

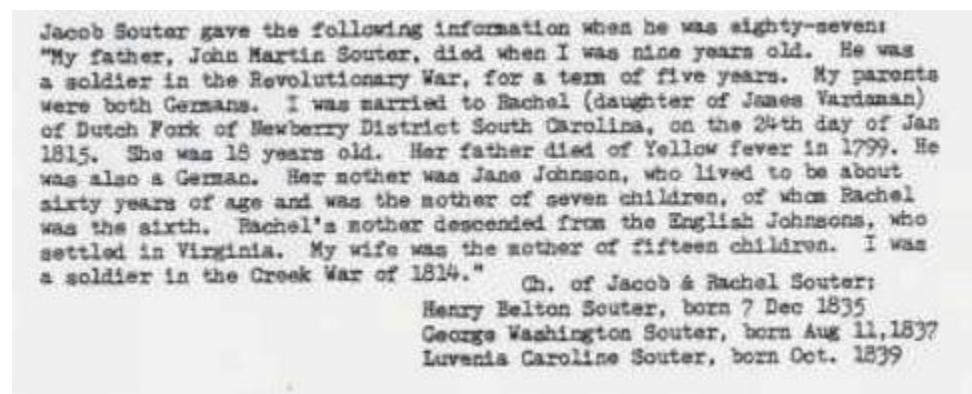
Sabra Liles Info by Mike Brown Apr 2024

Who did Sabra Liles Vardaman marry – James or Thomas Vardaman?

Originally, researchers thought she married James Vardaman and died before 1783. Later documents prove this was not the case. She was alive in 1794 when her father, Williamson Liles, made out his will. Legacies to wife Joice Liles, dau Lucy Gorie, **Sabra Vardaman**, Drucilla Dawkins kids (unnamed); Sons Ephraim and William, dau Rebecca Lakes 3 kids: Lydia Lake, Ann Lake, Rebecca Lake. (4 Daughters are married and 2 have kids listed in the will.)

Sabra was still alive on 10 Jan 1800 when the validity of that will was upheld. It affirmed the distribution of property, ordered John Ford to comply with the terms of the will, mentioned a lifetime joint interest in certain property for Mrs. Gorie, **Mrs. Vardaman**, and the three children of Mrs. Dawkins, added the husband Joseph Dawkins, and mentioned the lifetime interest of Mrs. Lakes three kids in certain property.

I find it odd that her sisters' children were mentioned in the will but not her teenage sons (Thomas and Joseph). They would have been the oldest grandkids and as males could expect to receive land or money or property. This omission and Jacob Souter's statement suggests she was not the mother of Thomas and Joseph Vardaman.



Jacob Souter gave the following information when he was eighty-seven:
"My father, John Martin Souter, died when I was nine years old. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, for a term of five years. My parents were both Germans. I was married to Rachel (daughter of James Vardaman) of Dutch Fork of Newberry District South Carolina, on the 24th day of Jan 1815. She was 18 years old. Her father died of Yellow fever in 1799. He was also a German. Her mother was Jane Johnson, who lived to be about sixty years of age and was the mother of seven children, of whom Rachel was the sixth. Rachel's mother descended from the English Johnsons, who settled in Virginia. My wife was the mother of fifteen children. I was a soldier in the Creek War of 1814."
Ch. of Jacob & Rachel Souter:
Henry Belton Souter, born 7 Dec 1835
George Washington Souter, born Aug 11, 1837
Luvenia Caroline Souter, born Oct. 1839

Father died when Jacob was 9 – true – (Newberry Cty, SC will/estate records)

Father was in Rev War – True; parents both German – true

Married Rachel Vardaman in 1815 – true; She was 18 – true

Her father died of Yellow Fever in 1799 – mostly true but in 1797.

He was German – debatable but likely true.

Her mother was Jane Johnson – True; lived to be about 60 – likely true.

The mother of seven children, Rachel was the 6th – probably true.

Rachel's mother descended from the English Johnsons who settled in VA – true.

My wife was the mother of 15 children – true.

I was a soldier in the Creek War of 1814 – true.

The bolded statement, if true, would preclude Sabra from being the mother of Thomas and Joseph and the wife of James Vardaman.

Rachel Vardaman Souter (b. 25 Nov 1795 Newberry Cty, SC, died 31 Jul 1854 Pontotoc Cty, MS) Cherry Creek Cemetery.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/135455631/rachel_souter

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/135455325/jacob_souter

1800 Census, Newberry Cty, SC (60 of 75) alphabetical, skipped letter V.(Vardaman missing)
Martin Souther 45+; 1F 45+ (Anne Katherine); 2M 26-44; 2F 26-44; 1F 16-25;
3M<10 (Jacob, Henry, George.) next door is George Souther 45+ and family.

Newberry Cty, SC Index and Will Vol I, Bks A, B, D 1776-1814, p. 67 (305 of 428)
1802 will of Martin Soutter, land to wife Anne Katherine, then equally divided among 3 sons:
Jacob, Henry, George, money and animals to daus Catherine and Anna. Proved 3 Jul 1802,
recorded in WB C, p. 382.

1810 Census, Newberry Cty, SC (5 of 38)
Jean Dardaman 45+; 1F 10-15 (Rachel); 2F<10; 1M<10. (grandkids? Was the male Porter
Ratcliff Vardaman at age 4 while his father was off in the military?)

1810 Census, Newberry Cty, SC (4 of 38) p. 47
Corty (Katherine) Souter 45+; 1F 16-25; 1M 16-25 (Jacob); 2M 10-15 (Henry, George); 1F<10.

1820 Census, Newberry Cty, SC (27 of 40) Jane Vardaman not found.
Jacob Souter 26-44; 1F 16-25 (Rachel); 1M 16-25 (brother George?); 1F<10 (dau).
George Souter 45+ and family. Plus Catherine Souter 45+ and family.

1830 Census, Newberry Cty, SC (21 of 134)
Jacob Lenter (Souter) 30-39; 1F 30-39 (Rachel); 2F 10-14; 1F 5-9; 2F<5; 1M<5;
3 slaves; 1F 60-69 (Jane Vardaman or Anne Katherine Souter?) next to George Souter.

1840 Census, Laurens Cty, SC (133 of 156)
Jacob Souter 40-49; 1F 40-49 (Rachel); 1F 10-14; 1M 10-14 (Franklin); 2M 5-9 (Langdon,
Andrew); 2M<5 (Henry, George); 1F<5 (Caroline); 1 slave, 1 free colored

Jacob Souter is not in the Newberry County or Laurens County deed records. He may be in the
court records which I did not research.

Why did Thomas Vardaman name his son Edwy **Liles** Vardaman?

Originally, researchers thought it was to honor his deceased mother. Is it possible that he married
Sabra Liles around 1793 and shortly after 1800 she died and Thomas named Edwy after his
deceased first wife? For this scenario to be true, Thomas would probably have been born closer
to 1774 than 1777.

Unfortunately, we do not yet have any documents (other than Jacob's statement) that can help
answer these questions. We have no birth, marriage, divorce or death record of Sabra and only

limited ways to estimate her age. I found no help from Lyles info on certain websites (see below).

Both websites below relied on a brief passage from Summer, "Newberry Co., SC, Annals, etc." William Vardeman came from PA with his family before the Rev. War. He settled near Hunting Fork, between Enoree and Tyger Rivers. He made will Feb 4, 1783 and died about 1788, leaving widow Bridget and children: John, William, Peter, and James. James inherited the home plantation at Hunting Fork. Some of the other sons moved to GA and AL. James sold his lands later, so it is probable that he too, moved to AL.

(MEB – errors – “old” William’s sons John and Peter went from VA to KY. James died in SC and his sons moved to GA and AL. “old” William’s son William moved to VA and then to Wilkes Cty, GA and died there.)

<http://boards.ancestry.com/thread.aspx?mv=flat&m=362&p=surnames.lyles>

Children of WILLIAMSON LYLES and JOICE GOREE are:

SADIA LYLES, b. Bet. 1768 - 1788; m. JAMES VARDEMAN.

(Birth years cannot be right if she married James because they split before 1783. Unless she married Thomas Vardaman instead.)

<http://nl.tripod.com/BRANNON.htm>

7. WILLIAMSON (CAPT.)³ LYLES (JOHN², JAMES¹) was born Abt. 1730 in Bristol Parish, Henrico Cty, VA, and died Abt. 1797 in Fairfield Co. S.C.. He married (1) UNK Abt. 1760 in Fairfield Co., S.C.. She was born in Va?, and died Abt. 1766 in Fairfield Co., SC. He married (2) JOICE GOREE Abt. 1766 in Fairfield Co., S.C., daughter of JOHN GOREE and SARAH HENCOCK. She was born Abt. 1750, and died 1836 in Fairfield Co., S.C.

Notes for JOICE GOREE: From William Ederington's HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD CO., SC.: "Joice Lyles died in 1836 and left her estate to: Millie Stewart, Charlotte Goree, Polly Lyles, Sarah Wilson, John Vassals, William Kelly, and grandson Robert Wilson." From my notes: Polly Lyles never married; Sarah Wilson d. 1845, son was Robert Wilson; John Vassals was son of Susan Vassals; William Kelley was son of John & Martha Kelley. (No mention of Sabra).

Children of WILLIAMSON LYLES and JOICE GOREE are:
SADIA LYLES, b. Bet. 1767 - 1788; m. JOHN VARDEMAN.

WILL OF

WILLIAMSON LILES

State of South Carolina Newberry County, October 2^d 1794 In the
Name of God Amen, I Williamson Liles being weak in Body but
sound Memory and knowing that death is Certain has thought fit to
make this my last Will and Testament first I give and bequeath to
my beloved wife Joice Liles One Negro Man Named Charles, ditto
one Named James and One Negro Girl Named Cate and One Named
Dilse and one Named Hanner Now in Case that John Ford the son
of Ann Liles makes a lawfull Right and Title to One hundred
Acres of land to Jacob King lying on the Waters of Indian Creek
then the said Negro Girl named Hannah to be the lawfull right of
the said Ann Lile's Children Also One Horse Called Lightfoot
and one called Liberty and one sorrel Mare and Cattle and Hoggs
and Sheep and Geese and House hold furniture In during her
widow hood and then to be divided among the last Children of
the Said Joice Liles as follows, for Henry Liles and Marcus Liles
to have all my lands Equally divided by two Men but my son Wil-
liam I had by my first wife to live on it as long as he sees
Cause I give and bequeath to my Daughter Lucy Gorey and Sabra
Vardaman and Drucilla Dawkinsee Children four Negroes as fol-
lows. Agnes and Darcas and Hagar and Molly, to be Equally divide
d between the said Lucy Gorey and Sabra Vardaman and Drucilla
Dawkinsee Children I give and bequeath Unto my son Ephraim
Liles One Shilling Sterling. I give to my Son William Liles one
Negro boy Named Harry. I give and bequeath to my Daughter
Rebecah Lakes, three Children Lydia Lake, Ann Lake Rebecah
Lake One Negro Girl Named Chain her and her Increase to be di-
vided Equally Amongst the said three Children as above Named In
Witness where unto I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal the
second day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven
hundred and Ninty four: NB I chuse my Son Ephraim Liles and my
son in law to be my Executors In Presence of us

John Gorey Jun^r)
Edmund Kelly) Williamson Liles (SEAL)
his)
William X Liles)
mark)

Recorded In Will Book " B " Page 90
Proved March 1 - 1797
Recorded July 22 1797
Fred Hance Clk. Ct.
(Original Will Not In Files Of Probate Judge)