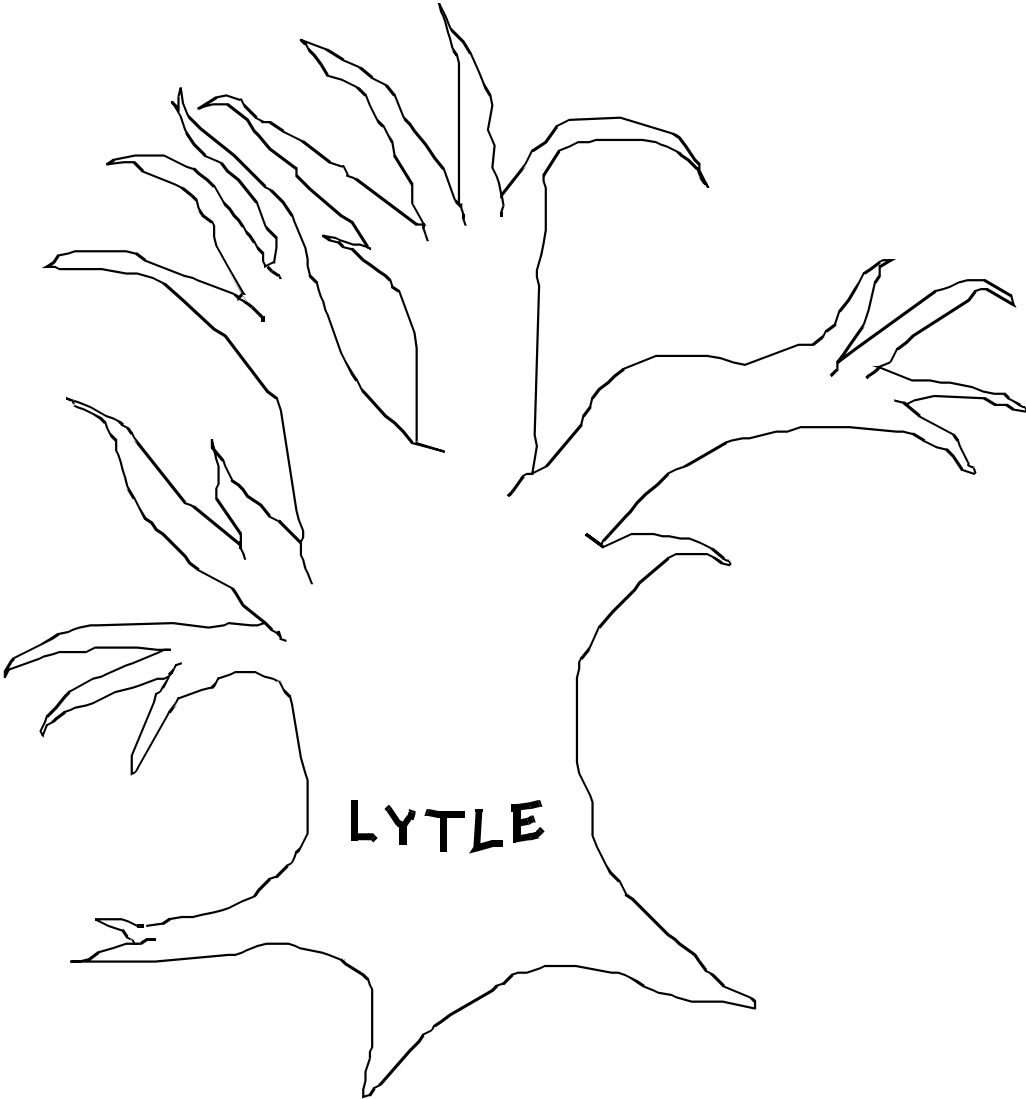


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Some Recent Updates on Francis Lytle Jr.

Francis Lytle's First Wife

For many years, the only reference to Francis Lytle's first wife was the name Winnie Carter, found in the obituary of James Lytle (1818-1904). Recently, however, a different name has been found, which is not only more likely but which may also explain the previous error.

The name Winnie Blizzard appears on the death certificate of Jane (Lytle) (Benbow) Albright, whose obituary may be found in a previous bulletin. Jane was a full sister to James.

Winnifer "Winnie" Blizzard was likely the daughter of Hezekiah Blizzard (1761-1828) and Leah Carter (abt 1765- ?). Hezekiah Blizzard's mother was also a Carter, his parents being Richard Blizzard and Kezzekiah Carter. Leah Carter, Winnie's mother, was a daughter of Solomon Carter and Constantina Roberts. (Note that Blizzard variously appears with either one or two z's in historical records).

Having Carter's as mother and grandmother provides an easy and explainable answer as to why the name Carter was given in James' obituary. Leah Carter, Winnie's mother, was a sister to Alexander Carter, who in turn had as a daughter another Winnie Carter. This second Winnie Carter has caused some confusion in family trees found on the internet, as many people have mixed up the two. This latter Winnie Carter, however, was the wife of Enoch Quinn. Enoch and Winnie had six children, the oldest two of whom married Lytles. Susan Jane Quinn (1818? - ?), the oldest, married Francis' brother Alfred (1806? - ?). John Quinn (abt 1826 – 1872) married Sarah Lytle (abt 1825 – 1901), who was the daughter of Francis' brother Albert (1802-1879).

In addition to all of those connections, with Hezekiah Blizzard as her father, Winnie would be a niece to John Blizzard and a first cousin to Isaac Blizzard, three of whose children (William, Mary Jane, and Nancy) married Dorcas Walden, James Swaney, and Alfred Swaney, niece, and nephews of Francis Lytle.

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One More Lytle

Due to written records of the deaths of several of Francis Lytle's wives, we had always assumed he outlived all of them. Now comes new evidence that he was separated or divorced from wife number six, Susannah Said, who was first married to Joel Wright in 1842. She married Francis in June of 1860, and they appear together with all of their children in the 1860 census. We know that Francis' seventh wife, Nancy, married him in 1862.

But now comes a surprise – wife number six has been found in both the 1870 and 1880 census and she has resumed living under the name Wright. And the next surprise in her son, listed in 1880 as “Abraham Little”, born in 1861, in her household. He is listed as Abraham Wright in the 1870 census. No further record of him has been found under either Wright or Lytle after the 1880 census. At that time, he was living in Spring Creek, Dent County, Missouri, with his mother and three half-brothers. His age was 19 and his occupation “working in iron mines”, which may have been a dangerous occupation.

There is one younger son, Joel Sanford Wright in the household. He was born in December of 1863, so it is not likely that he is a son of Francis. Joel married a widow, Eliza (Fisher) Abney and raised several stepchildren, but had no children of his own. By 1900 Joel had moved to the county just southwest of Dent, Texas County. He died in Howell County, Missouri, just to the south on November 21, 1947. Abraham Lytle has not been found in any of these locations.

Having found Abraham, and based on other records and family traditions, this brings to 28 the number of children Francis is believed to have fathered: twelve by his first wife, one by his second wife, fifteen by his third wife, and now one by his sixth wife. The oldest, James, was born in 1818, 43 years before Abraham.

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This is Not Francis!



This picture made its way to the internet and was widely copied and distributed under the name of Francis Lytle. And there is a definite resemblance. However, this is actually Abiathar Vinton Newton (1806-1892). The picture was taken in Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon. Abiathar's granddaughter, Melissa Bethers (1844-1920), married Tobias Lytle (1828-1896), the son of Francis Lytle Jr (1796-1880). For some years, only the cropped version, without the photographer's name and city of Corvallis, Oregon at the bottom, has been the one in circulation. At last, the mistake was caught. The photographer, Winfield Scott Gardner, had a studio in Corvallis from 1886 to 1913, so this picture must have been taken between 1886 and 1892, when Abiathar died. And due to the fact that Francis died in 1880, he could not have had his picture taken in 1886 in a state he never visited. Other pictures of Abiathar also prove more conclusively that the above portrait truly belongs to him.