

Samuel in Maryland

Alan Barber

Three days spent researching Barbers in Maryland yielded lots of data, and potentially the family roots of the Texas Samuel Barber

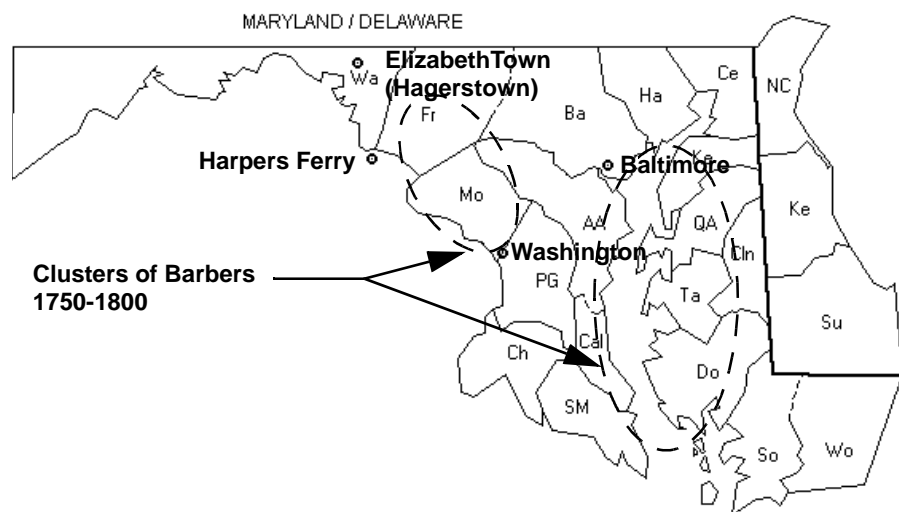
I spent three days in July, 1996, researching the Barber family in Maryland, hoping to find the roots of Texas' Samuel Barber (d. 1864). What I found was lots of new information and plenty of potential Barber ancestors. None are obviously our Samuel or his parents; that is, none matches perfectly with the little that we think we know about Samuel. But a large family of Barbers living within a day's horseback ride of both Hagerstown and Harpers Ferry is a strong candidate to be the family of Samuel Barber. I am here summarizing what I learned to pass on to other Barber researchers, and encouraging them to expand on what I've learned.

Samuel claimed he was from Virginia. He said he was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, orphaned, raised by an uncle in Harpers Ferry, and left for Louisiana as a teenager. I've concentrated on Maryland here, but there's work to be done in Virginia and, given the migration patterns of the time, Pennsylvania as well. I visited libraries at the DAR in Washington, the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore, Rockville, and the Maryland State Archives at the Hall of Records in Annapolis. An important source missed was the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, unfortunately closed on Fridays.

As shown in the adjacent map, I found Barbers clustered in two areas: around Chesapeake Bay, and in the Montgomery and Frederick County area.

The Chesapeake Bay Barbers are mostly descended from Dr. Luke Barber, who arrived from England in 1634 in St Mary's County, south of present day Wash-

ington, D.C. on the peninsula between the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay. At his death in about 1671 Luke left a very sizeable estate to his three sons and two daughters. Published genealogies^{1,2} show large numbers of Luke descendants in the counties surrounding Chesapeake Bay. Likewise, censuses, tax records, probate records, and land patents, show large numbers of Barbers in this area in the eighteenth century. I found only two documents related to a Samuel Barber in the Chesapeake Counties: one Samuel testified to the will of John Evits in Annapolis in 1774 and another (or the same one) signed a fidelity oath in Calvert County in 1778. Also a Samuel BARKER signed a fidelity oath in 1778 in Port Tobacco, on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay



Maryland in 1776

The second cluster of Barbers was in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, northwest of today's Washington, D.C. These Barbers could, of course, be simply an extension of the Chesapeake Barbers or could be descended from them. I suspect they're not, and they immigrated from somewhere else. The Chesapeake Barbers and the Frederick County Barbers have few given names in common. As you will see, the evidence of our Texas Samuel's ancestry residing in these Frederick County Barbers, while not compelling, is certainly engaging. So I've concentrated on them.

The earliest Barber in the area was John Barber, who patented 100 acres in what is now Montgomery County in 1744, naming it, fittingly, "Barber's Beginning". He expanded his acreage in 1747 and again in 1752³. In 1755 he used 53 acres called "Barber's Outlett" to secure a debt⁴. Before 1776 the counties of Washington, Frederick, and Montgomery were a single county, named Frederick. In those days livestock roamed free and persons were required to register

cattle that roamed onto their property and remained. This secured him against charges of thievery and allowed him to later charge the owner for feed. John registered such stray livestock in Frederick County in 1774 and John, Jr., presumably his son, had done so in 1768⁵.

The family of this John Barber was prominent in the Montgomery/Frederick county area for at least a hundred years. It contained at least one Samuel, and if our Samuel came from this area it is likely that this is his family. I've found no published genealogy on this Barber family, but since they were so numerous for so many years I'm confident that more information will show up. Descendants are probably in the area today. It's easy to find the backbone of the family, even in the face of sparse records because they were old fashioned enough to use the names John Sr, John Jr, and John III. In cases where simply John is used it is possible to guess which it is, as in the case of John Barber's land patents in 1744; clearly this was John Sr.

Maryland conducted an extraordinary census in 1776⁶. While later federal censuses until 1850 listed only the name of the head of the household and age ranges for other members, this Maryland census listed everybody, male and female, adult and child, by name and included their age. People are listed by the "Hundred" (a political, military, and census subdivision of a county) in which they lived, so it's possible to locate them within a certain part of the county. Unfortunately, this census does not list all counties or all Hundreds within counties, although Frederick county is partially covered. Also, unfortunately, it is not organized by family but is simply a list of males and a separate list of females.

John Barber, age 60, is listed in the 1776 census in the Lower Potomac Hundred. Also in the same Hundred is Elizabeth Barber, age 39, and children Barney, 7, Mary, 16, and Dorothy, 11. Since I got the names from an alphabetized list, it's impossible to tell if any or all were in the same household, but it should be possible to extract this information by looking at the original, which I've not yet found. From this census we can place John Sr's birth year at 1716. Thus he was 28 when he bought his first land in Frederick county in 1744 and by the time he was 52 in 1768 his son John Jr was well established in the county (evidenced by the registration of stray cattle). The only other Barbers listed in the county are Thomas and Ann, ages 25 and 18, in the Lower Potomac Hundred. Missing, probably because they were in Hundreds with missing census records, are John Barber, Jr, and Samuel Barber, who do show up in other contemporary records.

Other useful records of the time include a list of militia members as of 1776⁸, a tax list of 1777⁷, lists of signers of the Loyalty Oaths of 1778⁹ and another census of 1778¹⁰, together taken to separate Tories from Whigs, and another tax list of 1783¹¹, taken to finance the War. John Sr and John Jr show up on all these lists except the 1778 census (which shows no Barbers at all) and the militia list.

A Samuel Barber first appears in Montgomery county as a member of the Maryland Militia in 1776⁸. He paid taxes in Linganore Hundred in 1777 along with John Barber (no Sr or Jr indicated). Linganore Hundred is in northwestern Montgomery County, less than 30 miles from Harpers Ferry. Samuel took the Loyalty Oath in 1778 along with John Sr, John Jr, and plain John. In 1780 he was fined by a court in Montgomery County¹². Neither the charge nor the amount of the fine was listed, but a common violation at that time was selling liquor without a license. In 1783 Samuel, John Jr, and John Sr all paid taxes together in Linganore Hundred. Clement, Elias, and Elizabeth Barber were the only other Barbers paying taxes that year in Montgomery County. Samuel is absent from the 1790 census but shows up again in the 1800 census with a wife, two boys and two girls. He witnesses a will in 1811¹³ and in the same year appears as an heir in the will of John Barber Sr, where Samuel is listed as a grandchild, along with John, Rezin, Ann and Delilah¹³. No children of John Sr are listed; he must have survived them all, as he would have been 95 years old. For this Samuel, a grandchild of John Sr., to be the same as the Revolutionary War soldier, he would have to have been born around 1758-1760 and his father born about 1738-1740, when his grandfather was 22-24 years old. If so, the father of this Samuel is not John Jr, because when John Jr's wife, Lucey, died in 1808 she named her children, John and Nancy¹³. So Samuel's father would be another son of John Sr either missed in the early censuses or who died before 1776. A strong possibility would be the husband of the Elizabeth, age 39, in the census of 1776 in the Lower Potomac Hundred, listed with children Mary (age 16), Dorothy (age 11), and Barney (age 7)⁶. In this case Samuel, at around age 18, might be missed by the census because he was absent, serving in the militia.

Could this Samuel be related in any way to our Samuel Barber of Texas? There are reasons to believe so. This family is in the right place; it is a two day walk to Harpers Ferry and is one day on horseback to Hagerstown (then Elizabeth Town). The family contains names we recognize (Samuel, Elizabeth, John, Ann). If this Samuel is indeed our Samuel's father, then it's not true that our Samuel was an orphan, since this Samuel lived until at least 1811. On the other hand our Samuel could be a son of a Barber I didn't find because he died before he owned property or otherwise produced a lasting record. Or our Samuel could be a son of Barney Barber and was named after his uncle Samuel. In any case it would be very natural for any of these Barbers to drift toward Harpers Ferry, since that was where the flow of migration was going at the time. Clearly by 1790-1800 there was little cheap land in Montgomery County and younger sons of farming families were forced in that direction to make a living.

A couple of other interesting possibilities turned up as well. In the March, 1778, court session for Montgomery County a complaint was brought against one Elizabeth BARKER, for "having a baseborn child contrary to the form of the Act of Assembly in such case made and provided information of by Ninian B. Magruder."¹⁴ There is an Elizabeth Barber in the 1790 Montgomery County census listed as head of household with two males over 16, one male under 16,

five females, and three slaves, and she is only five lines away from Ninian Magruder in the census listing. In 1781 Elizabeth BARKER apprenticed one of her sons, James, to a farmer in Frederick County¹⁵. Could these two Elizabeths be the same despite the name spelling? Or, even if they're not the same could one of her sons, perhaps the 1778 bastard, be our Texas Samuel?

Another intriguing possibility connects Samuel to Louisiana. In the years 1803-1810 the part of present Louisiana east of the Mississippi, but not including New Orleans, was retained and governed by Spain after the sale of the rest of Louisiana to the United States. It was in this district, called West Florida, that Samuel first appears in official documents, a complaint by Robert Jones that he had abandoned his job illegally and taken some property, in 1807¹⁶. There was another, or perhaps more than one, Barber family in West Florida at that time. They lived in Feliciana, just east of Baton Rouge and several documents are recorded there naming Mary, Thomas, Antonio, and David Barber as well as Briton, Samuel and Eldrid BARKER in the years 1802-1804.¹⁷ Among them are two documents executed between David Barber and John Murdock in 1802 and 1803, a land sale and a separate mortgage. Back in Maryland, fourteen years earlier in 1788, another John Murdock wrote a will of about 3500 words length and died some time before 1798¹⁸. Clearly prosperous and educated, Murdock begins by expressing his profound disappointment in his son, William, whom he considered incapable of administering either the estate or his own legacy. He leaves the bulk of his estate to his brother and two trustees who will pay support to William and William's wife and children (only daughters in 1788). The only other bequest Murdock makes is land and slaves to one Dorothy Barber, her son John, and daughters Elizabeth and Mary. Even though this bequest runs to nearly a third of the words in the will, including all of its only codocil, there is no explanation of who Dorothy is, or why she is receiving this bequest. Many explanations are possible, but clearly there was a relationship between Barbers and Murdocks in Maryland, and in Louisiana. Are they connected? Another teasing hint comes from the name of John Murdock's brother who was trusted to receive the estate--Addison.

For the record, here are some dead ends I've already visited: Some have suggested that the family name was originally spelled Barbour¹⁹. I found no instance of this spelling among the Maryland Barbers. The spelling is found among the Virginia Barbours²⁰, which fact argues for a Virginia, rather than this Maryland source for our Texas Samuel Barber. In fact, other Barber researchers (Villamae Williams and Flavia Fleischman) have been convinced that Samuel's ancestry lies among the Virginia Barbours²¹.

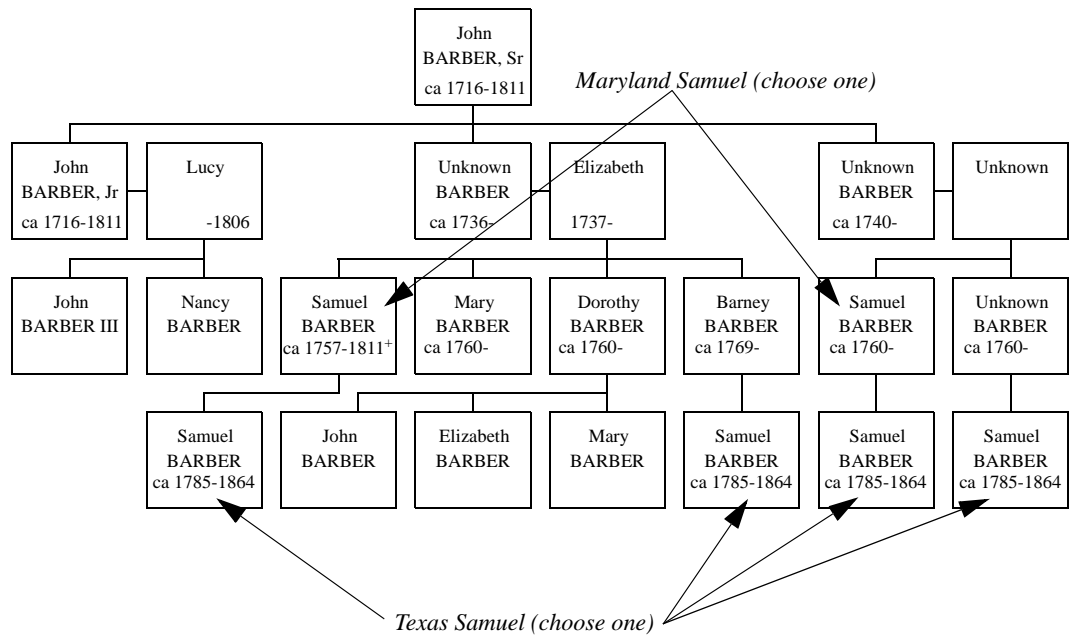
I searched as well for a connection between this Maryland John Barber and the Barbers of Connecticut and Massachusetts, descendants of Thomas Barber. Such a connection would be a likely source of the rumored relationship of Samuel Barber to Joseph Warren. The best work on the Thomas Barber genealogy²² is very strong, with genealogy from the 17th to the 20th century, at least for

descendants who remained in New England--but it contains no John Barber that did not die in Connecticut or Massachusetts.

Orphan's Court records for both Frederick (1777-1808) and Washington (1786-1805) Counties exist and are indexed, but contain no Samuel, or any other, Barber. If Samuel was born in Hagerstown and orphaned, no official record was kept.

Sad to say, there are no Frederick or Montgomery County marriage records prior to 1798.

Considering all the above, a speculative descendant chart including our Texas Samuel might look like this:



Speculative relationship chart for Maryland Barbers and Texas Barbers

Notes

1. Willis W Eisenhart, *The Abbott-Adlum-Green Families*, 1957
2. Elizabeth Colton Ewing, *Barber, Briscoe, Story, Yates, Hanson and other Maryland Families*.
3. Maryland State Archives Index 54, Patents 1634-1985
4. Frederick County Debt Books 1755-1756, *Western Maryland Genealogy*, Vol 8, No 2, p 82.

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5. *Estrays 1765-1775*, Family Line Publications, 1986, manuscript found at DAR Library, Washington, D.C.
 6. Bettie Sterling Carothers, *1776 Census of Maryland*, manuscript in the library of the Maryland Historical Society.
 7. *Taxables in Montgomery Coutu in 1777*, original list in Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 2083.
 8. S. Eugene Clements and F. Edward Wright, *The Maryland Militia in the Revolutionary War*, National Genealogical Society Library.
 9. Anna D. Ward, *Maryland Oath of Fidelity*, manuscript and card index at library of Maryland Historical Society, 1967.
 10. Census of 1778, recorded in *Montgomery County Court Proceedings 1777-1781*, MdHR 9856, f.71-80, 83, also indexed in Index 46, Maryland Archives.
 11. Assessment of 1783, Index 65, Maryland Archives.
 12. *Western Maryland Genealogy*, Vol 6, No 4, p 149.
 13. Mary Gordon Malloy, Jane C. Sween, Janet D. Manuel, *Abstracts of Wills, Montgomery County, Maryland 1776-1825*.
 14. *Montgomery County Court Proceedings 1777-1781*, p 43; original in the Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR9856.
 15. *Orphans Court Proceedings*, Frederick County 1777-1808, Maryland Hall of Records, Index 83.
 16. *Archives of the Spanish Government of West Florida*, translated by WPA, Louisiana State University, 1957, Volume XII, p255.
 17. *Ibid*, Volumes V, VII, XVI.
 18. *Montgomery County Wills*, Liber B, folio 423
 19. Mary Barrow, letter to Mrs Jack Silva, August 28, 1956; copy in the Barber file at Wallisville Heritage Park, Wallisville, TX; Mary Barrow was a granddaughter of Samuel Barber.
 20. Edwin AtLee Barber, *Genealogy of the Barber Family*, Philadelphia Press, 1890.
 21. Villamae Williams, typed notes in author's possession.
 22. *The Connecticut Barbers, a Genealogy*, forgotten author and publisher.