

Jacob Fry Cackley Dies from an Accident in 1916 **Twenty-one pieces of information gleaned from his obituary**

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Undated photo of Jacob Fry Cackley and his daughter Lulu Middleton, courtesy of Julie Owens

An obituary can be a wonderful find for genealogists!

Such is the case with the obituary of Jacob Fry Cackley. **Five generations are linked in this document.** It supports information found in other records and provides additional details not found elsewhere. Surprisingly, the one thing missing in Jacob's obituary is the actual date of death! That information would have been provided if the name and date of the publication in which it appeared were known. A word to family historians: save the publication or at least the information on where and when an article is published. Fortunately, Jacob's death is found the records of DeWitt County, Illinois and online in the Illinois, Deaths & Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947.

So here are the twenty-one pieces of information gleaned from Jacob's obituary, which is included at the end of this article:

- **Date of birth:** February 17, 1827
- **Place of birth:** Huntersville, Pocahontas Co. WV
- **Names of parents:** William and Jane Cackley
- **Date of death:** "yesterday morning at 5:15" (Date of April 26, 1916 found in other documents, as noted above)
- **Age at death:** 89 years old
- **Place of death:** At his home at 521 South Mulberry Street in Clinton [IL]
- **Cause of death:** "A fall from his wagon while trying to alight near the J. A. Harrison elevator [the previous] Friday ... he suffered a broken arm near the shoulder [and was] gradually sinking the last few days."
- **General state of health:** "In feeble health for the last few years" However, "He was a man who desired to be actively engaged at all times and did not give up the farm and move to Clinton until five years [previously]."
- **Name of first wife and place of marriage:** Rebecca Lowrey, Virginia
- **Date of move to Illinois:** "The young couple came to Illinois following the birth of their first child, Thomas W. Cackley, in 1857.
- **Occupations:** Butcher --Operated a butcher shop in Petersburg [IL] and in Clinton; Farmer

- **Description of farm:** “Purchased 5 acres of land southwest of [Clinton] which he occupied in 1867, and he had gradually added to this property until he had a first-class farm of eighty-five acres which he devoted to fruit and dairying and small farming. ... He was always numbered among the progressive farmers of this locality and had brought his land up to a high state of cultivation and had made substantial improvements.”
- **Name of second wife:** Mary Dennis of Clinton
- **Date of second marriage:** March 7, 1883
- **Political affiliation:** Democratic Party
- **Religious affiliation:** “A member of the local Christian Church of long standing”
- **Involvement in Civic Affairs:** “Served as highway commissioner of the south-west district for one term, which closed in 1890”
- **Names of two brothers:** J.G. Cackley and A. D. Cackley
- **Names, locations and occupations of 5 surviving children “all born to his first wife”:** Thomas W., who conducts a grocery store in Clinton; Ella, the wife of James R. Chamberlain [of Clinton]; Richard, the proprietor of a bakery in Mason City; Charles, of Clinton; and Mrs Lulu Middleton of LeRoy.
- **Names and locations of seven grandchildren:** Mrs. E. G. Lane of Clinton; Charley Eaton of Lincoln; Mrs. Minnie Dillow of Amboy; Ray, Margaret and Gladys Middleton of Leroy and Hugh Cackley of Mason City.
- **Names and locations of three great-grandchildren:** Walter Lane of Clinton; Richard Wilson Cackley of Mason City, and William Samuel Middleton of LeRoy.

A copy of the obituary of Jacob Fry Cackley is on the following page.

JACOB FRY CACKLEY IS DEAD

Pioneer Resident Passes Away at the Age of 89 Years—Death Results from Shock of Fall

Jacob Fry Cackley, a resident of Clinton and vicinity since 1857, died at his home, 521 South Mulberry street, yesterday morning at 5:15 o'clock following an illness since his accident of last Friday. Mr. Cackley, who had passed his eighty-ninth birthday, had been in feeble health for the past few years and the shock of the accident when he fell from his wagon while trying to alight near the J. A. Harrison elevator on last Friday, was given as the immediate cause of his death. He suffered a broken right arm near the shoulder on that occasion but did not suffer greatly from the injury. He had been gradually sinking during the past few days and his spirit left him quietly while he slept.

The funeral will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the family home and interment will be made in Woodlawn cemetery. Rev. R. V. Callaway, pastor of the Christian church, will have charge of the services. Mr. Cackley was a member of the local Christian church of long standing.

Deceased had spent the most of his life on farms in this county and was regarded as one of the successful agriculturalists of the county. He was a man who desired to be actively engaged at all times and did not give up the farm and move to Clinton until five years ago when he sold the home place southwest of Clinton to Peter Moynes. He had been forced to spend much of the time during the past winter at his home because of the severe weather and was uptown a couple of days last week before his final accident.

He was a native of West Virginia, having been born in that state near Huntersville, Pocahontas county, on February 17, 1827. Here he resided with his parents, William and Jane Cackley, until he reached manhood. His first marriage was to Miss Rebecca Lowrey in Virginia and the young couple came to Illinois following the birth of their first child.

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Thomas W. Cackley, in 1857. Mr. Cackley made his home with his brother, the late J. G. Cackley, for a time and then began farming for himself.

After a year on the farm he purchased a butcher shop in Petersburg, which was operated for three years, previous to his return to Clinton in 1861, when he entered the same business in this city. He purchased five acres of land southwest of the city, which he occupied in 1867, and he had gradually added to this property until he had a first-class farm of eighty-five acres which he devoted to fruit and dairying and small farming.

Here he lived until his retirement to Clinton. His second marriage was to Miss Mary Dennis of Clinton, and was performed on March 7, 1883. She survives him and has proven a true and faithful wife.

During his active life Mr. Cackley took part in the public affairs of the township and was affiliated with the democratic party. He served as highway commissioner of the southwest district for one term, which closed in 1890. He was always numbered among the progressive farmers of this locality and had brought his land up to a high state of cultivation and had made substantial improvements.

He is survived, besides the wife, by five children, all born to his first wife, as follows: Thomas W., who conducts a grocery store in Clinton; Ella, the wife of James R. Chamberlain, 426 West Van Buren street; Richard, the proprietor of a bakery in Mason City; Charles, of 523 East Main street, Clinton, and Mrs. Lulu Middleton of Leroy. A. D. Cackley, who lately returned from a winter spent with his son in Omaha, Neb., is a brother.

Seven grandchildren, Mrs. E. G. Lane of Clinton; Charley Eaton of Lincoln; Mrs. Minnie Dillow of Amboy; Ray, Margaret and Gladys Middleton of Leroy, and Hugh Cackley of Mason City, and three great grandchildren, Walter Lane of Clinton, Richard Wilson Cackley of Mason City, and William Samuel Middleton of Leroy, also survive.

Name of publication unknown. We know that Jacob died on April 26, 1916. Given that the article states that Jacob died "yesterday," the article was published on April 27, 1916.