

History of Andrew O. Hoyt (1825 – after 1910) and Julia Ann Gilbert Cooley Hoyt
(1816- after 1900) of Calhoun County, Michigan

(as examined by Dan Wharton, Pelham, NY, June 2015, email
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I see that much of what I have found corresponds with what Dianne Priddy Easterday/Debbie Wilson has found. There are a few extra items, some additional documentation and some speculation in this report that might be helpful for further research. Also, it is worth noting that the new “Family Finder” tests from Family Tree DNA and Ancestry.com are providing powerful new hints, and in fact, that is why I have been in touch with Lois Hoyt Peterson, a “second to fourth” cousin match with my father-in-law Charles Heritage Hoyt born 1919. As with Lois’s great-grandfather Andrew Hoyt born 1825, Charles’s family tree is unclear beyond his great-grandfather Henry J. Hoyt born about 1823 somewhere in New York (died in Civil War 1864 after almost 20 years of pioneering in Wisconsin). Given the intertwining of several early Fairfield County, Connecticut families among the Hoyts, Lockwoods, Keelers, Whitneys, Benedicts and others, plus the common occurrence of first, second, and third cousin marriages as they moved into surrounding New York counties, the genetic tracking of these families can be quite a puzzle. So it is possible that the genetic matches are also driven by maternal relationships as well as Hoyt relationships. For instance, if Andrew Hoyt’s father is Seth Hoyt of Calhoun County, Michigan, it is possible that Andrew is the son of Seth’s first wife and not of Charlotte Walker Hoyt Wright (see discussion below). I am in touch with descendants of Seth’s well-documented descendants from his son Elijah, the son of Seth’s second wife Charlotte Walker. No Family Finder matches appear for Charles from this line, and neither for Lois. This can be “luck of the draw” since only some of one’s distant cousins will have genetic overlap, but can also mean that the Charles-Lois match might be derived more from Andrew and Henry’s mothers than from their Hoyt fathers.

As noted above, we do not know for certain the names of Andrew Hoyt’s parents although some have concluded that he is the Andrew Jackson Hoyt listed on page

593 of David Hoyt's comprehensive book on Hoyt genealogy published in 1871, referred here as HHH (and reprinted by Picton Press since 1984).

Andrew and Julia are found in Battle Creek, Calhoun, Michigan in 1900 and this tells us that Andrew was born in December 1825 in "Pennsylvania." No record for Andrew Hoyt of Calhoun County, Michigan lists him as "Andrew Jackson" nor "Andrew J," and in fact his 1863 draft registration record for the Civil War in Michigan records him as "Andrew O. Hoyt," age 37. Andrew Jackson Hoyt was born July 20, 1828, in Greene, Chenango County, New York, and is the son of William Hoyt and Olive Ketchum as noted on pages 593 and 533 of HHH.

Andrew Jackson Hoyt's life can be followed through the Federal Census records in Illinois and through his death (Findagrave.com) in Aurora, Illinois in 1902. His wife is listed as Caroline Gilbert. Those Ancestry family trees that give parentage for Caroline suggest a Gilbert family that came directly from Germany to Pennsylvania. Julia Ann Gilbert's family has a completely different history (see below).

The suggestion that Andrew O. Hoyt is the son of William Hoyt and Olive Ketchum is a common mistake seen on many online family trees, but is an explainable mistake. Among Andrew and Julia's confirmed five children, the oldest is named Joseph William, the second son is Bonaparte Ketchum, and the youngest daughter is Hannah Olivia. Another good guess would be that Andrew is a grandson of William and Olive Ketchum Hoyt but only one of William and Olive Ketchum Hoyt's sons is remotely old enough to be Andrew's father. That is Andrew Jackson Hoyt's oldest brother, Nelson Hoyt, born November 13, 1807 in Greene, Chenango County, New York. Nelson lived all of his adult life in, or relatively near, Easton, Northampton, Pennsylvania. However, in addition to Nelson's young age, there are other strikes against him as father to Andrew O. In the 1830 census, he has only one male in household in the "Under 5" age category, so far so good since Andrew would not turn five until the end of 1830. But, in the 1840 census, no male in Andrew's age category appears. In 1850, the census record for Nelson's widow in South Easton, Pennsylvania, Hannah (Munn) Hoyt, lists son William S. Hoyt age 21, very likely the "Under 5" son of the 1830 census. Perhaps Andrew O. Hoyt is an adopted relative of either William and Olive - or Nelson and Hannah but there is absolutely no record as yet to suggest that.

Most of the online family trees associated with Andrew Hoyt give his birthplace as Wellsboro, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. I have not seen any reference to a document that supports that although all census records do, in fact, identify Pennsylvania as Andrew's birthplace. There were a number of Hoyts in Tioga County at the time of Andrew's birth, including Lockwood Gorham Hoyt born about 1788 in Wilton, Connecticut (died 1842, Farmington, Tioga, PA). Interestingly, Lockwood Gorham Hoyt is a younger brother of the William Hoyt who married Olive Ketchum (see Gorham Hoyt on page 533 of HHH). William and Lockwood are the sons of (another) William Hoyt and Lydia Crowfoot. A third brother, James Hoyt, lived in Orange, Warwick County, New York. According to several online family trees, Lockwood Hoyt married Martha A. Zeliff, born 1796 in Essex County, New Jersey (died 1880, Lawrenceville, Tioga, PA). An 1825 tax record for Farmington, Tioga, PA names Lockwood Hoyt and five of his children, Sarah, William, James, John, and David. Almost any time in 1825 is prior to Andrew's December 1825 birth so a question for further research is whether or not Lockwood and Martha Zeliff Hoyt had additional children.

The most compelling argument to date is that Andrew Hoyt is the son of Seth Hoyt by one of his two wives, one whose name is not known, and the other is Charlotte Walker born in New York (to parents born in Ireland and Holland, per 1880 census for Charlotte Wright living with son Daniel Hoyt in Michigan). Seth Hoyt arrived in Calhoun County sometime between 1836 when his son Lewis was born in Pennsylvania and 1838 when his son Daniel was born in Michigan. One might expect that Andrew did come to Michigan as a youngster with his family since his known history starts in January 1847 when he marries Julia Ann Gilbert Cooley. He would have just turned 21 the preceding December. Other suggestions that he is the son of Seth Hoyt include the death record of Seth's daughter Maria/Mariah Hoyt Lovewell Houghton stating that she was born in Wellsboro, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, alleged birth location of Andrew Hoyt. Further, if you search the 1830 Federal Census under "Seth Hait (Haight, Hoyt, Hait, and Hayt often used interchangeably among the descendants of Simon Hoyt), we find him in Delmar, Tioga County, Pennsylvania with oldest male and female corresponding to the ages of Seth and Charlotte although more children than we have names in current records, but includes Andrew's age category). The Ketchum connection as demonstrated in Andrew Hoyt's son Bonaparte Ketchum Hoyt is still unclear but

there are a couple of possible explanations. One is that Calhoun County, Michigan was first settled and organized by Seth Ketchum and several of his Ketchum relatives around 1831 (see Findagrave biography among accompanying documents). Did Andrew admire the Ketchums in his Calhoun County community? Could this imply a kinship connection to the Ketchums? Perhaps, in that Abel Hoyt, possible father of Seth Hoyt, is found living next door to Isaac Ketchum in the 1800 census for Pawling, Dutchess County, New York. Since so little is confirmed about Seth Hoyt's origins, it is difficult to say where he married his first wife, but perhaps it was Dutchess County if, in fact, Abel Hoyt and Rhoda Benedict are Seth Hoyt's parents. Certainly, the age given by Seth Hoyt in the Clarence, Calhoun County, Michigan 1850 census matches the baptism date of August 4, 1783 for Seth Hoyt, son of Abel and Rhoda (as recorded in HHH page 437). Andrew's parents' birthplaces should be known from 1880, 1900, and 1910 censuses; however, they are in conflict. 1880 gives "Pennsylvania" as birthplace of both; 1900 gives "New York" as birthplace of both; and 1910 gives Pennsylvania for Andrew's father and New York for his mother. Seth Hoyt gives his birthplace as New York in the 1850 census. While his actual birthplace could be Connecticut, the account in HHH for Seth's possible father Abel Hoyt on page 382 of HHH indicates that his son Seth would have been raised in New York near the Connecticut border: "He [Abel] was a farmer, seems to have lived in Salem, [Westchester County] New York, but had children baptized in New Canaan, CT while living in Salem 1787-92." It is implied that Abel was in Pawling, Dutchess County, New York by 1793.

Most family trees list Calhoun County, Michigan as the death location for Andrew Hoyt; however, it is almost certain that both he and Julia died in Keya Paha County, Nebraska. Note that in 1900 census Andrew and Julia are listed as "inmates" in a location in Battle Creek, Calhoun, Michigan, the White Memorial Home per Easterday/Wilson. By 1900, none of Andrew and Julia's children are living in Michigan and it is unclear why they left Iowa (found as late as 1895 in the Franklin, Greene, Iowa state census) where they had lived in prior years with, or near their son Joseph William. Their daughter Hannah Olivia Hoyt Chapin is living in Pine, Keya Paha, Nebraska in 1900. By 1910, we find an Andrew Hoyt, age 84, born Pennsylvania living as a boarder in Pine, Keya Paha, Nebraska. By 1910, Hannah Oliva, her husband, several children and grandchildren are living in

Augusta, Tripp County, South Dakota. This appears to be a recent move as nearly all of the very young grandchildren have Nebraska as their birthplace. So, one might suppose that Andrew was left with neighbors while the rest of the family was settling in South Dakota. There is a memorial headstone at the Olive Branch cemetery in Mills, Keya Paha that simply says "Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hoyt." It is not clear if this the grave site for Andrew and Julia but does suggest that their final resting places were in Keya Paha County, Nebraska. Thinking this was likely the case, I sent an application for the death record for Andrew Hoyt to the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lincoln, Nebraska. According to their website, it was required that deaths in Nebraska be documented from 1906 onward. Since we have evidence that Andrew was living in 1910, it seemed likely that there would be a death record for him that might provide explicit information on his parents. The response was that no such death record could be found. Reasons might include that reporting was inconsistent in these early days, especially in the far out counties, or that he is improperly filed under Haight, Hayt or Hoit or some unreadable version of "Hoyt." Possibly, he died in Tripp County, South Dakota and was buried in Keya Paha, a relatively short distance from across the adjoining Nebraska border. Andrew's daughter Hannah Olivia is also buried in the same cemetery but not clear if that is because she moved back to Keya Paha or simply requested burial there.

Julia Ann Gilbert Cooley Hoyt's genealogical history is quite a bit clearer than Andrew's. Per marriage records for Calhoun County, Michigan Andrew and Julia were married 31 January 1847. The Wilson/Easterday note on the witnesses to this marriage brings up some interesting new people in Andrew and Julia's social and/or family circles. J. Wesley "Hawkins" (1815-1860) of Eckford is Julia's brother-in-law, married to Julia's sister Louisa Gilbert (1818-1873). Their son Richard W. Hawkins (1841-1920) is the man that received land from Andrew in 1873. Richard married Eliza Ann Hoyt (1853-1938) in the same year. Eliza Ann is the daughter of Isaac Hoyt (1819-1903) and Jerusha Maria Rumsey Hoyt (1834-) who settled and lived in neighboring Barry County, Michigan. Through transcriber error, the 1860 census record for Andrew and Julia was difficult to find (indexed under Andrew HoyL) but confirms that Eliza Ann is not a daughter of Andrew.

Isaac Hoyt is definitely worth further investigation especially since Isaac was also born in Pennsylvania and gave the name Andrew to one of his sons. The other

witness, Edwin Doty, is not immediately knowable as J. Wesley Hawkens - and might simply be a friend or neighbor in Eckford.

Julia Ann Gilbert was born March 12, 1816 in Clarkson, Monroe, New York, along with twin sister Mary Ann, to Ira Gilbert (1790-1859) and Lydia Peterson (1794-1860). Ira's family tree is found in good numbers on Ancestry.com with some minor variations in details. Ira was born in Surry, Cheshire, New Hampshire and Lydia was born in Westminster, Windham, Vermont. They appear to have met and married New Hampshire. If true, they moved very soon thereafter to Clarkson since all of their children were born in Clarkson: George, Peter, Julia Ann, twin to Mary Ann, Louisa, Cynthia, Lydia, Lorinda, Ebenezer and Asa born 1833. Ira can be found in the Clarkson, Monroe, NY Federal census in 1830 next to Azad Gilbert. By 1840, Julia's family is in Tekonsha, Calhoun, Michigan. They are still in Tekonsha in 1850 and Ira and Lydia's deaths were in Tekonsha.

Julia Ann Gilbert married John Mason Cooley (probably born New York about 1815) on April 23, 1843 and had daughter Mary A. Cooley in 1844 (sometimes appearing as Mary or Maria Hoyt in census reports). Mary died, apparently unmarried, March 24, 1871 in Franklin, Greene County, Iowa. It is not clear what became of John Mason Cooley.

Three of Andrew and Julia's children lived to adulthood and their lives are fairly clear in the records: Joseph William Hoyt (1847-1929), Bonaparte Ketchum Hoyt (1852-1928), and Hannah Olivia Hoyt (1853-1914). Daughter Helen Hoyt who appears in the 1850 census apparently died in February of 1860 of scarlet fever as reported in the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules for Tekonsha, Calhoun, Michigan. Daughter Lydia Hoyt appears in the same report, also dying of scarlet fever in February, 1860. Astonishingly, Lydia and Helen's grandparents also appear on the same page, Ira dying in August 1859 of typhoid fever and Lydia dying in March 1860 of dropsy.

More people are taking Family Finder tests everyday so perhaps we can expect new information on Andrew Hoyt's origins on a regular basis.

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