

Used with permission of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.
Additional reproduction prohibited without written permission from both
Author and The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

VOLUME 154



NUMBER 2

APRIL 2023

A Widow and a Spinster Help Identify the Parentage of
Sarah Hicks of New York City

Ara Fitch, and Not Thomas Streeter, Was Probably a Son-in-Law
of Aaron and Lucy (—) Beard of Chenango County, New York

The Howells Family from the Welsh Marches to New York

Out of the Shadows: Mahala Jarvis of the Town of Huntington,
Suffolk County, New York (*concluded*)

The Probable Ancestry of John D. Crawford (about 1802–1878)
of Plattekill, Ulster County, New York (*concluded*)

THE NEW YORK Genealogical and Biographical Record

VOLUME 154

APRIL 2023

NUMBER 2

Contents

A WIDOW AND A SPINSTER HELP IDENTIFY THE PARENTAGE OF SARAH HICKS OF NEW YORK CITY by Shannon Green	85
ARA FITCH, AND NOT THOMAS STREETER, WAS PROBABLY A SON-IN-LAW OF AARON AND LUCY (—) BEARD OF CHENANGO COUNTY, NEW YORK by Perry Streeter	94
THE HOWELLS FAMILY FROM THE WELSH MARCHES TO NEW YORK by Henry Coggeshall Howells IV	117
OUT OF THE SHADOWS: MAHALA JARVIS OF THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK (<i>concluded</i>) by Laura Murphy DeGrazia	143
THE PROBABLE ANCESTRY OF JOHN D. CRAWFORD (ABOUT 1802–1878) OF PLATTEKILL, ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK (<i>concluded</i>) by Michael Rudy	149

Regular Features

EDITOR'S VIEW	83
NECROLOGY OF MEMBERS	158

WRITING FOR THE NYG&B RECORD

The editor welcomes manuscripts focusing on residents of New York State and its colonial predecessors. Articles dealing with adjacent areas or countries of origin will also be considered if there is significant migration to or from New York. Guidelines for authors are available at the Society's website. Submit an electronic copy of your manuscript (Microsoft Word is preferred) to editor@nygbs.org.

BOOK AND MEDIA REVIEWS

Recently published books, donated or purchased, may be reviewed in *The NYG&B Record* if they concern the genealogy, biography, or history of the people of New York State or its subdivisions or are otherwise relevant to research on New York families. Publishers interested in offering their material for possible review should send a copy of the book with complete ordering information to The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 36 West 44th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036-8105.

Copyright © 2023 by The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. The Society and the editor of *The NYG&B Record* assume no responsibility for errors of fact or for opinions expressed or implied by contributors, but proven errors will be corrected.

THE NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD (ISSN 0028-7237) is published quarterly by The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 36 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036-8105. For subscription rates, see www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org. Printed at Sheridan Press, Hanover, PA 17331. Periodicals postage paid at New York, New York, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, 36 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036-8105.

THE EDITOR'S VIEW

This issue of *The NYG&B Record* presents three new articles, followed by the conclusions of two articles from volume 153.

In her article on the parentage of Sarah Ann (Hicks) Hawkins, Shannon Green leads us through an engaging chain of reasoning to the firm conclusion that Sarah was the daughter of William and Amy (Cornell) Hicks. No source states Sarah's parentage fully and directly, but Shannon skillfully lays the puzzle pieces together and lets a clear picture of a New York City family emerge.

Perry Streeter has updated us on his efforts to clarify the relationships between three men who lived in central and western New York in the early nineteenth century: Aaron Beard, Thomas Streeter, and Ara Fitch. In a previous article a few years ago, Perry proposed that Thomas Streeter was Aaron Beard's son-in-law. New documentary discoveries and DNA studies have shifted the probabilities that Perry presented then and have focused attention on Ara Fitch.

Henry C. Howells's article identifies the parents of Welsh entrepreneur Thomas Howells, father of four early nineteenth-century immigrants to the United States. The genealogical summary covers one branch of Thomas's descendants that has not previously been treated in print, and it will continue in the July issue. This article is notable for its careful use of English and Welsh sources and for its candid biographies. It is the culmination of many years of research by Henry and his family.

It is interesting that private family manuscripts helped the authors of all three articles reach their conclusions. Shannon Green tracked down an important family Bible. Henry Howells found valuable clues in vague reminiscences of eighteenth-century events that were written down over a hundred years later. In a way typical for upstate New York, a critical step in Perry Streeter's research was the discovery of a handwritten family history from the 1920s. It cast light on events from the early nineteenth century when few official records were kept. Perry's next step was an extensive DNA study that built on implications from this family narrative. Family manuscripts usually contain many errors and must always be treated with caution, but as in these cases, they can preserve knowledge that has survived in no other way.

Ian Watson
Editor

A WIDOW AND A SPINSTER HELP IDENTIFY THE PARENTAGE OF SARAH HICKS OF NEW YORK CITY

BY SHANNON GREEN

On Tuesday evening, 26 March 1822, the Reverend Archibald Maclay, the pastor of a Baptist congregation on Mulberry Street in New York City, joined Sarah Hicks and Richard G. Hawkins in marriage.¹ Sarah bore six sons and died after thirteen years of matrimony. Her parentage was not known several years ago when the author published an article on the Hawkins family in *The NYG&B Record*.² The scarcity of records for women in New York City before 1850, coupled with an abundance of paternal candidates named Hicks, at first hindered her identification. But a combination of records left by Sarah's mother and aunt eventually cracked the case.

THE FAMILY OF RICHARD AND SARAH (HICKS) HAWKINS

The author's previous article identified five sons of Richard and Sarah Hawkins, as well as the sons' spouses, some of the sons' children, and Richard Hawkins's parents. Since that article was published, a handwritten Bible record for this family has surfaced.³ This Bible was printed with blank pages headed "Births," "Marriages," and "Deaths," and these are the earliest entries:

Births [page 1]

Richard Gardner Hawkins Was born March 26 1795

Sarah Ann Hawkins Was born July 14 1802

Alfred Ruggels Hawkins Our Son Was born December 23 1822

¹ "Married," *New-York Spectator*, 29 Mar. 1822, p. 3, col. 5, GenealogyBank. "Married," *New-York American for the Country*, 30 Mar. 1822, p. 2, col. 5, GenealogyBank. Both announcements called the bride "Miss Sarah Hicks," the groom "Mr. Richard G. Hawkins," and mentioned that both parties were "of this city." They reported the minister as "the Rev. Mr. Maclay" or "M^r Clay." Rev. Archibald Maclay was a Baptist minister and pastor of the Mulberry Street Chapel. *Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register, and City Directory, for the Forty-Eighth Year of American Independence* (New York 1823), 305, and the unpaginated "List of Churches and Chapels in the City." In the copy of the directory in the New York Public Library's Digital Collections, the list of churches is found after page 14.

² Shannon Green, "Connecting William W. Hawkins of Newark, New Jersey, and William Wallace Hawkins of New York City," *NYG&B Record* 148 (2017): 265–277.

³ Richard Gardner Hawkins Sr. family record, in a copy of *The Holy Bible* (Cooperstown: H. & E. Phinney, 1825), as of 2022 in the possession of Bethany Medina (Ancestry username "medina63"). Mrs. Medina inherited the Bible from her grandfather William Hawkins Ricer.

Richard Gardner Hawkins Was born September 12 1824
William Wallace Hawkins Was born July 24 1827
George Washington Hawkins Was born October 6 1829
Charles Henery Hawkins Was born November 18 1831

Births [page 2]

Joseph L. Hawkins Was born December 13th 1833
Amey Hicks was born August 12th 1761

Deaths

Sarah Ann Hawkins Died Nov 14th 1835
Joseph L. Hawkins Died August 16th 1839
Richard G Hawkins Died October 5 1842
Amey Hicks died April 11 1843

Marriages

Richard Gardner & Sarah Ann Hawkins Was Married March 26 1822

The birthdates of the first five sons given in this record match those noted in an 1844 petition in Richard Hawkins's estate file and reported in the author's previous article.⁴ This Bible record documents a presumed sixth son, Joseph L. Hawkins, who died at the age of five. The entries for Sarah's death and her marriage to Richard, as well as the first page of births, are in the same hand; perhaps Richard, who died after Sarah, entered these records.

Sarah's funeral was held on 15 November 1835 at the Church of the Epiphany in Manhattan. The funeral record identifies her only as "Mrs. Hawkins" and does not mention her age or a first name.⁵ She is not listed in New York City death records,⁶ and no estate file has been found,⁷ nor

⁴ Denton Pearsall and Alfred R. Hawkins petition, 7 Aug. 1844, in Richard G. Hawkins estate files, New York Co. Surrogate's Court, Real Estate Proceedings, letter H, bundle 9, DGS 5526245, images 42–43. The records of this estate cover several hundred pages, which were not all filmed consecutively and are spread out over several image groups. This petition names the five sons, provides their birth dates, mentions the death of Richard's unnamed wife on or about 14 Nov. 1835, and specifies that she was the mother of all five children.

⁵ Mrs. Hawkins funeral record, 15 Nov. 1835, Church of the Epiphany, New York City, register for 1833–1866, p. 305, "New York, Episcopal Diocese of New York Church Records, 1767–1970," Ancestry. Blanks left in the record for her given name and age were never filled in.

⁶ Negative search in New York City death registers, vol. 9, DGS 4005524, where there was no record of anyone named Hawkins who died in November 1835. Deaths recorded at this time were reported by sextons, so included only people who were buried in the city, according to Harry Macy Jr., "New York City Vital Records," 2013 revision, on the NYG&B website (www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/new-york-city-vital-records).

⁷ Negative search in New York Co., N.Y., Surrogate's Court records: Index to Administrations, 1743–1910, letter H, DGS 5517131, image 527; Index to Wills, 1662–1910, letter H, DGS 5517125, image 501.

any obituary in likely newspapers.⁸ Richard and Sarah's marriage was not recorded in civil or church records.⁹

The Bible record shows that Sarah's death left Richard to raise their six boys, ages one to thirteen. A document in Richard's probate file hints at how he may have managed. A cobbler filed a claim against Richard's estate for expenses incurred before Richard's death on 5 October 1842. Among expenses for shoes for the boys were two interesting charges: 37½ cents for "half soaling a pair of shoes for the old lady" and 12½ cents for "heeling a pair for the old lady."¹⁰ But who was this mysterious "old lady"? Was she possibly the Amy Hicks mentioned in the Bible record? And were Amy Hicks and Sarah (Hicks) Hawkins related?

AMY HICKS, THE WIDOWED "OLD LADY"

When Amy Hicks died in April 1843, barely six months after Richard Hawkins, her residence was reported as 206 Allen Street on her city death record.¹¹ Richard Hawkins had purchased 206 Allen Street in 1825. It was a part of his estate when he died in 1842, was purchased from his estate "for the benefit of the infant children," and was eventually sold in 1853.¹² In conjunction with property next door at 208 Allen Street that Richard also owned, it was a tavern or porterhouse known as "Tammany Branch."¹³ Richard frequently hosted political meetings for his ward at his tavern.¹⁴ Richard Hawkins's sons continued to live at this address and

⁸ Negative search of indexed newspapers at GenealogyBank and newspapers.com for 14 to 25 Nov. 1835. Negative manual search from 14 to 21 Nov. 1835 of the *New-York Observer*, *Commercial Advertiser*, *New-York American for the Country*, *New York Evening Post*, and *Spectator*.

⁹ Civil marriage records in New York City did not begin until 1829 at the earliest. Aaron Goodwin, *New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2016), 13. Baptist churches did not typically maintain marriage records, according to the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2014), 213.

¹⁰ Bill from cobbler Edward Goodchild, 25 Jul. 1843, in Richard Hawkins estate files (note 4), DGS 5526245, image 281.

¹¹ Ann Hicks death record, 10 Apr. 1843, New York City death registers, vol. 13, not paginated, DGS 4005526, image 160, showing her age at death as 82 years, 5 months, and 10 days. The death date in this record differs by a day from the death date in the family Bible (note 3). The birth date calculated from her age at death, 3 December 1760, is more than seven months earlier than the 12 August 1761 date in the Bible record.

¹² Commissioner of Partition and others to Richard G. Hawkins, 18 Apr. 1825, New York Co., N.Y., Deeds 209:1, DGS 7178193, image 82. Peter Van Arsdale, executor of Richard G. Hawkins, dec'd, to John B. Demilt, 15 Feb. 1844, New York Co., N.Y., Deeds 446:434–441, DGS 7178404, images 676–679, describing an auction in which Denton Pearsall (guardian) purchased 206 Allen St. for the benefit of the heirs. George W. Hawkins and Maria E., his wife, and Charles H. Hawkins to Denton Pearsall, 9 Aug. 1853, New York Co., N.Y., Deeds 646:350–352, DGS 7178534, images 243–244.

¹³ Richard G. Hawkins to George Loring, 6 Mar. 1838, New York Co., N.Y., Deeds 385:206–209, DGS 7178252, images 388–389.

¹⁴ For example: "Eleventh Ward," *Evening Post* (New York), 19 Aug. 1834, p. 2, col. 2, mentioning "Hawkins', corner of Housten and Allen streets," as the meeting place for "Democratic

run the tavern after their father died, and it was the last piece of real estate sold when the estate was settled; the family evidently made their home there.¹⁵

Another clue to Amy Hicks's relationship to the Hawkins family comes from a claim filed by Peter Van Arsdale, Richard Hawkins's doctor and executor, against Richard Hawkins's estate for "medical services rendered to the family of the deceased since his death to the present time." The words "Mrs. Hicks" are penciled in a top corner of the bill, which was dated 31 July 1843, a few months after Amy Hicks's death and less than a year after Richard's.¹⁶ The bill's wording and the notation in the corner suggest that the doctor's services were for Amy Hicks, that she was part of Richard's "family," and that Richard had been paying her expenses.

Amy Hicks's death was recorded in several ways. The record of her funeral at the Church of the Epiphany called her Amy Hicks.¹⁷ Her New York death record, submitted by the church's sexton, reads Ann Hicks.¹⁸ Death notices in New York newspapers referred to her as Mrs. Amy Hicks, widow of William Hicks.¹⁹ The name of her husband, as well as evidence of the varying presentation of her first name, links her to an entry in the 1835 New York city directory reading "Hicks Anne widow of William R. 118 Stanton."²⁰ This entry, in turn, leads to the death record of William Hicks, who resided at 118 Stanton Street when he died in 1834. Like Amy, William's funeral was held at the Church of the Epiphany, and both William and Amy were buried in the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery.²¹

Republican Electors of the 11th Ward" to meet and choose representatives; *Evening Post*, 18 Dec. 1839, p. 2, col. 6, mentioning "Tammany Branch, corner Allen and Houston sts."⁵ as the similar meeting place for the 17th Ward.

¹⁵ "Court of Oyer and Terminer—This Day," *Commercial Advertiser* (New York), 15 May 1843, p. 2, col. 3. Testimony from Richard G. Hawkins [Jr.], undated, in Richard G. Hawkins estate files (note 4), DGS 5526246, images 387–397, especially 389. Hawkins and Hawkins to Pearsall (note 12).

¹⁶ Bill from Dr. Peter Van Arsdale, 31 July 1843, in Richard Hawkins estate files (note 4), DGS 5526245, image 382.

¹⁷ Mrs. Amy Hicks funeral record, 12 April 1843, Church of the Epiphany register (note 5), p. 320.

¹⁸ Ann Hicks death record (note 11).

¹⁹ Amy Hicks death notices: *New York Tribune*, 13 Apr. 1843, p. 3, col. 2; *New-York Commercial Advertiser*, 12 Apr. 1843, p. 2, col. 5; *New-York Evening Post*, 13 Apr. 1843, p. 2, col. 6; *New-York Spectator*, 15 Apr. 1843, p. 4, col. 6.

²⁰ *Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register, and City Directory, for the Sixtieth Year of American Independence* (New York 1835), 328.

²¹ William Hicks death record, 2 June 1834, New York City death registers, vol. 9, unpaginated, DGS 4005524, image 145. Mr. William Hicks funeral record, 27 May 1834, Church of the Epiphany register (note 5), p. 301. William's death record indicates that he was buried in the Allen Street Methodist cemetery. Amy's death record, as "Ann" (note 11) indicates that she was buried in the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery. The Allen Street Methodist church was a part of the East Circuit that used the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery, so these two records actually report burial in the same cemetery.

If Amy Hicks was Sarah's mother, then William Hicks was presumably Sarah's father. Sarah and Richard Hawkins named a son William, which would fit nicely with this conclusion.

It was not hard to build a picture of William and Amy Hicks's earlier life. William Hicks took out a bond to marry Amy Cornell on 18 May 1782.²² In 1800, William lived with his growing family in North Hempstead, which was just outside of New York City in Queens County.²³ William Hicks moved to New York City by 1808, where he worked as a cartman.²⁴ A cartman was a licensed hauler of goods around the city. Cartmen wore a uniform and managed a single horse attached to a two-wheeled cart to transport various commodities. Everything related to a cartman's profession was regulated by the municipal government—from the licensing requirements to the rates he could charge.²⁵ In 1823, William Hicks, cartman, lived at the corner of Orchard and Grand Streets. Richard Hawkins, a cartman and grocer, was at the intersection of Orchard and Delancey, two blocks away.²⁶ Richard Hawkins had married Sarah Hicks the year before.

Unfortunately, none of the most typical sources provided any useful information on William and Amy Hicks's children. Amy Hicks's death notice in New York newspapers said she left ninety-three descendants, but neither her death notice nor the death notice for her husband William Hicks listed any of these descendants by name.²⁷ Indeed, William and Amy Hicks seem to have left no land, church, or estate records that might offer evidence of the names of their children. No evidence was found that William ever owned real property in New York City or North Hempstead.²⁸ No New York estate records were found for either William or

²² *Names of Persons for Whom Marriage Licenses Were Issued By the Secretary of the Province of New York, Previous to 1784* (Albany 1860), 182. The original bond is not extant.

²³ "William Hicks 2" household, 1800 U.S. census, Town of North Hempstead, Queens Co., New York, p. 550, DGS 4955943, image 143. "William Hicks 1 Lieut." on the same census page was a different man. North Hempstead has been a part of Nassau County since 1899.

²⁴ *Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register, and City Directory, for the Thirty-Third Year of American Independence* (New York 1808), 174.

²⁵ Graham Russell Gao Hodges, *New York City Cartmen 1667–1850*, revised ed. (New York 2012), 2.

²⁶ *Longworth's American Almanac, New-York Register, and City Directory, for the Forty-Eighth Year of American Independence* (New York 1823), 231, 238. The address listed for William Hicks was his residence, according to the New York Co. jury census, 1819, ward 10, unpaginated, image 64 of 186, New York City Municipal Archives Digital Collections.

²⁷ Amy Hicks death notices (note 19). William Hicks death notices: "Died," *New York Evening Post*, 27 May 1834, p. 3, col. 2; *New-York Evening Star*, 27 May 1834, p. 2, col. 6; *New-York Commercial Advertiser*, 27 May 1834, p. 3, col. 1; *New-York Spectator*, 29 May 1834, p. 2, col. 2.

²⁸ All in New York Co., N.Y.: grantee index, 1654–1866, DGS 7177560, images 173, 177–178; mortgagees index, H, DGS 7178048, images 5–55; mortgagors index, H, DGS 7178048, images 3–90. All in Queens Co., N.Y.: grantee index, 1688–1885, DGS 8202415, images 283–308; grantor index, 1686–1846, DGS 8202431, images 552–617. William paid tax on his personal estate in North Hempstead in

Amy.²⁹ Amy was baptized at the Church of the Epiphany at the age of seventy-three on 27 July 1834, one month after her husband died, and confirmed there on 15 February 1835.³⁰

One intimation of Amy's family, though, is that she disappeared from the New York city directory after 1835. That was the year after her husband died and the same year that Sarah (Hicks) Hawkins died. The timing of her disappearance is consistent with the hypothesis that Sarah was Amy's daughter and that Amy went to live with her widowed son-in-law after Sarah's death. Fortunately, there is another record which helps confirm the relationship between Amy and Sarah.

DEBORAH HICKS, THE SPINSTER AUNT

Spinster Deborah Hicks of Lakeville, in the Town of North Hempstead, Queens County, New York, died on 24 May 1850, "aged about 86 years."³¹ In 1841, she wrote a will disposing of her personal estate, and she added a codicil in 1850.³² Starting in 1830, New York law required probate petitions to name the decedent's heirs-at-law and state their places of residence, even if there was a will.³³ In Deborah Hicks's probate file is a rough draft, really a sheet of notes, for the probate petition for her estate.³⁴ This rough draft includes crossed-out but still legible information which links Sarah Hawkins directly to her father.

The sheet in question is a list of Deborah's close relatives, titled "Next of Kin of Deborah Hicks dec[ease]d." This sheet apparently contains the working notes from which the list of heirs-at-law was created for the probate petition. As Deborah had neither children nor grandchildren, the law specified that any "surplus remaining after payment of debts and legacies, if not bequeathed" would "be distributed to the next of kin, in equal degree to the deceased, and their legal representatives," with the provision that "no representation shall be admitted among collaterals, after

1799, 1800, and 1802, but no tax on real property. A second William Hicks did own real estate, but was a different man (see note 23). William Hicks tax list entries, North Hempstead, Queens Co., N.Y., unpaginated, in "New York, U.S., Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804," Ancestry.

²⁹ Negative search in New York Co., N.Y., Surrogate's Court records: Index to Administrations, 1743-1910, letter H, DGS 5517131, images 576-577; Index to Wills, 1662-1910, letter H, DGS 5517125, images 530-531.

³⁰ All for Mrs. Amey Hicks in the Church of the Epiphany register (note 5): baptism record, 27 July 1834, p. 9; confirmation record, 15 Feb. 1835, p. 400.

³¹ "Died," *Long Island Farmer and Queens County Advertiser* (Jamaica, N.Y.), 4 June 1850, p. 3, col. 2. Deborah Hicks entry, 1850 U.S. census, mortality schedules, North Hempstead, Queens Co., N.Y., p. 407 (stamped), DGS 4181084, image 429.

³² Deborah Hicks probate proceedings, 1850, Queens Co., N.Y., Wills of Personal Estate, 1:467-470, DGS 5533676, images 244-246.

³³ Isaac Dayton, *The Office of Surrogate ... in the State of New York: A Compilation of the Statutes ...* (New York 1846), 18-20, 57.

³⁴ Deborah Hicks estate file, Queens Co., N.Y., loose probate proceedings, 1850-1851, DGS 5526577, images 407-421, with the probate petition at image 421 and the draft at image 420.

brothers' and sisters' children."³⁵ In lay terms, these provisions mean that any assets not already bequeathed in Deborah's will would pass to her living siblings and her deceased siblings' children, but not directly to her deceased siblings' grandchildren.

The working notes list Deborah's siblings, all of whom predeceased her, and their children. The first of Deborah's siblings listed is her brother "William Hicks dec[ease]d." For William, seven children are noted, all daughters (crossed-out text is reproduced as in the original):

Deborah Griffin wife of Peter — Illinois
 Fanny Foster wife of John — New York
 Peggy Barnes widow — New York
 Nancy Dickson widow — New York
~~Polly Powers dec[ease]d~~
 Lydia Ann St Clair wife of James — Illinois
~~Sally Hawkins dec[ease]d~~

"Sally" is, of course, a nickname for "Sarah." Since William Hicks's daughters Sally and Polly had died, they were no longer "legal representatives" of their father William. Nor could Polly and Sally's children inherit any of their great-aunt Deborah's surplus estate. Accordingly, Polly and Sally's names were crossed out, they were not included as heirs-at-law in the final petition to probate the will, and they appear as Deborah's next-of-kin only on these working notes, which thus provide genealogical evidence that is absent from the actual probate petition. In this case, the draft is the only record found that directly documents the connection between "Sally" or Sarah Hawkins and her father, William Hicks.

WIDOWED AUNTS AND SPINSTER COUSINS AS NEIGHBORS AND SERVANTS

As adults, Richard and Sarah Hawkins's sons George, Charles, and William³⁶ maintained ties to their mother's sisters and the sisters' families. These ties provide further, supporting evidence of Sarah's parentage.

In the 1855 census, Sarah (Hicks) Hawkins's son George Hawkins headed a household in Brooklyn. He lived with his wife, daughter, and brother, Charles Hawkins. They lived in a house with another family headed by Charles C. Barnes. Charles's family included his wife, two children, an Irish servant, and his widowed mother, Margaret Barnes.³⁷

³⁵ Dayton, *The Office of Surrogate* (note 33), 193–194, transcribing section 75 of the relevant law.

³⁶ On the three sons and their families, see the author's previous article, "Connecting William W. Hawkins" (note 2), 271–277.

³⁷ Geo. W. Hawkins household, 1855 New York state census, second election district, Ward 13, Brooklyn, Kings Co., unpaginated, dw. 437, fam. 679–681, DGS 5207203, image 549.

Charles's death certificate lists his mother's name as Margaret Hicks.³⁸ As "Peggy" Barnes, she appears on the working notes for Deborah Hicks's probate petition as transcribed above. This census record thus shows two grandsons of William and Amy Hicks sharing a two-family house.

The 1870 census shows William Hawkins, another son of Sarah (Hicks) Hawkins, living in Newark, New Jersey. William was widowed with two sons living at home. Also living with them were Ann S. Dickson, William G. Dickson, and Mary J. Dickson.³⁹ Ann S. Dickson's death record shows her parents as "Ann" and William Hicks.⁴⁰ When Ann Dickson died, her death notice listed her as "Ann S. (Nancy) Dickson" and her funeral was held at the home of her nephew Charles C. Barnes,⁴¹ the same man discussed in the preceding paragraph. Ann S. Dickson can be equated with "Nancy Dickson widow" from the working notes for Deborah Hicks's probate petition, transcribed above. She was another daughter of William Hicks and niece of Deborah Hicks. The other Dicksons in this 1870 census record, William G. and Mary J., are shown in later censuses as children of Ann S. Dickson.⁴² This census record thus shows another residence that was home to multiple grandchildren of William and Amy Hicks.

CONCLUSION

Sarah Hicks (1802–1835) was the daughter of William Hicks and Amy Cornell.⁴³ William Hicks and Amy Cornell were likely married shortly after 18 May 1782, the date of their marriage bond. In 1822, Sarah Hicks married Richard Hawkins, who lived near her family in New York City.

Amy moved in with Richard soon after Sarah's death, perhaps helping to care for the Hawkins children, and it seems that Amy continued to stay with her grandchildren for the few months of life left to her after Richard died. Regardless of the exact details, widowed Amy Hicks was without

³⁸ Charles C. Barnes death certificate, 5 May 1903, Borough of Kings, no. 8082, New York City Municipal Archives.

³⁹ Wm. W. Hawkens household, 1870 U.S. census, Ward 12, Newark, Essex Co., N.J., p. 69 (penned), dw. 419, fam. 615, DGS 4275091, image 169.

⁴⁰ Ann S. Dickson death record, 27 Sept. 1884, Town of Westfield, Richmond Co., N.Y., register of births, marriages, and deaths, unpaginated, DGS 7730718, image 380. This record raises the question of whether Amy Hicks's off-and-on appearance as "Ann" results from her actual style of address or from clerical errors.

⁴¹ "Died," *New York Herald*, 29 Sept. 1884, p. 6, col. 3.

⁴² Ann Dickson household, 1880 U.S. census, Town of Westfield, Richmond Co., N.Y., ED 310, p. 41, dw. 413, fam. 431, DGS 5161726, image 829.

⁴³ Readers might find it interesting to know that the author reached this conclusion before learning of the Hicks family Bible record, which surfaced only very late in the research process. The key breakthroughs were the identification through city directories of Amy Hicks as the "old lady" in Richard Hawkins's household, and the discovery of Deborah Hicks's probate record. Some readers might enjoy working out the more complex argument for Sarah Hicks's parentage that is still possible even when the Bible record is removed from the evidence at hand.

doubt “the old lady” mentioned in the cobbler’s claim against Richard’s estate.

Genealogists sometimes neglect or give up on tracing female ancestors, as they can be challenging to follow. The presence of an older, widowed woman in a household is often a clue to the identity of maternal relatives. Estate records of childless adults are especially valuable, as they often document otherwise unrecorded relationships. In this case, clues of both these types led to a solid conclusion.

Shannon Green, CG (shangreen@gmail.com) is a great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Sarah Hicks. She is indebted to Rhonda Dapcevich, who initially shared Deborah Hicks’s probate file, which began to unravel the mystery of Sarah Hicks’s origin. She also thanks Bethany Medina, who brought the Hicks family Bible to her attention.

