

Travis Hardin

Date sent: Mon, 21 Oct 2002 22:04:33 -0500
From: Les Tate <lrtate@comcast.net>
Subject: Fwd: John Bale
To: Travis Hardin <travishardin@mindspring.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rick Glisson <rglisson@smyrnacable.net>
Date: Mon Oct 21, 2002 8:19:35 PM US/Central
To: Les Tate <lrtate@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: John Bale

I have a little more info on John Bale. I have a copy of his original naturalization papers. In his affidavit he swore "That I am a native of the city of London in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called England, that I am aged about twenty two years, that I am under allegiance unto the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, that I migrated from said ~~City of London on or about the twenty fourth day of July, eighteen hundred & seventeen, and arrived at Boston on or about the fifteenth of October of the same year, [a long trip - must have~~ been becalmed!]) that I am by occupation a coach maker, and that my residence is in Newark in said County of Essex. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred & eighteen. 1818." That's all I have, but a shipping record for Boston in 1817 would probably give you the ship's name and its manifest!

Apropos of his slaveholding, I have a photocopy and typescript of a letter from John to his brother Thomas, written in Augusta GA & dated February 13th 1853. It is a long letter in which he describes his children and his business enterprises (he had become a sort of jack of all trades, farmer, merchant, banker, land investor, etc.), but the relevant part is as follows:
"The negro man who managed my farm when I was in New York has been dead about three years. I have sold the farm and negroes with the exception of a girl about 18 which I have left to assist my daughter Josephine and the younger children. To reduce my cares as I advance to old age [he was 57 at the time] I have determined to condense all my operations and to quit the charge of all regular business a farm or negroes. Altho I do not claim to be an abolitionist yet I have felt the management and charge of negroes to be the source of the greatest vexation and agravation of anything I

have had
to encounter and have therefore from choice and for my own satisfaction
divested myself of them."

Hope this material helps! The date pretty much coincides with the date
you
have when Bale was supposed to have sold up his farm and slaves . . .
from
his letter it appears that 1850 rather than 1845 would be closer to the
time, but he wasn't under oath so it's probably only accurate within a
few
years.

Reading Akins's account of his life, I can tell you that the Major James
Glover to whom he offered himself in sale is a family relation and also
one
of my ancestors. James ("Uncle Jimmy") Glover, born Feb 3 1801 in
Concord
NC, was married to Mary Carolina Cornelius, born Feb 17 1825 in Anderson
Dist. SC. They were in Cherokee County AL by 1840. They are buried
under a
large double stone in the old Goshen Cemetery just on the southern
border of
Cherokee County on the main highway (Ala. Route 9). J.A. (John Abraham)
Glover of Rome was his 9th child. Their eldest surviving son Cain
Glover
(b. Jan 20 1828) (and no, I don't have any idea why they named him
that!)
married John Bale's daughter Victoria Britania Bale (b. Jan 6 1859).
They
had a terrible, terrible time with babies, lost their first, and
Victoria
died laboring of twins, who died with her, in 1868. (She and the
babies are
buried in Goshen Cemetery a few yards from her in-laws.) Their only
surviving child was my great grandmother Emma Jane Glover, b. Oct 7
1860.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Les Tate [mailto:lrtate@comcast.net]

> Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2002 11:47 PM

> To: Rick Glisson

> Subject: Re: John Bale

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> Although I've found little on Mary Adams to help my friend Travis
> Hardin, I wonder if you might know which ship, location, and date they
> arrived on to help his research.

>

> During my research on the slave Jerry, I learned quite a bit about John
> Bale and you've just added more. John Bale was apparently a rather nice
> person, as Jerry's story indicates.

>

> Jerry, who my research shows was born about 1806, was originally owned
> by Spencer Roane of Virginia. Roane was a well known state judge at the
> time and eventually became the Chief Justice of the VA Court of

> Appeals. Roane had married Annie Henry, a daughter of Patrick "Give me
> liberty..." Henry and he was a close acquaintance of (although of
> differing philosophy with) US Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall,
> living "just across a gully" from him in Richmond VA. Roane also knew
> and frequently corresponded with Thomas Jefferson. About the time of
> Roane's death in 1822 Jerry was sold into east GA to the "Brock
> Brothers", who were cotton merchants, but was sent to work (probably as
> a field hand or possibly a craftsman) at Greenville SC with a man named
> Patton (actually Paden). Later he was sold to John Bale (apparently in
> Greenville) and was with still with him at Spring Garden in south
> Cherokee County, AL until 1845 when Bale decided to sell all his slaves
> and told Jerry to choose his own master and he would arrange the move.
> Jerry, who was apparently prematurely gray and likely somewhat
> handicapped, was sold for a rather small amount since he appeared to be
> old, although he was only 39 at the time. He then went to John Akin of
> Cherokee County. Akin was known to be a wagon maker during the Civil
> War and also sold corn to the Confederate Army. Jerry reported that he
> stayed with the Akins even after the war until Mr. and Mrs. Akin died
> (although my research indicates that Mrs Akin was still alive and
> living with two adult daughters when he made his last move). Jerry then
> went to live in a small cabin owned by Capt. John Davis, an elderly but
> respected man in the area. Jerry apparently died there sometime after
> the newspaper article about "Uncle Jerry Akins" was published in a
> local newspaper about 1895-1896.

> <http://www.rootsweb.com/~alcherok/1891.htm>

> <http://www.rootsweb.com/~alcherok/pics/jakintxt.gif>

> The statements about Jerry's advanced age (136) in the article are
> based on an assumed birthyear of 1770. This error can be attributed to
> an overzealous writer who picked the Revolutionary War when he should
> have picked the more logical and more recent War of 1812 based on
> Jerry's information about British ships on the James River and soldiers
> in Richmond. Jerry shows up on slave schedule in 1860 at age 54, when
> he was with John Akin.

>

> Les Tate

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> On Sunday, October 20, 2002, at 06:38 PM, Rick Glisson wrote:

>

>> I have a good deal of info about John Bale himself, but not much about
>> the

>> people who may have accompanied him to the U.S. It appears that the
>> entire

>> family, including his father & mother Thomas and Mary Bale and all his
>> siblings, emigrated together from London to the New York area. They
>> all

>> stayed in Brooklyn except for John, who moved around a great deal. He
>> married twice in Greenville SC to local girls, his first wife died
>> there.

>> Her maiden name was Mason, his second was Miss Foster. He had
>> numerous

>> children whose descendants are scattered about the South. I don't see
>> that

>> any of his siblings married anyone named Adams, and I have no record
>> of

>> others accompanying them. But it stands to reason that an entire
>> family

>> packing up and moving to New York would wind up bringing some old and

>> trusted servants along, if only to mind the children! Thomas Bale was
>> a
>> tailor, and his sons were all tradesmen of various stripes, Thomas jr.
>> was a
>> tailor, John was a carriage maker, James an engraver, Charles a soap
>> maker.

>> Hope this helps!

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Les Tate [mailto:lrtate@comcast.net]
>> Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2002 11:08 AM
>> To: rglisson@america.net
>> Subject: John Bale

>> I'm curious if you have additional info on John Bale who married
>> Phoebe
>> G. Foster. I'm researching (out of curiosity) an elderly former slave
>> "Uncle Jerry Akin" who in an 1895 newspaper article listed Bale as one
>> of his last owners (circa 1845-1870). The Cherokee County AL genweb
>> site owner is also curious about Bale since one of his ancestors (Mary
>> Adams or a parent) supposedly came over from England as a servant for
>> Bale. Do you have info on the people who arrived in the US with Bale?

>> Les Tate