

## Susanna Brown (c1785-1853), Ancestor 87

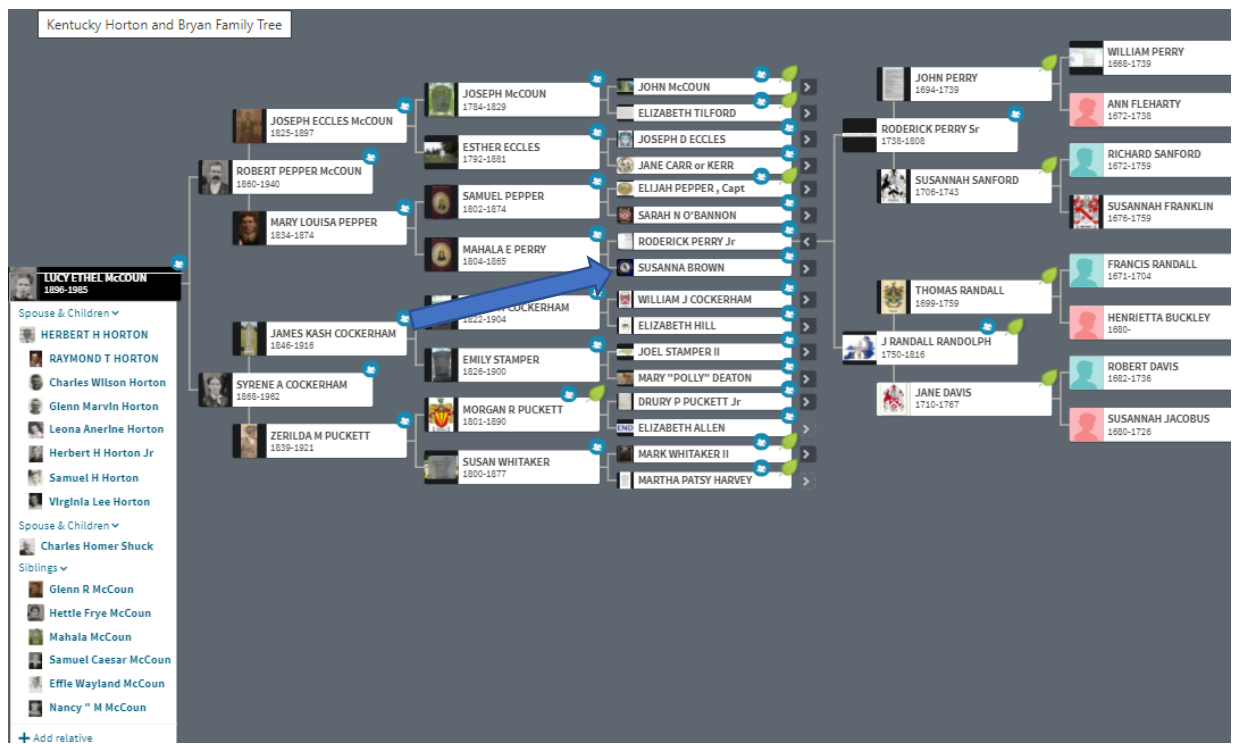
By her great great great great (4x great) granddaughter, Linda Horton, 18 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

Susanna Brown was born in 1784 or 1785 in Woodford County, Kentucky, the daughter of John Brown (1753-1822) and Paulina Talbott (1755-1805). Her parents had married in 1778 in their native Amherst County, Virginia, shown on a map on the next page. They migrated to Woodford County, Kentucky, where they settled on Glenns Creek.<sup>1</sup> Based upon Susannah's entry in the 1850 census, indicating that she was born in Kentucky and was 65 years old, her parents must have arrived in Woodford County before her birth. Supporting their arrival in Woodford is the fact that John Brown was listed in the 1790 Woodford County tax rolls.<sup>2</sup>

Susanna married Roderick Perry II (1776-1821) on 11 December 1801 when she was 16 years old. They had six children in 10 years, including our great great great (3x great) grandmother, Mahala Perry (1804-1865). Several years after Roderick's death in 1821, Susannah married James Edwards (1777-1839). After James' death, and sometime between the 1840 and 1850 census reports, Susanna moved into Sweet Lawn, the home of her daughter Mahala and son-in-law Samuel Pepper. She died there in February 1853 at the age of 68 and is likely buried in the family cemetery behind the home.

### Placing Susanna on the family tree

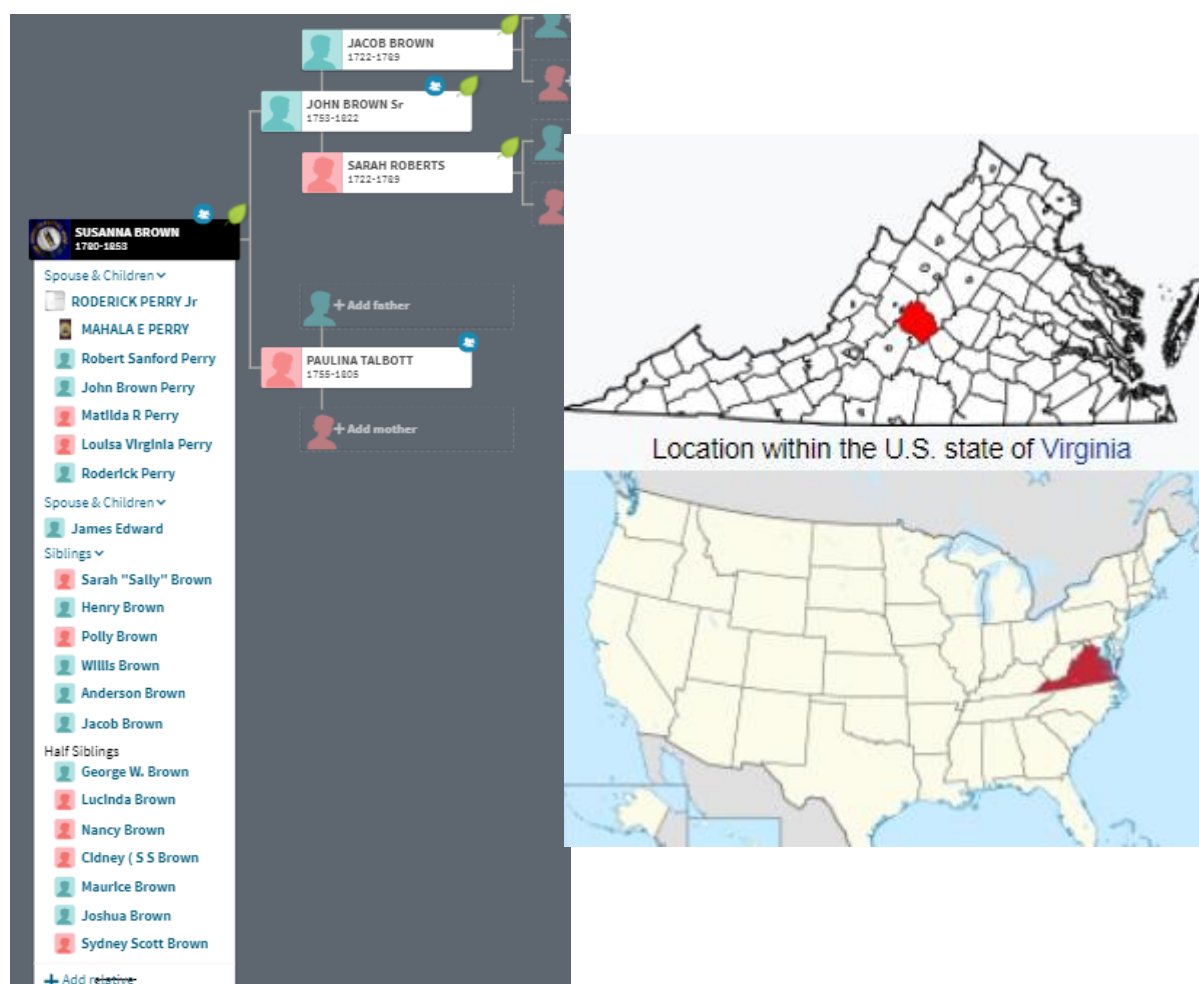
Susanna, our great great great great (4x great) grandmother, is part of the McCoun quartile of our family tree (the other quartiles being Horton, Bryan, and Sprowl). We have limited information about Susanna's ancestors, other than her father, John Brown, who served in the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War. His service, which occurred a few years before migration to Kentucky and the birth of Susanna, was described by a descendant in an application<sup>3</sup> to join the Sons of the American Revolution.



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John Brown entered the Service in Amherst County, Virginia soon after the Battle of Lexington, served on various tours with the Virginia Troops under Colonel Daniel Morgan and other officers, was in the Battle of Bunker Hill, was at the storming of Quebec and the Battle of Saratoga in the Fall of 1777, in which he was wounded by a shot in the elbow, serving as Private and Sergeant. His service amounted to two- and one-half years. During Service John Brown was a resident of Amherst County, Virginia. He died in Woodford County, Kentucky on August 20, 1822. For reason of disability, pension certificate issued December 31, 1816, rate \$2.50 per month, Act of March 11, 1811, Kentucky Agency.

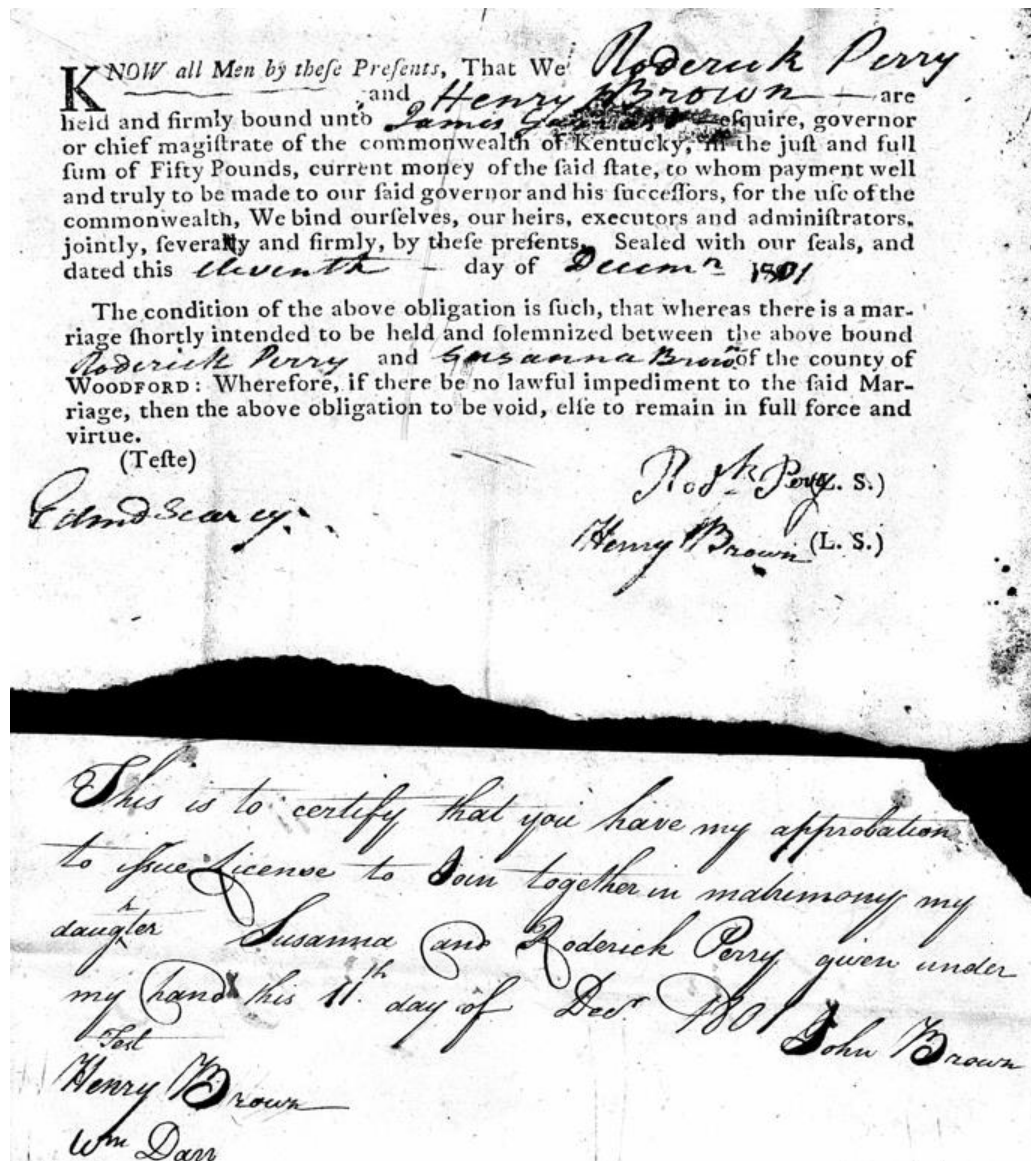
The pedigree of Susanna Brown shows the limited information we have about her ancestry. A complication is that her surname, Brown, is quite common. Amherst County, Virginia, is highlighted in red in the map of Virginia, below,



### Susanna's marriage to Roderick Perry II

Susanna's husband, Roderick Perry II, had been born in Westmoreland County, Virginia on 5 October 1776, the son of Roderick Perry I (1738-1801) and Jane Randolph (1750-1816). His family migrated to Kentucky in 1783 when the younger Roderick was a boy of six. They settled in Shelby County near a community known as Peytona, 18 miles from Glenss Creek where Susanna grew up. Details about the early years of Roderick Perry II are provided in his biography.

The couple's marriage bond is shown below. The first document was signed by Roderick Perry and Susanna's brother, Henry Brown (1786-1821). The second document was signed by Susanna's father, John, with Henry as one of two witnesses.



The marriage bond documents are dated 11 December 1801, the same day as the marriage of Susanna and Roderick Perry II. The couple settled on the banks of Glenss Creek, in a community that would come to be known as Millville. The name derived from several mills operating along the creek, including a grist mill that the Perrys established in 1819. The children of Susanna and Roderick Perry II were:

- Mahala E. Perry, 22 February 1804 to 4 March 1865; married Samuel Pepper.
- Robert Sanford Perry, 1805-1825.
- John Brown Perry, 1808-1860; married Matilda Pepper (Samuel's sister).
- Matilda R. Perry, 1808-1870; married Isaac Whittington then James Wright.
- Louisa Virginia Perry, 1812-1883; married James Samuel then Preston Bailey.
- Roderick Perry III, 1814-1822.

In the 1810 census, the Roderick Perry household consisted of 16 individuals. Roderick was one of two white males between 26 and 44; the identity of the other man is not known. Susanna was the one female between 26 and 44. The children were: three males and three females under age 10 (one of them Mahala); two males between 10 and 15; three males and two females between 16 and 25. As far as we know, at the time of the census Roderick and Susan had just Mahala, age six, and three of her younger siblings.

It appears that other relatives were living with Roderick and Susanna. Each had many brothers and sisters who may have moved in with Roderick and Susanna, a common practice in the nineteenth century.

In the 1820 census, enumerated one year before Roderick's untimely death at age 44, the household consisted of 28 persons, eight of them white family members (Susanna, Roderick, and their six children) and 20 enslaved blacks. Six of the 28 persons were engaged in agriculture.

Samuel and her husband lived in a house on a hillside near the place where Elijah Pepper built his house and first distillery.

### **Susanna's large, blended family**

Susanna's mother, Paulina Talbott Brown, died in Woodford County in 1805, at age 50. Her father soon remarried. John's second wife, Nancy Cloak Glenn, was a widow with three children. Before long, John and Nancy had seven additional children. The large, blended family was documented in the 1810 and 1820 census reports.

In the 1810 Woodford County census, 12 white persons were living in the John Brown household. In addition to John, age 57, and Nancy, age 38, there were ten children: two males and four females under age 10, two males between 10 and 15, and two males between 16 and 25.

In the 1820 census, the John Brown household consisted of ten family members, eight of them children or teenagers, and 12 enslaved black persons. Four individuals in the household were engaged in agriculture; the race of these individuals was not specified.

John died on 20 August 1822, leaving a will.<sup>1</sup> Executors included his sons Anderson and Jacob Brown, and James Edwards (whom his recently widowed daughter Susanna would later marry).

### **Death of Roderick Perry II**

Susanna's husband, Roderick, died on 9 August 1821<sup>4</sup> when he was 44 and Susanna was 36. His cause of death is unknown but apparently came as no surprise. He had written a will on 28 July 1821, a summary of which follows.

To wife Susannah Perry during her life or widowhood part of the tract of land I live on, four negroes—Kier, about 22, Lyddy, about 23, their son Aaron 2 or 3 years old, and a yellow boy named Hardy, about fourteen years old.

Also to my wife: one mare of her choice and one good horse if there is such belonging to estate and if not to be purchased for her; two cows, ten sheep, [illegible] breeding sows, [illegible] killing hogs, two featherbeds, one folding leaf table, one small table, and one trunk.

To daughter Matilda R. Perry—one grey whip filly.







To daughter Mahala E. Perry—one black whip horse colt.

Four younger children to be educated out of estate, also, of those, Robert S Perry would receive a negro boy named George and one young sorrel horse named Buzzard; John B.

Perry would receive a negro boy named Harry and a black filly; Louisa F. and Roderick Perry [illegible].

Executors—beloved friends Sanford Perry, John Brown & Jacob Brown, also wife Susanna Perry

On 1 October 1821, the executors filed an inventory of the estate:

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT WE** *Sandford Perry John Brown Jr and*  
*Susanna Perry John Brown Jr and*  
*Anthony Thompson*  
are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the just and full sum of *ten*  
*thousand dollars* current money, for which payment, well and  
truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly, severally and  
firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals, and dated this *1<sup>st</sup>* day of *October* 1821  
The condition of this obligation is, that if the said *Sandford Perry John Brown Jr*  
*and Jacob Brown as Exors and Susanna Perry as*  
*executing*  
of the last Will and Testament of all the goods, chattels and credits of *Roderick Perry*  
deceased, do make a true and perfect inventory of all and singular  
the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession  
or knowledge of the said  
*Sandford Perry John Brown Jr Jacob Brown Susanna*  
*Perry*  
or in the hands or possession of any other person or persons for *them* and the same  
so made, do exhibit into the County Court of Woodford County, at such time as *they* shall be  
thereto required by the said Court; and the same goods, chattels and credits, do well and truly admin-  
ister according to law; and make a just and true account of all *their* actings and doings therein,  
when thereto required by the said Court. And further, do well and truly pay and deliver all the  
legacies contained and specified in the said Will, as far as the said goods, chattels and credits will  
extend according to the value thereof, and as the law shall charge *them*; then this  
obligation to be void, else to remain in full force.  
*Susanna Perry*   
*John Brown Jr*   
*Sanford Perry*   
*Jacob Brown*   
*Dr. Brown*   
*Anthony Thompson* 

It is transcribed here:

Know all men by these presents, that we Sandford Perry, John Brown, Jacob Brown, Susanna Perry, John Brown Jr, and Anthony Thompson, are held and firmly bound unto

the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the just and full sum of Ten thousand dollars current money, for which payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly, severally and firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1821.

The condition of this obligation is that if the said Sandford Perry, John brown, Jr, and Jacob Brown as Exec and Susanna Perry as executrix of the last will and testament of all the goods, chattels and credits of Roderick Perry, deceased, which have or shall come to the hands, possession or knowledge of the said Sandford Perry, John Brown, Jacob Brown, and Susanna Perry or in the hands or possessions of any other persons for them and the same so made, do exhibit into the County Court of Woodford County, at such time as they shall be thereto required by the said Court. And further, do well and truly pay and deliver all the legacies contained and specified in the said will, as far as the said goods, chattels and credits will extend according to the value thereof, and as the law shall charge them; then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force.

Susanna x Perry [seal]  
mark

John Brown [seal]

Sanford Perry [seal]

Jacob Brown [seal]

Jn. Brown [seal]

Anthony Thomson [seal]

#### **Susanna's life after the death of her husband**

Two and a half years after Roderick's death, 19-year-old Mahala Perry married Samuel Pepper on 5 February 1824. On 30 January, Susanna Brown Perry had signed a statement that she had no objection to Samuel obtaining a license to marry Mahalia. The witnesses were John Brown Perry and William O'Bannon Pepper. Although Susanna Perry signed with an X as her mark, I believe that she was able to write. Her signature on the document on page seven matches the signature on the 1829 document on page eight. The latter document appears to have been written by the signor, Susanna.

The image shows a handwritten document on aged paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "To the Clerk of Woodford County court, I do certify that I have no objection of Samuel Pepper obtaining license to intermarry with my daughter Mahalia given under my hand this 30<sup>th</sup> of Jan. 1824". Below this, there are two signatures: "John B Perry" and "William O. Pepper". To the right of the date, there is a signature "Susanna Perry" followed by an "X" and the word "mark". There is also a small circular seal or stamp near the "X" mark. The document is framed by a black border.



On 25 March 1829, Susanna married James Edwards (1777-1839).<sup>5</sup> The marriage bond was signed by James and by Susanna's son-in-law Samuel Pepper. In addition, Susanna herself wrote and signed an authorization the grant of a license for her and "Jim."

Know all men by these presents, that we James Edwards and Samuel Pepper have held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the sum and full sum of fifty pounds to the payment of which note and bond to be made, we bind ourselves our heirs &c. jointly severally & firmly by these presents - sealed and dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March. 1829.

The Condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between the above bound James Edwards and Susanna Perry: Now if there should be no lawful cause to obstruct said marriage then the above obligation to be void else to remain in full force and virtue

Test  
 McKenny Clerk

James Edwards (Seal)  
 Saml Pepper (Seal)

The authorization shown below was prepared and signed by Susanna. It could have been more artfully worded and punctuated. But that is a minor point compared to the fact that a grown woman's own voice was heard directly, concerning her own remarriage, rather than merely having the voices of male relatives speak on her behalf.

Mr. John McKenny the clerk of the Woodford County Court you are hereby authorised by me to issue license to join together in the holy Estate Matrimony myself with James Edwards.

March 24, 1829

Test [witnesses]

Susanna Perry

Saml Pepper

Tho. Edwards [James' son]

Mr John McKenny the clerk of the Woodford County Court you are hereby authorised by me to issue License to join together in the holy Estate Matrimony myself with James Edwards. March 24<sup>th</sup> 1829

test  
 Saml Pepper  
 Tho. Edwards

Susanna Perry

James was a widower with nine children ranging in age from 26 years to 22 months old. Not much is known about James except that his father was from Amherst County, Virginia, the home county of Susanna's parents before their move to Kentucky. Also, James must have been a family friend, because he had been one of four executors of the will of Susanna's father, John Brown, who died in 1822, one year after the death of his son-in-law, Roderick.

Unfortunately for Susanna, she was widowed a second time, when James Edwards died in 1839 just ten years after he and Susanna married. Sometime between the 1840 census and the 1850



census, Susanna went to live at a plantation called Sweet Lawn that was the home of her daughter Mahala, son-in-law, Samuel Pepper, and three Pepper grandchildren.

The recent photo at left shows Sweet Lawn as it appears today. The current owners of the property operate a horse farm, which they call Sun Valley Farm, and they offer tours.<sup>6</sup> Their website<sup>7</sup> includes this information about our ancestors:

The Samuel Pepper homestead on Sun Valley Farm was built in 1831. [He was the] son of pioneer master distiller, Elijah Pepper, who constructed his distillery just across the lane on the banks of Glenn's Creek. Today, this extremely proud bourbon tradition is carefully preserved by the Woodford Reserve Distillery.

Samuel and his wife raised five children on their ancestral home named "Sweet Lawn," spending their entire lives tending their family, livestock and crops. They are buried in a garden graveyard on the farm.

Susanna was recorded as a member of Samuel and Mahala's household in the 1850 census. Susanna reported her age as 65 and birthplace as Kentucky.

Samuel Pepper	47	Mo	Samuel	12000
Mahala E	46	St		
Israh E	22	"		
Robert P	20	Mo	"	
William L	17	St		
Susan Edwards	65	"		



Susanna died in February 1853 at age 68 and is likely buried in the garden graveyard mentioned on the website described above. She left a will and designated two executors, her son-in-law Samuel Pepper and an unknown man named James H. Woods. They signed an executor's bond:

whereas Samuel Pepper have been appointed and have qualified as Executor of Susan Edwards—deceased [illegible] Samuel Pepper principal and James H. Woods surety—do hereby covenant to and with the Commonwealth of Kentucky that said Samuel Pepper will well and truly administer according to law, the goods, chattels, credits and effects that may come to his hands, and the proceeds of any sale and the rents and profits of any estate which may come to his hands or anyone for him by color of his office which the will empowers him to sell, and will make a just and true account of all his actions and doings therein, and will further well and truly pay and deliver all the legacies specified in said will as far as the goods, chattels, credits, and other effects will extend. And we further covenant that we will make a proper distribution of any surplus effects to the persons entitled thereto this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 1853.

Sam<sup>l</sup> Pepper  
James H Woods

The above document reads as follows:<sup>8</sup>

Whereas I Samuel Pepper have been appointed and have qualified as Executor of Susan Edwards—deceased [illegible] Samuel Pepper principal and James H. Woods surety—do hereby covenant to and with the Commonwealth of Kentucky that said Samuel Pepper will well and truly administer, according to law, the goods, chattels, credits and effects that may come to his hands, and the proceeds of any sale and the rents and profits of any estate which may come to his hands or anyone for him by color of his office which the will empowers him to sell, and will make a just and true account of all his actions and doings wherein, and will further well and truly pay and deliver all the legacies specified in said will as far as the goods, chattels, credits, and other effects will extend. And we further covenant that we will make a proper distribution of any surplus effects to the persons entitled thereto this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 1853.

Sam'l Pepper

James H Woods

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<sup>1</sup> Darnell, Ermina Jett. *Forks of Elkhorn Church*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002, at 91. Mrs. Darnell was a highly respected historian of Franklin County, Kentucky. She was related to us by marriage and may be found in the Kentucky Horton and Bryan Family Tree.

<sup>2</sup> Jackson, Ron V., Accelerated Indexing Systems, comp. *Kentucky Census, 1810-1890*. Compiled and digitized by Mr. Jackson and AIS from microfilmed schedules of the U.S. Federal Decennial Census, territorial/state censuses, and/or census substitutes. Ancestry.com. *Kentucky, U.S., Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1810-1890* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999. Clift, G. Glenn. *Second Census of Kentucky, 1800*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005.

<sup>3</sup> Application of John Willis Darr, 24 August 1961.

<sup>4</sup> Kentucky Obituaries 1787-1854, compiled by G. Glenn Clift, 1821. In Kentucky Reporter, Lexington: "Roderick Perry, of Woodford County," cited on Kentucky Kindred Genealogy, 29 April 2020 <https://kentuckykindredgenealogy.com/2020/04/29/1821-deaths-from-the-kentucky-reporter/>

<sup>5</sup> Marriage Records. Kentucky Marriages. Madison County Courthouse, Richmond, Kentucky.

<sup>6</sup> Sun Valley Farm, 556 New Cut Road, Versailles, Kentucky 40383, 859-533-5377  
<https://www.visitsunvalleymares.com/amenities>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.visitsunvalleymares.com/amenities>

<sup>8</sup> *Administrator and Executor Bonds, 1802-1856, of Woodford County [Kentucky]*; Author: Kentucky. County Court (Woodford County); Probate Place: Woodford, Kentucky; Kentucky County, District and Probate Courts.