

Jeremiah Sandy

excerpt from *Descendants of William and Catherine (Beck) Sandy* by Dr. William Allee Sandy 1983

Sandy
Family

Jeremiah "Jerry" Sandy, a son of William and Catherine (Beck) Sandy, was born 7 Dec. 1793 in North Carolina and died 3 Jan. 1869 in Warren County, Iowa of heart trouble. In 1814 he married Elizabeth Rinan "Betsy" Goss, daughter of Ephraim and Ann (Workman) Goss. She was born 21 July 1797 in North Carolina and died 14 Nov. 1875 in Warren County, Iowa. Both are buried at Sandyville. Ephraim Goss was born 30 July 1770, the tenth child of Frederick II and Isabel (Richard) Goss, and moved to what is now Washington County, Indiana, around 1810. In 1818 Ephraim Goss established the first settlement in the present limits of Wayne Township, Owen County, Indiana. In 1830 Jeremiah and Betsy Sandy and their family moved there. He, with others who moved, had purchased their land at the land sale in Terre Haute, Indiana, on the east bank of the Wabash River which separates Indiana from Illinois.

The streets and lots of the establishment were not laid out until 1829. Ephraim Goss and Abner Alexander were the promoters. John Young who bought the first lot named the place Gosport for Ephraim Goss who owned the land and because it was on a navigable river, White River. Ephraim, being a Federalist, named one street "Adams" and Abner Alexander, a Democrat, named another street "Jackson."

Jeremiah Sandy and his wife were members of the Christian Church which was the oldest religious society in Gosport. It was organized in 1821 with the following charter members: Jeremiah Sandy and wife, Phillip Hodges and wife, James Dowden

and wife, Ephraim Goss and wife, Zachariah Dowden and wife, and Thomas C. Johnson and wife. For the first four years the church congregation met for worship at the homes of Ephraim and Ann Goss, Jeremiah and Betsy Sandy and Jeremiah Mathes.



Jeremiah Sandy



Betsy (Goss) Sandy

Frontier life then meant hard work, sacrifice, self-denial and sometimes dire want. The nearest market was in Louisville, Kentucky, one hundred miles distant. The round trip was made in twenty days. There were no roads—nothing but almost unbroken expanse of forest. There was very little money and the settlers exchanged things they needed less for things they needed more. Furs, wild honey and venison were the articles usually exchanged for groceries and dry goods. Flour and meal were obtained from a mill in Salem, Washington County, Indiana, ninety miles away. Furniture was made by members of the family and for years they tanned leather themselves from which they made shoes and boots. All the lumber was sawed into boards by whipsaws. Each man was his own carpenter. Clothing was made at home. Every family had a small field of flax from which they obtained fiber to weave with wool.

In 1850 Jeremiah's second child "Billy" moved to Iowa where land was fertile, cheap, and very little or no clearing was necessary. In 1853 Jeremiah and his family followed and settled on land south of Billy's farm in Warren County. Later part of this land was laid off and plotted into lots and sold by Billy who got one-half the proceeds for his trouble. The village thus established was named Sandyville.

Jeremiah was sixty years old when he moved to Iowa. He was a farmer and carpenter. He built a large frame house eighteen feet by forty-eight feet which was considered a mansion in that place and time. He was five feet, ten inches in height and weighed one hundred and seventy-five pounds. He was clean shaven, had firm lips and a stern look but was a very kind man.

Jeremiah and Betsy had twelve children (there may have been another who was stillborn and one who died in infancy). They were: Henry, born 22 Mar. 1816 in Washington County, Indiana; William "Billy" born 17 Feb. 1818 in Washington County; Catherine "Kate" born 31 Aug. 1819 in Washington County; Anna born 1821 in Owen County; Elizabeth born 1823 in Owen County; Sarah "Sally" born 25 Aug. 1825 in Gosport; Mary "Pop" born 8 Apr. 1827 in Owen County; Jeremiah G. born 18 Aug. 1829 near Gosport, Ephraim G. born 23 Aug. 1832 near Gosport, Joseph E. "Joe" born 22 June 1836 Gosport; James M. born 1 Nov. 1838 Owen County; and Thomas "Doc" born 2 Sept. 1841 in Owen County.

The following was written in 1929 by C. L. Goss to Mr. Cleve Ratts:

"William Sandy (1st) was born 1740, no information where he was born or who he married. He was stolen by the Indians when a boy, had 3 sons: William Jr., Thomas and Henry, no information of Thomas or Henry.

"William Sandy Jr. was born in North Carolina 1765, married Catherine Beck in NC 1787 moved to Middle Fork of Duck River in Tennessee in 1807 then moved to Washington county Ind. 1813 when he entered Government land, he died of tuberculosis and was buried on his own farm in Washington county, Indiana. They had 8 children 5 girls and 3 boys: Carrie, Jerry, Thomas, Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth, William Jr. and Lucy. His wife was of German descent (her mother came from Germany); she had 2 brothers and 1 sister: Frederick, Michael and Elizabeth. Frederick was in Revolutionary war, got a pension from the Government of 160 acres of land where Nashville Tennessee now is, was never married; no information that Mike was ever married and Elizabeth married a man named Waterson."

William Sandy's Will written 25 Mar. 1826 and recorded 17 July 1826:

In the name of god amen. I William Sandy of the County of Washington and state of Indiana being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being of sound an perfect mind and memory blessed by almighty god for the same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in the manner and form following that is to - 1st I grant and give to my beloved wife Catharine Sandy one hors sadle and bridle and Cow and calf and one heafer, fifteen head of hogs, five head of sheep, two beads [beds] and the necessary bedding for the same, one chest, and household and chitchen firmiture as far as is necessary for hous Keeping, and the tract of land that I now live on all of which is to be hers during her natureal life or widowhood 2nd I will that my youngest son William Sandy have one hundred dollars in cash at my death to be raised out of my personal estate, also I will that he have the colt that the sorrel Meare is with fold with at this time if she should have luck to rais it as the same as their act and deed for the purposes therein expressed - Given under my hand and seal the day and year first above written

Abraham Littell (seal)
Justice of the peace

Tradition states that William Sandy was born in Rowan County, North Carolina in 1765 and died between 5 Mar. 1826 and 2 July 1826 in Washington County, Indiana, and is buried on his farm having died of tuberculosis. He married in 1787 Catherine Beck (b. Nov. 1765 - d. 3 Apr. 1845 bur. Stierwalt Cem., Morgan Co. IN). Their children were: Henry, Carrie, Jeremiah, Thomas, Mary "Polly", Elizabeth, Catherine, William H, and Lucy, Henry married Betsy Carson; Carrie married Frederick Goss.; Jeremiah married Betsy Goss; Thomas married Sally Bush; Polly married first Abraham Stierwalt, and second to William H. Voshell; Elizabeth married John Stierwalt; Catherine married David Bush; William married Lucinda Thompson; and Lucy married Adam Stierwalt.

There is much more on this family in the Genealogy Room of the Owen County Public Library, Spencer.