

Research Report: Jonas Acord/Akard

Son of Cornelius Acord and Barbara Eaker

by Larry Kraus

last update 08 Jun 2000

Thesis: There is some doubt that Jonas Akard of Union County, Illinois; Henry County, Tennessee; and finally Greene County, Missouri is the son of Cornelius Acord and Barbara Eaker, as generally accepted throughout the Acord research community.

Analysis: Jonas Akard (1792-1834) is generally accepted as the son of Cornelius Acord and Barbara Eaker. In fact, this lineage has been accepted by the DAR. There is little doubt that Cornelius had a son named Jonas who was born between 1790 and 1800 in Lincoln or Rutherford County, North Carolina. He presumably moved from Rutherford County, North Carolina to Lincoln County, Tennessee about 1806 with his father and mother. The first record we have found for Jonas is service as a Private in Captain Deadrick's Artillery Company of the Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812 (*War of 1812 Muster Rolls, National Archives*, Washington, DC, Roll Box 1, Roll M602 and *Tennessee Genealogical Records: Records of Early Settlers from State and County Archives*, Edythe Rucker Whitley, 1980, Some Tennessee Soldiers of the War of 1812, Page 179).

Shortly after the War of 1812 we find records of two separate individuals; Jonas Akard (1818 Federal Census, Union County, Illinois) and Jonas Acord (1820: *Alabama Records, Volume 103, Madison County, Alabama*, by Jones and Gandrud, 1948, page 77; land sale to Jonas Acord). Obviously, only one of these can be the son of Cornelius Acord. No absolute proof of the lineage of these individuals has been found. This analysis documents the facts, as known today, in an attempt to encourage further research to solve the mystery.

Jonas Akard:

Jonas Akard is fairly well documented from shortly after his marriage to Elizabeth Hopkins. We find him in Union and Jackson counties, Illinois from 1818-1822; Henry County, Tennessee in the 1820's; then in Greene County, Missouri in the 1830's where he died intestate.

The Akard family was prominent in and around Greene/Polk County, Missouri in the 1800's and is well documented. Several accounts in the *History of Hickory, Polk, Cedar, Dade and Barton Counties, Missouri*, Goodspeed Publishing Co., Chicago; document Jonas' arrival in Missouri. On page 644 (re: daughter Martha A. Akard) it states that Martha was born in 1822 and moved to Missouri with her parents at the age of 12 (1833/4) and that her father [Jonas] died soon after arrival. On page 639 (re: daughter Priscilla Akard) it states that Priscilla's parents settled in Polk County in 1831. On page 618 (re: son Joseph Dell Akard) it states that Jonas emigrated to Missouri in 1833. Jonas' son Henry married in Polk County Sep 1832. No official record of Jonas has been found in Missouri, however, we do have Polk County marriage records for son Joseph Dell Akard and daughter Priscilla Akard in 1837 (Dodd, Jordan R, et. al. *Early American Marriages: Missouri to 1850*. Bountiful, UT: Precision Indexing Publishers, 19xx.) and his widow, Elizabeth (Hopkins) appears in the 1840 Polk County census. This firmly establishes Jonas' arrival in Missouri between 1831 and 1834 and his death before 1840.

Jonas is found in Henry County, Tennessee in 1830 (1830 Federal Census, Henry County, Tennessee). We know that this is the same Jonas through a 1824 Henry County land record for the sale of 113 acres to Jonas by Andrew Hopkins, his father-in-law. It appears that Andrew sold his land to Jonas and moved into Jonas' household. Though I do not have official sources, other researchers have reported that several of Jonas' children were born in Tennessee (presumably Henry County) between 1822 and 1830. These include Martha 1822, Sophronia 1823, Andrew 1824, William 1826 and Elizabeth 1830. Another child, John, was born 1832 but it is not known if he was born in Tennessee or Missouri. This places Jonas in Henry County, Tennessee from 1822-1830 with a migration to Missouri between 1830 and 1834.

Jonas is found earlier in Illinois. He first appears in Union County in 1818 along with his father-in-law, Andrew Hopkins, and brother-in-law, John Hopkins (1818 State Census, Union County, Illinois, page 174). Two other brothers-in-law; William Davidson and Robert Rogers are found in nearby Johnson County (1818 State Census, Johnson County, Illinois, page 114). Union County was created from Jackson and Johnson counties in 1818. Jonas then appears in Jackson county in 1820 (1820 State Census, Jackson County, Illinois). In 1821 he purchased land in Jackson County (1821: Land Records, State of Illinois, Program ID ADNO 1A). He is still in Jackson County, in 1822 (1822 State Census, Jackson County, Illinois). Two of Jonas' children are reported to have been born in Tennessee, presumably Union/Jackson County; Priscilla 1816 and Sarah 1818. This places Jonas in Union/Jackson County, Illinois between 1816 and 1822 with a migration to Henry County, Tennessee in 1822.

Here the record of Jonas Akard ends and speculation begins. One of Jonas' sons, Henry, is reported to have been born in Tennessee, probably Rutherford County, in 1813. In 1810 Andrew Hopkins, along with sons-in-law William Davidson and Robert Rogers, are found in Rutherford County, Tennessee (1810 Federal Census, Rutherford County, Tennessee, page 7). There was a Joseph Ekird in Rutherford County in 1810. There is one male under 16 in the Ekird household who may well be Jonas, though that link is not yet proven. Jonas may have left the home of his father in Rutherford County and married Elizabeth Hopkins between 1810 and 1813. It may be significant that Jonas named a son Joseph. Jonas may have been in Rutherford County between 1810 and 1816 with a migration to Union County, Illinois in 1816.

Andrew Hopkins is found in the Spartanburg District, South Carolina in 1800 (1800 Federal Census, Spartanburg District, South Carolina, page 180). A Joseph Accor is found in nearby Greenville District (1800 Federal Census, Greenville District, South Carolina, 268). This may be the same man as the Joseph Ekird found in Rutherford County, Tennessee in 1810, and Jonas Akard's father. There is little doubt that Andrew Hopkins (and daughter Elizabeth) migrated from South Carolina to Rutherford County, Tennessee between 1800 and 1810, perhaps joined by Joseph Accor and son Jonas.

So we can tentatively place Jonas in South Carolina in 1800 with a migration to Rutherford County, Tennessee between 1800 and 1810. We can then absolutely trace his migration to Union County, Illinois in 1816; to Henry County, Tennessee in 1822 and to Greene County, Missouri about 1832. We cannot definitively link him to Cornelius Acord or place him in North Carolina or Roane County, Tennessee.

A query posted in the *The South Carolina Magazine of Ancestral Research, Volume XIV, Number 2, Spring, 1986* offers another clue:

"Need information on Andrew and Sarah (Dill) Hopkins and their children: Cynthia b. 1793 S.C. m. Millenton Reynolds 1814 Rutherford Co. Tenn.; Sarah b. 1800 S.C. m. Robert David Rogers; Margaret m. a Davidson; Elizabeth m. Jonas Acord/Ackard; John, no information. Andrew and Sarah Hopkins with their children's families migrated from Tenn. to southern Illinois around 1818."

This corroborates the facts the Jacob married Elizabeth Hopkins of South Carolina and that they migrated to Illinois with several related families. It also establishes the fact that Jacob's father-in-law was Andrew Hopkins and that he had brothers-in-law named Reynolds, Rogers and Davidson.

The only data found so far that offers a clue to Jonas' birth place is the account of W. N. C. C. A. Fox, son of Martha A. Akard and Silas Fox, in *History of Hickory, Polk, Cedar, Dade and Barton Counties, Missouri*, Goodspeed Publishing, Chicago, page 643, which states:

"The maternal grandfather [Jonas Akard], who was a native of Germany, emigrated to the United States in childhood, and settled in South Carolina, moving from there to Tennessee. In 1831 he moved to Gasconade County, Mo., in 1832 to Polk County, (then Greene County), and died soon after arriving here. The maternal grandmother [Elizabeth Hopkins] was a native of South Carolina, and was married in that state."

This seems to clearly indicate that Jonas was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States with his parents. Some researchers have interpreted this passage as mistakenly referring to Martha's grandfather, Cornelius Acord, but this researcher has found no reason to doubt the literal interpretation. If accurate, Jonas Akard cannot be the son of Cornelius. We know that Cornelius was in the United States in 1776 (*Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files, Volume I*; abstracted by Virgil D. White; page 8) and that he married in North Carolina in 1784 (*Marriage Bonds of Lincoln County, North Carolina*, compiled by Curtis Bynum, 1929). We have no record that Cornelius was ever in South Carolina. However, this fact alone does not discount Jonas Akard as the son of Cornelius. Records place Cornelius in Lincoln County, North Carolina in 1784 and Rutherford County, North Carolina in 1800 and 1806. Records also place Jonas' father-in-law, Andrew Hopkins, in the Spartanburg District, South Carolina in 1800. Rutherford and Spartanburg share the North-South Carolina line. In fact the exact position of the line was often in dispute. Further, the wife of Jonas' brother John (Sarah Turner) was born in South Carolina. We can trace Sarah's family from South Carolina to Roane County but Andrew Hopkins is not found in Roane County. The statement in the above passage that Elizabeth Hopkins was married in South Carolina presents more of a problem. In the 1800 Rutherford County census, there are four males under 16 years old in the Cornelius Acord household. These are presumed to be Jonas, Joseph, David and Cornelius. We know from land records that Cornelius "pulled up stakes" in North Carolina and moved his family to Roane County, Tennessee in 1806. We have not yet found a record of the marriage of Jonas and Elizabeth, but based on current estimates of Jonas and Elizabeth's birth dates, they would be about 14 years old when this move took place, too young to marry.

Jonas Acord:

Little is known of Jonas Acord. Jonas appears in Madison County, Alabama in 1820 when he purchased land there (*Alabama Records, Volume 103, Madison County, Alabama*, by Jones and Gandrud, 1948, page 77). He is also found in Madison County in 1830 (1830 Federal Census, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama) and 1840 (1840 Federal Census, Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, page 166). In both the censuses it appears that Jonas is not married, owns several slaves and is involved manufacturing. Most significantly, in the 1846 final estate settlement of Cornelius and Barbary Acord sums were paid to "Jonas Acerd and the heirs of Christianah Acerd." This indicates that Jonas, son of Cornelius, was alive in 1846.

There is a Jonas Acord buried in Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama (grave marker) but the stone is broken and the dates are unreadable. Also, the will of a Jonas Acord can be found in Will Book "F" of Davidson County, Tennessee (*Tennessee Wills and Administrations 1779-1861*,

Sistler, 1990, page 153). It is unknown if these are the same individual or if these are the same Jonas found in Madison County between 1820 and 1840. There is currently insufficient data to directly establish a relationship of Jonas to Cornelius Acord. However, by tracing siblings of Jonas Acord we can speculate that the Madison County Jonas is in fact the son of Cornelius.

Joseph Acord, the fourth child of Cornelius, was born about 1793 in Rutherford County, North Carolina and migrated to Roane County, Tennessee with his parents in 1806. In 1814 he married Elizabeth Lane in Roane County (Marriage Records of Roane County, Tennessee). Joseph's son, Enoch, was born Aug 1820 in Tennessee (850 Federal Census, Jackson County, Alabama), probably Roane County. Jonas is in Roane County in 1820 (*Roane County, Tennessee Tax Lists 1814-1821*, Willis Hutcherson, 1820 Tax List, Page 197). In 1821 Jonas appears on a Delinquent Tax list in Roane County (*Roane County, Tennessee County Court Records, Book H*, 1819-1821). In 1823 Joseph remarried to Sally Stout in Roane County (Dodd, Jordan R, et. al. *Early American Marriages: Tennessee to 1825*. Bountiful, UT: Precision Indexing Publishers, 19xx.). In 1827 Joseph is still in Roane County (1827 Veterans Administration Tax List, Roane County, Tennessee) Joseph then appears in Jackson County, Alabama (adjacent to Madison County) in 1830 (1830 Federal Census, Jackson County, Alabama), and in 1840 (1840 Federal Census, Jackson County, Alabama). Joseph and son Enoch are also found in Jackson County in 1850 (1850 Federal Census, Jackson County, Alabama). Joseph's and Enoch's birth data are consistent with the fourth child of Cornelius. Joseph named a daughter after his sister Catherine (1850 Federal Census, Jackson County Alabama). It appears that Joseph followed Jonas to northern Alabama between 1827 and 1830.

David Acord, seventh child of Cornelius, was born 16 June 1802 (Grave Marker, Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison County, Alabama) in Rutherford County, North Carolina (1850 Federal Census, Madison County, Alabama). He was living with his parents in Roane County, Tennessee in 1822 (Revolutionary War Pension Application, Affidavit Cronamus Acre, Roane County, Tennessee, 28 Jan 1822). In that same year he married Elizabeth Hartley (Marriage Records of Roane County, Tennessee 1801-1855, Page 65.). David was still in Roane County in 1830 (1830 Federal Census, Roane County, Tennessee, page 33) and in 1832 (1832 State Census, Roane County, Tennessee). His first six children were born in Tennessee, presumably Roane County, between 1825 and 1833 (1850 Federal Census, Madison County, Alabama). His seventh child was born 1837 in Alabama, presumably Madison County (1850 Federal Census, Madison County, Alabama). He is found in Madison Madison County, Alabama in 1840 (1840 Federal Census, Madison County, Alabama, page 167) living near Jonas Acord where he remains until his death in 1860 (1860 Federal Mortality Index, Madison County, Alabama and Grave Marker, Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison County, Alabama). David named a son after his brother Jonas and another son after his brother John; he also named another son Christopher Columbus which recurs several time in the descendents of brother John (1850 Federal Census, Madison County, Alabama). He also named two daughters Luvica and Luticia [twins?] who may have been named after David's sisters Louisa. It appears that David followed brothers Jonas and Joseph Acord to northern Alabama between 1833 and 1835.

Catherine Acord, Cornelius' first child, was born about 1791 and was living with her parents in Roane County, Tennessee in 1822 (Revolutionary War Pension Application, Affidavit Cronamus Acre, Roane County, Tennessee, 28 Jan 1822). It appears that she lived with her parents until their death in 1839. She remained in Roane County after the death of her parents (1840 Federal Census, Roane County, Tennessee). In the Estate Settlement of Cornelius and Barbary Acord, 26 September 1840, there is the statement that "Cornelius Acord bought at the sale ... 34 lbs. of bacon got by C. Acord in Ala." This is presumed to be Catherine. Land records place her residence as DeKalb County, Alabama, in 1847 when she purchased land in nearby adjacent Jackson County on the east side of the Tennessee River in the south central portion of the county (Land Records of Jackson County, Alabama and BLM General Land Office

Records). She then moved there and bought more land in 1850 on the border of Madison County in the west central portion of Jackson County (Land Records of Jackson County, Alabama and BLM General Land Office Records). It appears the Catherine followed brothers Jonas, Joseph and David to northern Alabama after the death of her parents.

Louisa Acord, Cornelius' 10th and last child was born 1808 in Roane County, Tennessee and was living with her parents in Roane County, Tennessee in 1822 (Revolutionary War Pension Application, Affidavit Cronamus Acre, Roane County, Tennessee, 28 Jan 1822). On 4 October 1827 she was married to Reuben Lewis (Marriage Records of Roane County, Tennessee). Only one other record has been found. In the Estate Settlement of Cornelius and Barbary Acord, 26 September 1840, there is the notation that Cornelius held "One note on Reuben Lewis of Alabama for \$54.00 due on the 15th of December 1835 - not good." This seems to indicate that before 1840 Louisa and Reuben followed Jonas, Joseph, David and Catherine to Alabama.

These individuals all appear to be children of Cornelius Acord and Barbara Eaker. The coincidence of the names, dates and locations is too compelling to ignore. This seems to firmly place 5 of the 10 children of Cornelius and Barbara Acord in Alabama.

Conclusion: It seems certain that the Jonas Akard of Polk County who died about 1840 is not the son of Cornelius Acord and Barbara Eaker, but that he descends from Joseph Accor of South Carolina; and that the Jonas Acord who migrated from Roane County, Tennessee to Madison County, Alabama about 1820, joined by four siblings; David, Catherine, Louisa and Joseph, is the son of Cornelius Acord.