

## **Bio: Fletcher Mathews Brooks**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Fletcher Mathews Brooks was born about 1795 in Orange county New York, the son of Jonathan Brooks and Catherine Mathews. It is likely, though not certain, that his mother died when he was young. The story of Jonathan Brooks' marriages and children remains confused. When Jonathan Brooks died in 1811, he left property to his son Fletcher M Brooks. As an adult Fletcher Brooks was farming near the town of Hamptonburgh in Orange county New York. When he was around the age of fifty, he married Phebe Bodine, who was more than thirty years his junior. They were the parents of five identified children - George W Brooks, Mary E Brooks, Fletcher Mathews Brooks jr, Hettie Elizabeth Brooks (married Albert Hudson Robbins), and Katharine Cora Brooks (married William Vincent Randall).

Extract from the Will of Jonathan Brooks of Orange county New York; written 21 August 1811; probated 11 October 1811; ..Secondly I give unto my son Fletcher M and daughter Esther all that lot or parcel of Land which was purchased by Fletcher Mathews from Hildridge and Chambers situate lying in the County and State aforesaid equally to be divided after my son Fletcher M shall arrive to the age of twenty one . . Likewise I give unto my son Fletcher M two feather beds and bedding, a three year old colt call'd Jacob out of the Dunganon . . . 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 . . .

This Indenture made the twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty Between Thomas L Brooks and John I Brooks and Eliza the wife of the said John I Brooks of the town of Blooming grove in the county of Orange and State of New York of the first part and Fletcher M Brooks of the town county and State aforesaid of the second part. Witness that the said parties of the first part for and in considerations of Four Thousand and two hundred Dollars to them in hand paid . . . have granted bargained sold . . . unto the Fletcher M Brooks and to his heirs and assigns . . All that equal undivided moiety or half part of that certain farm or plantation situated partly in the said town of Blooming Grove and partly in the town of New Windsor which upon the partition of the estate of Fletcher Mathews Esquire deceased by Commissioners for that purpose appointed was set off to the right of Catharine Brooks, the then wife of Jonathan Brooks deceased containing by estimation Two hundred and ten acres of land reference being had to the report of the said Commissioners on the record thereof the particular boundaries thereof will more fully appear which and equal undivided moiety or half part was conveyed to Thomas C Waters by Hester Brooks one of the heirs of the said Catharine Brooks by indenture leaving date the twenty first day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixteen and conveyed by the said Thomas C Waters to the said Thomas Brooks and John I Brooks by Indenture bearing date the thirteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, Together with all and singular rights . . . In witness whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeable set their hand and seals the day and year first above written; Thomas L Brooks, John I Brooks, Eliza Brooks

In the presence of Thos O Brewster, Wm W Brooks

[source] Orange County New York Deed Book 40, page 48.

note - There are indications that Fletcher M Brooks was counted among the heirs of his aunt Mary Mathews, though he is not specifically listed in her Will. The relationship between Jonathan Brooks and his sister-in-law Mary Mathews remains in question.

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 (no 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.

Sheriff's Sale - By virtue of two executions to me directed, I shall expose to public sale, for cash, at Mr John Felter's Inn, in the village of Montgomery, on Saturday the 7th of May next . . all the right title and interest of Gabriel Jackson, in and to the following described lands and tenements, situate in the towns of Blooming Grove, and New Windsor, bounded as follows, to wit: On the north by the lands of Daniel Brown; on the east by the lands of John and Fletcher Brooks; on the south by the Highway, and on the west by the lands belonging to the heirs of Mary Matthews deceased. Dated 22 March 1825. AL Ball Sheriff.

[source] Orange Farmer (Montgomery New York; 9 April 1825]

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)

Note - 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

Fletcher M Brooks; 50 (1800) New York; farmer

Phebe Bodine; 17 (1833) New York

Mary Hart; 40 (1810) Ireland

William Wilson; 22 (1828) Ireland; laborer

John Bodine; 14 (1836) New York

Ann E Mann; 19 (1831) NY; black

Harrison K Mann; 0 (1850) NY; black

Dena Nicholson; 54 (1796) NY; black

1855 State Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh

Fletcher M Brooks; 60 (1795); born Orange; lived in town 60 years; widowed once

Phebe Brooks; 21 (1834); wfe; born Orange; lived in town 9 years; widowed once?

George W Brooks; 5 (1850); born Orange

Mary E Brooks; 3 (1852); born Orange

Fletcher M Brooks Jr; 0 (1855); born Orange

Ann McGuee; 12 (1843); servant

Hannah Lamberson; 30 (1825); servant

William H Jackson; 15 (1840); servant

John Dutcher; 22 (1828); servant

note - living next door to several Hulse families

1865 State Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh

Phebe Brooks; 31 (1834); five children; married once; widowed once

Fletcher M Brooks; 11 (1854)

Hettie E Brooks; 9 (1856)

Kate Brooks; 6 (1859)

Hester Bodine; 68 (1797) mother; born Ulster county

William Bodine; 33 (1832); brother, gentleman

Rubin Vengezen; 55; servant

Magga Senehan; 25; servant

Sarah Tuthill; 24; boarder

1875 State Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh

Phebe Boulton; 41 (1834); born Chenago county

Nettie E Brooks; 18 (1857)

Katie C Brooks 16 (1859)

Richard Boulton; 5 (1870)

Thomas Boulton; 4 (1871)

Stephen Dekay; 26 (1849); farmer

Elizabeth Williams; 19 (1856); race black; servant

1880 Census of Orange county New York; Hamptonburgh

Albert H Robbins; 33 (1847) New York; farmer

Hettie E Robbins; 23 (1857) New York

Edith A Robbins; 4 (1876) New York

Jennie M Robbins; 0 (1880) New York

Cartherine Brooks; 21 (1859) New York; sister in law

Annie Clark; 24 (1856) New York; servant

Benjamin Pembolton; 71 (1809) New York; farm labor

Town of Hamptonburgh; Decker's; This is a small settlement in a beautiful part of the country, on the road from Washingtonville to Goshen. At this place the Messrs. Decker have had a cloth manufactory for many years . . . it was called "St. David's Corners, "that being the name of the Episcopal Church there. The building was put up after 1770, but never finished, and during the Revolutionary war was used as a hospital by the Americans. Shortly after that it was partly blown over, and permitted to go to decay and was never rebuilt. The church authority is still in possession of the location and burying ground. Vincent Matthews, Esq., was an early patron of this church, and after him, Mr. Jonathan Brooks performed many kind and beneficial offices to preserve and perpetuate the establishment, by the payment of its debts. These gentlemen lived in that vicinity. The name of the former has nearly run out in the county, while the descendants of the latter are numerous and respectable. Messrs. John I. Brooks of Bloominggrove, and Fletcher M. Brooks of this town are of this family.

[source] An Outline History of Orange County [New York]; Samuel Watkins Eager; 1846.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Fletcher Mathews Brooks in database](#)

[Will of Fletcher Mathews Brooks](#)

**Biography of Fletcher Mathews Brooks; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**