

What we know about my 4th great grandfather, Curtis L. Higginbotham and who I think his father is using DNA evidence.

Recently after replying to a post on the Higginbotham Facebook group, a comment was made about the puzzle of who Curtis Higginbotham's parents were, given many conflicting trees at Ancestry.com and whether Curtis was related to the Peter Higginbotham also listed on the 1820 census in Morgantown, Butler, Kentucky. This spurred me to look again at what primary sources we have for Curtis, Peter and Larkin Higginbotham. (Larkin is listed as the middle name of Curtis in many trees...but I have found no primary source for that middle name and there are conflicting records that make it clear that Curtis and Larkin are 2 different people.)

Primary sources for Curtis L Higginbotham:

- My 3rd great grandmother was **Sarah Owens Higginbotham**. Permission was given for her to marry my 3rd great grandfather, John Baugher, by "**Curtis L. Higginbotham, her father.**"
- **Curtis Higginbotham marriage to Ann Scott**, 15 Oct 1812, Logan, Kentucky (I have a preliminary theory on Ann Scott's genealogy using mtDNA, since she is on my maternal line.)
- **1811-1826 Robertson, Tennessee, Land records:**
 - Certificate No. 774
 - 7 Dec 1811, Land Grant 40 acres **Curtis L Higginbotham** assignee originally of the heirs of Roger Herndon "in lieu of so much of a military warrant issued to the heirs of Roger Herndon, a private: dated 9 Feb 1797, 640 acres "made void 7 Dec 1811."
 - 31 Mar 1812 survey report Richard Wilkins assignee of **Curtis L. Higginbotham**.
 - 30 Apr 1818, transferred to Richard Wilkins and his heirs forever.
 - Certificate No. 773
 - 7 Dec 1811 **Curtis Higginbotham** assignee Stephen Atkinson
 - 12 Dec 1814 survey report **Curtis Higginbotham** assignee of Stephen Atkinson
 - 15 Feb 1826 transferred to **Curtis Higginbotham** and his heirs forever.
 - Certificate No. 772
 - 29 Apr 1812, survey, 50 acres. Richard Wilkins assignee of Stephen Atkinson, -- joins **Curtis Higginbotham** west boundary.
- **1820 U.S Federal Census:**
 - **Curtis L Higinbotham**, Enumeration Date: 7 Aug 1820
 - Home in 1820: Morgantown, Butler, Kentucky, USA
 - Free White Persons - Males - Under 1 4 (George, John &?)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15 1 (William?)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1
 - Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over 1
 - Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 1 (Mary or Hannah?)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15 1 (Rebecca?)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1
 - Free White Persons - Females - 45 and over 1
 - Number of Persons - Engaged in Commerce 1

It is interesting to note that there are 4 adults... If Curtis is the elder then he would have been born in 1775 or earlier. However, other sources we have for Ann Scott Higginbotham give her birth about 1780 or 1782 which would put her in the 26-44 category.

See next page for possible children...

The Family of Curtis L Higginbotham:

Unknown spouse: (These children are assumed from DNA matches and marriage records in Logan County, Kentucky.)

- **William Higginbotham** (my mom has at least *5 DNA matches* to his descendants. He has a son named Curtis.)
 - Birth: 25 Jan 1806, Kentucky, USA
 - Married: Rebecca Gordon, 13 Nov 1826, Logan County, Kentucky
 - Death: 3 Jan 1873, Iuka, Marion, Illinois, USA
- **Rebecca Higginbotham** (my mom has at least *8 DNA matches* to her descendants.)
 - Birth: abt 1810
 - Married: John Epley, 9 Oct 1826, Logan County, Kentucky

Spouse: Ann Scott (These children are assumed from marriage records in Coles County, Illinois.)

- **George Washington Higginbotham** (my mom has at least *35 DNA matches* to his descendants. *)
 - Birth: abt. 1814
 - Married *Zeralda Elizabeth Baugher**, 6 Nov 1839, Coles County, Illinois.
 - Death: 6 Nov 1909. Sangamon, Illinois, United States
- **John Francis Higginbotham** (my mom has at least *25 DNA matches* to his descendants.)
 - Birth abt. 1816, Butler, Kentucky
 - Married Caroline Ashmore, 29 Sep 1840, Coles County, Illinois.
 - Death: 2 Feb 1858, Adel, Dallas, Iowa, USA
- **Mary Higginbotham**
 - Birth abt. 1818, Kentucky
 - Married George Rodgers, 25 Jan 1836, Coles County, Illinois
- **Hannah R Higginbotham**
 - Birth: 2 Jan 1819, Kentucky
 - Married: Gresham (Grissom) F Munson (Monson), 17 Feb 1838, Coles County, Illinois.
 - Death: 1 Feb 1852, Moultrie, Illinois
- **James Axel Higginbotham** (my mom has at least *11 DNA matches* to his descendants.)
 - Birth: 26 Mar 1823
 - Married: Mary A. Hinkle
 - Married: *Elizabeth Ann Baugher**
 - Death 26 Nov 1874, Cumberland, Illinois.
- **Sarah Owens Higginbotham** (*my 2nd great grandmother*) (my mom has at least *24 DNA matches* to her descendants. *)
 - Birth: abt. 1824 Indiana or Ohio?
 - Married *John Baugher** 14 Apr 1838, Coles County, Illinois (aged ~14)
 - Death: 18 Oct 1845, Cumberland, Illinois (aged 21, She had 3 living children, it appears she died giving birth to twins...)

*Note 3 siblings married Baughers, I am doubly related to descendants of these couples.

At Ancestry, when we search for trees with Curtis L. Higginbotham, we get the following proposed parents for Curtis:

- Benjamin Higginbotham & Mary Gatewood (~6 trees).
- Peter Higginbotham (4 trees). Some list the mother as Larkin

Primary Sources for Peter Higginbotham:

- **1820 U.S. Federal Census:**

- Name **Peter Higinbotham**
- Enumeration Date: 7 Aug 1820, Home in 1820: Morgantown, Butler, Kentucky, USA
- Free White Persons - Males - Under 10 2 (Benjamin & ?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 1 (Peter)
- Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 2 (Mary & Martha)
- Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1 (Mary Howard)
- Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture 1

In 1820, Curtis had 7 children; Peter had 4; Larkin had 2...which suggests that Curtis is older...

- **1830 U.S. Federal Census:**

- Name **Peter Higginbottom**
- Home in 1830, Edmonson, Kentucky
- Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1 (?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 3 (Allen &?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 2 (?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39 1 (Peter)
- Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 2 (?)
- Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1 (Martha?)
- Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1 (Mary)
- Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1 (Mary Howard)

- **1840 U.S. Federal Census:**

- **Peter Hogginbottan**
- Home in 1840, Greene, Indiana
- Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1
- Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1 (Samuel & David?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1 (?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 2 (Allen &?)
- Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29 1 (Benjamin)
- Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59 1 (Peter 46?)
- Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1 (?)
- Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 2 (?)
- Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1 (Remarried?)
- Persons Employed in Agriculture 5
- Free White Persons - Under 20 8

- **Marriages:**

- **Jinney Howard**, 4 Feb 1813, Elbert, Georgia
- **Polly Smith**, 24 Jan 1846, Lawrence, Indiana

- On 7 January 1811, John S Higginbotham was appointed guardian of **Peter and Larkin Higginbotham**, orphans of Benjamin Higginbotham

HIGGINBOTHAM, JOHN S.—Page 238—Guardian of Peter and Larkin Higginbotham, minors of Benjamin Higginbotham, dec'd. Receipt of Larkin Higginbotham in full of his legacy "from my father Benjamin Higginbotham's estate", July 10, 1816 and receipt of Peter for his legacy in full Oct. 24, 1818, "which I receipted for some years back, which receipt was accidentally burned."

The portion of Benjamin Higginbotham, Jr.'s will provided the following for Larkin:
 "Item: I give my son Larkin one negro named Lindsay one feather bed and furniture one cow and calf one sow and pigs one horse kind worth seventy dollars and one hundred dollars cash to be raised out of my estate and the balance of my estate my desire is to be equally divided between the whole of my children."

Primary Sources for Larkin Higginbotham:

- **1820 U.S. Census:**
 - **Larkin Hickinbotham**
 - **(This cannot be the same person as Curtis L, since he was enumerated elsewhere!)**
 - Enumeration Date: 7 Aug 1820, Home in 1820: Warren, Kentucky, USA
 - Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25 1 (Larkin)
 - Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 2 (Ann & Martha?)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 1 (Mary)
 - Slaves - Males - 14 thru 25 1
 - Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture 2
 - Total Slaves 1 (Lindsay?)
- **1830 U.S. Census:**
 - **Lurkin Higginbottom**
 - Home in 1830: Edmonson, Kentucky
 - Free White Persons - Males - Under 5 1 (Nicholas)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1 (Benjamin)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39 1 (Larkin)
 - Free White Persons - Females - Under 5 2 (?)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1 (Ann)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39 1 (Mary)
- **1840 U.S. Census:**
 - **L Higginbotham**
 - Home in 1840: Edmonson, Kentucky
 - Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9 1 (William)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14 1 (Nicholas)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19 1 (Benjamin)
 - Free White Persons - Males - 40 thru 49 1 (Larkin)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9 1 (Susan)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14 1 (Jane)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19 1 (Mildred)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29 1 (Ann?)
 - Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49 1 (Mary)
 - Persons Employed in Agriculture 2
- **1850 U.S Census in Edmonson Kentucky**
- **Will & Settlement of Estate records, Edmondson County, KY**

I wanted to look at one more genealogy that I have found related to my Higginbotham Family, before I present my proposal based on DNA.

Other genealogies (About 250!) of **John F Higginbotham m. Caroline Ashmore** 29 Sep 1840, Coles County, Illinois, give his parents as **Robert H. Higginbotham** (b. 1789 Greenbriar, WV; d. 1855 Creelsboro, Russell, KY) & **Mary "Polly" Welborn**. Going backward as follows:

- Oglesberry Higginbotham (b. 1765 Monroe, Amherst, VA; d. 1816 Russell, Cumberland, KY)
- Moses Higginbotham (b. 1726 Second Creek, Monroe, WV; d. 1804. Second Creek, Monroe, WV)
- Thomas Higginbotham (b. 1710, Philips Parish, Barbados; d. 1774, Richmond, GA)
- Charles Higginbotham (b. 1664, St. Philips Parish, Barbados; d. 1734, St Phillip Parish, Barbados)
 - (brother to Capt. John Joseph Higginbotham in the above genealogies.)

Primary Sources for John F. Higginbotham:

- **Marriage to Caroline C. Ashmore**, 29 Sep 1840, Coles, Illinois
- **1850 U.S. Census:**
 - Birth Year abt 1816
 - Birthplace Kentucky
 - Home in 1850: Tazewell, Illinois, USA
 - Occupation Farmer
 - Inferred Spouse Caroline Higginbotham
- **1855 State Census, Tazewell, Illinois**

From--KS5318 originally shared this on 9 Dec 2010, at Ancestry: "There is some confusion as to the parents of John F. Higginbotham. Many people have given them as Robert & Mary Wilborn Higginbotham. But one researcher has found that the birthdates of two John Higginbothams, both born in Ky., are different.

The child of Robert Higginbotham was born in 1821 in Russell Co., Ky. while the son of Curtis L. Higginbotham was born 1816 in Butler Co., Ky. This last John also had siblings, George b. 1814, Hannah b. 1819, Sarah b. 1820. This researcher also states that John Francis Higginbotham died as a result of a horse falling on him. There was some thought that John was a drover while in Iowa."

My Theory:

I was always confronted with the hint of Mary Gatewood, being Curtis' mother in Thru-lines. I looked at all of these matches, (ignoring the ones who really descend from Curtis...).

- The matches who descended from Larkin or Peter either matched on my mom's paternal side (one set with a clear common ancestor.) The others looked likely to match on her maternal grandfather's side.
- Likewise, any other matches listed under Mary Gatewood in Thru-lines appeared to match in her paternal line or other lines on her maternal side.
- The only ones that appeared to possibly match on the Higginbotham side confused me...These were people who supposedly descend from James Upshaw. When I first looked, it showed 7 matches, 3 of whom appeared related on the Higginbotham side...now I only see 1. His tree goes back to Jane S Higginbotham Maxwell—She may have been Burroughs' cousin's daughter?

→Due to a large number of DNA matches, *I believe that the father of Curtis Higginbotham is very likely to be **Burroughs Higginbotham**, b. 28 Aug 1759, Amherst, VA; d. 10 Jan 1812, Evergreen, Nassau, FL.*

Prior to adding Burroughs to my tree, I had identified more than 50 of my mom's DNA matches to descendants of Burroughs, or at least Higginbothams from Florida for which I couldn't extend their tree back far enough.

Many of these DNA matches with ancestors from Florida, *only* have ancestors from Florida for many generations back...My family *does not*, on any of our lines. Most of my mom's maternal side go back to (before Kentucky & Illinois) Virginia & North Carolina, maybe some from Tennessee and a few from Pennsylvania.

After entering Burroughs as the father of Curtis in my tree, my mom ended up with 139 matches (This does not include any other matches who have Curtis as an ancestor:

- Grace: 14 matches
- Mary E: 23 matches
- Eljah: 29 matches
- David B: 7 matches
- Joseph: 14 matches
- Thomas: 8 matches
- John J: 5 matches
- Dorothy: 3 matches
- Judith: 6 matches
- James B: 20 matches
- Benjamin C: 10 matches

DNA matches, who also descend from Curtis Higginbotham at GEDmatch and myHeritage show matching segments at chromosome 10, 11, 15 & 19. A DNA match who descends from Curtis Higginbotham and his unknown 1st wife match at chromosomes 6 & 9. Matches who descend from Burroughs Higginbotham at other sites, match us at chromosomes 1, 14, 17* ---if only Ancestry had a chromosome browser,... I could make more definitive conclusions on which matches are truly on our Higginbotham side...

If I have it figured out correctly, then **Larkin and Peter may have been 2nd cousins to Curtis.**