ezra Emmons.<sup>[19]</sup>

Samuel's marriage to Hannah is one of a plexus of intermarriages of Baptist leaders or their children. Samuel's aunt, Nancy Lee, married, of course, Elder Bethuel Riggs. Hannah's mother, Phebe Squier was daughter to David and Sally (Gard) Squier. Sally Gard was a sister of Rev. Stephen Gard, and David Squier was a son of Ellis and Rebecca (Potter) Squier. Now Rebecca Potter's brother was Russell Potter, who had a son, Maxwell Potter, namesake to Samuel's first child. Maxwell Potter's second wife was the same Sally Gard who first married David Squier. Hannah's father, Benjamin Potter, was a son of Maxwell Potter and his first wife. It is known that both Russell Potter and Ellis Squier moved to Ohio, so all of the these marriages probably occurred there.<sup>[20]</sup>

A brief history of the Turtle Creek Church of Lebanon, Warren Co., Ohio, emphasizes the religious connections:<sup>[21]</sup>

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15. *Ibid.*, 84.

16. *Ibid.*, 185, "One of my sisters had married a man named Joshua Hale who was now settled at the falls of Kehaba." The surname is Hales on p. 186.

17. Littell, *First Settlers of Passaic Valley*, 326, "Hannah Potter, who married 1st, Samuel Lee, son of Elder James Lee, a baptist minister."

18. *Ibid.*

19. *Ibid.*

20. *Ibid.*, 325-26, 397.

21. *Church and Family History Research Assistance for Warren Co., Ohio*. Turtle Creek, Lebanon, West Lebanon. Elder Daniel Clark is son of Daniel Clark (Sr.) by his first wife. Stephanus Clark is son of Daniel Clark (Sr.) and his second wife, Abigail Shipman. When Daniel (Sr.) died, his widow married William Parrott of New Providence, Essex (now Union) Co., N. J. [Littell, *First Settlers of Passaic Valley*, 75, 312]. William and Abigail (Shipman) (Clark) Parrott are direct ancestors of mine.

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Turtle Creek Church originally met as an arm of Clear Creek Church, and was organized as a separate church on Saturday, December 11, 1802. The original members were Daniel Clark, Sarah Clark, Stephaneus [sic] Clark, . . . . The church had grown to 45 members by the time it united with the Miami Association in 1803. Within ten years the church outgrew the log meeting house, east of Lebanon, and moved into a new brick meeting house, which was built on West Mulberry Street, which was used for about fifty years. The "Pioneer Cemetery" was adjacent to the church. Elder Daniel Clark served the church as pastor. In about 1814, Elder Stephen Gard was called as assistant, then in 1819, Elder Wilson Thompson was called as assistant.

There is even more to the plexus if Presbyterians (fig. 2) are also considered. Russell and Rebecca Potter were children of Amos Potter. Amos's brother, Col. Samuel Potter had a son Isaac Potter who married Abigail Bebout. Isaac and Abigail had a son Rev. Samuel Sanford Potter who married Phoebe<sup>8</sup> Riggs, daughter of Rev. Elias<sup>7</sup> Riggs (*Preserve*<sup>6</sup>, *Zebulon*<sup>5</sup>, *Joseph*<sup>4</sup>, *Edward*<sup>3</sup>, *Edward*<sup>2</sup>, *Edward*<sup>1</sup>) of Morris Co., N.J., and New Providence, Essex (now Union) Co., which is just across the Passaic River from Morris Co. Rev. Potter preached in Newark.<sup>[22]</sup> See vol. 3 for more on Elias Riggs.

Children of Samuel, in the order given by Littell:<sup>[23]</sup>

- 23 i MAXWELL POTTER<sup>5</sup> LEE, married 1851 MARGARET MOORE.
- 24 ii JAMES<sup>5</sup> LEE.
- + 25 iii ELIZABETH<sup>5</sup> LEE, married (1) JOSEPH BANKER, and had two children, married (2) WILLIAM HARTLEY.
- 26 iv MARY<sup>5</sup> LEE, married DUDLEY JONES, and had four children.

20. WILSON<sup>4</sup> THOMPSON (<sub>13</sub>Closs<sup>3</sup> Thompson Jr., Jane<sup>2</sup> Jones, —<sup>1</sup> Jones) was born 17 Aug. 1788, Hillsborough, Clear Creek, Woodford Co., Ky., and died 1 May 1866, probably in Fayette Co., Ind.<sup>[24]</sup> He married 24 May 1810, Mouth of Licking Church, Campbell Co., Ky., MARY GRIGG,

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22. Littell, *First Settlers of Passaic Valley*, 328-31. Col. Samuel Potter's youngest child was a son, named Bethuel, baptized 27 Mar. 1774, died 10 Oct. 1776.

23. *Ibid.*, 326.

24. *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson*, 341.

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who was born 11 May 1789, daughter of Matthew and Ann Grigg, natives of Va. They were both baptized by Elder James Lee, and they were married by Elder Bethuel Riggs.<sup>[25]</sup>

Wilson was a prominent early Baptist known as Elder Wilson Thompson, author of the autobiography from which this genealogy is derived. He lived very early in his life on Silver Creek, near Richmond, Madison Co., Ky. Wilson refers to the faith as “the Regular Old School Primitive Baptists.”<sup>[26]</sup>

Wilson and his wife moved to Missouri, near Cape Girardeau, in Jan. 1811. He joined Bethel Church, near what is now Jackson, by letter and submitted letters also for his wife, mother, father, and cousin John Reynolds.<sup>[27]</sup>

Wilson and his family experience the New Madrid earthquake, in Missouri, in Dec. 1811, and again on 8 Jan. 1812.<sup>[28]</sup>

In 1834 Wilson moved to Fayette Co., Ind., about six miles northwest of Connersville.<sup>[29]</sup>

Known child:<sup>[30]</sup>

- 27 i **GRIGG [GREGG] M.<sup>5</sup> THOMPSON**, born 11 or 20 Apr. 1811,<sup>[31]</sup> near Cape Girardeau, Mo.,<sup>[32]</sup> died 9 Mar. 1888, near Wilton (Hartsburg), Boone Co., Mo., and was buried at Goshen Church there,<sup>[33]</sup> where he had been pastor since Nov. 1881.<sup>[34]</sup> He married about 1832<sup>[35]</sup> **D. J.** —. He is known to have had a nephew, Elder R.

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25. Ibid., 74.

26. Ibid., 132.

27. Ibid., 91-92.

28. Ibid., 112, 128.

29. Ibid., 322. Pages 317 on were written by the youngest member of Wilson’s family, after his death (cf. p. 317).

30. Ibid., 189, “I now had a wife and three children to support.” This would have been in about 1815, mentioning the winter of 1814 on p. 176.

31. Thompson, *The Primitive Preacher*, 3, “I [Elder G. M. Thompson] was born 11 April 1811.”

32. *Autobiography of Elder Wilson Thompson*, 97, his father gives the birthdate as 20 Apr. 1811.

33. Thompson, *The Primitive Preacher*, 266-68, an obituary for Elder Thompson by his wife, whose address is given as Crawfordsville, Montgomery Co., Ind.

34. Primitive Baptist Library, *Church and Family History Research Assistance for Boone Co., Mo., “Goshen (1832).”*

35. Thompson, *The Primitive Preacher*, 266-68, Elder G. M. Thompson’s wife, D. J., mentions her

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W. Thompson,<sup>[36]</sup> who was for two years pastor of the Sugar Creek Baptist Church of Crawfordsville, Montgomery Co., Ind.<sup>[37]</sup>

25. **ELIZABETH<sup>5</sup> LEE** (<sub>19</sub>*Samuel<sup>4</sup> Lee, James<sup>3</sup> Lee, Jane<sup>2</sup> Jones, —<sup>1</sup> Jones*) married (1) **JOSEPH BANKER**, then she married (2) **WILLIAM HARTLEY**.<sup>[38]</sup>

Children of the first marriage, in the order given by Littell:<sup>[39]</sup>

28 i **JACOB<sup>6</sup> BANKER**.

29 ii **FRANKLIN<sup>6</sup> BANKER**.

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marriage of almost 57 years.

36. Elder Gregg M. Thompson, "Letter to Elder R. W. Thompson," *Primitive Baptist Monitor*, Nov. 1886, at *Primitive Baptist Online* [also Thompson, *The Primitive Preacher*, 252-54]; Elder R. W. Thompson, "An Error Corrected," *Primitive Baptist Monitor*, Oct. 1917, at *Primitive Baptist Online*.

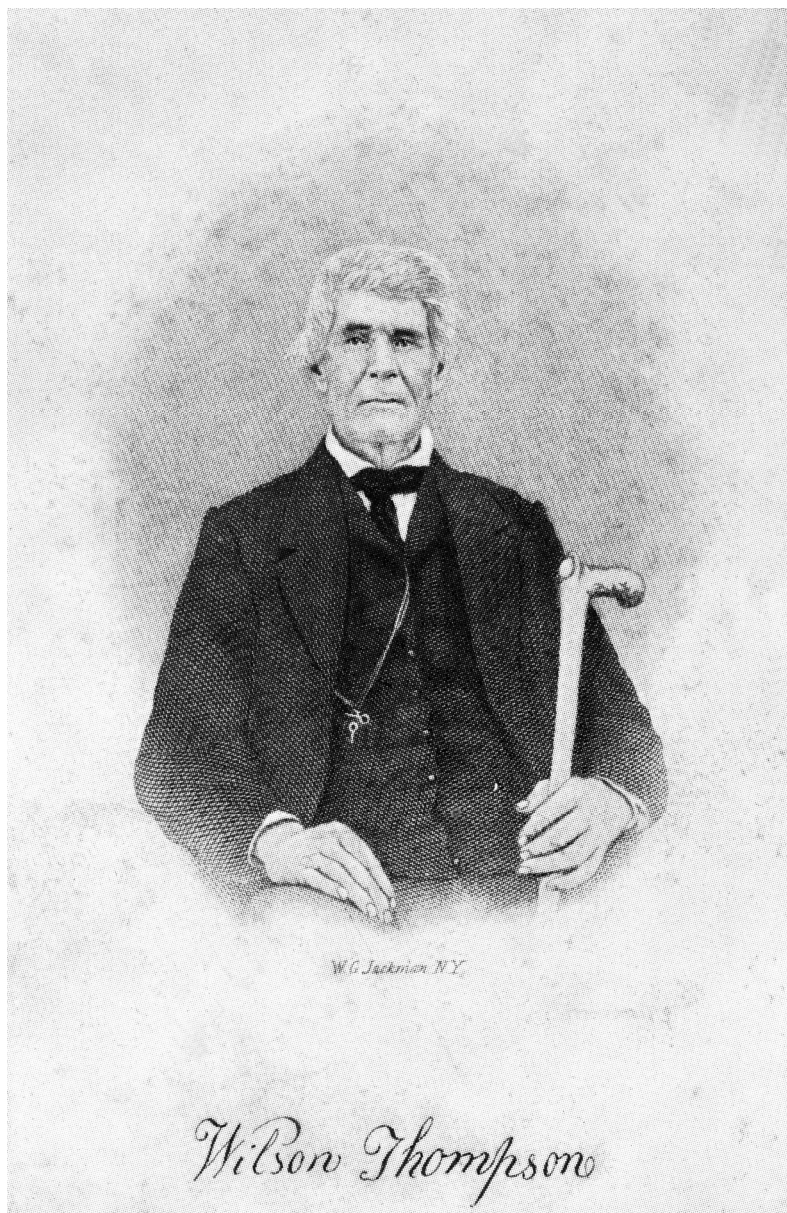
37. Primitive Baptist Library, *Church and Family History Research Assistance for Montgomery Co., Ind.*, "Sugar Creek, Crawfordsville."

38. Littell, *First Settlers of Passaic Valley*, 326.

39. *Ibid.*

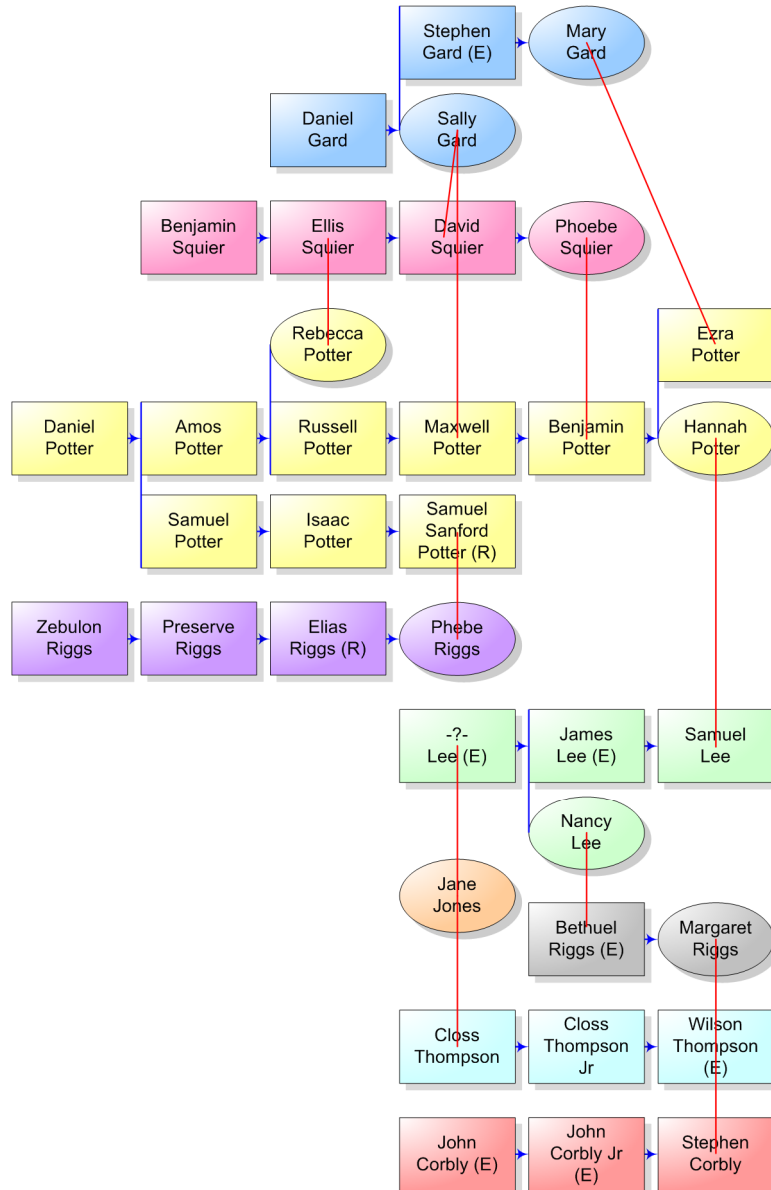


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1. Elder Wilson Thompson, son of Closs Jr. Frontispiece of his *Autobiography*.

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2. Intermarriages between religious families. E = Baptist Elder; R = Presbyterian Reverend. Blue lines connect siblings, red lines connect spouses, arrows show descent.