

## **Bio: Champe Fleming Markham**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2017

Champe Fleming Markham was born about 1797 to John Markham and Lucy Champe Fleming of Goochland county Virginia. He was probably their second born son. 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 Champe F Markham's mother, Lucy Fleming Markham, and grandfather William Fleming navigated difficult waters to keep the family afloat.

When Champe Markham was just past age twenty, in 1818, he married Sarah "Sally" Cocke\*, daughter of Benjamin Cocke and Mary Johnson, Goochland county Virginia neighbors. According to a Markham family genealogy, written out by George Evans Markham in 1893, Champe Markham and Sally Cocke were the parents of seven children: Robert Markham, Edward Markham, William Markham, Edward Markham, John Markham, Jeannette Markham, and Frances "Fannie" Markham. According to this same genealogy, none of Champe Markham's sons married or left children. But, there are a number of descendants through their daughters.

While several of Champe F Markham's brothers moved off to Kentucky, and then Mississippi, Champe and his wife remained in Goochland county Virginia, living near his mother. His father, John Markham died in 1821, not long after Champe's marriage. Records hint that Champe Markham was the son who remained "at home", farming and helping out his mother who had an infant and a number of young children in her household at the time her husband's death. A later Chancery Court action in Goochland county Virginia indicates that when John Markham's land was sold to Charles Guerrant, Champe F Markham withheld his portion which was 1/11th of property amounting to 505 1/2 acres. This was probably the property that Champe and his mother continued to farm after John Markham's death.

Several changes for Champe Fleming Markham are marked by records in the mid-1830's. The Markham family property in Goochland county Virginia is sold, he sees his mother move on with her younger children to Kentucky, his wife Sally dies, and he moves to a farm outside Vicksburg in Warren county Mississippi. Court records in Goodland county Virginia suggest that Champe F Markham struggled to make a success of his farming venture in Virginia. The move to Mississippi probably heralded a fresh start.

On the 4th of December 1834, Champe F Markham placed an advertisement in the Vicksburg Register (Vicksburg, Warren county Mississippi):

*\$25 Reward; Ran away from the subscriber, on the 29th ult a negro man named Lawrence, ordinary size, rather brown complexion, quick spoken, active in his movements, of slender form, about 35 or forty years of age, and had on when he left, a light colored woolen roundabout, grey colored janes pantaloons, a half worn blue cloth cap, and an old camblet cloak. For his apprehension and safe delivery in any jail within this State, a reward of ten dollars will be given, and if out of this State, twenty-five dollars will be paid, in addition to ordinary fees for committing a runaway. Champe F Markham, Vicksburg*  
[source] *Runaway Slaves in Mississippi, 1800-1860; Douglas B Chambers, Max Grivno, Feb 2013.*

We do not have any clear record of the date of death for Sarah “Sally” Cocke Markham. It was likely to be sometime between 1833, when it is estimated that her youngest child was born, and 1840, when Champe F Markham remarried. One possible scenario is that Sally died about 1833-34. Perhaps this event, along with the sale of the Markham family property in Virginia, precipitated Champe’s move to Mississippi. If Sally Cocke Markham died as early as 1833, she left her husband with six children still in the household, the youngest an infant, and the oldest about age fifteen. Lack of specific information leaves us wondering whether these motherless children went to Mississippi with their father, or remained in Virginia to be cared for, perhaps by Cocke family members.

Another scenario might place Sally Cocke Markham’s death later, perhaps 1838-39, in which case she might have removed with her husband to Mississippi. Champe Fleming Markham was secondly married to Elizabeth Thompson\* in May of 1840 in Warren county Mississippi. Nothing further has been learned of her identity. He was probably age forty to forty-five, and Elizabeth may have been in her thirties at the time of their marriage – possibly she was a widow. No evidence has surfaced to suggest that Champe Markham and Elizabeth Thompson had children.

The 1840 Census of Warren county Mississippi provides a good picture of Champe F Markham’s family at that time. The household is represented by two males between forty and fifty, one female between thirty and forty; three boys between ten and twenty and two girls under age ten. This suggests Champe Markham and his brand new wife Elizabeth Thompson, along with five of the Markham children. Of the seven children that were put forth in the George Evans Markham genealogy it is believed that one of the Edward Markham’s has died in infancy, and the oldest son, Robert Markham, has probably left his father’s household by 1840. So the five children remaining in the household in 1840 are probably – Edward C Markham,

William Markham, John B Markham, Jeannette Champe Markham, and Frances M Markham. Some questions still remain as to the ages and locations of the daughters in 1840. The second male, age forty to fifty, in the household is of interest. Is this Champe's brother Bernard M Markham?

In trying to understand more of Champe Markham's years in Mississippi, I have made note of several items related to the 1840 census record. CF (Champe Fleming) Markham is found on page 275, his brother George Markham is on page 253, and his brother William Fleming Markham is on page 262, so they were not living right next to each other. CF Markham's neighbors include - Jacob Swafford, Mr Gibson, Mr Booth, Martin Hackler, Edwin Alexander, Edward Parker, Pearce Noland and Hiram Hackler. This note on Champe Markham's neighbor Pearce Noland, taken from Noland's 1857 Will, describes the Noland property: *Plantation known by the name of Sligo . . . The said tract of land lying north of Whites Creek [in Kingston] in the Robb Field until it strikes the sectional line between Sections 18 and 19, then west to Markham's line including all the land down in Warren County.*

In 1841 John S Fleming filed suit against Champe F Markham in Goochland county Virginia. The case file is available for viewing on the internet, and is found among the Records of the Virginia Chancery Court at the Virginia State Library – Goochland County Case #1849-001. There are forty-eight pages of documents that make for rather tedious reading. The original incident of the case occurred in 1820, and a suit was filed in 1841, and "continued" until 1849, or 1851. The details of the case are not of particular interest to Champe Markham's story, but in short:

In 1820 William Lane got a judgement against Champe F Markham for about \$50 which was left unpaid. Champe F Markham "left the Commonwealth". Eventually the debt came into the hands of John S Fleming and he wishes to collect it from monies that will shortly be paid out to Charles and Peter Guerrant from the estates of John Markham and Lucy Champe Markham. Guerrant answers that he understands no reason that payment of a debt should come from any monies he might receive.

Of greatest concern to Champe's story are a few fleeting references in the case documents to Champe Fleming Markham's death. No specific date of death is given, but he is referred to as deceased in a document dated 6 June 1846. Several other references in the case documents leave the impression that Champe Fleming Markham died, intestate, in Mississippi, in 1845.

Lacking any other references, 1845 has been assumed as the year that Champe Fleming Markham died. Nothing further has been found about his second wife Elizabeth Thompson. No further references to his death, burial, or the settlement of his estate, have been found.

The 1840 census of Warren county Mississippi suggests that all of Champe F Markham's surviving children were living in his household, but there is also the suggestion that his youngest daughter, Frances M Markham (about age seven) was recorded in the 1840 household of her aunt and uncle, Linneaus Bolling Markham and Elizabeth Henderson. The Linneaus Markhams resided near Yazoo City, in Yazoo county Mississippi, and there is good evidence that they took on the primary raising up of Frances M Markham, possibly from the time of her birth. Linneaus and Elizabeth were otherwise childless.

In 1845, at the time of Champe F Markham's death, his four surviving sons were probably in their late teens and early twenties. Eventually three of them went off to California, and one became a "career" soldier. Their stories are interesting, but as mentioned above, none married or left children.

Jeannette Champe Markham, Champe Markham's first born daughter, appears to have spent time among her Markham relations who remained in Versailles, Woodford county Kentucky. If her mother, Sally Cocke Markham died as early as 1833-34, Jeannette may have been sent to live with her grandmother Lucy Champe Fleming Markham, who was moving from Virginia to Kentucky around that same time. Exactly where Jeannette Markham was when the 1840 census was taken remains in question. She might be one of the two young girls in the household of her father Champe Markham in 1840 Warren county Mississippi, but the age given as "under ten" would not be correct. It seems more likely that she removed from her father's home at the time of her mother's death, and made her home in Kentucky. She was married at Versailles, Woodford county Kentucky in September of 1840.

\*As an aside to Champe Fleming Markham's story:

I have long been curious about Champe Fleming Markham's two wives, Sarah Cocke and Elizabeth Thompson. I have never felt confident of their identity as given above. I have written a brief sketch that looks at the questions that have been raised in my mind. I hope future researchers might contribute new insights. In this database see the sketch titled, "Sarah Cocke and Elizabeth Thompson". Pam Garrett, 2017.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Champe Fleming Markham in database](#)

[Timeline of Records: Champe Fleming Markham](#)

[Sketch: Sarah Cocke and Elizabeth Thompson](#)

**Bio of Champe Fleming Markham; prepared by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for John Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**