

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

Origins:

The very first record of the existence of Barnabas Madison **Poe** that has been found in the public domain is in the 1830 Federal Census of Gasconade County, Missouri. For many years his ancestry was a mystery. The family tradition that was provided to Mr. Everett **King** by the wife of a grandson and published by his daughter in "History of Maries County", page 236 (1963) as follows:

"One hundred and fifty years ago the **Poe** family lived in Virginia; one lived in Chesterfield County, just south of Richmond, which was likely their original settling place. Others of the family lived farther west across the mountains in Amherst County. They had evidently lived in these locations for some time, for one in particular, Andy **Poe**, had a reputation as an Indian fighter far past the ordinary in a time and place where every frontiersman had to be skilled in Indian warfare if he lived."

However, further research and the generosity of a descendant of a younger brother of Barnabas Madison **Poe** has provided valid evidence that this account is only partially accurate. My review of published research seems to indicate that there are probably three distinct **Poe** lines in this country. One line is indeed anchored in Colonial Virginia, another probably in either Virginia or Maryland and then there is the third line which produced our ancestor. The only record of a "Barney" **Poe** found in the early 19th century in this country was the sixth son of Adam **Poe** and Elizabeth **Matthews Cochran**, born in Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1787. This Adam **Poe** did indeed have a brother, Andrew **Poe**, and both were somewhat famous, or perhaps infamous, as Indian fighters on the Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Northern Virginia (West Virginia) frontiers. Some record of their exploits can be found in historical records in all three states. Adam and Andrew **Poe** were sons of a George Jacob **Poe**, or **Pfau** of Maryland; if you use the German spelling. As is common in genealogy when digging back over 200 years; there is more than one theory concerning the nationality and origin of George Jacob **Poe**. Three of these may be found in the following paragraphs and have much in common with each other. The account published in the Wayne County, Ohio history in 1878 is probably the most accurate with exception of where Adam **Poe** was born. I will allow the reader to draw their own conclusions.

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“Poe Genealogy”

Transcribed from a manuscript owned by the husband of Frieda Belle **Poe**
Secured via the Internet from **Poe** researcher Sharon **Compton**:

“**Poe** history traces back to the 13th century near the Po(e) River in Italy. They moved to France in the 15th century. From France they moved to Ireland in 1730 when General George **Poe**, in charge of an English army under King George the first, took sides against Cromwell and was defeated. He died soon after this, and his two sons, Chevalier and George J. **Poe** left Ireland and immigrated to America and landed in 1740. They settled in Antietam Creek in Maryland.”

“Chevalier **Poe** had one son, John **Poe**, who had several sons, John Jr., David and George.”

“George J. **Poe** had four children; George born in 1739, Andrew, Kate and Adam. After the death of their mother, the children, George, Andrew, Kate and Adam sold their father’s products in Baltimore where he purchased an Irishman and wife, sold for passage money. The Irishman whipped his wife and George J. **Poe** whipped him and while passing the Irishman driving one of his teams on the road to Baltimore, the Irishman shot and killed him. Consequently his property was given to George, the oldest son, who was a severe boss over his brothers.”

“Andrew left home for the frontier and stopped at the forks of the Yougha and remained there some time. He returned home and brought Adam, his junior by four years, and bound him to the shoemaking trade. Andrew remained in the neighborhood till the war broke out with England. Then he enlisted to fight under the stars and stripes, but he did not meet up with his brother George, as he lived in luxury, feeding and treating the British officers and helping them to quell the rebels, as they were called.”

“Kate also followed her brothers. Her name became **Miller**. She died near Burgettstown, Washington County, Pennsylvania.”

“After the war with England closed, Andrew and Adam along with a few others; started a settlement in Washington County.”

“Adam **Poe**, born in Frederick County, Maryland in 1747 and died September 23, 1840 in Stark County, Ohio, four miles southwest of Massillon, Ohio, at the residence of his son, Andrew **Poe**. Sometime after his father’s death, he and his sister Kate joined his brother in Washington County, Pennsylvania. Adam married Mrs. Elizabeth **Camden**, born 1754/1756? on the northwest coast of Ireland. Her first husband was killed by the Indians on the Ohio River opposite where East Liverpool now stands. They had children as follows: George born in 1779, Andrew born in 1780, Thomas, John, Adam, **Barney**, Catherine, who married Mr. **Mathews** of Congress, Ohio, Sally born in 1791, married Mr. **Kuffle** and died at her home in Congress, Ohio in 1888 at the age of 97 years, Isaac and David W. **Poe**, born April 16, 1799.”

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“Adam lived for years at the mouth of the Little Beaver. After leaving there, he took up a large body of land six miles northeast of New Lisbon, Ohio. Here he erected a crude cabin and later a dwelling house. This cabin was preserved and a painting of it was made by Andrew J. **Poe**, son of Captain Adam **Poe** and great-grandson of Adam **Poe**. Andrew did several paintings.

In 1813 Adam **Poe** removed from Columbiana County to Wayne County, Ohio bringing with him his wife and youngest son David and daughter Catherine. He first settled in Wooster, living on North Market Street. He followed the business of shoemaking for three years, being then nearly seventy years old. He was a tanner by trade and an excellent shoemaker. He then moved to Congress Township, Wayne County, Ohio and lived on a farm for nearly twelve years. When growing old and infirm, he made a contract with John **Poe**, his son, (June, 1820) to take care of him and his wife Elizabeth, for the remainder of their lives and John **Poe** should have a deed of this farm, but some reason the contract was not fulfilled.”

“Poe Family of German Origin”

The second account of the ancestry and origin of Adam **Poe** is found in “*History of the **Poe Brothers***” by George **Seilhammer**, from Kittochtinny Magazine, 1895-1905, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, PA; excerpts follow:

“George Jacob **Poe** died in Frederick County, Maryland in 1766, emigrated from Germany before 1746 and settled on the Antietam in Frederick, now Washington, County, MD. He owned a plantation on the west side of the creek in what is now the Leitersburg district before 1748-49. He obtained an order for the survey of the adjoining tract of 100 acres, Feb. 10, 1748 which was named “Well Taught” in 1752 the patent for which dated Mar. 14, 1754 embraced 1300 acres, and included the site of Leitersburg. Most of the survey was on the east side of the Antietam. He sold all of this land except 362 acres in 1755. Mr. **Poe** obtained another warrant for a survey of other lands on the east side of the Antietam in 1761 but the next year he sold the site of Leitersburg and assigned his interest in the resurvey of “Well Taught” to Jacob **Leiter**. Later he purchased land on Fishing Creek, Frederick Co. Md. He was murdered by one of his teamsters on the road to Baltimore. The names of his children (were) George, Andrew, Kate and Adam **Poe**. Kate went west with her brother, Adam.”

“Adam **Poe** was born at sea in 1745, died in Stark Co., Ohio, October 23, 1838, son of George **Poe** was reared on the **Poe** Plantation at the side of Leitersburg, Md. and with his sister Kate he followed his brother Andrew to Washington Co.”

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"After the revolution he settled in Wayne Twp., Columbiana Co., Ohio and 1812 moved to Stark County. **Poe** married Elizabeth **Cochran**, born in Ireland February, 1756, died February 27, 1844. Widow **Cochran** was killed by the Indians on the Ohio River opposite the present town of East Liverpool. They had sons, Thomas **Poe**, David **Poe** and Andrew **Poe**."

This account obviously omits most of the children of Adam **Poe** and Elizabeth **Cochran**. A second problem is that it also tells that Mrs. **Poe** was killed by Indians in 1844 when it is much more likely that the earlier account of her husband being killed by Indians before she married Adam **Poe** is true.

The third account is found in the "History of Wayne County, Ohio, from the Days of the Pioneers and First Settlers to the Present Time" by Ben **Douglass**, Wooster, Ohio; published by Robert **Douglass**, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1878.

Pages 830-834

ADAM POE, THE INDIAN FIGHTER.

"The dusk and swarthy foeman felt the terror of his might."

"The forest aisles are full of story."

"Adam **Poe**, whose name is familiar the world over with every reader of American border warfare, was born in Washington county, Pa. (incorrect, see Revolutionary War Record), in the year 1745, and died September 23, 1838, in Stark county, four miles west of Massillon, at the residence of his son, Andrew **Poe**."

"He was twice married, and by the first union had but one child, a daughter, named Barbara, who married a Mr. **Cochrane**, of Pennsylvania."

"His second marriage was to Betsey **Matthews**, a widow lady, and a native of Ireland, who came to America when but twelve years of age. She had a brother named William **Matthews** who was a Presbyterian preacher. They were married in a fort in Western Pennsylvania."

"His second wife died December 27, 1844. By this second marriage Adam and Betsey **Poe** had ten children, to wit: George, Andrew, Thomas, Isaac, John, Barney, Adam, David, Catharine and Sarah."

"George **Poe**, eldest son of Adam **Poe**, came to Wayne County in 1812, bringing with him his wife and children. He lived in Wooster three years and removed to Congress Township in 1815, locating one-half mile south of the present village of Congress. Prior to his removal there he had entered a half section of land, which he improved and cultivated several years, but sold it to John **Yocum**, father of Rev. Elmer **Yocum**. He was the first Justice of the Peace in Congress Township. He then went to Crawford County, Ohio, near Bucyrus, where his wife died, her maiden name being Betsey **Roberts**."

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There he was married a second time to Letta **Campbell**, a former acquaintance in Columbiana county, Ohio, after which he removed to Michigan and died."

"Isaac **Poe** came to Wayne County in the spring of 1812, with his brother George, stopping in Wooster for a few years, and removing to Congress Township April 1, 1815. He had previously entered a quarter section of land, upon which a portion of the village of Congress now stands, where he lived three years, and then sold his farm to David **Garver** and Lawrence **Rix**. He then bought the John **Lawrence** farm, in Plain Township, from Hon. Benjamin **Jones**, lived there a year, and sold it back to Mr. **Jones**, who sold it to Christian, father of John **Lawrence**, Esq., of Wooster Township. From the Lawrence place he emigrated to Kentucky, thence to near St. Louis, on the American Bottom, in Illinois, where he died. He was married in 1804, to Jane **Totten**, sister of Hon. Michael **Totten**, of Wooster, at Adam **Poe's** house, on the west fork of the Beaver, in Columbiana County, Ohio. They had five children."

"David Williamson **Poe** came to Wayne county with his father, Adam **Poe**, when a boy, and with him removed to Congress township. He started the first tannery ever established in Congress, which occupation he followed for several years, when he purchased a small farm not far from Cleveland. He afterwards, in company with one of his sons, went to Kansas to look at land, and by means of exposure, or accident, both were frozen to death. Hon. Joseph **Poe**, member of the Ohio Legislature, from Cleveland, is his son."

"Thomas **Poe** resided for a time four miles north of Congress Village, in Wayne County, but returned to Pennsylvania. His sons live in Georgetown, Beaver County, Pa., and are said to be owners of vessels plying the Ohio River, and very wealthy."

"Catharine **Poe** was married to Jacob **Matthews**, of Wooster, a partner of Robert **McClarran**, one of the first carpenters, and the first Justice of the Peace of the county. She died in Congress, and is buried in the graveyard there."

"Sarah **Poe**, wife of Adam **Kuffel**, the youngest of the ten children of Adam **Poe**, is the only survivor of the family, and lives in Congress village, Congress Township, Wayne County. She was born July 15, 1791, in Washington County, Pa., and was married in Columbiana County, Ohio, at her father's house, to Adam **Kuffel**, a native of Washington County, Pa., in 1809. He was born April 15, 1788, and died March 14, 1868. They removed to Congress Township in 1825, and settled on the farm now owned by John **Howey**. The following are the names of their children: Elizabeth, Catharine, Sarah, Diantha, David, Nancy, Adam, Mary Ann, Isaac, Matilda, Samantha and Wesley. Taber **Summerton**, of Congress Township, is married to the eldest daughter."

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"After leaving Pennsylvania, Adam **Poe** removed to the west fork of Little Beaver, in Wayne Township, Columbiana County, where he entered several quarters of land. From Columbiana he removed to Wayne County in 1813, bringing with him his wife and youngest son, David, and his daughter Catharine."

"He first settled in Wooster, his family living on North Market street, and he following the business of shoemaking for three years, on the corner where Dr. **Robison** has his office, being then nearly seventy years old. He was a tanner by trade, and an excellent shoemaker. He then removed to Congress Township, and purchased sixty acres of land from his son, George **Poe**, and there he lived for nearly twelve years, when, growing old and infirm, he removed to Stark County, where, with his son Andrew, he died, as above stated. He was a member of the old Lutheran church."

"Mrs. **Kuffel** relates the following as the circumstances of his death: A great and enthusiastic political meeting was being held in Massillon. The crowd hearing that Adam **Poe**, who had killed the celebrated Indian, Bigfoot, lived but a few miles distant, dispatched a delegation after him. When he appeared upon the ground he was wonderfully lionized and made the hero of the day. He was caught and carried through the crowd on the shoulders of the excited multitude. "It was a big day," says his daughter, and old as he was, being past ninety, "he had as much pluck as any of the boys."

"That day of excitement, however, sounded the death-knell of the mighty borderer, the iron-nerved heroic Adam **Poe**. He returned from the political meeting prostrated, enfeebled and sick, and soon thereafter died. A son of Andrew **Poe**, at whose house Adam died, hurried to the residence of Mrs. **Kuffel**, at Congress, to inform her of the dangerous illness of her father. She received the news about nine o'clock, and being then forty-seven years of age, mounted a horse and rode through the darkness and over uncertain roads, reaching her father's in time only to see him, to whom this world had no terrors, succumb to the King of Terrors and the Terror of Kings."

"The terrible encounter of the **Poe** brothers — Andrew and Adam — with the stalwart chief Bigfoot, occupies a conspicuous page in the annals of our border strifes. It should contribute a most interesting feature to the history of Wayne County, that we are able to furnish with extraordinary accuracy the brief sketch of the brother, Adam, who for over twelve years was a citizen of our county. His sons were among the earliest of the pioneers in Congress Township, and made the first improvements in that section, and he was a pioneer of 1813 in the town of Wooster."

"The critical reader of our State and border history will perceive in the exploits of the brothers **Poe** with Bigfoot, the most palpable contradictions, incongruities and transpositions."

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"Even as good an authority as **McClung**, in his " Western Adventures," published in 1837, substitutes the name of Adam for Andrew, and that prince of brilliant historical muddlers, John S. C. **Abbott**, in his recent History of Ohio, contradicts himself in the most inexcusable manner on the pages where he seeks to describe the contest."

"Royce **Summerton** and Michael **Totten**, whose sister was married to Isaac, son of Adam **Poe**, confirm the statements of Mrs. **Kuffel**. These gentlemen deride and flout the idea of this use of Adam for Andrew. Adam **Poe** himself wondered that narrators of the occurrence could be led into such mistakes, and he was often heard to say, "Why, Andrew was wounded in the hand, struck with the little Indian's hatchet, but you see no wound or scar on mine."

The statement, as furnished by Mrs. **Kuffel**,* and the corresponding testimony of his neighbors, who intimately knew him, and held daily and weekly intercourse and conversation with him, is sufficient, in our judgment, to settle for all time the question upon which historians have been divided."

Mrs. **Kuffel is in full possession of her faculties, lives by herself, does her own work, and delights to dwell upon the exploits of her father and uncle. She wonders how the names have got mixed, for, says she, " It was Andrew that wrestled with Bigfoot, and went into the water, but it was father (Adam) who shot him."*

Mrs. Kuffel's Statement of Adam and Andrew Poe's Celebrated Fight with Bigfoot.

"A body of seven Wyandots made a raid upon a white settlement on the Ohio river near Fort Pitt, and finding an old man in a cabin, killed him, stole all they could and withdrew. The news of the murder spread rapidly, and my father, Adam **Poe**, and my uncle, Andrew, together with half a dozen neighbors, began pursuit of them, determined to visit sudden death upon them. They followed the Indians all night, but not until morning did they get closely upon them, when they discovered a path, or trail, leading to the river."

"My uncle Andrew, who, like father, was a strong man and always on the lookout, did not directly advance to the river, but left his comrades and stealthily crept through the thicket to avoid any ruse of the Indians, and, if possible, surprise them."

He at once detected evidences of their presence at the river, but not seeing them, he quietly crept down to its bank with his gun fixed to fire. He had not far descended when he spied Bigfoot and a little Indian with him, both of whom had guns, and stood watching along the river in the direction whence the remainder of the party were. He (Andrew) now concluded to shoot Bigfoot, and fired at him, but his gun did not discharge its contents. The situation instantly became terrific."

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"The snapping of the gun alarmed the Indians, who, looking around, discovered Andrew. It was too late for him to run, and I doubt if he would have retreated if he could, for he was a great wrestler, and coveted conflict with the Indians. So he dropped his gun, and bounding from where he stood, caught both the Indians and thrust them upon the ground. Though he fell uppermost in the struggle he found the grip of Bigfoot to be of iron, and, as a consequence, the little Indian soon extricated himself, and instantly seized his tomahawk and advanced with fatal purpose toward Andrew. To better assist and aid the little Indian, who had the tomahawk aimed at the head of Andrew, Bigfoot hugged and held him with a giant's grasp, but Andrew, when he struck at him, threw up his foot and kicked the tomahawk out of the little Indian's hand. This made Bigfoot indignant at the little savage, who soon repeated his experiment with the tomahawk, indulging in numerous feints before he delivered the main blow, which Andrew parried from his head and received upon his wrist. Andrew now, by a desperate endeavor, wrenched himself from the clutches of Bigfoot, and seizing the gun of one of the savages shot the little Indian."

"Bigfoot, regaining his perpendicularity, got Andrew in his grasp and hurled him down upon the bank, but he instantly arose, when a second collision occurred, the issue of which threw them both into the water, and the struggle now was for the one to drown the other. Andrew finally caught Bigfoot by the hair, and plunged him in the water, holding him there until he imagined he was drowned, a conclusion in which he was sadly mistaken. Bigfoot was only playing off and soon recovered his position and was prepared for a second encounter. The current of the river had by this time borne them into deep water, when it became necessary to disengage themselves and seek to escape immediate destruction. A mutual effort was at once made to reach the shore and get possession of a gun and close the struggle with powder and lead. Bigfoot was a glib swimmer, and was the first to reach the bank. In this contingency Andrew wheeled about and swam further out into the river to avoid, if possible, being shot, by diving strategies. The big chief, lucklessly to him, seized the unloaded gun with which Andrew had shot the little Indian.

"Meantime, Adam **Poe**, having missed his brother and hearing a gun-shot, inferred he was either killed or in a fight with the Indians, and hastened toward him. Adam now being discovered by Andrew, the latter called to the former to shoot Bigfoot. Unfortunately Adam's gun was empty as was the big Indian's. The strife now was between the two as to which could load quickest, but Bigfoot in his haste drew his ramrod too violently from the gun thimbles, when it escaped from his hand and was thrown some distance, but which he rapidly recovered, which accident gave Adam the advantage, when he shot Bigfoot as he was in the act of drawing his gun upon him. Having disposed of Bigfoot, and seeing his brother, who was wounded, floating in the river, he instantly sprang into the water to assist him, but Andrew, desiring the scalp of the great chief, called to Adam to scalp him, that he could save himself and reach the shore.

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Adam's anxiety for the safety of his brother was too intense to obey the mandate, and Bigfoot, determined to not let his scalp be counted amongst the trophies of his antagonist, in the horrid pangs of death, rolled into the river, and his carcass was swept from the eye of man forever. Andrew, however, when in the stream, made another narrow escape from death, as just as Adam arrived at the bank for his protection, one of the number who came after him mistook Andrew in the water for an Indian, and shot at him, the bullet striking him in the shoulder, causing a severe wound, from which he, in course of time, recovered."

"So that it was my uncle Andrew that had the wrestle on the bank with Bigfoot, and the struggle with him in the river, and it was my father, Adam **Poe**, who shot Bigfoot when he came to shore. The wound that my father received, he got in the fight with the body of six Indians who were overtaken, five of whom were killed, with a loss of three of their pursuers and the hurt done to my father. The locality on the Ohio River where the struggle occurred is in Virginia, almost opposite to the mouth of Little Yellow creek."

He has a Terrible Fight with Five Indians and Whips them*

"While living on this side of the Ohio two Indians crossed the river, both of whom were intoxicated, and came to Adam **Poe**'s house. After various noisy and menacing demonstrations, but without doing anyone harm, they retired a short distance, and under the shade of a tree sat down and finally went to sleep."

"In the course of two hours, and after they awoke from their drunken slumber, they discovered that their rifles were missing, when they immediately returned to **Poe**'s house, and after inquiring for their guns and being told they knew nothing about them, they boldly accused him of stealing them and insolently demanded them. **Poe** was apprehensive of trouble, and turning his eyes in the direction whence they came, discovered three more Indians approaching. Without manifesting any symptoms of surprise or alarm, he coolly withdrew to the house, and saying to his wife, "There is a fight and more fun ahead," told her to hasten slyly to the cornfield nearby with the children, and there hide. This being accomplished he seized his gun and confronted the five Indians, who were then in the yard surrounding the house, and trying to force open the door."

"He at once discovered that the two Indians who came first had not yet found their guns and that the other three were unarmed. So he dropped his gun, as he did not want to kill any of them unless the exigency required it, and attacked them with his fist, and after a terrific hand to hand encounter of ten minutes, crushed them to the earth in one promiscuous heap, and having thus vanquished and subdued them, seized them one at a time and threw them over the fence and out of the yard." * *This adventure has never been given to the public before, and comes from his daughter.*

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We also have copies of almost 100 pages of Adam and Elizabeth **Poe's** Revolutionary War pension application and records (Number R8292) and have transcribed the following from that file. The following is from a letter written to Mrs. Margaret M. **Liedman** on November 30, 1937 by A. D. **Miller**, Executive Assistant to the Administrator, Division of Reference, The National Archives, Washington, D.C. This letter is virtually a duplicate of another letter written to Mrs. Robert P. **Haynes** and dated January 24, 1933. The letter written to Mrs. **Haynes** in 1933 states specifically that "You are furnished below the record of Adam **Poe**, the only soldier of that name found in the Revolutionary War records of this office; the file number of the claim is R. 8292.

"Adam **Poe** was born in the summer of 1747, in Frederick County, Maryland; the names of his parents are not shown. He lived there until 1773, when he moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and remained until 1775, then moved to Washington County, Pennsylvania. Adam and his brother, Andrew **Poe**, lived in that county at the home of one John Crist at the time of the Revolutionary War."

"While a resident of Washington County, Pennsylvania, Adam **Poe** volunteered in the summer of 1776 and served fourteen days as a private in Captain George **McCormick's** company, Colonel **Cannon's** Pennsylvania regiment. He enlisted in the summer of 1777 and served not less than seven months as a private in Captain Thomas **Base's** or **Bay's** company, Colonel **Cannon's** and James **Marshall's** Pennsylvania regiments. He enlisted subsequently and served as a private in the Pennsylvania troops in Captain Thomas **Base's** or **Bay's** company, Colonel James **Marshall's** regiment as follows: in 1778, not less than six months; in 1779, not less than seven months; in 1780 not less than six months; in 1781, not less than seven months during which period he was in a battle with the Indians at Sheep Gate, in which his brother, Lieutenant Andrew **Poe**, was wounded (nature of this wound not stated); in 1783, not less than three months."

"In 1785, Adam **Poe** was elected Captain of a company under Colonel **Marshall** to defend the frontier of western Pennsylvania against the Indians and served at various times until 1794, inclusive, under Colonels **Baird** and David **Williamson**."

"In 1793 or 1794, Adam **Poe** moved from Washington County, Pennsylvania, to a place near the mouth of Little Beaver, Beaver County, (formerly Allegheny County) Pennsylvania, where he remained until 1801, then returned to Washington County and lived until 1803, when he moved to Columbiana County, Pennsylvania, where he resided until 1813 or 1814, then moved to Wayne County, Ohio, and lived there until 1831, when he moved to Harrisville, Medina County, Ohio."

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“He was allowed pension on his application executed August 31, 1832, at which time he resided in Harrisville, Ohio. The soldier died September 23, 1838, at the home of Andrew **Poe** in Tuscarawas Township, Stark County, Ohio.”

“Adam **Poe** married October 12, 1777, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Elizabeth (maiden name not given); she was born February 10, 1758, the place not stated.”

“Elizabeth **Poe**, the soldier’s widow, was a resident of Congress Township, Wayne County, Ohio in 1839. She died December 27, 1844, in Stark County, Ohio.”

“In 1841, Andrew **Poe**, a son of Adam **Poe** and his wife, Elizabeth, was a resident of Wayne County, Ohio; he was born November 12, 1780. He referred to his brother, George, who was living at the time of his father’s death.”

“In 1854, the only surviving children of the soldier were – David W. **Poe**, Thomas **Poe** and Mrs. Sarah **Koffel**, “intermarried to Adam **Koffel**, or **Kuffel** who was a resident of Wayne County, Ohio, in 1840.

“In 1854, Nancy **Poe** and John **Poe** were residents of Tuscarawas Township, Stark County, Ohio; no relationship to the family was stated.”

“In 1854, one David **Kuffel** made affidavit in Wayne County, Ohio; his relationship to Adam **Koffel** or **Kuffel**, husband of the soldier’s daughter, Sarah, was not stated.”

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The following picture is reported to be of Adam **Poe** and was provided by Jane **Wagner Honse**, Vienna, Missouri a fellow descendant and researcher.



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Now we turn to the account by Mr. **King** of the **Poe** brothers' reputation as Indian fighters. There are several accounts to be found, I have chosen to present the one that follows:

Historical Collections of Ohio

By Henry Howe

Vol. I

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COLUMBIANA COUNTY

ADAM AND ANDREW POE, THE INDIAN FIGHTERS.

Adam POE, who, with his brother Andrew, had the noted fight with the Indians, once resided in this county, in Wayne township, on the west fork of Little Beaver. The son of Andrew - Deacon Adam POE, was living late as 1846 in the vicinity of Ravenna, Portage county, and had the tomahawk with which the Indian struck his father. The locality where the struggle occurred, he then told the author, was nearly opposite the mouth of Little Yellow creek. We annex the particulars of this affair from "DODDRIDGE'S Notes," substituting, however, the name of Andrew for Adam, and *vice versa*, as he then stated they should be placed:

In the summer of 1782 a party of seven Wyandots made an incursion into a settlement some distance below Fort Pitt, and several miles from the Ohio river. Here, finding an old man alone in a cabin, they killed him, packed up what plunder they could find, and commenced their retreat. Among their party was a celebrated Wyandot chief, who, in addition to his fame as a warrior and counselor, was, as to his size and strength, a real giant.

The news of the visit of the Indians soon spread through the neighborhood, and a party of eight good riflemen was collected, in a few hours, for the purpose of pursuing the Indians. In this party were two brothers of the names Andrew and Adam POE. They were both famous for courage, size and activity.

This little party commenced pursuit of the Indians, with a determination, if possible, not to suffer them to escape, as they usually did on such occasions, by making a speedy flight to the river, crossing it, and then dividing into small parties to meet at a distant point in a given time.

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ADAM AND ANDREW POE, THE INDIAN FIGHTERS.

The pursuit was continued the greater part of the night after the Indians had done the mischief. In the morning the party found themselves on the trail of the Indians, which led to the river. When arrived within a little difference of the river, Andrew POE, fearing an ambuscade, left the party, who followed directly on the trail, to creep along the brink of the river bank, under cover of the weeds and bushes, to fall on the rear of the Indians, should he find them in ambuscade. He had not gone far when he saw the Indian rafts at the water's edge. Not seeing any Indians, he stepped softly down the bank, with his rifle cocked. When about half-way down, he discovered the large Wyandot chief

And a small Indian, within a few steps of him. They were standing with their guns cocked and looking in the direction of our party, who by this time had gone some distance lower down the bottom. POE took aim at the large chief, but his rifle missed fired. The Indians, hearing the snap of the gun-lock, instantly turned around and discovered POE, who being too near to retreat, dropped his gun and instantly sprung from the bank upon them, and seizing the large Indian by the

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cloths on his breast, and at the same time embracing the neck of the neck of the small one, threw them both down on the ground, himself being upmost. The Indian soon extricated himself, ran to the raft, got his tomahawk, and attempted to dispatch POE, the large Indian holding him fast in his arms with all his might., the better to enable his fellow to effect his purpose. POE, however, so well watched the motions of the Indian that when in the act of aiming his blow at his head, by a vigorous and well-directed kick, with one of his feet he staggered the savage and knocked the tomahawk out of his hand. This failure on the part of the small Indian was reproved by an exclamation of contempt from the large one.

In a moment, the Indian caught up his tomahawk again, approached more cautiously, brandishing his tomahawk, and making a number of feigned blows, in defiance and derision. POE, however, still on his guard, averted the real blow from his head by throwing up his arm and receiving it on his wrist, in which he was severely wounded, but not so as to lose entirely the use of his hand.

In this perilous moment, POE, by a violent effort, broke loose from the Indian, snatched up one of the Indian's guns, and shot the small Indian through the breast, as he ran up the third time to tomahawk him.

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

ADAM AND ANDREW POE, THE INDIAN FIGHTERS.

The large Indian was now on his feet, and grasping POE by a shoulder and leg, threw him down on the bank. POE instantly disengaged himself and got on his feet. The Indian then seized him again and a new struggle ensued, which, owing to the slippery state of the bank, ended in the fall of both combatants into the water.

In this situation, it was the object of each to drown the other. Their efforts to effect their purpose were continued for some time with alternate success, sometimes one being under the water, and sometimes the other. POE at length seized the tuft of hair on the scalp of the Indian, with which he held his head under the water until he supposed him drowned.

Relaxing his hold too soon, POE instantly found his gigantic antagonist on his feet again and ready for another combat. In this, they were carried into the water beyond their depth. In this situation, they were compelled to loose their hold on each other and swim for mutual safety. Both sought the shore to seize a gun and end the contest with bullets. The Indian being the best swimmer, reached the land first. POE, seeing this, immediately turned back into the water to escape, if possible, being shot, by diving. Fortunately, the Indian caught up the rifle with which POE had killed the other warrior.

At this juncture Adam POE, missing his brother from the party, and supposing, from the report of the gun which he shot, that he was either killed or engaged in conflict with the Indians, hastened to the spot. On seeing him, Andrew called out to him to "kill the big Indian on shore." But Adam's gun like that of the Indian's was empty. The contest was now between the white man and the Indian, who should load and fire first. Very fortunately for POE, the Indian, in loading, drew the ramrod from the thimbles of the stock of the gun with so much violence, that it slipped out of his hand and fell a little distance from him; he quickly caught it up, and rammed down his bullet. This little delay gave POE the advantage. He shot the Indian as he was raising his gun to take aim at him.

As soon as Adam had shot the Indian, he jumped into the river to assist his wounded brother to shore; but Andrew, thinking more of the honor of carrying the big Indian home, as a trophy of victory, than of his own safety, urged Adam to go back, and prevent the struggling savage from rolling into the river, and escaping. Adam's solicitude for the life of his brother prevented him from complying with this request.

In the mean time the Indian, jealous of the honor of his scalp, even in the agonies of death, succeeded in reaching the river and getting into the current, so that his body was never obtained.

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

ADAM AND ANDREW POE, THE INDIAN FIGHTERS.

An unfortunate occurrence took place during this conflict. Just as Adam arrived at the top of the bank, for the relief of his brother, one of the party who had followed close behind him, seeing Andrew in the river, and mistaking him for a wounded Indian, shot at him and wounded him in the shoulder. He however, recovered from his wounds.

During the contest between Andrew POE and the Indians, the party had overtaken the remaining six of them. A desperate conflict ensued, in which five of the Indians were killed. Our loss was three men killed, and Andrew POE severely wounded.

Thus ended this Spartan conflict, with the loss of three valiant men on our part, and with that of the whole of the Indian party, with the exception of one warrior. Never, on any occasion, was there a greater display of desperate bravery, and seldom did a conflict take place which, in the issue, proved fatal to so great a proportion of those engaged in it.

The fatal issue of this little campaign on the side of the Indians, occasioned an universal mourning among the Wyandot nation. The big Indian, and his four brothers, all of whom were killed at the same place, were among the most distinguished chiefs and warriors of their nation.

The big Indian was magnanimous, as well as brave. He, more than any other individual, contributed by his example and influence to the good character of the Wyandots, for lenity towards their prisoners. He would not suffer them to be killed or ill treated. This mercy to captives was an honorable distinction in the character of the Wyandots, and was well understood by our first settlers, who, in case of captivity, thought it a fortunate circumstance to fall into their hands.

The following is a copy of a painting depicting this famous battle. The caption gives its origin and it could possibly have been painted by the same Andrew J. **Poe** who is mentioned on page three. The caption given is from the same internet source as the picture.

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

ADAM AND ANDREW POE, THE INDIAN FIGHTERS.



This fight occurred in Sep 1781. The artist and date of painting are unknown. It is obviously made from recollections; Andrew is fighting Bigfoot; the Wyandot with the tomahawk wounded Andrew; Adam is rushing to save Andrew, which he did. The fight occurred near Tomlinson's Run, WV. This painting of the famous fight currently hangs in the River Museum, Wellsville, OH. Others were involved in the fight; there was death and wounds on both sides. Andrew's arm was permanently disabled by the tomahawk.

Madison Poe:

Thus we have the ancestry and some of the lore related to the ancestry of Barnabas Madison **Poe** of Gasconade County, Missouri and an early resident of the Gasconade Valley.

As noted at the very beginning; Barnabas Madison **Poe** is first found in Missouri on the 1830 Federal Census of Gasconade County. As he apparently did not use the name "Barney" or "Barnabas" I will refer to him as Madison **Poe**. Mr. **King**, in his book, tells of a John **Poe** also being in Gasconade County but I have not found a record of a John **Poe** in this area. There is a John **Poe** in the Cape Girardeau area and perhaps that is the same man. It would probably not be Madison **Poe's** brother, John, as he was married and was living in Ohio. There is a Ludice **Poe** who married Jack **Hobaugh** in 1831, in Gasconade County, Missouri and moved to Southeast Missouri. She is most likely Madison's niece, the daughter of his brother Isaac **Poe**. Isaac **Poe** lived his latter years and died in American Bottoms, Illinois; the location now known as East St. Louis.

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

Madison **Poe** married Eliza **Backues**, daughter of Sanford **Backues** and Mary Ann **Ireland**, on January 14, 1830 in Gasconade County. We don't know where the new couple lived between the time of their marriage and 1843 but Sanford **Backues** had settled on Brush Creek ca 1815-19 and established a mill. Brush Creek is the stream that runs east and west, south of Rich Fountain, down a beautiful little valley and flows into the Gasconade River just south of where Missouri Highway 89 crosses today. When plans were being discussed in the 1950s to build a dam on the Gasconade, this valley would have been flooded.

On April 10, 1843 Madison **Poe** purchased 40 acres of land in Osage County, described as follows on land certificate 12,336 (copy on the next page):

"The northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 24, in township forty-one, of range eight west in the district of lands subject to sale at St. Louis, Missouri, containing forty acres."

This plot of land is no longer located in Osage County. Section 24, township 41N, Range 8W is located in Jefferson Township of Maries County today, having been made a part of that county when it was formed in 1855. It is located on the Osage County line a little more than halfway between Belle and Summerfield. Missouri State Highway "M" runs across its northern border and probably has absorbed several acres of the plot.

Records remaining in the family indicate that Madison and Eliza **Poe** had eleven children before he died in 1846; five who died in infancy and six that lived to maturity. The picture of the Madison **Poe** family that follows was provided by Jane **Wagner Honse** and is a copy of one owned by a descendant of Mary Ann **Poe**.



GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

CERTIFICATE
No. 12,336

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *MP 397*

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Madison Poe*, of *Gasconade County, Missouri*,

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *St Louis* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

Madison Poe according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

the North West quarter of the North West quarter of Section twenty four, in Township forty one, of Range eight West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at St Louis, Missouri, containing forty acres,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Madison Poe*,

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Madison Poe*,

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said

Madison Poe, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, *John Tyler*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *tenth* day of *April* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty three* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *seventh*



BY THE PRESIDENT:

John Tyler
By *R. Tyler* Sec'y.
J. Williamson Recorder of the General Land Office.

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

Madison **Poe** died in February, 1846, seven months before his last child, Catherine Sara, was born in September of the same year. On April 19, 1849 his widow, Eliza **Backues Poe**, remarried to James **McQueen**. Apparently Madison **Poe** did not leave a will, nor was his estate probated as no records could be found in the Osage County Probate Office and the following would indicate that the estate was never settled.

Consequently this 40 acres of land has a history all of it's own that is tied in with the history of the **Poe** and **McQueen** families. On August 28, 1850, James **McQueen** sold his land holdings in Section 35, Township 42, Range 9W, Osage County, (Osage County Deed Book "A", Page 137) to Thomas **Backues** and apparently occupied the 40 acre tract (Section 24, Township 41, Range 8 West) that Eliza **Backues Poe McQueen** owned. Over the years he added land to this small parcel until seven different parcels were included. On August 23, 1851 James **McQueen** bought "all our right, title and interest" to this 40 acres from William **Anderson** and Mary Ann **Poe Anderson** (Osage County Deed Book "A", Page 262). Mary Ann was the eldest child of Madison **Poe**. Then, twenty-three years later, January 8, 1874, Mr. **McQueen** purchased "all of our undivided interest" in this same 40 acres from William P. **Poe** and Mary A. **Poe**, his wife (Maries County Deed Book "M", Pages 477-478). At this time the only other living child of Madison **Poe** and Eliza **Backues** was Barnabas Madison (Jr.), who is deaf and dumb.

After the death of Mr. **McQueen** in 1890, this parcel was deeded "to the children and heirs of Scott **McQueen**, deceased, to wit William **McQueen** and Jane **Griess**" (Maries County Deed Book No. 2, Page 467). But the story doesn't end there. In the Maries County Deed Book No. 30, Pages 261-262 we find the following: "...at the October Term, 1911, of the Circuit Court of the County of Maries, in a certain suit than pending in said court wherein J. J. **McQueen** was petitioner, against Andrew J. **Groff**, Barney **Johnson**, Jennie **Johnson**, Andrew **Lore** and Alta **McKeaster**; defendants for the partition of the following described real estate situated, lying and being in the County of Maries and State of Missouri, to wit the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of section 24, Township 41, Range 8 West, containing 40 acres – more or less. The said court then and there decreed that partition of said land be made among the parties, according to their respective interests and it appearing to said court that said land could not be divided in kind amongst the parties therein, it was, there upon ordered and decreed by said court that the sheriff of said County of Maries proceed to advertise and sell the same according to law; all of which facts and orders of court fully appear from the records of said Circuit Court." The land was sold in the sheriff's sale, purchased by A. J. **Groff** and apparently the proceeds divided between the children and grandchildren of Catherine Sara **Poe Johnson** even though Barney **Poe** was still living in Belle and Adam **Poe** has a descendant, Anna Poe Luster, who should have shared.

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Barnabas Madison Poe

Mother always told me that there was no “love lost” between her grandfather, William P. **Poe** and the **McQueen’s**; this is probably part of the reason why.

In the 1850 Federal Census of Jefferson Township, Osage County, Missouri; Eliza and the children, except for Mary Ann, are in household #533, that of Mary **McQueen**, her mother-in-law. Mary Ann has married William **Anderson** and is found in the Federal Census of Osage County in household #528 near Cooper Hill.

By 1860 the family has started to scatter. The **McQueen’s**; James and Eliza are household #522 in Jefferson Township, Maries County, Missouri as Maries County was formed partially from Osage County in 1855. Only William and Sarah (now listed as Altasara, hence Altaza) are still at home. Adam is gone (he is 27 years old) and is found in the 1860 Federal Census in Leavenworth Gulch, Arapahoe County, Kansas (later Colorado) working as a miner. He has apparently joined other Missourians in the Colorado gold rush of that era. Barnabas Madison Jr. is in the Missouri Deaf and Dumb Asylum in Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri; he is deaf and unable to speak. Isaac is living with the Isaac **Backues** family in Osage County and this branch of the **Backues** family has been given credit for turning Isaac to the Confederacy.

Thus we have the origins and a bit of the history of Barnabas Madison **Poe** and his family. Other narratives will be given with each of his children and the family group sheet notes, obituaries, and other information and documents include tell much about their descendants. The family was divided during the Civil War and that division never really healed. Adam, Mary Ann, William Pike and Catherine Sara of his children provide an extensive list of descendants; over 1,000 of whom have been identified and included.