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**Volume 1
Issue 7**

November & December 2018

An Insight into the St. John Family of Highlight



current topics >>>

Why a family newsletter

By Suzanne St. John

The St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales are *lost* in Modern History. The individuals of this family, their ancestors and descendants have been merged, confounded, and obliterated into non-existence by well-meaning researchers, heralds, and family before us. It is our responsibility and right to honor our ancestors based on the primary records that have been left for us. We owe it to them as genealogical preservationists to correct the historical record and the public's understanding.

For more information go to
www.stjohngenealogy.com
 or email stjohngenealogy@gmail.com



Tipperary, Ireland St. Johns
Lineages & DNA test subjects needed

by Suzanne St. John

2018 has been a good year for breaking down walls for St. John descendants emanating from Tipperary, Ireland ancestors. But we are still in need of more documented lineages and DNA test subjects.

Two men have completed Y-DNA testing and their ancestors were recorded in Tipperary, Ireland areas before coming to America. There are other branches (without DNA test subjects) that went to Canada, back to England, Australia, and elsewhere. The ancestry connections are so far back that Y-DNA testing is crucial to identifying where branches may fit into the larger St. John family tree.

Both men distantly matched descendants of Thomas St. John (1564-1625) and Jane Mathew. This was a huge discovery and significant breakthrough that confirmed some research I had tabled years ago because I couldn't prove my conclusions without DNA.

What needs to be clear is there are de Port-St. John DNA test subjects that come from Ireland as well. The progenitors for St. John and de Port-St. John are not conclusively identified. In order to move forward, more test subjects with Ireland ancestry need to

come forward and test. So, having the St. John name in Ireland isn't enough to determine if one is a St. John or de Port-St. John contrary to the claims of many. Y-DNA testing each living branch and researching those branches back to a most recent common ancestor (MRCA) is crucial to helping these descendants identify their place in the larger St. John family tree.

England assumed the government of Ireland in 1171 under King Henry II. In the early records of King Henry II. to Henry III., the surnames St. John, de Lacy, de Lucy, and Despenser are prevalent. These surname clusters offered me a hint to their origin but until DNA testing was conducted, I could not be sure. Now, I am confident I have identified the origin of the St. Johns that populated Wexford, Tipperary, Pepperstown and Mortlestown areas but two Y-DNA test subjects are simply not enough proof given documentary evidence is also limited.

Just like the descendants of Thomas St. John and Jane Mathew were tested and their individual lineages fully documented to prove their origin, so must be done for anyone with Irish St. John ancestry.

Write for us >>>

Submitting articles for future publications

The articles will be sent in Word Format to:
stjohngenealogy@gmail.com

Focus

We seek articles on the St. John families that are direct ancestors or descendants of the St. Johns of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales. This forum encourages descendants and avid researchers with any level of writing skill to participate. We can always find persons to help edit and improve submissions. The family tree at www.stjohngenealogy.com is the primary tree we use, update, and correct.

Types

- Immigrant origins with a genealogical summary.
- Problem solving articles with genealogical summary.
- Genealogical accounts of families, especially families for which no genealogy now exists.
- Source Material
- Current Events
- Common Bonds
- Brick walls
- Help requests
- DNA discoveries
- Phonetic variations
- Newly discovered branches
- Persons or Events of Interest
- Biographies

Writing Guidelines

- Microsoft Word, 12-point type
- Citations for each statement of fact that is not common knowledge. Each should be cited to one or more reliable sources; primary sources preferred.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit a description of your article in advance.
- Limit to 6000 words or less
- Consider including digital copies or scans of original documents
- Do not submit articles that have been published before
- Do not submit articles you are submitting elsewhere
- Include author's direct lineage up to Christopher St. John 1547-1616 of Highlight, Glamorgan, Wales if known.
- A PDF digital copy of your article once published will be attached to your person record on our website



Primary records >>>



Primary Records and Documents for Genealogy

Primary source materials include such resources as vital records (birth, marriages, and death), abstracts of wills, court records, town records, city directories, church (parish) registers, census, newspapers, land deeds, military lists, passenger list, heraldry trees, Visitation reports, tax rolls, archeological reports, and family folklore.

Evaluate the Evidence

- How helpful is the evidence?
- How reliable is the evidence?
- Is it valid for meeting the research objective and does it produce some level of proof?
- Is it objective evidence
- Does it answer questions
- Does it stand on its own merit?
- Do others interpret it differently



Remember all records are not equal

St. John Genealogy & DNA

Social Media is a great way to connect with other St. Johns, share information, ask questions, and learn. In addition to this newsletter, we have a Facebook page and group!



www.facebook.com/groups/stjohngenealogy



Preserve your DNA for the future

We are looking for DNA test subjects with a documented and provable St. John lineage to participate in our ongoing Genealogical and DNA study. Collections kits obtain salvia for testing. They are non-invasive, painless and private.

Groups Insights

64 <small>+3.1K%</small> New Members Last 28 Days	590 <small>+37%</small> Posts, Comments and Reactions Last 28 Days	 Julie Kaufman, Jeff St John and others are top contributors.
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Events Calendar Settings + Create Event

September 2017

- St. John Family Reunion**
Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11 PM CDT
Jason J St. John and 74 other guests You hosted.
- International Talk Like a Pirate Day 2017**
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 12 AM
1 guest You hosted.

ask the experts >>>

Q: *Can DNA skip a generation?*

A: *No, genes do not disappear and then reappear in later generations.*



Volunteer Job Role openings

- Writer:** A writer is someone who uses descriptive and engaging written language to create historical profiles and summaries of our St. John ancestors.
- Technical Author:** A writer that specializes in explaining genealogical and other technical processes in a simple, easy to understand, manner.
- Copy Editor:** makes sure that published or soon to be published works are free of spelling and grammar errors.
- Editorial Assistant:** helps with the general running of the newsletter, from administrative to editorial.
- Art Editor:** creates an overall look of the newsletter, making sure it's both attractive and easy to read.

If any of these VOLUNTEER job roles interest you, please submit a brief resume and portfolio sample to stjohngenealogy@gmail.com



Parentage of Samantha Rose St. John & Caroline Azuba St. John

New St. John connections found using AncestryDNA

by Robert Battle (battlegen@outlook.com)

Introduction

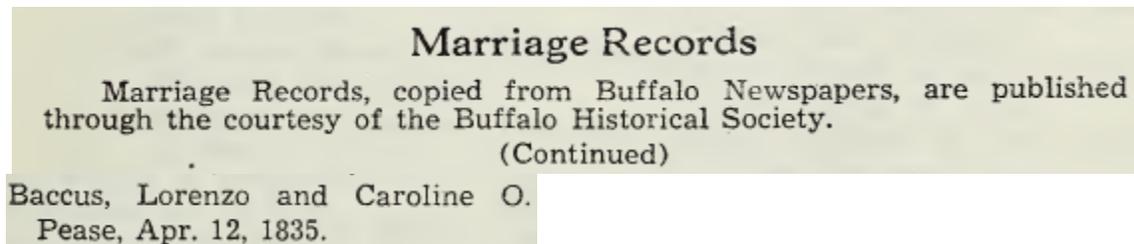
In the course of looking through my “DNA Matches” on ancestry.com for people related to me via the St. John family, I came across one match in the 4th-cousin range (45 cM in one segment) whose great-grandmother in the associated tree was a Samantha Rose St. John (born 1840 in Michigan, wife of Francis Marion “Frank” Sammons). My St. Johns were also in Michigan in this time period, and since I knew three of our common matches as other St. John descendants I felt fairly certain that Samantha Rose was a close relative of “my” contemporaneous St. Johns.¹ The tree in question did not have Samantha’s parents, so I checked the 1850 census to see if she could be found in her parents’ household. As it turned out, though, by 1850 she was apparently no longer living with her birth parents.

The Adoptive Parents

In the 1850 census, Samantha R. St. John (age 10, born in Michigan) and Zuba O. St. John (age 9, born in Michigan) were living in the household of Lorenzo and Caroline O. Backus:²

559	579	Lorenzo Backus	41	M	Carpenter	N.Y.
		Caroline O.	36	F		Mass.
		Samantha R. St. John	10	F		Mich.
		Zuba O.	9	F		

The most obvious interpretation of the fact that there were two St. John children living in the Backus household would be that they were Caroline Backus’s children by a prior marriage, Lorenzo Backus being their stepfather. However, Lorenzo’s marriage to Caroline occurred in 1835, before either of the St. John girls were born:³



By the time the 1860 census was taken, Samantha had married Frank Sammons and moved out of the Backus household (though not far, just a few houses away); her apparent sister, now called Caroline St. John, was still living there:⁴

¹All of the known St. John matches are descendants of Jacob St. John (b. 4 Nov 1774 in Lenox, Mass.) by his first wife Eunice ____ (24 Jan 1773-13 Apr 1817). My line is [Robert Battle](#) → Tamera G. St. John (1947-2015) → Robert D. St. John (1918-2008) → Claude St. John (1879-1954) → Charles R. St. John (1843-1922) → Horace St. John (b. c1797) → Jacob St. John & Eunice. The other three matches are all descendants of [Ivan F. St. John \(1885-1939\)](#) → Ashley J. St. John (1851-1913) → Reuben S. St. John (1809-1884) → Jacob St. John & Eunice.

² 1850 U.S. census, Michilimackinac Co., Michigan, p. 86 (482).

³ Janet Wethy Foley, *Early Settlers of New York State: Their Ancestors and Descendants*, vol. 2 no. 12 (June 1936), pp. 189-190.

⁴ 1860 U.S. census, Mackinac P.O., Inverness Twp., Cheboygan Co., Michigan, p. 48.

570	574	Lorenzo Backus	51	M	✓	Carpenter	✓1000	1397	New York
		Caroline O	46	F	✓				Massachusetts
		Caroline M. John	19	F	✓	Housemaid	✓		Michigan
571		Unoccupied			✓				
572	572	William M. Wolfe	60	M	✓	Silversmith	✓1000	750	New York
		Eliza "	65	F	✓				Massachusetts
573	573	Mrs. W. Stone	43	M	✓	Cooper	✓1580	500	New Hampshire
		Sarah " "	35	M	✓				do
		Mary " "	10	F	✓				Michigan
		Sarah B " "	8	F	✓				do
		Carra A " "	5	F	✓				do
		Abigail E " "	4	M	✓				do
		Hannah R " "	4	F	✓				do
574	574	Frank Sammons	25	M	✓	Merchant	✓1650	3985	New York
		Samantha "	20	F	✓				Michigan
		Fortitude	3	F	✓				do
		Clarice	3	M	✓				do
		William Cate	25	M	✓	Sailor	✓		New York

Both of the girls had moved out by the 1870 census:⁵

33	Backus Lorenzo	60	M	Post-Master	5000	5000	New York
	Caroline O.	56	F	housewife			Massachusetts

When Caroline O. (Pease) Backus wrote her will in 1878, she named both of the St. John girls among her legatees, without indicating any particular relationship:

I Caroline O. Backus of the Village of Cheboygan in the State of Michigan wife of Lorenzo Backus....3^d I give...to Mrs. Samantha R. Sammons my large Bureau....9th I give...to Mrs. Azuba Marsh my goose and Cress Board...⁶

By the 1880 census, Caroline Azuba (St. John) Marsh had moved back into the household of the recently-widowed Lorenzo Backus and was referred to as his niece:⁷

226 265	Backus Lorenzo	M 71	Apr 71	1	Real Estate dealer		Michigan
	Marsh Caroline	M 39	Nov 39	1	Housekeeper		New York
	Jordan Ella	M 15	Nov 15	1	at school		Michigan
	Marsh Lizzy	M 10	Nov 10	1	at school		Michigan

Detail:

	Backus Lorenzo	M 71	Apr 71	1	Real Estate dealer		
	Marsh Caroline	M 39	Nov 39	1	Housekeeper		
	Jordan Ella	M 15	Nov 15	1	at school		
	Marsh Lizzy	M 10	Nov 10	1	at school		

⁵ 1870 U.S. census, Cheboygan P.O., Inverness Twp., Cheboygan Co., Michigan, p. 7 (319a).

⁶ Will of Caroline O. Backus, dated [no day] April 1878; images in ancestry.com database Michigan, Wills and Probate Records, 1784-1980.

⁷ 1880 U.S. census, Cheboygan, Cheboygan Co., Michigan, e.d. 32, sheet 31 (p. 82c).

Michigan my niece
 New York Mass Bond.
 Michigan A. A. Mass.
 Michigan Ireland Meade
 Michigan Wisconsin Meade

Finally, when Lorenzo Backus wrote his will in 1887, he referred to both of the St. John girls as his adopted daughters:
I Lorenzo Backus of the Village of Cheboygan County of Cheboygan and State of Michigan.... give...to my adopted daughter Samantha R. Sammons wife of Francis M. Sammons of Cheboygan Michigan any and all liens, securities, debts, dues, demands...which I may have and hold at the time of my decease against her husband Francis M. Sammons....All the...residue...to my adopted daughter Caroline A. Marsh formerly and whose Maiden name was Caroline A. St. John...and her children Clarisa Erratt (nee Jordan) wife of William Erratt and Ella Brooks (nee Jordan) wife of E. D. Brooks and Lizzie Marsh...⁸

Combining all of these records, it appears that either Lorenzo Backus or Caroline O. Pease had a sister who married a St. John and had at least two daughters, which two daughters were taken in by Lorenzo and Caroline by the time of the 1850 census. Moreover, given the DNA connections alluded to in the introduction above, it is probable that the St. John in question was one of “my” branch of the family. This being the case, we can rule out the possibility that the St. John spouse was a Backus: none of the St. John males in this immediate family married a Backus, and the parents and siblings of Lorenzo Backus are known, with no St. John marriages.⁹ The mother of Samantha Rose and Caroline Azuba St. John must therefore have been a sister of Caroline O. Pease.

Identifying Caroline O. Pease

From the above census records, we know that Caroline O. Pease was born about 1813/14 in Massachusetts. We can narrow down her probable birth year to 1814 by her age of 63 at her death in 1878 in Benton, Cheboygan Co., Michigan:¹⁰

127 TO THE HON. SECRETARY OF STATE OF MICHIGAN:										127					
Return of Deaths in the County of <i>Cheboygan</i>										for the year ending December 31st, A. D. 1878					
DECEASED	DATE OF DEATH			FULL NAME OF THE DECEASED	MARRIED	MARRIED	MARRIED	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DISEASE OR CAUSE OF DEATH	BIRTHPLACE	OCCUPATION	PARENTS		
	MONTH	DAY	YEAR										FATHER	MOTHER	DATE OF RECORD
1	May	21	1878	Barab Sammons	Married	Married	17	5	Benton	Dropsy	New York	Not Reported	Peter Sammons	Orinda Pease	Sept. 1, 1877
2	June	23	1878	Rosalie P. Keston	Married	Married	3		Benton	Not Reported	Cheboygan		Marjant Sammons	Henry Pease	"
3	Aug	23	1878	Gerome Fullum	Married	Married	5		Benton	Not Reported	Heat Stroke		Stephen Keston	Phelicia Pease	"
4	not given		1878	Caroline Backus	Married	Married	63		Benton	General Debility	Massachusetts	Nurse	Samuel Fullum	Elizabeth Pease	"

Detail:

not given	1878	Caroline Backus	Married	Married	63		Benton						Samuel Fullum	Elizabeth Pease	
									General Debility	Massachusetts	Nurse			Not Reported	

Several online trees (perhaps due to ancestry.com’s linked hints) identify Caroline O. Pease with Caroline Pease, daughter of Asher and Elizabeth, who was born 1 March 1816 in Conway, Massachusetts:¹¹

PEASE, Caroline, ch. Asher and Elizabeth, Mar. 1, 1816.

However, this Caroline Pease died in Conway in 1831:¹²

**PEASE, Caroline [ch. Asher and Elizabeth Chaffee, G.R.3.],
 canker, Jan. 29, 1831, a. 15.**

⁸ Will of Lorenzo Backus, dated 26 August 1887; images in ancestry.com database Michigan, Wills and Probate Records, 1784-1980.

⁹ See, e.g., the family group of Lorenzo’s parents Simeon Backus and Polly Patchen at <https://backushistory.info/getperson.php?personID=115738&tree=backus1>.

¹⁰ Image from ancestry.com database Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1950.

¹¹ *Vital Records of Conway, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1943), p. 81.

¹² *Vital Records of Conway, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1943), p. 255.

This is clearly not the Caroline O. Pease who married Lorenzo Backus four years later.

Another possible clue to Caroline O. Pease's identity is an apparent association of the Backus household with one Horatio N. Pease. The following passage appears in a "History of the Early Settlement of Cheboygan County and Village":¹³

Lorenzo Backus and family settled on the west side of the river and built a house on the present site of Dr. Gerow's residence. Horatio N. Pease also built a dwelling house on the present site of the water mill of McArthur, Smith & Co., where he settled with his family.

In the 1850 census, Horatio N. Pease was enumerated on the same page as the Lorenzo Backus household:¹⁴

→	573	Horatio N. Pease	39	M.	Clerk.		Conn.
		Eliza	26	F.			Mich.
	574	Isaiah H. Wenger	32	M.	Carpenter		N.Y.
		Amira	30	F.			"
		Laura	9	F.			Ohio
		Melissa	7	F.			"
		George	5	M.			"
		Jasper	3	M.			"
	575	Nelson Ball	26	M.	Lumber		Vt.
		Nancy	23	F.			Mass.
		Nelson H.	6 1/2	M.			Ohio
	576	John Vincent	38	M.	Prat builder	60	Mich.
		Sophia	26	F.			Canada
		Delia	6	F.			Mich.
		Benjamin	5	M.			"
		Edwin	2	M.			"
	577	Alexander McLeod	48	M.			Canada
		Catherine	23	F.			"
		Mary A.	1	F.			Mich.
	578	James Jerkit	44	M.	Farmer		N.Y.
		Martha A.	34	F.			Vt.
		William H.	16	M.	Farmer		N.Y.
		Martha J.	14	F.			"
		Harriet E.	1	F.			Mich.
		M. Lewis	52	M.	Farmer		Not known
→	579	Lorenzo Backus	41	M.	Carpenter & Joiner		N.Y.
		Caroline O.	36	F.			Mass.
		Samantha R. St. John	10	F.			Mich.
		Faba O.	9	F.			"

¹³ History of Cheboygan and Mackinac Counties... (Detroit, 1873), p. 18.

¹⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Michilimackinac Co., Michigan, p. 86 (482).

Horatio Pease was about three years older than Caroline, of the right age to be her brother (though he was born in Connecticut and she in Massachusetts). However, according to an 1869 genealogy of the Pease family, this Horatio N. Pease was the youngest child in his family, with no sister named Caroline.¹⁵

312.

PETER PEASE,⁶ (EBENEZER,⁵ EBENEZER,⁴ ROBERT,³ JOHN,² ROBERT,¹) brother of the preceding, was born at Enfield, October 14, 1763; married Huldah Stebbins of Springfield, Mass., November 25, 1785; and settled at Enfield, where he died June 25, 1822, aged 60 years.

His children were:

904. 1. FRANCIS, b. at Enfield, July 8, 1787.
905. 2. WILLIAM, b. at Enfield, April 21, 1790.
906. 3. MARGARET, b. at Enfield, July 16, 1792. m. Horace Hawkins.
907. 4. PETER P., b. at Enfield, May 3, 1797. d. in South Carolina.

DESCENT OF JONATHAN³—FAMILY OF JOSIAH⁴ 85

908. 5. HULDAH, b. at Enfield, July 18, 1799. m. Solomon Silsbee of Reading, Steuben County, N. Y.
909. 6. MARY, b. at Enfield, February 7, 1804. m. C. Allen of Enfield.
910. 7. HORATIO N., b. at Enfield, April 29, 1806.
[Enfield Town Records, and New England Historical and Genealogical Register.]

910.

HORATIO N. PEASE,⁷ (PETER,⁶ EBENEZER,⁵ EBENEZER,⁴ ROBERT,³ JOHN,² ROBERT,¹) youngest son of PETER and HULDAH (STEBBINS) PEASE of Enfield, Ct., was born at Enfield, April 29, 1806; married Chapin of Mackinaw. He died in Michigan, and it is supposed he left no children.

It is worth noting that this Horatio N. Pease appears to have been about four years older than the man of that name who was a neighbor of Lorenzo and Caroline Backus, making this connection a bit tentative.

So, it seems that looking for Caroline O. (Pease) Backus's family starting from what we know of her draws a blank. She was not the daughter of Asher and Elizabeth Pease who was born in 1816, and she does not appear to have been a daughter of Peter and Huldah Pease, Horatio's parents. However, when we start from the St. John side we can make a strong circumstantial case for her identity.

While none of the St. John males among the immediate descendants of Jacob St. John married a Backus, one of them did marry a Pease. My great3 grandfather, Horace St. John, eldest son of Jacob, married (as his second wife) Clarissa G. Pease 18 November 1832 in Wayne Co., Michigan.¹⁶

¹⁵ David Pease and Austin S. Pease, *A Genealogical and Historical Record of the Descendants of John Pease, Sen., Last of Enfield, Conn.* (Springfield, Mass., 1869), pp. 84-85 and 224.

¹⁶ *A Copy of the Marriage Records of Wayne County, Michigan, from 1818-1838* (FHL #927,472). The name of his first wife is unknown; her existence is indicated by the fact that in the 1840 census he apparently had a son who was born between 1824 and 1830 (in the 10-15 year-old age range).

Marriage Record

P.-7

Taken from Wayne County

Name in full St. John, Horace
Surname, given and middle names, age, place of residence

To whom married Pease, Clarisa
Name in full, age, place of residence

Date and place of marriage Nov. 18, 1832 at

By whom married Grc. W. Ferrington, Justice of Peace

Source of record Marriage Files, County Bldg., Detroit
Name of source (abbreviated). Volume and page, if a book

Certificate recorded March 6, 1833. License

Horace St. John's household was enumerated in 1840 in Redford Township, Wayne Co., Michigan:¹⁷

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES																								
	MALES												FEMALES												
	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and up-ward	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100
George Jackson				1									1												
Timothy Barnes	2	2				1							1												
William Sprague	1		2	3			1																		
Lejeu Cook	1					1									2	2									1
Calib Croft	2					1								1											
Herb Stockwell	2	2			1								2		1										
Horris St John			1			1							2												1

Clarissa G. (Pease) St. John was born in early February 1813 in Chilmark, Massachusetts, daughter of Nathaniel Pease and Elizabeth Gifford. She had several children with Horace St. John (including my great-great grandfather Charles R. St. John) and died 22 October 1849 in Redford Township. Horace survived her and was living in Redford with his children Mary, Charles, and James when the 1850 census was taken:¹⁸

88	Horace St John	53	M	Barmer	400	87 1/2
	Mary St John	12	F			Mick
	Charles	7	M			Do
	James	4	M			Do

Horace St. John married (as his third wife) the widow Electa (Nichols) Brown 21 December 1856 in Hanover, Jackson Co., Michigan:¹⁹

¹⁷ 1840 U.S. census, Redford Twp., Wayne Co., Michigan, p. 306.

¹⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Redford, Wayne Co., Michigan, p. 257b.

¹⁹ Image from ancestry.com database Michigan, County Marriage Records, 1822-1940.

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Horace St John }
and }
Electa Brown }

State of Michigan }
Jackson County } ss

I hereby Certify that Horace St John of Hanover Jackson
County in the State of Michigan aged 59 years and Electa Brown
of the same place aged 61 years were married by me at Hanover
on the 21st day of December 1858 in presence of Selah Day and James
Wilkins of Hanover Mich.

G W Kennedy Justice of the Peace

In 1860 they were living in Moscow Township, Hillsdale Co., Michigan:²⁰

943	Horace St John	63	m		Farmer	1	200	110	✓	NY
	Electa "	65	f						✓	Mass

The 1870 census is the last record I have been able to find of Horace St. John. In it he was living with Robert and Mary Burroughs, who do not appear to be related to him; however, a few houses away, Caroline Azuba (St. John) Marsh was living with her second husband and children:²¹

266	Marsh Henry L	26	m	h	Cooper					Ohio		
	— Caroline	29	f	h	Keeping House	600	150			Michigan		
	— Effie	3	f	h						"		
	— Lizzie	4 1/2	f	h						"		Feb
	Jordan Clarissa	9	f	h						"		
	— Ella	5	f	h						"		
267	Smith Andrew R	26	m	h	Carpenter	800	200			"		
	— Sarah J	22	f	h	Keeping House					"		1
	— Frank	1 1/2	m	h						"		Aug
268	Hoak William A	25	m	h	Barber	600	200			Hamburg Ger	1	1
	— Barbara	22	f	h	Keeping House					Hamburg Ger	1	1
	— Charlotte M	4	f	h						Conn	1	1
	— Amelia	2	f	h						Conn	1	1
	— Cora	1	f	h						Michigan	1	1
269	Burroughs Robert	47	m	h	Shave Joiner	600	200			Ireland	1	1
	— Mary	40	f	h	Keeping House					Canada	1	1
	St John Horace	72	m	w	Farm laborer					New York		

The next step is to see if we can show that Caroline O. (Pease) Backus was Clarissa's sister. From the church records of Chilmark, Massachusetts, we know that Nathaniel and Elizabeth Pease had a daughter born there 25 June 1814, the right age to be Caroline:²²

June 25 Nathl Pease & Elizabeth dau

²⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Moscow Twp., Hillsdale Co., Michigan, p. 127 (747).

²¹ 1870 U.S. census, Van Buren, Wayne Co., Michigan, pp. 30-31 (465b-466a).

²² *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 59(1905): 383.

Before moving to Wayne Co., Michigan, a few years later, in the 1830 census Nathaniel Pease was enumerated in Evans, Erie Co., New York,²³ where Caroline O. Pease was to marry Lorenzo Backus five years later. The most compelling evidence, though, comes from the probate of Barney R. Pease, Clarissa's brother. Barney R. Pease died intestate in Arkansas 9 October 1840, but his estate was probated in Michigan where he had until recently resided. The administrators of his estate were his widow Alpha (Belding) Pease, Ransom R. Belding (Alpha's brother), and Alva Stockwell. Barney's father Nathaniel Pease, however, tried to gain administration of the estate, calling several witnesses in his favor. This generated paperwork which has survived, including lists of fees for those witnesses (presumably for their travel and other expenses). The first of these lists was written 2 February 1842:²⁴

Fees of the arbitrators charged at two dollars

<i>Cash</i>	<i>\$ 6.00</i>
<i>W & T Jus H Willmott Jus</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Sheldon Beckwith</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>Clarisa St John Jus</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Asa Gulker</i>	<i>1.06</i>
<i>Israel Little</i>	<i>.93</i>
<i>R R Renner</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>William Hendryx</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>Thos Gerberds</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Mrs Backus</i>	<i>1.69</i>
<i>Com. C. Hordenburgh</i>	<i>91</i>
	<i>15.63</i>
	<i>76.13</i>
	<i>91.76</i>

Note that one of the witnesses called was "Clarisa St John", daughter of Nathaniel Pease and sister of Barney R. Pease. Note further the name "Mrs Backus", whose greater fee perhaps indicated that she had to travel farther to get to court than the others. A second page (undated) with payments made to witnesses has the same list of names, though this time with Mrs. Backus's first name:

²³ 1830 U.S. census, Evans, Erie Co., New York, p. 113.

²⁴ This and the subsequent images from ancestry.com database Michigan, Wills and Probate Records, 1784-1980.

Fees of the Arbitrators Charged at the Collation Book # 15.00

+ W to Just ^r Hiram Willmorth's fees	paid 88
Sheldon Bunkerott	paid 87
+ Clarissa St. John	paid 88
Asa Fuller	paid 1.06
Israel Little	paid 93
R. R. Tinner	paid 75
<hr/>	
+ Wilcom Hendryse	paid 91
Thos. Helden	paid 75
Caroline Backus	paid 1.69
Cornelius Hoscendough Const ^r fees	paid 91
	<hr/>
J. P. Matthews	15.63
G. W. Ferrington	19.66
Morris Jenkins	
} Arbitrators	

Each witness signed receipts indicating that they had received their fees. Clarissa G. (Pease) St. John signed her receipt in Redford 1 October 1842:

Received of A. Stockwell \$0.88
 it being in full for my witness
 fees in the suit of Est. Pease
 vs B. H. Pease Estate
 Redford Oct 1st 1842
 Clarissa G. St. John

And, Caroline O. Backus signed her receipt 12 January 1843:

Received of A. Stockwell one Dollar and
Sixty Nine Cents it being the amount of
My Witness fees in the Case between N. Pease
and M. M. Pease Estate
Iosco January 12th 1843
Caroline O Backus

This is clearly the wife of Lorenzo Backus. She signed the receipt in Iosco, Livingston Co., Michigan, where she and Lorenzo and her husband's family were living at this time. Her signature here is almost identical to the signature on her will 35 years later (see note 6 above):

Caroline O Backus

Conclusion

From the above evidence, it is certain that Samantha Rose St. John²⁵ and Caroline Azuba St. John²⁶ were daughters of Horace St. John and Clarissa G. Pease. Upon Clarissa's death in 1849, these two younger daughters were taken in by their aunt and uncle, Caroline O. Pease and Lorenzo Backus, while Horace kept his sons and his oldest daughter with him.



²⁵ She was quite probably the second girl aged 0-5 in Horace St. John's household in 1840.

²⁶ Her middle name probably came from Horace St. John's youngest full sister, "Ezuba" St. John, who died about a month shy of her fourth birthday when Horace was in his mid 20s. And, the name of Caroline's daughter Clarissa almost certainly came from her birth mother Clarissa Pease.

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DNA isn't just for scientists

The St. John Genealogy & DNA project has been an ongoing DNA effort since 2002. Suzanne St. John became the volunteer administrator for the project in 2013.

In this role, she documented the lineages, where known, of each test subject. She has compared DNA results, compiled reports, and documented genetic family trees. Test subjects are identified by kit numbers not names.

FTDNA projects:

St. John Family DNA Project: 123 members.
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/st-john/about/background>

Glamorgan Wales Cousin Project: 386 members.
<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/glamorgan-wales-cousins/about/background>

AncestryDNA share results with THEPOETZ

Contact us at stjohngenealogy@gmail.com

www.stjohngenealogy.com



1030 N. Townsend Loop
Post Falls, Idaho 83854

Suzanne St. John
Family Researcher



coming soon >>>

In the Next Issues

- *Sir William St. John, Knight*
- *The St. John Family Website*
- *Pedigree Reports*