

Bio: Benjamin Franklin Brooks

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Benjamin Franklin Brooks was probably born about 1803 in Orange county New York. In this database he is represented as the son of Mary Mathews and Jonathan Brooks, but that relationship is not firmly established. He appears to be the only child, surnamed Brooks, who appears in both the 1811 Will of Jonathan Brooks and the 1816-1821 Will of Mary Mathews. In both Wills he is identified as son. About 1850, when he was past the age of forty-five, Benjamin Franklin Brooks married Celia Ann VanKleck, daughter of Matthew VanKleck and Phebe Diamond. They resided in or near Hamptonburgh in Orange county New York. There is no evidence of children.

Extracts from the Will of Jonathan Brooks of Orange county New York; written 21 August 1811; probated 11 October 1811; . . . I give to my son Benjamin Franklin all that lot of land known by the name of the Church Lot and which I at present have in possession being in the Town of Blooming Grove County and State aforesaid. I put my Executors in possession of the above named lot of Land known by the name of the Church lot immediately at my death to be rented and for to pay for the schooling and clothing of my above named son Benjamin Franklin likewise give unto my son Benjamin Franklin all my lot of land in the Western Country which I purchased from Captain Mason Walter. I give my executors power to sale the said Western Lot of land for the benefit of my above named son Benjamin Franklin if the executors may deem it proper . . . Likewise I give to my son Benjamin Franklin the colt which now . . the mare got by Kingston to be . . at my expence . . . I give my executors power to sell all my moveable property which is not will way and the same to be divided eaqually between my sons Fletcher M, Benjamin Franklin and daughter Esther.

Mary Mathews of New Windsor. Recorded Liber F, page 405. Will made 27 July 1816; probated 20 June 1821. Sons - Franklin, Harry, David, Ellsworth (all minors). Daughters Elizabeth Brooks, Katharine Brooks (minors). Sally Thompson (not relationship given). Executors - Thomas C Waters (nephew), David R Arnell. Witnesses - Methuselah Baldwin, Robert C Hunter, Fletcher M Brooks.
[source] Orange County [New York] Wills, 1787-1831 : with added genealogical notes; Mrs. James A. Weller, Jr.

Delegates to the Democratic - Republican Convention for the county of Orange, New York

1832, Hamptonburgh - Bartow Wright, John McCord, Benj F Brooks, Isaac Brewster

1834, Hamptonburgh - John Barker, Edward Denniston, Fletcher M Brooks

1834, Hamptonburgh - Benjamin F Brooks, Vincent Booth, Hudson Webb

1838, Benjamin F Brooks of Hamptonburgh, secretary

[source] reported in the Newburgh Telegraph (Newburgh New York);

Blooming Grove is one of the older towns of Orange County, lying somewhat northwest of the geographical center. The towns of Hamptonburgh and New Windsor are on the north, Cornwall on the east, Monroe and Woodbury on the south and Goshen and Chester on the west.

1850 Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh
Benjamin F Brooks; 46 (1804) New York; farmer
Catherine Hulse; 44 (1806) New York
Jerome Hulse; 19 (1831) New York
Everill Hulse; 17 (1833) New York

1855 State Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh
Benjamin F Brooks 52 (1803) New York
Cecelia Brooks 35 (1820) New York
Phebe J Turner 22 (1833) New York; servant
James Hughs 17 (1838) New York; servant
Phebe Van Kleck; 64 (1791) New York; mother-in-law
Charles J Manning; 5 (1850) boarder

1860 Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh
Benjamin F Brooks; 56 (1804) New York; farmer
Celia Ann Brooks; 38 (1822) New York
Ellsworth Mather; 30 (1830) New York; farm labor
Louisa Wakeman; 19 (1841) Germany
Emiline Dubois; 7 (1853) New York

1865 State Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh
Benjamin F Brooks; 62 (1803) Orange county New York; farmer
Celia A Brooks; 45 (1820) Dutchess county New York
Phebe Van Clock; 79 (1786) Dutchess county New York; mother-in-law
Elizabeth Mather; 37 (1828) Orange county New York; servant
Unreadable Jones; 21 (1844) Dutchess county New York; servant
Carrie Farr; 9 (1856) New York; servant
Neighbors include - Joseph Lundy, James Dill, James Kingman (or Ingram)

1875 State Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh
Benjamin F Brooks; 72 (1803)
Celia Brooks; 54 (1821)
Elsworth B Mather; 45 (1830) nephew

1880 Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh
Benjamin F Brooks; 77 (1803) New York
Celia A Brooks; 61 (1819) New York
Harvey Hookey; 20 (1860) New York
Ellsworth Mather; 56 (1824) New York; farm labor

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Benjamin Franklin Brooks in database](#)

[Will of Benjamin Franklin Brooks](#)

Biography of Benjamin Franklin Brooks; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.