

Bio: Bernard M Markham

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2017

Bernard M Markham was probably the first born son of John Markham and Lucy Fleming of Goochland county Virginia. Born about 1795, he was named for his grandfather, Bernard Markham. His middle initial "M" appears in several documents, but it is unknown what name it represents.

Bernard Markham has been the most difficult of his siblings to track. He seems to move about frequently, but appears in many of the same locations with other family members. Stray comments in two family letters suggest that he was still living in 1864 (about age seventy), and that he never married.

Life in the Markham household has been more fully described in the entry for his father, John Markham. There were eleven children that survived to adulthood and each was educated, possibly under the guidance of their grandfather, Judge William Fleming. John Markham suffered from a malady, likely depression or alcoholism, which twice placed him in the Williamsburg Hospital for the Insane. County records allude to money problems for the family. It appears that Bernard M Markham's mother, Lucy Fleming Markham, and grandfather William Fleming navigated difficult waters to keep the family afloat.

Bernard M Markham and his younger brother William Fleming Markham seem to be the first of the Markham children to leave home. They both begin to appear in the records of Woodford county Kentucky about 1820. They may have followed their uncle and aunt – Norborne B Cooke and Judith V Markham – westward to the area around Versailles in Woodford county Kentucky.

1819, 3 Feb; Letters at the Louisville Post Office – B Markham

[source] Early Louisville Kentucky Newspaper Abstracts 1806-1828; Crowder, 1995.

1820 Tax List Woodford County Kentucky - Bernard Markham, 1 horse

1821 Tax List Woodford County Kentucky - Bernard Markham, white male

1823 Tax List Woodford County Kentucky - Bernard Markham, white male

1823 Tax List Woodford Country Kentucky - WF Markham, white male, 1 horse

1824 Tax List Woodford County Kentucky - WF Markham, land on Clear Creek

1821, May Term; Bernard M Markham was qualified as Deputy for Richard Thomas, Sherriff of this county.

[source] Court Orders of Woodford County Kentucky; D440.

1824, 13 November; Land for Sale – BM Markham.

[source] Early Louisville Kentucky Newspaper Abstracts 1806-1828; Crowder, 1995.

It was around this same time that John Markham died (1821) in Goochland county Virginia. Bernard Markham may have returned to Virginia, either to live, or to visit and help out with the settlement of his father's estate.

In 1826 BM Markham appears as witness to the Will of Archibald Bolling in Campbell County Virginia, along with his two cousins, Robert Bolling and Phillip A Bolling. (Campbell County Virginia Will Book 5, page 445).

Bernard Markham's name also appears in a number of documents related to the settlement of his father's estate.

1830, June; Bernard M Markham to William F Markham deed conveying real estate was on the 10th day of Jun 1830 reviewed in the said office and with the certificates endorsed and admitted to record.

[source] Court Orders and Minute Books of Goochland County Virginia 1728-1871; on microfilm at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City Utah; Book #31, page 482.

1830; Indenture between BM Markham of Jefferson county Mississippi and William F Markham of Jefferson county Mississippi. Bernard is turning over his portion of the land on which his father formerly resided for debts owed to William Fleming Markham (his brother), but the land is to remain unmolested in the peaceable possession of Lucy C Markham for the support of herself and her infant children during her lifetime.

[source] Goochland County Virginia Deed Book 28, page 428.

By 1830, Bernard Markham and his brother William Fleming Markham are both shown as living in Jefferson county Mississippi. Other records show William F Markham there as early as 1828. They were living in the town of Fayette in Jefferson county Mississippi, and their younger sister Judith Virginia Markham married there in 1829 to Putnam Tarrant Williams. William F Markham and a younger brother, Linneaus Bolling Markham appear in several Jefferson county Mississippi records, 1828-1830, as proprietors of a business, Markham and Goosey. But, its life was short lived, and by the time the 1830 census was taken, William F Markham had sold

out and removed to Vicksburg in Warren county Mississippi. By 1840, William F Markham was well established in Vicksburg Mississippi, Linneaus Bolling Markham was settled in Yazoo county Mississippi, and Judith V Markham Williams and her husband PT Williams had both died, leaving two orphan children. Other Markham siblings have moved from Virginia, to Kentucky, to the area around Vicksburg Mississippi, and are "getting their feet on the ground".

But, where is Bernard M Markham? While his siblings are busily appearing in a variety of records, he remains almost silent. The few mentions I have found let us know that he was around. I'll leave the reader to develop their own impressions:

1835; George W Markham, son of John Markham, dec'd; Lucy C Markham, widow of John Markham dec'd, Bernard M Markham, Champe F Markham, William F Markham and Susan R his wife, Mary E Markham, Linneaus B Markham and Elizabeth his wife, Hugh M Markham, Martha B Markham, Aubin M Markham and John N Markham, Putnam T Williams and John Samuel and Mary Brown Williams.

Note – In 1835, when the Markham property was being sold in Goochland county Virginia, these were the names listed.

[source] Goochland county Virginia Deed Book 32, page 418.

1836, 23 September; Arrivals at the Principal Hotels: Mansion House - B M Markham.

[source] Natchez Daily Courier (Natchez Mississippi); 23 September 1836.

1840, 21 September; George W Markham given power of attorney to complete sale to Charles Guerrant. Names John N Markham as collector of payments on property sold to Charles Guerrant in 1835. For his siblings named--William F Markham, George Markham, Hugh M Markham of Vicksburg, Ms, Lineaus B Markham of Yazoo co, Ms, Reuben B Berry for his wife Mary Markham, David Thornton guardian of John N Markham, Martha B Markham, Aubin M Markham of Woodford co, Ky. all legatees of John Markham and Lucy C Markham, late of Goochland co, Va. John may collect monies due for "land owned by our father, John Markham, on which he and our mother, Lucy C Markham, lived at the time of his death, and situated adjacent to land owned by John Martin, Col John Guerrant, Joseph Pollard and the Hatcher family".

[source] Abstract of Deed, Goochland county Virginia Deed Book 32, page 355.

Note – It is of interest that the name of Bernard M Markham does not appear here with his other siblings. It may be an oversight, or he may have already "sold out" his portion to his siblings.

1840 Census of Vicksburg, Warren county Mississippi. Note – Champe F Markham has an extra male, age 40-50, appearing in his household. Is this his brother, Bernard M Markham? It seems like a good possibility.

1850 Census – Unable to locate Bernard M Markham.

There is a long stretch of time when Bernard M Markham just doesn't seem to turn up in any public records. I have never been able to identify him in the 1850 census.

In 1987, Markham descendant Frances Dossett Swann published her wonderful collection of "Markham Letters". This is the source where Bernard M Markham reappears.

In 1851 Thomas Railey Markham wrote to his mother Susannah Railey Markham, "*Uncle Bernard . . . he is still in Randolph County Missouri teaching school. He gives a great deal of good advice, is very affectionate, inquires after the family and especially warns his nephew to avoid the great error of his life and get married. I shall certainly answer him.*"

Thirteen years later, in 1864, Rev Thomas R Markham again wrote to his mother, "*I met Uncle Bernard in Meridian . . .*" This probably refers to Meridian Mississippi, during the Civil War years.

The mention of Bernard M Markham teaching in Missouri is interesting. Rev Thomas Bernard Markham, a second cousin, was working as a missionary and teacher to the Indians in Kansas and Missouri during this same period. Perhaps deeper searching will turn up further clues for Bernard M Markham. Bernard M Markham was close to age seventy when his nephew saw him in Meridian Mississippi. It is unknown what he was doing there. The tone of Thomas R Markham's letters suggests that "Uncle Bernard" remained a close and respected member of the Markham family. The circumstances of his death and burial are unknown.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Bernard M Markham in database](#)

Bio of Bernard M Markham; prepared by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for John Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.