

*Chapter 4*  
*Senator John Grammer*  
*Juliet "Julia" Grammer*  
*Sarah "Sally" McGraw*

<b>Senator John GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca 1780 <sup>1</sup>	Rev. John and Elizabeth (?) GRAMMER <sup>2</sup>	Virginia <sup>3</sup>
married	1) by 1803 <sup>4</sup>	Juliet/Julia MCELHENEY <sup>5</sup>	Robertson County, Tennessee? <sup>6</sup>
	2) June 6, 1831 <sup>7</sup>	Sarah "Sally" McGRAW	Union County, Illinois
died	October 29, 1849 <sup>8</sup>	Cause: winter fever	Union County, Illinois

<b>1) Juliet "Julia" (McELHENEY) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1783 <sup>9</sup>	Alexander and ? MCELHENEY <sup>10</sup>	Robertson County, Tennessee? <sup>11</sup>
married	by 1803	Senator John GRAMMER	Robertson County, Tennessee?
died	1821-1825 <sup>12</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

<b>2) Sally "Sally" (McGRAW) GRAMMER</b>			
born	1808 <sup>13</sup>	Nicholas and ? McGRAW <sup>14</sup>	North Carolina <sup>15</sup>
married	June 6, 1831	Senator John GRAMMER	Union County, Illinois
died	October 21, 1865 <sup>16</sup>		Union County, Illinois

- 1 Birth date and place from 1850 federal mortality census schedule.
- 2 See parentage arguments under Senator John's father, Reverend John.
- 3 From 1850 Union County, Illinois, federal mortality index.
- 4 Estimated from birth date of first child.
- 5 Various records list the name as Juliet/Julia. None of these records mention Julia's surname. See discussion of Julia's parentage for support for this surname.
- 6 To date, no marriage for John and Juliet has been found in Logan or Warren Counties, Kentucky. Since Juliet's family was from Robertson County, Tennessee, perhaps their marriage took place there. Unfortunately, Robertson County marriage records don't go back that far.
- 7 Book 1, page 19. The certificate clearly states that the groom is John Grammer, Sr. The Justice of the Peace was Robt. Hargrave. Sarah's probate file also refers to her as Sally. Histories and deeds list John's wife as both Sarah and Sally.
- 8 Death date from Union County, Illinois, probate file index. All other death information is from 1850 federal mortality census schedule. 1849 (as well as 1832 and 1866) were cholera years in Illinois, but cholera was usually a summer complaint.
- 9 Estimated from birth date of first child.
- 10 Various Union County, Illinois, records give Juliet/Julia's first name. Julia's maiden name is from records in which she deeded her interest in land in Robertson County, Tennessee over to people with the surname McElhaney. There is a rumor that a record in Johnson County, Illinois, states Alexander McElhaney is Julia's father, but Rose Mary Orr has been unable to find that record. **Check Lincoln County, KY; Muhlenberg, KY.**
- 11 This is where Juliet's family was living in 1817-1818. However, they may not have been living there years earlier when Juliet was born.
- 12 Estimated from the presence of Juliet's name on an 1821 deed and its absence on an 1825 deed.
- 13 From 1850 Union County, Illinois census.
- 14 I am no longer sure where I came up with Sally's father.
- 15 1850 Union County, Illinois census.

Children<sup>17</sup>

<b>1) William GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1803	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHENEY) GRAMMER</b>	North Carolina?
married	1) November 20, 1832	<b>Lavina McGRAW</b>	Union County, Illinois
	2) after 1850?		
died	1853-1865		Union County, Illinois
<b>2) Elizabeth "Lizzie" GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1808	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b>	Logan County, Kentucky?
married	1) April 8, 1828	<b>Samuel MORELAND</b>	Union County, Illinois
	divorced February 15, 1831		Union County, Illinois
	2) September 8, 1833	<b>Elijah McGRAW 1221</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	1841-1847		Union County, Illinois?
<b>3) John GRAMMER, Jr.</b>			
born	ca. 1810	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b>	Logan Cty.?, Kentucky
married	ca 1834	<b>Elizabeth ?</b>	<i>not</i> Union or Jackson Counties, Illinois
died	October 15, 1853		Union County, Illinois
<b>4) Julia "Judah" Ann GRAMMER</b>			
born	by 1818	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois?
married	1) April 21, 1838	<b>William CONNAWAY</b>	Union County, Illinois
	annulled Oct. 27, 1841		Union County, Illinois
	2) May 9, 1842	<b>John CROWELL</b>	Union County, Illinois
	3) July 20, 1854	<b>Andrew CORZINE</b>	Union County, Illinois
	divorced May 10, 1857		Union County, Illinois
died	1857-1865		Union County, Illinois?
<b>5) Isaac GRAMMER</b>			
born	1815-1819	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b>	Union County?, Illinois
married	December 03, 1835	<b>Mary "Polly" Ann McGRAW</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	November 25, 1870		Union County, Illinois
<b>6) Carrol GRAMMER</b>			
born	by 1824	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois?
married	May 30, 1844	<b>Elizabeth LITTLEJOHN</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	1844-1847		Union County, Illinois?
<b>7) James GRAMMER</b>			
born	by 1825	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois?
married	May 22, 1848	<b>Polly Ann COX</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	by March 4, 1856		Union County, Illinois?
<b>8) Alphonso A. GRAMMER/MERRYMAN</b>			
born	1824-25	<b>Sen. John GRAMMER &amp; Rowena MERRYMAN (unmarried)</b>	Union County, Illinois
married	1) April 20, 1846	<b>Elender "Nelly" GODWIN</b>	Union County, Illinois
	2) June 07, 1849	<b>Eliza Jane TWEEDY</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	1852		Union County, Illinois
<b>9) Elijah GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1835	<b>Senator John &amp; Sarah (McGRAW) GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois?
died	1853		Union County, Illinois?
<b>10) Mary Ann GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1843	<b>Senator John &amp; Sarah (McGRAW) GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois?
died	1856		Union County, Illinois?

<sup>16</sup> Sarah's probate file, UCI box #G-120, 1864?. Also Book A, page 264 and Book B, page 137. Some notes that properly should be in Sarah's file are in John Jr.'s file, box #118. **Double check this — I have this written down as 1864 in one place, v1865 in another.**

<sup>17</sup> Sources for children listed later in chapter, under each individual child.

## John's Personal Life

When Senator John was a child, his family lived briefly in Davidson County, Tennessee. Between 1787 and 1792, when John was between 8 and 13 years old, they moved to what was then Logan County, Kentucky, but later became Warren County. The first known mention of Senator John there was when the March 6, 1800, court ordered that John Grammer, Jacob Peat, and Peter Tylor were “*appointed to allot hands to work on the road wheof Elias Holmes is Surveyor and make Report thereof to the Court.*”<sup>18</sup> In October 1803, Senator John, his brother William, and William, Hayden and James Tyler were paid two shillings and one penny each for guarding Joseph Burwell one day each.<sup>19</sup> On November 5, 1804, the same men were paid 9/ (?) for guarding Burwell two days each, for a total of 2 pounds, 5 shillings.<sup>20</sup>

In 1800 or 1810, John may have been elected Justice of the Peace for Ohio County, Kentucky.<sup>21</sup> Senator John appears on the Warren County tax lists as follows:

- 1797-1801 no John Grammer Jr.
- 1802 John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 2 horses and mares.
- 1803 John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 3 horses and mares.
- 1804 John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 3 horses and mares.
- 1805 John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 4 horses and mares.
- 1806 John Gramer Jr., on index, I don't have original.
- 1807 John Gramer Jr., on index, I don't have original.
- 1808 no John Gramer Jr. on index.
- 1809-1830, no John Grammer at all.

We don't know where John was from 1808-1810. One account says that Senator John and his family may have been in Ohio County, Kentucky, while another says that he was in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky.<sup>22</sup> In any case, when Reverend John died in 1810, Senator John seems to have been in charge of selling the land from the estate. Posted August 12, 1813, the transaction shows that a John Grammer sold land in Warren County, Kentucky, to George Borah for \$250. Witnesses were Thos. Colson (?), Michael Turney, John Porter, and William Hines.<sup>23</sup> The legal description states,

*“seventy five acres lying and being in the County of Warren on the waters of Big barren river and bounded as follows viz: Beginning on a sugar tree on swaringans line thence south forty five degrees east on hundred and thirty poles to a hackberry thence south forty five degrees west one hundred poles to a red oak thence*

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<sup>18</sup> Warren County Court Order Book A, page 63 of transcription, page 221 of the original.

<sup>19</sup> Court Order Book B, page 214 of transcription, page 488 of the original.

<sup>20</sup> Court Order Book B, page 249 of the transcription, page 565 of the original.

<sup>21</sup> I have not yet checked this – **have Lloyd Raymer get this reference.**

<sup>22</sup> Perrin, page 353.

<sup>23</sup> The sale was proven October 4, 1813, Book F-6, page 287.

*north forty five degrees west one hundred and thirty poles to a black oak on an old line thence on said line north forty five degrees east one hundred poles to the beginning.”*

The fact that both this property and the property deeded to Reverend John earlier are both on “Swaringans Line” indicated that the transactions are for the same land.

What happened to Senator John’s sister Sally and mother Elizabeth? Elizabeth is not mentioned further in any Warren or Logan County records, but there was an older woman living in Senator John’s household in Southern Illinois in the 1820 census. Alternately, did Elizabeth remain behind with Senator John’s brother Jacob in Kentucky? Jacob is missing from the 1810 or 1820 censuses in Kentucky, so it is hard to tell.

Sally was unmarried at the time of her father’s death. A Sarah<sup>24</sup> Grammer appears in the 1813 tax list for Logan County, apparently with no land. If this is Sally, Senator John sister, she would have been listed as head of household only if her mother were not living with her. There is no record of the marriage of a Sarah or Sally Grammer in Warren or Logan Counties, Kentucky.

John married Julia/Juliet<sup>25</sup> McElheney prior to 1810. Julia’s family was from Robertson County, Tennessee, so that might be a likely place for the marriage to have taken place. However, Robertson County records don’t exist prior to 1829, so they are of no help. No marriage for John and Julia is recorded in Logan or Warren Counties, Kentucky, either. The fact that Julia’s family was from Tennessee might also be a clue that Senator John lived in Tennessee, however briefly.

All sources seem to agree that Senator John was in Union County, Illinois, by 1811. Senator John and David Penrod<sup>26</sup> are mentioned as early settlers in Union Precinct, and they “*opened a farm near where the gravel road crosses Running Lake.*”<sup>27</sup> Many of Senator John’s neighbors in Kentucky – the Doughertys, Hunsakers, Penrods, Wolfes, Vancils, Sprouses, Delaneys, Barkers, McElhaney, and Kimmels – ended up in Union County, too. In 1811, Union County was little more than a wilderness – in fact, there were still conflicts with the Indians. Throughout 1811 and 1812, many settlers were frightened away from the area by the great New Madrid Earthquake and its continuing aftershocks, which even rerouted the Mississippi River.

In 1812, John was elected to the first Illinois Territorial Legislature, the beginning of a twenty-five year political career. See the section that follows for more on Senator John’s political escapades.

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<sup>24</sup> "Sally" is often the nickname for the given name "Sarah."

<sup>25</sup> She is listed as Juliet in some places, Julia in others.

<sup>26</sup> Note that the Grammers and the Penrods continued to be close down through the generations. For instance, John Corgan, most probably the great-grandchild of Jacob Grammer, married Mrs. Mary Ann (Penrod) Foster around 1877. Also, Dr. Joel Grammer’s daughter Louisa married Jacob Penrod.

<sup>27</sup> Perrin, page 436.

One source states that Senator John, the “*hardy, rough, rude old pioneer – the rough diamond – was the first settler in what now forms Jonesboro Precinct.*”<sup>28</sup> “*He is described as having been very illiterate, but a man of much shrewdness and considerable influence.*”<sup>29</sup> “*He had no education, yet was a man of shrewdness.*”<sup>30</sup> Condon describes John as being:<sup>31</sup>

*“in many respects a remarkable man – of limited education but strong native talent, robust, vigorous constitution, dignified deportment, and a good judge of human nature. He possesses in a strong degree, the confidence and respect of all early settlers and was a very popular man up to 1835. He raised a large family and his descendants are quite numerous in the County.”*

The panel of “Grand Jurors who served for the March term of Court of Common Pleas” in 1814 for Johnson County, Illinois, included Senator John.<sup>32</sup> The case indicted a horse thief and counterfeiter:<sup>33</sup>

*“The court considered the case of the notorious James Button Bailey, who systematically carried on horse stealing and counterfeiting south of what is now Jonesboro. Tradition says that Bailey left the county and crossed the Ohio into Kentucky before he could be punished.”*

John and his brother William were listed as squatters in Union County as of February 5, 1813. The 1813 [Illinois] Preemption Report<sup>34</sup> states, “*Improv’d cultivated & resides on the quarter Section described prior to 5 Feb 1813 & has contind his residence thereon ever since.*” The land was described as the ¼ Section 30, T12S, R1W. The witness was Samuel Penrod. John bought land in Union County on January 23, 1815, with the legal description Section 30, T12S, R1W, which lies due south of Anna.<sup>35</sup> In February, 1815, John and several other men submitted a report to Johnson County officials recommending the placement of a road from Elvira to “Gallehers Old Place.”<sup>36</sup> At the October term of court, Johnson County, John was “sworn and retired” as a grand juror.<sup>37</sup>

Tradition has it that the Grammers (along with the Wolfes, Hunsakers, Doughertys, Kimmels, and Wigles) may have been Dunkers (called Dunkards in Southern Illinois).<sup>38</sup> No proof of this has been found, although the Grammers were closely associated with families that were known

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28 Perrin, page 353.

29 Bateman and Selby, page 205.

30 Davidson and Stuve, pages 284-85.

31 Condon, page 5.

32 Mount, page 35.

33 Dexter, 1992.

34 Page 64, entered June 23, 1815. Confirmed by Brieschke, pages 14 and 18.

35 Breitchke, pages 14 and 18.

36 Mount, page 148.

37 Sistler, page 173 on the original.

38 Saga XVIII, vol. 1, page 37.

to be Dunkers. Senator John was most probably not a Dunker, since he supported slavery, which was strongly opposed by the Dunker church. Additionally, Senator John's personality seemed to be inclined to a more dramatic, hellfire-and-damnation type of religion. In any case, John appears not to have been exceedingly involved in any religion, if his will is any indication. Knowing that death is close at hand, most men of that time would have been praising whatever gods they worshipped. Senator John's will, contrary to most wills of the day, made not a single mention of God. Even so, John did propose a bill in assembly to exempt the Dunkers and Quakers from military service because of their pacifist beliefs. Of course, John was always a shrewd politician, and surely he kept in mind the fact that he had a large constituency of Dunkers.

John was a member of the first Grand Jury of record in Johnson County in March of 1814.<sup>39</sup> In the 1817 court term for Johnson County (which at that time encompassed what is now Union County), John Grammer, John Bradshaw, and Joseph Palmer were appointed "viewers" of a newly-built road running "from Johnson Court House to Gallaher's old place on the Mississippi, below Green's Ferry."<sup>40</sup> Some time before 1818, John is on record as operating a distillery in what was then Johnson County.<sup>41</sup> His brother William obtained a license to operate a tavern in 1820, so apparently they had both the supply and the demand ends covered.

Between 1816 and 1829, John bought 584.37 acres of public domain land, for a total price of \$1018.74.<sup>42</sup> He then went on to have at least 36 land transactions in which he sold land to someone else, for a total of more than \$3000, with land still remaining in his possession at his death. More than \$1770 of the \$3000 was for the sale of lots in Jonesboro. See the sources at the end of this section for a complete list of John's land transactions.

On January 1, 1817, John and his wife Juliet turned over their 1/5 right to land in Robertson County, Tennessee, for the sum of \$50, to Joseph McElhaney. Apparently the land was Julia's inheritance from her father, Alexander McElhaney. The deed book (in Logan County, Kentucky, who knows why) states:<sup>43</sup>

*"John Grammer and wife Juliet of Johnson County, Illinois Territory, to deed Joseph McElhany of Robertson County, Tennessee, \$80.00 all of their right and title to one fifth part of Military Warrant #3090 formerly belonging to Alexander McElhaney, deceased, on the first fals of Whipporwill [Creek]*

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<sup>39</sup> Chapman, page 254.

<sup>40</sup> Chapman, page 45.

<sup>41</sup> Chapman, page 253.

<sup>42</sup> Public domain land purchases from records in the state archives. All Union County land transactions are from Union County grantor/grantee indexes unless otherwise noted. Need to check land records for Johnson County prior to 1818. Also need to check these against the original index – my copy does not always seem to line up the first and second page of the transactions properly.

<sup>43</sup> Logan County, Kentucky, Deed Book E, page 186. Transcribed by Candy Biddulph. Johnson County, Illinois, court records supposedly record this same transaction, but the record there explicitly states that Joseph is Juliet's brother. Rose Mary Orr has been unable to locate this transaction.

*where the trace from the double lick to Red River crosses, being 100 acres. Witnesses: B. Memees, Irving Morris, George Smiley.”*

Later, on February 24, 1817, the remaining heirs of Alexander McElhaney sold 100 acres in Wilson County, *Kentucky*,<sup>44</sup> for \$400 to Samuel Vaughn of Wilson County, Tennessee.<sup>45</sup> The heirs signing the deed were Joseph McElhaney and his wife Delila,<sup>46</sup> Charles McIntosh<sup>47</sup> and his wife Candy?, James Shelton and his wife Sincy, and John McElhaney and Elizabeth, presumably his wife. The legal description of the land was:

*“lying on the first fork of Whipporwill where the trace crosses from the Couble Licks to Red River and bounded as follows: To wit, Beginning at the three white oaks corner to John Bailey and John Stewart No. 1940 running N 15 E 100 poles to two Red oaks on the creek, thence down the meadows of the same N 80 E 10 poles N 45 E 22 poles N 80 E 20 poles to an ash, hickory and white oak thence North 25 E 90 poles crossing the creek to a post oak and two poplars thence south 20 1/2 W 177 poles to a ? oak and Red oak comes to Baileys and Stewarts thence with their lines S. 35 E 107 poles crossing the creek at 80 poles to the Beginning...”*

In 1818, John and his wife Juliet donated a parcel of land to establish the new county seat for Union County, Illinois. The deed describes the land as:

*“Being a part of the northeast quarter of Section 30, Town 12, Range 1 west; beginning near the northwest corner of said section at a stake and a dogwood tree; thence running south 6 poles 2 links; thence east 18 poles 24 links; thence south 21 poles 2 links; thence east 28 poles 23 links; thence north 60 poles; thence west to the beginning.”*

This is the land referred to in the following:<sup>48</sup>

*“To the Honorable the Justices of the County Court of Union.*

*The undersigned Commissioners, appointed by the Legislature of Illinois Territory, for the purpose of designating a seat of justice for said county, report as follows: That they met at the time and place mentioned in the law establishing said county, and proceeded to examine and to take into view the most central, convenient and eligible spot for the same, that they have chosen and designated to [your] Honors, the northwest quarter of Section No. 30, in Township 12, Range 1 west, and that they have received a deed of conveyance for twenty acres, the donation required by law, to which you are referred for particulars.*

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<sup>44</sup> This appears to be a mistake; there has never been a Wilson County, Kentucky. This should instead read Wilson County, Tennessee. Apparently the county clerk was so accustomed to writing Kentucky that he did so here unintentionally.

<sup>45</sup> Logan County, Kentucky, Deed Book E, page 247. Transcribed by Candy Biddulph.

<sup>46</sup> Joseph and Delila ended up in the Union County censuses, 1820-1870.

<sup>47</sup> A Charles McIntosh was in Union County in 1820.

<sup>48</sup> Commissioner's Court Proceedings, 1818-1826, Union County, Illinois.

*They also beg leave to designate and recommend the center of said donation as the suitable place for the erection of the public buildings. Given under our hands and seals this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1818.*

*J. Echols,  
George Wolf,  
Thomas Cox”*

The land was comprised of twenty acres, to be laid out in lots, sold, and the money appropriated for a courthouse and jail.<sup>49</sup>

Though John should certainly be commended for donating land to the new county, one should keep in mind that he gained financially from the donation; he owned surrounding land that could be sold at a profit as the new county seat grew. As mentioned earlier, the dollar amounts shown in the land sales for lots in Jonesboro and the adjacent “Grammer’s Addition” amounted to more than \$1700.<sup>50</sup>

Some of John’s land sales were to family. In 1827, John sold lot 102 to Jacob Treese for \$7.00. Treese went on to marry John’s niece in 1830. Still, the low selling price indicates that perhaps Treese was related to John at the time of the sale. In 1831, John sold 80 acres to Samuel Moland, his son-in-law, for \$1. In 1834, he sold 40 acres to his son William for \$50, the going rate.

In 1818, John was elected to the first County Commissioners’ Court for the newly formed Union County.<sup>51</sup> The other commissioners were Jesse Echols, George Hunsaker, Abner Keith, and Rice Sams. They held their first court at Hunsaker’s house on March 2, 1818. Their first official acts as commissioners were to name the new county seat Jonesboro and to accept John and Juliet’s donation of land.<sup>52</sup> John performed the first marriage entered on the Union County records, when John Murray married Elizabeth Latham on February 26, 1818: *“was mared on the 26 day of Febury 1818 by me John Grammer”* (see below).

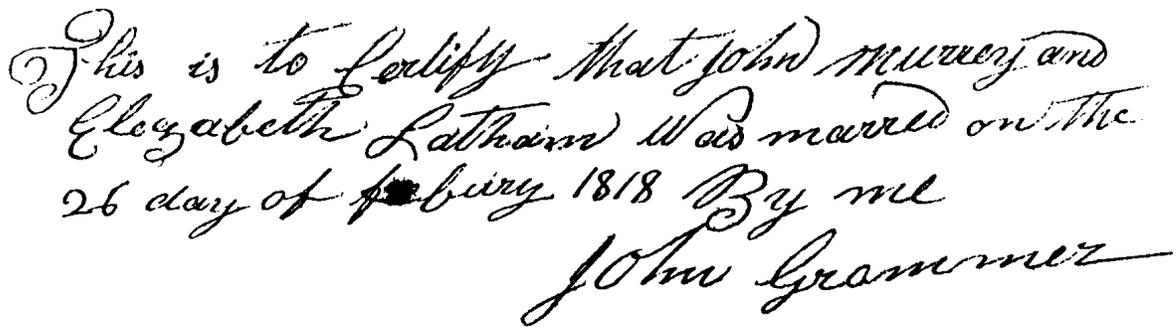
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<sup>49</sup> Condon, page 5.

<sup>50</sup> The "at least" is because there are several illegible transactions in the index which could be for lots.

<sup>51</sup> Perrin, page 287.

<sup>52</sup> Commissioners’ Court Proceedings,” 1818-1826, Union County, Illinois. This is also the source for all of the court records to follow.



This is to certify that John Murray and Elizabeth Latham was married on the 26 day of february 1818 By me John Grammer

Marriage Certificate written by Senator John Grammer in 1818

On July 9, 1818, John and two other men were appointed as commissioners responsible for building two “good substantial Bridges” across Clear Creek and Cache River. During this same session, John, Thomas Cox, and William Pyle were appointed to let out to the lowest bidder:

*“the building of A Court house on the publick square in Jonesborough of the following description, viz—the house is to be built of round logs of A common size to be one story high 20 feet square plank floor loosely laid down. A [?] Bench the house to be chinked and [?] to have A door and window clabboard roof...”*

At the next session of court, September 7, 1818, Thomas Cox was paid forty dollars for building the courthouse and Jacob Wolf was paid twenty dollars for building the jury room. On June 9, 1819, when John was apparently no longer on the court, his brother William was appointed to lay out a road from Jonesboro to Greens Ferry. On March 7, 1820, John was appointed one of three trustees for “seminary [school] lands” in Township 12 Range 12. On August 19, 1820, John was appointed to serve as petit juror at the September term of the Circuit Court. On December 4, 1820, the court:

*“Ordered that John Grammer pay a fine of five dollars for profane swearing in the presence of the Court and that he Stand Committed untill the Same be paid.”*

The same session also appointed John (just fined for profanity) as guardian of Polly, Elizabeth, Mihale, Julia, Catherine, and Tabitha Delany, “*infant heirs of Thomas Delaney, deceased,*” who had died in 1820.<sup>53</sup> Thomas had been married to Hasken (Grammer) Delany, presumably Senator John’s sister.<sup>54</sup> For this appointment, John “*entered into bond condition as the law directs.*” Patience Delany was appointed administrator for the estate and was paid from the estate for supporting four young children (six were in the original list) through June 1821.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Dexter lists this guardianship procedure on p. 29, as Common Ct. Book A, page 77, but the Union County Clerk can no longer find the original record.

<sup>54</sup> For more about Haskin and Thomas Delany, see discussion under Reverend John's children.

<sup>55</sup> Union County, Illinois, probate records, box number unknown (sent to me by the County Clerk).

In 1819, a meeting of the Clear Creek Baptist Church was held at John's home even though John was not known to be a member of the church. His sister Elizabeth Tope and several of his inlaws were, however.

In 1821 or shortly thereafter, John's wife Julia died, as is shown by her name on an 1821 land sale and the absence of her name on the next deed, in 1825, and all deeds to follow. This left John with six or seven children to raise on his own. The oldest daughter, Elizabeth, was most probably drafted to help in raising the younger children.

On June 4, 1821, John and two others were appointed to lay out a road between Jonesboro and America Road. On April 19, 1822, the same men were appointed to "view" the road. In 1822, Union County land records show that John's claim against the "*goods, chattels, and land of John Thornton*" was executed. On June 3, 1823, John was appointed as a grand juror for the August term of 1823. On the same date, the old road "*between the dwelling house of John Grammer and John Wigle's...is hereby abolished and that the road as reviewed by John Grammer...is hereby made and declared a public highway.*" On September 1, 1823, John was appointed to help maintain this road.

In March of 1824, John Grammer and Rowena Merryman were indicted for fornication. On August 23, 1824, John was prosecuted.<sup>56</sup>

*"The People of the State of Illinois vs John Grammer: Fornication. This day came as well the Plaintiffs by their attorney the defendant by his Attorney who pleaded not guilty to the charge herein against him, and there upon came a Jury – to wit Anderson Smith, Allen Penrod, Daniel Kimmel, Jacob Hunsaker, Jacob Lengle, Jacob J. Moysenheimer, John Cope, Lewis Penrod, Jacob Kentleman, Wilkerson Godwin, Joseph Hunsaker Snr and John Eaton, who being elected tried and Sworn returned into court upon their oaths the following verdict To Wit "We the Jury find the defendant not Guilty. Jacob J. Mysenheimer foreman." Therefore it was conseder by the court that the said defendant be discharged from this prosecution and go hence without Hay? [delay?]."*

Of course, most of the men on the jury had been John's friends for years, so the not guilty verdict does not necessarily mean he was innocent. Additionally, fornication is a rather hard charge to prove, since witnesses and physical proof are hard to come by. *Nine months later*, Rowena was tried and also found not guilty.<sup>57</sup> Had they been found guilty, they could have each faced a fine of \$48 or time in jail.<sup>58</sup> Despite the "not guilty" verdicts, it seems that Senator John and Rowena had a child, Alphonso Merryman/Grammer, together. See the section on Alphonso in the section on Senator John's children, for more details.

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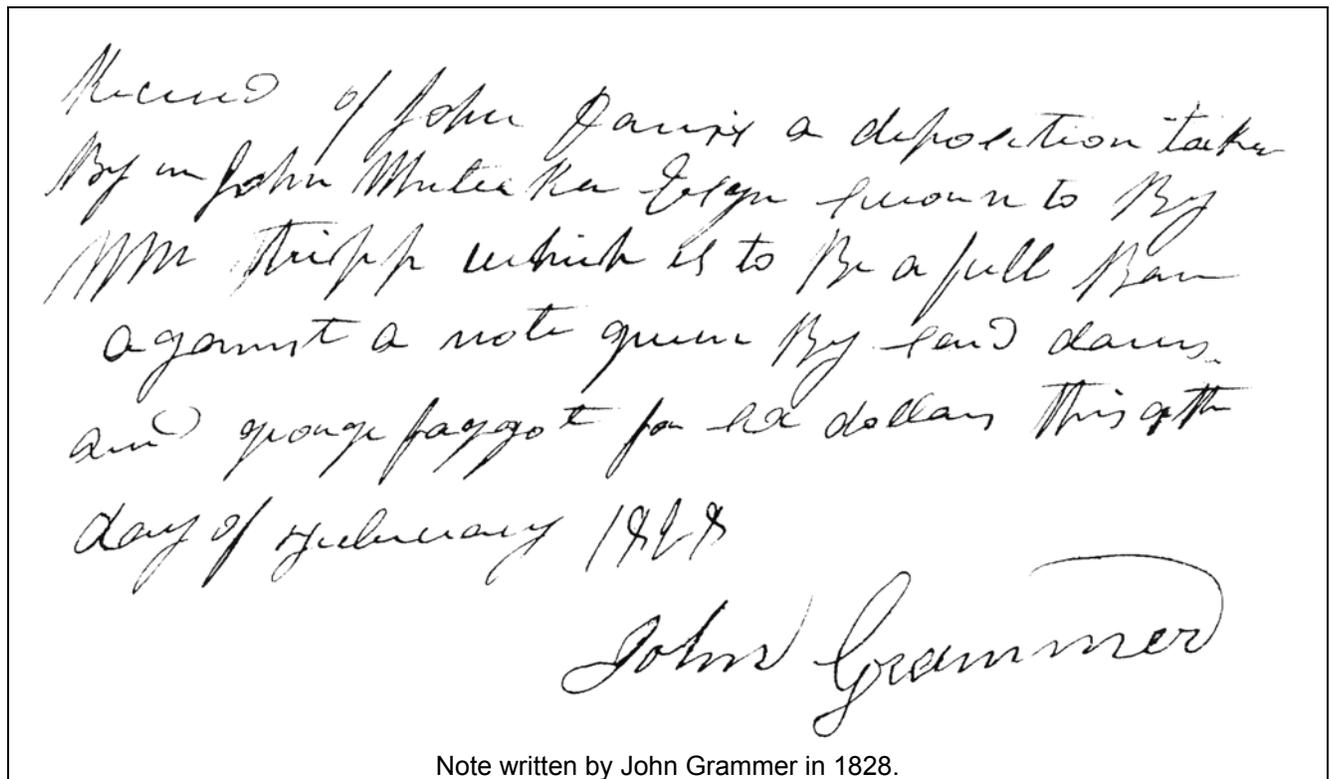
<sup>56</sup> Photocopy of the original record, book unknown, sent to me by Ruth Brasel Larson. This is not from the Union County Commissioner's Court proceedings from 1824.

<sup>57</sup> Dexter, 1992.

<sup>58</sup> Dexter, 1992.

On September 7, 1824, John Grammer, Jr., was appointed to help maintain the road from “*the dug hill on the road from Jonesboro to Greens ferry to where it intersects the old road at Limbaugh farm in the bottom.*” He was assigned to this same road again on December 6, 1824, this time with the boundaries extended to the western bank of Clear Creek. At this same session, John, Sr., was appointed grand juror for the March 1825 term. On June 5, 1826, John, Sr., was appointed supervisor of the Jonesboro-America road.

In 1828, John was serving as administrator for his brother William’s estate. Though history books have accused John of being illiterate, notes in William’s estate papers prove otherwise. John wrote the following:



Received of John Davis a deposition taken  
By one John Whiticker known to By Wm Tripp  
which is to be a full Ban  
against a note given By said Davis  
and group faggot for 100 dollars this 9<sup>th</sup>  
day of February 1828  
John Grammer

Note written by John Grammer in 1828.

*“Received of John Davis a deposition taken By one John Whiticker ? known to By Wm Tripp which is to  
Be a full Ban[?] against a note given By said Davis and grou?? ? for ? dollars this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February  
1828 John Grammer”*

John and his family do not appear on the 1830 census for Union County, nor is he on the Fayette County census (location of the Vandalia state house, where he was serving in the legislature). Where were they? Or were they just missed by the census taker?

Darrel Dexter at one point ran across references in Union County court record indexes in which several men were charged with “intent to murder John Grammer.” The text of the records is no longer available, so what could have been a fascinating story will have to remain untold.

On June 6, 1831, Senator John married Sarah “Sally” (x) McGraw, daughter of Nicholas McGraw and sister to two of John’s future daughters-in-law. John was 53; Sally was 23.

Assisted James Clerk of the County  
 Commissioners Court of Union County Illinois  
 is hereby requested to issue a licence for  
 my son Isaac Grammer to marry Polly  
 McGraw  
 December 1<sup>st</sup> 1835  
 John Grammer

Note written by Senator John in 1835 giving permission for Isaac to marry Polly McGraw.

In April of 1832, William Grammer’s son Hiram charged Senator John and his sons, John, Jr. and William, with assault, battery, and trespass. In October of that year, a jury found them not guilty.<sup>59</sup>

On June 4, 1832, and June 3, 1833, Senator John was summoned as grand juror. In 1839, he was charged with contempt as a petit juror and, after not showing sufficient cause for missing jury duty, was fined \$5. Also in 1839, he must have watched the spectacle of the Cherokee Indians as they were driven to Oklahoma on the “Trail of Tears;” that trail passed just two miles from Senator John’s home, where Ware now stands.<sup>60</sup>

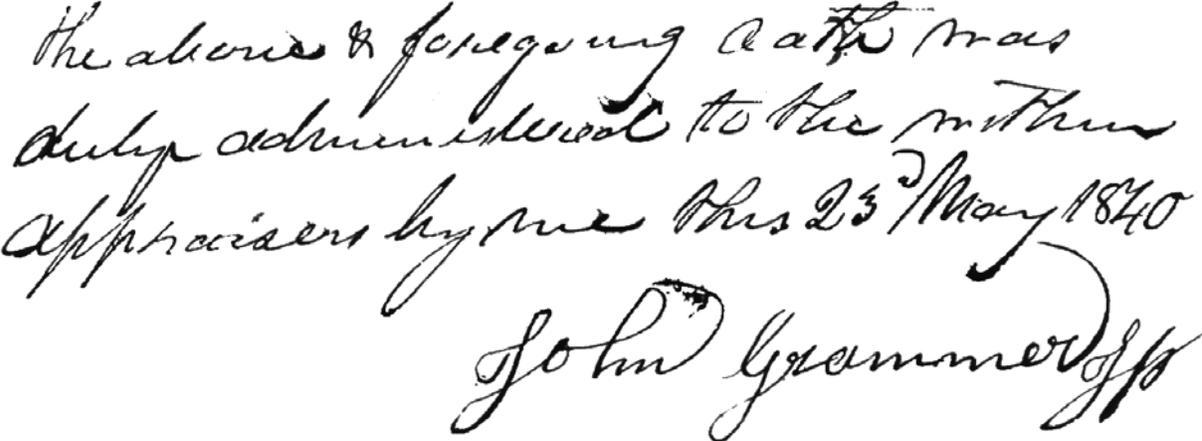
On January 4, 1840, Senator John was appointed commissioner to

  
 Signature of John Grammer on appraiser’s oath for  
 the settlement of the estate of Patience Delaney

<sup>59</sup> Index of the Union County Circuit Court Journals

<sup>60</sup> Dexter, *A House Divided*, page 164.

superintend the construction of a bridge across Running Lake on the road from Jonesboro to Willard's Ferry. Senator John took an appraisers oath for the settlement of the estate of Patience Delaney (presumed to be his sister) on May 23, 1840. On June 2 of the same year he was appointed election judge for elections to be held at the residence of William James in the Mississippi Bottoms Precinct. On June 4 he was requested to continue in his office as bridge commissioner and to receive the Whiteaker bridge [across Running Lake] when completed. On July 10 he was paid \$8.15 as bridge commissioner. On September 7 he was paid \$1.25 for returning the poll books from Trees Precinct to the clerk's office, a distance of 12 miles. On the same day he was paid \$1 for serving as election judge the previous August. He received another \$1 as election judge on December 8. On June 7, 1841, he was allowed \$10.50 for keeping Solomon Williams, a pauper, for three weeks. He was also paid \$1 for a shirt he furnished to Williams. On September 6, 1841, he was allowed \$1.50 for services as an axeman for two days, perhaps to clear trees to make way for a road. Keep in mind that Senator John was about 62 at the time.<sup>61</sup> On September 8 he was appointed one of the trustees of school land in T12S, R3W. In 1845, John Sr. was allowed \$5 for the repair of a bridge and grading Willard's Ferry Road.



The above & foregoing oath was  
duly administered to the within  
Appraisers by me this 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1840  
John Grammer J.P.

Note written by Senator John Grammer, J.P., in 1840. (I have no idea where I got this!)

John's son Alphonso built Senator John and his second family a new house in the Mississippi Bottoms,<sup>62</sup> where Ware is now located. John must have had a vigorous old age; his son Elijah was born when he was 55 years old, and daughter Mary Ann was born when he was about 63.

In an 1846 listing of landowners in Union County,<sup>63</sup> there are the following entries for John Grammer:<sup>64</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Double check to make sure this wasn't one of the younger John Grammers.

<sup>62</sup> Also called the American Bottom, this area was "about 70 miles long and three to eight miles wide, on the east side of the Mississippi, extending from Alton to the mouth of the Kaskaskia River," per the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly, vol. IV, no. 3, p. 128. This area contained some of the earliest permanent settlements in Illinois, starting with the French settlement at Cahokia in 1799.

<sup>63</sup> "Land Patentees and 1846 Land Owners," Court House Ledger, Union County, Illinois.

<u>Patentees</u>	<u>1846 owners</u>	<u>Acres owned by present owner</u>
John Grammar	Susannah Cravis/Craver?	145
John Grammar	Joseph Hunsaker	1, 10, or 100?
John Grammar	John Grammar, Sr./Son	80
John Grammar	William Green	80
John Grammar	Samuel Moland	80
John Grammar	John Grammar, Son	40
John Grammar	Isaac Hartline	45
John Grammar	Elijah Willard	40

This same ledger lists an 80 acre tract of land that was sold to the state in 1835 to pay for John’s unpaid 1834 taxes. Although John had quite a bit of land, like many farmers then (and now, for that matter), he may have had a hard time putting his hands on ready cash to pay taxes.

Senator John seemed to have little interest in the education of his children. *“Of his nine children, only half were literate and neither of his wives could sign their names.”*<sup>65</sup>

### **Senator John’s Political Career**

John had a rather unusual political career. One source states, *“John achieved a name in the legislature and the story was told for years that whatever John Grammar said must be so.”*<sup>66</sup> Another adds, *“Grammer was without much means on his arrival and was poorly educated. Nonetheless, his forthright views on the pressing problems of the day made him respected by his fellowmen.”*<sup>67</sup> According to Condon, *“in all elections [Senator John] wielded a giant influence.”*<sup>68</sup>

In 1812, John was elected to the first Illinois Territorial Legislature as the representative for Johnson County,<sup>69</sup> which at that time encompassed what is now Union County as well as Pulaski and Alexander and parts of Jackson, Pope and Williamson Counties.<sup>70</sup> He apparently made quite an impression on his new neighbors since they chose him so soon after his arrival in the area.

The first general assembly consisted of a council [senate] of five members, of which Pierre Menard was one, and a house of representatives of seven members.

<sup>64</sup> Note that some of the 1846 entries may be for John Grammers of the younger generation.

<sup>65</sup> Dexter, 1992.

<sup>66</sup> Parks, page 94.

<sup>67</sup> Copy of an article passed on to me by Dee Fozzard. Source as yet unknown – Wright's History of Makanda?

<sup>68</sup> Condon, page 5.

<sup>69</sup> Direct descendants of Senator John might be interested in checking with the Illinois Historical Library for any information it might have on Senator John when he was in the state legislature.

<sup>70</sup> Most of the following legislative history of Territorial Illinois is from Moses, pages 258-267.

*“What a contrast Grammer must have made in the legislature standing next to the elegant and well-dressed Pierre Menard. Grammer had no false modesty, nor was he afraid of the snickers behind his back.”<sup>71</sup>*

Each member of the assembly had to prove that he owned at least 200 acres.<sup>72</sup> The assembly sat in session for 32 days at Kaskaskia, beginning November 25, 1812. It passed a bill which reenacted all of the laws passed by the Indiana legislature and all of the laws that were already in effect in the Illinois Territory. These laws included punishing some offenses by whipping or setting the culprit in the pillory. The assembly also enacted taxes: \$.07 on one hundred acres of land, \$.50 per horse, \$.10 per head of cattle, and \$10 to \$15 for a business license. Senator John pushed to repeal the indenture laws, apparently so that they could be replaced by slavery.<sup>73</sup>

John was not in the second general assembly, in 1814. This session enacted a law *“which offered a reward of fifty dollars for each Indian taken or killed in any white settlement, and of one hundred dollars for any warrior, squaw, or child taken prisoner or killed in their own territory.”<sup>74</sup>*

John was reelected for the 1816 and 1817-1818 sessions, now as one of the five senators rather than as a representative. The third general assembly met December 2, 1816, through January 14, 1817, and again December 1, 1817 through January 2, 1818. This session incorporated the Bank of Illinois; divided the Territory into judicial circuits; established the counties of Franklin, Union, and Washington; and passed laws stating that no one was allowed to practice medicine without first obtaining a license from a medical society. It also modified real estate taxes, creating classes of land for which the rate ranged from \$.37-1/2 to \$1.00 per hundred acres. Also taxed were horses, cattle, slaves, lots in town, lots in the country, houses in town, and “mansion houses in the country” valued at two hundred dollars or more.

John ran for the state legislature in 1818 but lost.<sup>75</sup> He also lost in 1826, to George Hunsaker, a Dunker. However, in 1822, 1824, 1830, and 1832, John served two-year terms as senator to the state legislature in Vandalia. The 1822 session was distinguished by a group of pro-slavery delegates, including Senator John, pushing for a convention to amend the Illinois constitution so that slavery would be permitted officially.<sup>76</sup> One vote on the convention was delayed because Senator John was absent.<sup>77</sup> After much political finagling, the pro-slavery delegates pushed through a resolution to put the question of a convention before the voters. There was an intemperate revelry afterward.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Dexter, *A House Divided*, page 158.

<sup>72</sup> Dexter 1992.

<sup>73</sup> Dexter, *A House Divided*, pages 161-62.

<sup>74</sup> Moses, page 263.

<sup>75</sup> Buck, page 300.

<sup>76</sup> Though Illinois had been admitted to the Union as a free state, in practice there were known to be at least 917 slaves in the state in 1820. Moses, page 314.

<sup>77</sup> Dunne, page 268.

<sup>78</sup> Moses, page 319.

*“The triumph of the convention men was celebrated by a wild and drunken carouse.<sup>79</sup> Forming themselves into a noisy and disorderly procession, headed by Judges Phillips, Smith, and Thomas Reynolds, and senator, afterward Lieutenant-governor, William Kinney, followed by the pro-slavery members of the legislature and the sympathetic lobby, they marched to the music of horns and the beating of drums and tin-pans to the residence of the governor, and those of their more prominent opponents, whom they greeted with a contemptuous medley of cat-calls, groans, wailings, and derisive cheers; intending thus not only to humiliate the anti-convention men but to intimidate them, and crush out all opposition. The little town of Vandalia indeed was practically handed over to the mercy of a howling mob – as Gov. John Reynolds characterizes it ‘a wild and indecorous procession by torch-light and liquor.’”*

The campaigning which followed, both for and against the constitutional convention, was noisy and impassioned. On the side of the convention and slavery were our Senator John, several Illinois Supreme Court justices, several soon-to-be United States Senators and Illinois lieutenant governors, and ex-Governor Shadrach Bond. Current Governor Edward Coles led the opposition to the convention. When the matter was finally brought before the voters in 1824, they vetoed the convention, thereby making Illinois forever a free state. Of course, many of the older Illinois counties in the southern part of the state voted in favor of permitting slavery, while the newer counties in the north voted against it. Jackson County voted 2-1 in favor of slavery,<sup>80</sup> Johnson County had a tie vote, and Union County had a slight anti-slavery majority, most probably because of the robust Dunker influence.

John was considered to be Jacksonian democrat; that is, he supported the views of President Andrew Jackson, who was idolized by many of the pioneers in Union County.<sup>81</sup> Jackson championed the cause of the common man, supported the views of the Southern and Western pioneers, hated Indians, upheld states rights as opposed to a strong central government, and was opposed to high taxes and a national bank. However, in 1832 John did vote in favor of a state bank.

John became famous for his method of deciding how to vote on particular issues:<sup>82</sup>

*“Notwithstanding his illiteracy, he had the honor of voting against all new measures – it being easier to conciliate public opinion for being remiss in voting for a good measure, than to suffer arraignment for aiding in the passage of an unpopular one.”*

The following was written by ex-Governor Thomas Ford:<sup>83</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Keep in mind that these were some of the same men who earlier had passed laws fining \$.50 for the first offense of drunkenness and \$1.00 for each offense thereafter.

<sup>80</sup> Forty years later, in the Civil War, Jackson County would turn out to have a very high proportion of “copperheads,” or Southern sympathizers.

<sup>81</sup> Alvord, page 303 and Condon, page 5.

<sup>82</sup> Davidson and Stuve, pages 284-85.

*“Many of these politicians in the legislature made it a rule to vote against all new measures about which the opinions of the people were unknown; shrewdly calculating that if such a measure passed and became popular no one would inquire who had opposed it; but if it turned out to be unpopular, then they could show by the journals that they had voted against it. And if the measure failed of success and became popular the members who opposed it excused themselves to the people by pretending ignorance of the will of their constituents and by promising to be in its favor if again elected.*

*This kind of policy is said to have originated with John Grammar, long a representative or senator from Union county...Mr. Grammar was a man who could neither read nor write and yet he had the honor to originate a practice which has been much followed by men of more pretensions.*

*Such demagogism could not succeed in any very enlightened country...”*

Gov. Ford served from 1842-1846, several years after John’s last term in office, so he probably didn’t know John personally. Ford was a democrat, as was John, so Ford’s dislike of John’s methods cannot be attributed to differing political philosophies. The 1946 editor of the book goes on to say:

*“The inclusion of Grammer in such a body [the Territorial House of Representatives] affords a characteristic illustration of the economic and social standards of the period. Grammer subsequently served several times in the territorial and state legislatures. Prof. Pease<sup>84</sup> states that he [Grammer] was not actually illiterate [as we know from his writings in probate files for William and John himself], and adds that he was ‘a favorite peg to hang stories on in early Illinois’.”<sup>85</sup>*

Other writers are more sympathetic to John’s political reasoning. Perrin states that John always voted no on any issue that he didn’t fully understand, and Perrin thought that was a pretty sensible policy. Parks characterizes Senator John’s political career as follows:<sup>86</sup>

*“John Grammer, the old warhorse of earliest days of the county, began to decline in his career with loss to other political lights. He lost to George Hunsaker by a vote of 248 to 472 in the election of 1826 for representative. Nevertheless, by 1830 his prestige was restored as he ran against this same George Hunsaker and won in the county by a vote of 280 to 193. In 1834 John S. Hacker, a new light who had come into the county from Alexander County in*

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<sup>83</sup> Ford, pp. 95-98.

<sup>84</sup> Probably from Pease's *Story of Illinois*.

<sup>85</sup> He also states that the Illinois State Historical Library had more information on John. I called the Historical Library on September 13, 1991. The reference librarian, George Heerman, was kind enough to copy several references from history books. I suspect that they have other information on John buried in manuscript collections.

<sup>86</sup> Parks, page 213.

*the earlier days and had become a political figure with clout, defeated Grammer by 425 to 111.*

*The above study reveals how this historic old character was entering into the twilight of his public career. This staunch figure who made his mark in the legislature by such actions as his reported ability to render thundering pronouncements in his illiterate manner, creating his own words when the occasion arose. It is on record that once when he addressed the Senate, shaking his frousy lock and pointing his finger at the chair, he exclaimed, 'Mr. President, I give you a pernipsis of that bill.' It was said that all other business stopped when he was giving his promised synopsis. Of such men were the pioneer breed who were strongly original, uncouth and illiterate, and yet interesting and commanding.*

*The old statesman... was now slipping quietly into the background of the times and being succeeded by new powers who had scarcely been born when Grammer was at the zenith of his good deeds and leadership for Union County."*

John served his last term in the Illinois Legislature in 1832. In 1834, a young man named Abraham Lincoln served his first term. John was a rabid Democrat, while Lincoln was a Republican.

John's primary foe in his political campaigns was the above mentioned Col. John S. Hacker.<sup>87</sup>

*"for many years they would set their lances in the political lists and their friendly rencontres furnished the great excitement of the times. They traveled through all the country, made flaming stump speeches at all the cross-roads and plied the voters with tobacco 'and sich,' and, great heavens! how they did fondle and kiss the frowzled-headed, dirty babies! But the older Grammer had acquired his firm foothold before Hacker came and, as a rule, he carried off the prize in all their contests, until 1836 and 1837, when Grammer as usual voted "No" on the question of State Internal Improvements. His rule of political life was to vote "no" on all doubtful questions, and a most excellent rule it was, too. But in 1836 the people had become crazed on the subject of State improvement, and Grammer had committed himself against it, before he had caught the drift of public sentiment, and Hacker seized the opportunity and his triumph was complete."*

Hacker had made several attempts to supplant Grammer in the State Senate but had failed until the 1836<sup>88</sup> election, when he finally defeated John. One of the issues which finally ended John's political influence was that of internal improvements. John had consistently voted against going into debt to pay for such items as canals, bridges, roads, and railroads, but apparently his constituency disagreed with him. One account<sup>89</sup> states that Hacker defeated John again in the 1838 election.

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<sup>87</sup> Perrin, page 456.

<sup>88</sup> According to Dexter, 1992, this should be 1834.

<sup>89</sup> I can no longer put my hands on the reference.

In 1846, the 67-year-old John made one last attempt at running for the senate. He lost to his opponent, John Dougherty. John was an educated attorney and later owner of the Jonesboro Gazette. He was probably a Dunkard, was anti-slavery, and defended numerous African-Americans in Union County court cases. He also spent a great deal of time defending Senator John's boisterous sons in court.<sup>90</sup> John Dougherty later went on to be elected Lieutenant Governor. John was of the Dougherty family that had close connections to Senator John's brother, Jacob. Although Senator John carried Union County easily, he lost in Alexander and Pulaski Counties, and thereby lost the race.<sup>91</sup> The old, rough pioneer was supplanted by the young and educated politician, symbolic of the end of the pioneer era in Union County.

### **Perrin's Biography of Senator John**

The following information was transcribed directly from Perrin's *History of Alexander, Union, and Pulaski Counties, Illinois*, pages 271-275. Although long, it is a classic piece of writing from the nineteenth century and so idolizes John that I couldn't resist including it in its entirety.

*"Hon. John Grammer.—About this time [shortly after 1809], it may have been earlier, as the most diligent search has failed to fix the date, and which is much to be regretted, there came to this county John Grammer, the model, the wonderful, the extraordinary pioneer; the fisher, hunter, trapper, politician and statesman. So little was his appearance an index to the man that he was an old settler before any one there knew that such a being existed. His presence was heralded by no star in the east or west to point him out and say to all the word "behold the man!" The inferences from the early records are that he was accompanied by his brother William in his coming. It cannot be ascertained what his age was when he came, or where he was from. We only know that among the early and remarkable productions of the county, Johnson County then embracing all the territory of Union, Alexander and Pulaski Counties, was the Hon. John Grammer, who settled in what is now Union County, a little south of Jonesboro. He was one of the first officials in the county, representing Johnson County in the first Territorial Legislature as early as 1812, when there were but five counties in the State, and the entire Assembly would gather about a good-sized table in Kaskaskia and talk in a conversational way for an hour or two, and then join in one of those exciting games of "crack-loo" for the drinks, and in this august assembly Grammer was a statesman of the rough diamond, barefoot persuasion. He was as illiterate as he was indifferent to fine clothes and perfumed soap; as slouchy, careless and uncouth in manners mostly as he was reckless and indifferent in the use of the King's English, when pouring forth from the stump one of his towering philippics. He came among the early simple hunters and trappers of Union County like an Aurora in soiled linen or an unshod, burr-tailed colt from the mountain "deestrick," and he waked the echoes of the primeval forests, and as a politician bore down all opposition, as he rode in triumph into the affections of the voters and into high official positions. In the very first election ever held in the county he was made a Justice of the Peace, from which foothold he essayed and accomplished dizzy flights to higher positions, until he was elected to the State Senate, which position he filled time and again, from which*

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<sup>90</sup> See discussion of Isaac and Alphonso, in particular.

<sup>91</sup> Dexter, 1992.

*vantage point his name and fame extended through the entire State, until “as John Grammer says” became a by-word from Galena to Cairo. He was no common man in anything; he was no man’s man, but strong, original, honest and incorruptible, he trod alone, sword in hand, his great life pathway, with an eye that never quailed and heart for every fate. He was unlearned in the books, but original and strong in intellect. It was from the rude, simple, illiterate John Grammer that the statesmen of Europe learned that when a legislator is called upon to vote in a legislative body, if he don’t fully understand the question, to always vote “no.” This was John Grammer’s rule, from which he never deviated in the Illinois Senate. Nor had he any of that false pride and silly fear of being laughed at that so often makes weaker minded men assume to know all things brought before them, and to hide their ignorance in silence. This was John Grammer’s cardinal idea of statesmanship; the idea and practice was his invention or discovery, and the great Frenchman De Tocqueville, when studying this government, was attracted to Grammer,<sup>92</sup> and in his book on American institutions, the Frenchman called the attention of Europe to it in terms of highest commendation.*

*What other statesman has America produced that has been thus handsomely started on the road to a deserved immortality, to equal this unwashed, unkempt, illiterate backwoodsman? Early Illinois produced many remarkable men, but none so strongly original, so uncouth, so illiterate, or so interesting as John Grammer. As said before, he borrowed nothing from the books, and his illiteracy was so marked that it amounted to a gift or talent. He borrowed or copied from nothing. He never hesitated for a word, for when he wanted one he would coin it upon the instant. When addressing the Senate, he would shake his frowsy locks and point his finger at the chair and exclaim: “Mr. President, I give you a ‘pernipsis’ of that bill.” All other business stopped while he was giving this promised synopsis. When thoroughly warmed up, his eloquence was a Niagara of words, until sometimes his tongue would trip and he would land souse in a “tangled priminary,” as he always called a dilemma, when he would appeal to the brother “siniters” to help him out of the difficulty, which some of them would always do, when with unruffled plumes he would sail away again so grandly, with such gorgeous home-made rhetoric as would have paled the meteoric glories of even Sir Boyle Roche himself. Something of his greatness, in fact, lay in his ready aptness in word-coining and phrase-making, and it was no travesty upon grammar – the science of language – when his patronymic was solemnly recorded as John Grammer, the father of Illinois true Statecraft, the author of amusing bulls, quaint mistakes and pat phrases that deserve to live forever in connection with his name. The heaviest constitutional had no terrors for him, and when he found a fellow-senator attempting some real or fancied innovation upon the fundamental laws, he snuffed the battle afar off and clothed his neck with thunder. Upon an occasion of this kind, he controlled his patience as long as he could, when he arose, and in a voice that pierced the marrow in members’ bones, exclaimed, “You can’t do that. It’s fernent the compack!” and the country was saved, and John Grammer sat down immortal and to this day in all Southern Illinois, when a thing is “fernant the compack,” it is a dead cock in the pit.*

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<sup>92</sup> I skimmed the book looking for this reference, but could not find it anywhere.

*Many of the early statesmen in Union County, in fact in all this then very large Senatorial district, have been sadly worsted in their attempts to supersede him among the voters. They found him wily, tough, stubborn and full of resources. He understood the people. He did not, when in a campaign, or any other time for that matter, array himself in purple and fine linen; nor did he drive a tandem team of blooded trotter with gold-mounted harness. A log wagon bull team, trimmed with bark and hickory withes was the most sumptuous go-to meetin' rig he ever possessed or used. And when dressed in his best on such occasions, he was generally barefoot, and thus arrayed it only seemed to add force and fire to his vehement eloquence, if his breeches were rolled up to the knees, and a twist of tobacco in one pocket and the Democratic platform in the other. He was Nature's unadorned progeny – rather broad and liberal in his mode of thought, either in politics or religion, as well as his customs, manners, morals and habits. Like pretty much all of his day and time, he would sometimes indulge his appetite beyond stern puritan ideas, but he seldom went so far in this way as not to keep an eye on the main chance. An instance of this is given when on one occasion there was a great political rally, for the benefit of candidates, down in the north part of Alexander County, and Grammer was posted for a big speech. He reached the grounds some time before speaking was to commence, and before that hour had arrived he was out of all condition, and he realized this so fully that he reported himself sick, and sought seclusion, where he would soon brace up and be all right for the ordeal. The crowd foolishly gathered about him densely, when his rival pushed into the crowd and shouted: "Stand back, men; give him air!" Grammer rolled his helpless head, eyed his rival and understood he only wanted to expose him, and he said: "D–n you, I understand you. I'll be tar or bust yet," and so he did, and made one of his most effective speeches.*

*As did all men in those days, he hunted a great deal. On one occasion he was out in the rain all day, getting very wet; at night he hung his powder-horn on one side of the large open fire-place so that the large tow string by which he swung it over his shoulder might dry. During the night, the "forstick" burned in two in the middle, and the end flipped up and set the two string on fire. It burned off and the horn fell into the coals, and soon the sleeping household was startled by the explosion, which scattered the fire all over the room, and even on the bed where the man and wife slept. The woman soon brushed and swept up the coals, and all was safe and serene again. But Grammer didn't return to bed, but walked the floor in great distress, his hands clasped across his stomach. Finally his wife, in great alarm, asked what was the matter. "Oh, Lord! Oh, Lord!" exclaimed the poor man; "it is not the loss of the powder, or the horn. I could stand all that; but, Sal<sup>93</sup>, suppose it purtends a sign!" And again and again the distressed man moaned like the sad, wet winds.*

*In the simplicity of his soul, he dreaded a "sign," a portent from a displeased heaven. Here was greatness and childish simplicity and credulity that brings to mind the agony of fear that is sometimes said to seize the huge elephant upon seeing a ridiculous little mouse.*

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<sup>93</sup> By this time, John had married his second wife, Sarah "Sally" McGraw in Union County, Illinois.

*He was a peculiar bundle of wisdom and weak and childish fears and superstitions; a medley of strange contradictions; a man who, perhaps, amid other surroundings, would never have emerged from the profound obscurity that surrounded his early life, and it now strikes the ear of the reader like the happy fictions of the romance writers, when they are told that this obscure, illiterate man, at the first moment an opportunity presented itself in the State, to offer his services as a law-maker to the people, and they readily accepted the offer. How did this silent hunter, this illiterate recluse, ever come to know that Illinois had been advanced to a second grade Territory, and would want, as early as 1812, the people to elect a Legislature, to go to Kaskaskia and enact laws, and fix the governmental machinery that was to bear aloft the weal and destiny of the young giant State. He read no newspapers, and the obscurity that envelopes the first years of his life in these wild woods, indicates that he held no converse or communication with living thing, except with the wild game, to which he spoke with the keen crack of his rifle, and its reverberating echoes among the hills. But when his adopted State called for statesmen he stepped forth, regal in coonskin and deer-skin clothes, and filled the behest and was immortal. No proper history of Illinois will ever be written which omits the name of John Grammer. The first Territorial Legislature convened November 25, 1812, and adjourned December 25 of the same year. The second session met and completed its session and adjourned on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 1813. A prominent, if not pre-eminent, member of that body was John Grammer. He then retired from the legislative halls for one session, and then was elected in 1816 again. When Illinois became a State, he was elected to the State Senate. In the Territorial times, the Legislative Assembly consisted of a Council and House of Representatives. In the first Assembly – 1812 – John Grammer was a member of the House of Representatives, representing one of the five counties, St. Clair, Randolph, Galatin, Madison and Johnson, that then constituted the State. In 1816, he was elected again, but was promoted to a member of the Council (now called the Senate), and was re-elected to the session of the same body for the session of 1817-1818. He was again elected to the State Senate in 1822-24 and again to the Assembly of 1824-26, and again re-elected Senator to the Assembly of 1830-32, and again 1832-34. Here was a long service in the legislative department of the State. The importance of which he was esteemed is fairly illustrated by the fact that, while he was a member of the Senate, the first compilation of the Illinois laws was made, and among the people they were distinguished by the name of the “Grammer laws.” It is reported that a certain Judge Block was holding court in Vienna in the early, rude times. Jephtha Hardin was arguing a case before him, and when he undertook to fortify himself by reading from a book which he held in his hand, “What book is that your are reading from?” demanded Judge Block, sternly. “May it please the court,” said Hardin, blandly, “it is Chitty on Contracts.” “Chitty!” said the Judge. “Chitty! Take it away, sir! take it away! What did our fathers fight for? Take it away; we will try this case by the Grammer laws!”*

*In Stuve and Davidson’s history of Illinois, John Grammer is mentioned as the father of Illinois demagogues. This is an injustice to that sturdy, honest-minded old pioneer. The charge is an injustice to his memory. He simply voted “No,” and had the moral courage to oppose the public craze of 1837, on the subject of internal improvements, and for this wise stand in defense of the people he lost the affection of the voters, and was then, for their first time, defeated at the polls. Had he been a demagogue, he would have played the*

*demagogue's part, and simply trimmed his sails to the popular breeze, and only have increased his power, not lost it. The same history relates an anecdote of Grammer, and while it is not well-authenticated, nor is it, on its face, a reasonable story, yet we give the substance of it, because it, to some extent, explains his humble beginning in life. When he was first elected to the Legislature—so the story runs—there was much counseling and financiering in his own and his neighbors' families as to how a suit of clothes could be got for him to go to Kaskaskia in. Eventually, he and family gathered nuts and carried them to Fort Massac trading post, and exchanged them for a few yards of "blue drilling." This was carried home, and the neighbors called in to cut and make the clothes. After measuring, turning, twisting, and stretching, the cloth was short and finally it was cut into a hunting shirt and then there was only enough left to make a pair of high "Leggins," and thus arrayed he served his term in the Legislature.<sup>94</sup>*

*This is something of the life and times and character of John Grammer – a historical landmark in the early history of Illinois – a study and a delight for the coming children of men. He left numerous descendants, but his scepter of power, originality and invention passed away forever with the breath from his body. He was a just man in his judgment it seems, and wholly fearless in following the convictions that took hold of him. It appears that he about equally divided his time in a rigid and exemplary membership of the church, and then a jolly, won't-go-home-till-morning with his good friends and neighbors, and whether it was one or the other, he allowed no grass to grow under his feet, as his energy and industry kept even pace with his quick mother wit, shrewd good sense or bad grammar. He never made a long speech in his life, but he never took his seat after an effort of the kind without having made just such a speech, particularly in words, quaint phrases, construction, and sometimes ideas, as no other man in the world could have imitated, much less made. His was a rich and incomparable vein of originality – often the most humorous when he felt the most solemn, as at other times he was as funereal as a hearse when he fancied his wit and humor the most sparkling. He always opened a stumping campaign by announcing that he believed there were men "more fitner" for the office than he was, but his friends would "anominate" him "wherer or no," and "thairfore" he would make the race, and, if elected, would do the best he could; and thus he would beat his eloquent huzzy-guzzy and sound his thew-gag down the banks of the Mississippi and up the Ohio, till the deep-tangled wildwood echoed his eloquent refrain, and victory floated out upon his banners."*

### **John's Death**

John died of "winter fever" on October 29, 1849, the day after he wrote his will.<sup>95</sup> He was 70 years old. On November 10, 1849, John's will was admitted to probate.<sup>96</sup> The will reads:

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<sup>94</sup> Chapman, page 69, relates this same tale but with a few minor changes; the nuts were hickory nuts, they were traded at the salt mines, the cloth was blue "strouding, like the Indians wore for breech cloths," and the coat was a "bob-tail coat."

<sup>95</sup> The exact date came from the probate index, not the probate file itself.

<sup>96</sup> Union County, Illinois, probate records, Box #G-117. The probate index also lists Book 5 and Probate Journal A-295.

*I John Grammer Sen. of Union County Illinois being of sound and deposing mind but somewhat afflicted in boddy nowing the Uncertainty of life doo make ordain constitute and Appoint this my last will and testament in the following word to witt I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Sarah the dwelling house stables & buildings during her natural life together with the field in which the house stands in as her Dower I give and bequeath unto my beloved Childreng Eligah Grammer and Mary Ann Grammer the plantation and appertainancess whereaon I now reside with the exception of the Dower as specified to my wife Sarah and in Caus of the death of one of these Eligah or Mary Ann the other I desire shall heir the said plantation I wish my Exicatrix and Exicutor to make sale of my corn and enough of my other personal property and pay all my just debts and Charges the remander of my personal property I will to my beloved wife Sarah in order that this may be carried into affect I hereby appoint my wife Sarah Exicatrix and John Grammer, Jr. my son Exicutor of this my last will and testament I have give my first childring all ever intend to gave them this done on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of October one thousand eight hundre and forty nine and sighthed and sealed with my Consent by my sone John*

*Witnessses Called*

*sealed John Grammer (seal)*

*John Grammer Jr.*

*John (his mark X) King*

John Jr. and John King later attested in court that the will was written by John Jr. at the direction of John Sr. John was fairly progressive for his time in regards to what the widow should receive, since he made no reference to Sarah's share reverting to the children should she remarry. This may have shown sensitivity on John's part, since he must have realized that Sarah was still a young woman and would want to continue her life. This may have also shown that John had been happy in his life with Sarah, and he wanted her to be happy after he was gone.

John left nothing to his "first children;" he may have simply given them their share while he was still alive. For instance, he sold land to his daughter Elizabeth's husband for a token amount. He also sold land to his son William, but that seemed to be at the going rate. Finally, the 1846 list of landholders in Union County shows that "John Grammer, Son" was by then in possession of 40 acres that had originally been patented by John Grammer, presumably Sr. John was apparently on good terms with at least one of his "first children," since John Jr. wrote and witnessed John's will and served as executor. Since John Jr. went so far as to defend the will several times in court, he must not have objected to being left out of the will.

Sarah and John Jr. as well as Caleb Trees (apparently a co-signer) put up a \$2000 executor's bond. As executor, Sarah signed all of her legal papers with an X.

Frederick King, John King, and Jacob Reed were appointed to value the estate. The following list shows those items that were on an itemized inventory. If two differing dollar amounts are shown, the second one refers to what the item actually sold for at the auction which was held some time before January 21, 1850.

*1 Mare and Saddle*

*\$30.00*

<i>1 Lot of tools-plains, chisels, augurs, hammer</i>	5.00/3.70
<i>1 Box of iron and old tools</i>	3.00/2.55
<i>1 Gun</i>	8.00/6.10
<i>1 barrel table and half bushel</i>	2.00
<i>1 Lot of Chairs</i>	3.62/3.05
<i>1 Cubberd and 1 Beauro</i>	10.00/3.50 (bureau only)
<i>the kitchen furnature lumped at</i>	8.00
<i>1 Cherry table</i>	3.50
<i>1 bed and Bedsted and furnature to the same</i>	8.00
<i>1 Glass</i>	1.25
<i>1 State</i>	0.25
<i>1 Chest</i>	2.00
<i>1 Waggon</i>	15.00/20.02
<i>1 yoke of oxen yoke ring and staple</i>	25.00/30.00
<i>2 pens corn supposed to be 6 hundred and fifty bushels at 20 cts per bushel</i>	100.30/100.39
<i>1 lot of Cattle</i>	30.00/17.20
<i>1 lot of hogs</i>	15.00/
<i>1 lot of shotes</i>	5.00/
<i>1 lot of stock hogs</i>	9.00/ (55.70 for all swine)
<i>1 lot of Barows at \$3.25 each 14 in number</i>	45.50/
<i>1 lot of Stock hogs</i>	25.00/
<i>2 plows</i>	7.50/3.75 (one plough and geers)
<i>1 lot of giering</i>	2.50 (or 1.50)
<i>1 Brier sythe</i>	0.95/.85
<i>1 lot of Corn in the shuck</i>	38.00
<i>1 grind stone</i>	1.00/1.20
<i>1 lot of paint and brushes</i>	1.00/.55
<i>1 lot of harrow teeth</i>	0.50/.85
<i>1 ax ? steelyards and two iron wedges</i>	2.15/1.35
<i>1 lot of Books</i>	1.00/.60
<i>1 grubbing how and one old Cary plow</i>	1.00/.77 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
<i>1 work Bench</i>	1.00/.30
<i>1 lot of Shingles</i>	2.00/.85

Other things mentioned in the sale bill but not on the original evaluation included:

<i>1 oven and lid</i>	<i>0.80</i>
<i>axes</i>	<i>1.35</i>
<i>1 duble tree &amp; singletree</i>	<i>0.76½</i>
<i>1 crock &amp; churn</i>	<i>0.10</i>
<i>1 lot rasars</i>	<i>0.50</i>
<i>bottles</i>	<i>0.62½</i>
<i>1 pare of spctles</i>	<i>0.12½</i>

The total amount raised in the sale was \$254.55. Buyers included Isaac, William, and John Grammer; Thomas and Jesse Barker (Barker women married William and Jacob and Jacob's son John); and Hugh Penrod. Other surnames on the sale bill included Frasier, Kimmel, Tucker, Trees, Murphy, Conway, Winchester, King, and Casine.

Another evaluation of the estate included "*1 note on Isaac Grammer due 25 Decr. 1849 \$3.50 Doubtful*" and the following lands:

*NWNW sec. 25 T.12 SR3W 40 acres*  
*NENE sec. 26 T.12 SR3W 40 acres*  
*NENE sec. 26 T.12 SR3W 40 acres*

**(Check this)**

Debts against the estate included 1 note for \$7.52 to the estate of Jas. S. Hodges, \$2.25 to Asa Buckels for "schooling," \$35.86½ to Willis Willard, and \$.47 to C. & A. Frick for 3 cakes of shaving soap (\$.12) and one bottle and wine (\$.35). Another note, apparently written in John's own hand, states the following:

Henry Frick Sr. to John Grammer Sr. for	
for keeping horse	one dollar
for horse hire	three dollars
for Candles	
	\$ 1.00
	\$ 3.00
	50 cts.

Mr. Simons Sir: I have A little suit down at Rymer plots I wish you to attend to if you will Ride down there to morrow I will give you One dollar and if you Clear me I will gave you five dollars and I do not owe him one cent my Son Will go With you he can give you all the perticklers of the matter this from yors my helth is so bad that I cannot Atend myself

John Grammer ~~Signor~~ Seignior

Note written by Senator John. Found in his probate file.

Henry Frick [Frick?] [Sr.? Dr.?] to John Grammer Seignior	
for keeping horse one dollar	\$ 1.00
for horse hire three dollars	\$ 3.00
for Candles	50 cts

Mr. Simons [John's attorney] I have A little suit down at Rymer[?] plots I wish you to attend to if you will Ride down there to morrow I will give you One dollar and if you Clear me I will gave you five dollars and I do not owe him one cent my Son Will go With you he can give yoe all the perticklers of the matter this from yors

My helth is so bad that  
I cannot Atend myself

John Grammer Seignior

After John's death, this was submitted along with a note from Cyrus G. Simons, John's attorney, stating that John had owed him \$5.00, of which \$3.00 had been paid. This appears to be for defending John in a court suit brought by J. Rymer in Feb. 1849. If this is the same case as detailed above in John's note, then it appears that Mr. Simons earned his \$5.00 by winning the case. It is

revealing that John preferred to spend a total of \$6.00 on attorney fees rather than pay the original \$4.50 bill that he thought was unfair.

Another debt appeared to be to Alphonso Grammer, Senator John's out-of-wedlock son: \$100 for "*building & furnishing materials for a house on your farm on the Mississippi bottom*" and \$5.00 for "*painting [illegible] of your dwelling house.*" Another "account" for Alphonso was filed March 6, 1852 and lists the following items:

<i>To board of himself and wife from June 8 1849</i>	
<i>until the 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. same year—4 months</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
<i>" 1 pistol</i>	<i>6.00</i>
<i>" 1 dollar's worth corn</i>	<i>1.00</i>
<i>" 1 violin</i>	<i>3.00</i>
<i>" 4 dollar paid for cow, which he had</i>	
<i>previously sod to Isaac Grammer</i>	<i>4.00</i>
<i>" Board for himself and wife 4-1/2 months</i>	<i>22.00</i>
<i>" Rent of the house for one year</i>	<i>12.00</i>
<i>" Money paid for painting room in dwelling house</i>	<i>4.00</i>

The total came to \$92.00 and was signed by C.G. Simons, attorney for the "defendants."

On April 23, 1850, William, James, and Isaac Grammer filed against John Jr. and Sarah contesting the validity of the will.<sup>97</sup> Circuit Court records show that on April 25 and April 26, the suit was amended and continued. On September 24, C.G. Simons was appointed guardian ad litem of the minor heirs. On May 23, 1851, a jury determined that the will produced was actually the will of John Grammer. A motion for a new trial was overruled.

In March and April of 1852, 2½ years after John died, Alphonso brought suit against Sarah and John Jr. for non-payment of a debt against the estate.<sup>98</sup> Witnesses summoned to testify in the case included Isaac, William, and Mary Grammer (John's children) on behalf of John Jr. and Sarah;<sup>99</sup> and Jacob Reed, Caleb Trees, John King, Josiah Martin, Frederick King, and John Moreland<sup>100</sup> on behalf of Alphonso. On April 5, 1852, "*The court gave judgement for plaintiff for the sum of \$5 to be paid in due course of administration.*"<sup>101</sup> From the small amount awarded, it appears that Alphonso was given only a fraction of what he demanded.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, John, Jr. filed a deposition with the court stating:<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> Union County, Illinois, Circuit Court records, pages 58, 70, 72, 85, and 122. No original papers were found.

<sup>98</sup> Probate Journal A, page 198.

<sup>99</sup> Note that Isaac and William had previously battled *against* John Jr. and Sarah on estate matters.

<sup>100</sup> Presumed to be the son of John's daughter Elizabeth.

<sup>101</sup> Union County Probate Journal A, page 198.

<sup>102</sup> From a paper in the probate packet.

*“the above named plaintiff Alphonzo Grammer is not good for costs in this case and until his is held to give security therfor the defenendants as well as the officerts of the above mentioned court will be in danger of losing their costs and charges in [?].”*

On this same day, various witnesses attested to the number of days they were forced to attend court sessions because of the suit, and the matter appears to have ended.

In 1855, Sarah was taxed for a “total value” of 1.28, and a state and county tax of 1.49, paid. In 1858, John King was licensed to keep a grocery on the land of John Grammer’s heirs, on the bank of Running Lake, where Willard’s Ferry Road crosses the lake, on the right side when heading toward Willard’s Ferry.<sup>103</sup> In 1860, Singleton P. Welch was licensed to keep a grocery at what seems to be the same location.<sup>104</sup>

Sarah could not have had an easy life. She was only 23 when she married Senator John, who was then a rather cantankerous and certainly opinionated 53-year old. After 17 years of marriage she was left a widow with two young children. As administrator of Senator John’s will, she had to fight two suits against the estate. She lived on another 16 years after John’s death, and in that time she buried both of her children. She never remarried. In 1860 she was listed in the census as a toll-gate keeper, age 51, with \$2000 in real estate. A Richard Parish, 35, a farmer with \$800 personal property, was living in the same household.<sup>105</sup>

Sarah died October 21, 1865.<sup>106</sup> Documents in Sarah’s probate file<sup>107</sup> refer to her as Sallie as well as Sarah. Darrel Dexter found a torn and dirty paper in the basement of the Union County courthouse that shows the partitioning of the estate after Sarah died. This partitioning was not as straightforward as one might suppose. Senator John’s will had bequeathed all of his estate to his widow Sarah and his two youngest children, Elijah and Mary Ann. These two children had died by Sarah’s death in 1865, so the rest of John’s children stood to inherit as Elijah and Mary Ann’s survivors. This document, then, is the “smoking gun” that, by proving the siblings of Elijah and Mary Ann, also proves the offspring of Senator John. Of Senator John’s nine children, only one, Isaac, survived for this partitioning the estate upon Sarah’s death. The full list of survivors was, in 1867:

- Isaac (x) Grammer (only surviving child of Senator John) 1/7<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> Dexter, *Early Courthouse Records...*, page 146. Williard's Ferry was across the Mississippi, leading from Jonesboro, Illinois, to Jackson, Missouri, page 159.

<sup>104</sup> Dexter, *Early Courthouse Records...*, page 147.

<sup>105</sup> On August 16, 1860, soon after the census, Richard married Lucinda Littlejohn. In 1863, Richard Parrish was arrested (along with 22 other area men) for various crimes of sabotage against the U.S. government (Dexter, *A House Divided*, page 111).

<sup>106</sup> Double check this in probate file – I wrote down 1864 elsewhere.

<sup>107</sup> Union County, Illinois, box G-20.

- John Jr.'s survivors, all apparently his children: Mary (x) J. Tweedy Burton, James Grammer, and John Grammer, each 1/21<sup>st</sup>.
- William's survivors, all apparently his children: John (x) Grammer and Mahulda Sprouse (turned her share over to Willis Willard), each 9/140;<sup>108</sup> Angeline Grammer, Nancy (x) (Grammer) Lewis, Matilda (x) (Grammer) Elmore, all minors, each 1/35<sup>th</sup>.
- James' survivor: Polly Ann Grammer (wife), 1/7<sup>th</sup>.
- Elizabeth "Betsy's" survivors: Hester P. Corzine, Sarah Keith, Andrew M. Corzine, Zacariah Corzine, and Giles L. Corzine, each 1/42<sup>nd</sup>; Alice Leyerle and Mary (Leyerle) Adams, both minors, each 1/84<sup>th</sup>.

This list provides the primary means of tracking exactly who was and was not a child of Senator John.

There is *no* mention in the partitioning of a Jacob Grammer, Jr., Carrol Grammer, Julia (Grammer) Crowell Corzine, Alphonso Grammer, or Dr. Joel Grammer, all traditionally assumed to be children of Senator John. Of these, I now believe Jacob Jr. to be the child of Senator John's brother Jacob. Carrol and Julia seem to be Senator John's children, but it seems that neither they nor any of their heirs survived to 1865. Alphonso was Senator John's out-of-wedlock child, which would explain his absence in a list of heirs. Dr. Joel Grammer is still a puzzle, but for now I have assigned him as a son of Jacob, Senator John's brother. In all cases, see discussions under each of these people for a full argument of parentage.

The estate partitioning listed the following real estate:

*The north west quarter of the north west quarter section twenty five in township twelve south of range three west [40 acres] and the east half of the north east quarter of section twenty six in same township [75 acres] except a strip of said latter tract ? ? John Gramer Sr. and Sarah his wife to George McGehey deed dated Feb 7 1841 and described therein as beginning at the 1/2 mile corner dividing secs 26 and 25 thence west to the lake? corner L, thence up the lake to R thence east to the section line at a ? 8 rods north of the beginning thence to the beginning for a more particular description of said strip reference is made to Record Book 8 p. 524 of the deed records of aid county and which said strip contains probably about one acres more or less.*

Apparently, though it's hard to tell from the official record, both tracts were sold to John Dougherty by the county in August of 1866 to cover school taxes. Taxes and penalties of \$64.36 were paid by May 3, 1867, thereby redeeming the land. Also during 1866, John Jr. brought suit to partition the real estate.<sup>109</sup> The land in question was the first tract mentioned above. Commissioners M.V. Baggot, S.J. Neely, and Adison/Alison Cover reported that Running Lake ran through the property, so it could not be divided without manifest injury to the owners (apparently this was the reason for

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<sup>108</sup> John and Mahulda apparently received a larger share because they were doubly related, as descendants of Senator John and as descendants of Sarah (McGraw) Grammer's sister Lavina.

<sup>109</sup> Index to the *Union County Circuit Court Journals 1818-1869*.

selling it instead of dividing it between the heirs). However, one of the commissioners, Cover, then went on the purchase the land himself, for \$1000 with 10% down for both tracts.

Although John's descendants inherited part of the estate, Sarah's relatives inherited her dower share. Her survivors were:

- Mary "Polly" Grammer, Sarah's sister (married Senator John's son Isaac 1835 UCI), received 1/14.
- Marget Grammer [sister?], mentioned once but apparently did not receive a partition.
- Elizabeth (Treece) McGraw (widow of Sally's brother Ary) 1/14 but died before she could receive it. It was instead accepted by her mother Mary Elmore and her apparent brothers Lewis and Joab? [Jacob?] Treece.
- Thos. Pearce (heir of Esther McGraw, Sally's sister who married a Jefferson Pearce 1846 UCI) 1/14.
- John Grammer and Mahulda Sprouse, the children of Melvina/Lavina Grammer, Sarah's dead sister who had married Senator John's son William 1832 UCI. These two inherited as siblings of Senator John's children Elijah and Mary Ann *and* as niece and nephew of Sarah. Mahulda Sprouse turned her share over to Willis Willard. He was recognized as one of the wealthiest men in Union County; perhaps she had borrowed money from him against her share of the estate?
- An Elizabeth M. Corzine was originally in the list, as heir of Sally's deceased brother Elijah McGraw, but then she was crossed off. She was listed in a later partitioning of Senator John's real estate but was not given any money. This Elizabeth was first married to Carroll Grammer, then Elijah McGraw, and finally to Zachariah Corzine. As widow of Carroll, she might have been his heir. As widow to Elijah McGraw, Sally's brother, she might have inherited his share. Perhaps in remarrying, she lost inheritance rights?

The administrator of the estate was Harman F. Whitacre.<sup>110</sup> The estate papers included Sally's account with Willard and Company (a general store?). This shows her purchases from May through October, 1865, and included 12 dozen thread, 2 silk skirts, 1 balmoral skirt, 1 pair of stockings, 1 pair of gloves, ½ yard bobinet, 4 yards edging, 1½ yards Swiss muslin, a set of knives and forks, 8 pounds of coffee, soda, nails, rope, hinges, screws, and a rocking chair. Willard and Company also charged her for \$7.61 in taxes. All of this added up to \$42.11. She paid for these purchases with 9 pounds of butter, 23-3/4 dozen eggs, and \$24.35 in cash. When she died, she still owed Willard's \$5.61.

As always, the Grammers proved to be a contentious bunch; once again, a suit was brought against the estate. On May 22, 1866, the case was John Grammer (son of John Jr.?) versus Isaac Grammer, et. al.<sup>111</sup> Sample G. Parks was appointed guardian of the named minors: Angeline Grammer, Nancy Grammer, Matilda Grammer, Alice Leyerle, Mary Leyerle, and Thomas Pearce.

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<sup>110</sup> Neighbor to Isaac in 1850. A sister of Senator John's married a Theopheles Whitaker in Kentucky.

<sup>111</sup> The following records are from Union County Circuit Court Book H, pages 437, 468, 514, 557, and 558.

On May 28, Polly A. Grammer and John Grammer, defendants, were represented in court by H.F. Whitacre, attorney (and administrator of the estate). On May 31, the adult defendants were named: Isaac Grammer, Mary J. Tweedy, James Grammer, John Grammer, Willis Willard, Polly Ann Grammer, Hester P. Corzine, Sarah Keith, Andrew M. Corzine, Zachariah Corzine, Polly Grammer, Elizabeth Grammer, and Elizabeth McGraw. Someone was called three times (name could be Elizabeth McGraw) but did not appear. The case was referred to master in chancery to take proofs. On October 6, Mary J. Tweedy swore to the accuracy of the real estate sale and disbursement. On October 18, the partition of the land was ordered. The land sale was advertised in Jonesboro Gazettes dated November 17, 1866; December 1, 1866; and one unspecified date in between. The land, detailed in the description above, was sold to Adison Cover for \$1000. After expenses were paid, \$803.14 was left to divide among the heirs, a moderately sizable estate for those days.

## Research Notes

- See Bibliography for a more complete listing of all sources checked.
- See “Proof of Lineage” under John’s father, Reverend John, for proof of Senator John’s parentage.
- John’s probate, Union County probate box #117. His administrators were his wife, Sarah, and John, Jr. See also Probate Journal A, 1847-1855, page 129 (Will was proved and bond for Sarah and John Jr., executors, was set at \$2000).
- 1850 Mortality schedule lists his age as 69, married, born in Virginia, died in October 1849 of winter fever.
- There is supposedly a record in Johnson County that states Julia’s father’s name as Alexander McElheney, but neither I nor Rose Mary Orr have yet to find it. **Check Lincoln, County, KY; Muhlenberg, KY.**
- John’s marriage to Sarah “Sally” McGraw – Marriage certificate on file with Union County Clerk, Book 1, page 19. The certificate clearly states that the groom is John Grammer, Sr. The Justice of the Peace was Robt. Hargrave. Sarah’s probate file also refers to her as Sally. Histories and deeds list John’s wife as both Sarah and Sally.
- Sarah’s probate file, UCI box #G-120, 1864. Also Book A, page 264 and Book B, page 137. Some notes that belong in Sarah’s file are in John Jr.’s file, box #118. Sarah’s file lists the partition of Senator John’s estate and gives the names of all of his surviving heirs. See also Probate Journal A, 1863-1868, pages 272 (appointment of Sarah’s administrator and source of Sarah’s death date), page 307 (approval of estate appraisal), and page 562 (lists heirs and amount remaining in the hands of the administrator).

## Kentucky, Warren County

- 1797-1801 tax lists, *no* John Grammer Jr.
- 1802 tax list, John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 2 horses and mares.
- 1803 tax list, John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 3 horses and mares.
- 1804 tax list, John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 3 horses and mares.
- 1805 tax list, John Gramer Jr., 1 white male, 4 horses and mares.
- 1806 tax list, John Gramer Jr., on index, I don’t have original.
- 1807 tax list, John Gramer Jr., on index, I don’t have original.
- 1808 tax list, *no* John Gramer Jr. on index, I don’t have original.
- 1809 tax list, *no* John Grammer Jr., but two entries for John unspecified. These appear to be for John Sr.
- Land deeds. Book F-6, page 287. Proven October 4, 1814.
- Court Order Book A, First Order Book, March 7, 1797-June 15, 1801. John (Jr.?) page 63.
- Court Order Book B, June 15, 1801-January 1, 1805. John Jr. pages 214 and 249.
- Murray, Joyce Martin. *Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky 1812-1821. Dallas, Texas: 1956.*

## Kentucky, General

- No Ohio County, Kentucky, marriage, wills, or probates for anyone with the last name of Gramer/Grammer/Gremmer/Grimmer, per Ohio County Clerk.

## Tennessee, Rutherford County

- A John Grammer in the 1810 Rutherford County, Tennessee, census. I don’t believe this is our John, but is instead the John Grammer that lived around Davidson County, TN in the early 1800s. See “Lost and Found.”

## Tennessee, Wilson County

- No marriage record 1802-1840 for a John Grammer or Julia/Juliet Grammer.

## Illinois, Union County

- Probate box G-117. Probate Journal A, page 198. Probate Book H, pages 437, 468, 514, 557-8, sale of real estate and listing of heirs.
- Circuit Court records, pages 58, 70, 72, 85, 122.
- 1818 UCI state census, John Grammer, #247

- ♦ 1 free white male age 21 and up, 8 others in household. **Get original.**
- 1820 UCI state census, John Grammer, page 22
  - ♦ 1 white male 21 or over, 10 other inhabitants.
- 1820 UCI census, John Grammer, page 162, page 104 on microfilm.
  - ♦ males: 1 age 26-45, 2 10-16, 5 0-10.
  - ♦ females: 1 age 45 and up [John or Juliet's mother?], 1 26-45, 1 10-16.
  - ♦ 3 people engaged in agriculture.
- 1830 UCI census, no listing in index or on original for John Grammer. Also no listing in Fayette County, where he might have been attending the session of the legislature in Vandalia. **Where was he?**
- 1835 UCI Illinois State Census, John Grammer, Sr., #496
  - ♦ males: 1 age 50-60, 1 age 30-40, 1 20-30, 1 10-20, 1 age 0-10
  - ♦ females: 1 age 20-30
- 1840 UCI census, John Grammer Sr., page 65
  - ♦ males: 1 age 60-70, 1 20-30, 1 15-20, 1 5-10
  - ♦ females: 1 age 30-40
- 1850 UCI census, #1171, page 161.
  - ♦ Sarah [McGraw]<sup>112</sup> Grammer, 42, NC, real estate \$120
  - ♦ Elijah, 15, IL, farmer, in school
  - ♦ Mary, 7, IL, in school
- 1850 UCI mortality schedule, John Grammer, age 69, married, born VA, d. October 1849, cause winter fever.
- 1860 UCI census, #25, page 4
  - ♦ Sarah [McGraw], 113 51, NC, toll gate keeper, \$2000 real estate, \$500 personal property
  - ♦ Richard Parish, 35, TN, farmer, \$800 personal property<sup>114</sup>
- Union County, Illinois, land transactions
  - ♦ 1816 John bought 184.37 acres from public domain for \$368.74, NW, Section 30, T12S, R1W, vol. 23, page 72.
  - ♦ 1818 John of Johnson County bought 40 acres from public domain for \$80, E½ SW¼, Sect 27, T13S, R1W, vol. 10, page 241.
  - ♦ 1819 John of Union County bought from public domain for \$320, SE½, Sect. 20, T12S R2W, vol. 9, page 212.
  - ♦ 1829 John of Union County bought 80 acres from public domain for \$100, E½ NW¼, Sect. 22, T12S, R2W, vol. 31, page 5.
  - ♦ 1829 John of Union County bought 80 acres from public domain for \$100, W½ NW¼, Sect. 25, T12S, R3W, vol. 31, page 6. (living here when he died? **CHECK**)
  - ♦ 1832 John of Union County bought 40 acres from public domain for \$50, SE¼ NE¼, Section 26, T12S, R3W, vol. 31, page 15. (living here when he died? **CHECK**)
  - ♦ 1818 John sold to Union County for \$1 Part of NW¼ Sect. 30 T12(?) R1W, page 1 of index, Book A-1, pages 4-5.
  - ♦ 1818 John & wife Julia/Juliet (x) sold to Peter Lingle for \$50 Lot 99 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book B-2, pages 12-14.
  - ♦ 1819 John and wife Julia/Juliet (x) to Jacob Hyberger for \$300 Lot 51 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book A-1, pages 80-81.

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<sup>112</sup> Per Jackson's index.

<sup>113</sup> Per Jackson's index.

<sup>114</sup> Public domain land purchases from records in the state archives. All Union County land transactions are from Union County grantor/grantee indexes (not originals) unless otherwise noted. Transactions are shown in the order in which they appear in the indexes. Note that I have through the years found errors in the index, particularly in legal descriptions. Anyone who is sufficiently interested in Senator John to wrestle the land books in Union County should probably verify each of these deeds. **Also need to check land records for Johnson County prior to 1818.**

- 1819 John & wife Julia (x) to Thomas Cox for \$150 Lot of ground—see deed for description, page 1 of index, Book B-2, pages 113-15.
- 1818 John & wife Julia (x) to Abner Field Jr. for \$50 Lot 94 in Plan of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book B-2, pages 121-23.
- 1818 John & wife Julia (x) to Allen Penrod for \$50 Lot 110 in the Plan of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book B-2, pages 135-37.
- 1819 John & wife Julia (x) to Nathaniel Davis for \$200 Lot 5 in the Town of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book B-2, pages 205-6.
- 1818 John & wife Julia (x) to William Bartlett for \$50 Lot 100 in the Town of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book B-2, page 228.
- 1820 John & wife Julia/Juliet (x) to Jacob Waggoner for \$40 Lot 80 in the Town of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 18-20.
- 1820 John & wife Julia/Juliet (x) to Phillip Harnage for \$50 each Lots 125 and 141 in the Town of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 20-21.
- 1820 John & wife Julia/Juliet (x) to James F. Bond for \$50 Lot 138 in the Town of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, page 24.
- 1820 John & wife Julia/Juliet (x) to Thos. S. Patton for \$50 Lot 137 Grammars plan, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 27-28.
- 1820 John & wife Julia/Juliet(x) to Thomas Reynolds for \$50 Lot 36 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 43-44.
- 1821 John & wife Julia (x) to David Miller for \$100 Lot 63 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 48-49.
- 1820 John & wife Julia (x) to Peter Doremas for \$50 Lot 139 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 55-56.
- 1819 John & wife Julia (x) to David Hunsaker for \$50 Lot 111 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 62-63.
- 1819 John & wife Julia (x) to Peter Lingle for \$50 Lot 120 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 75-76.
- 1821 John & wife Julia (x) to Joseph Hunsaker for \$100 a lot in Grammar 1<sup>st</sup> addition to? Jonesboro including the Hunsaker Tanyard? and dwelling house, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 84-85.
- 1822 John Grammer apparently won a suit against the “goods, chattels and land” of John Thorton. The land was sold for \$180, and presumably the money was turned over to Senator John.
- 1823 John Bradshaw and John Grammer (no wife mentioned) sold to John Dillow 160 acres for \$100, SW¼ Sect. 27, T13S, R1W.
- 1825 John to Plan of Jonesboro \$1? Lots 1-149, page 1 of index, Book C-3, pages 439-40.
- 1825? John & wife to John Reynolds \$50 Lot 126 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book D-4, page 2.
- 1827 John to Jacob Trees<sup>115</sup> for \$7 Lot 102 in Town of Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book D-4, pages 67-68.
- 1827 John to George Greer for \$25 Lot 121 in Jonesboro, page 1 of index, Book D-4, page 91.
- 1828 John to Michael Craver? for \$1000 NW¼ Sect. 30 T12S R1W, page 1 of index, Book D-4, pages 98-99.
- 1828 John to Jacob Frick for \$50 Lot 56 in Grammars plan of Jonesboro (a reserved lot), page 1 of index, Book D-4, page 120.
- 1831 John & wife to Samuel Moland<sup>116</sup> 80 acres for \$1, N½ SE¼ Sect. 20, T12S R2W, page 2 of index, Book D-4, pages 270-71.
- 1830 John to C.G. Flaugh \$50 Lot 55 in Jonesboro, page 2 of index, Book D-4, page 349.
- 1832 John & wife to Isaac Frick \$50 Lot 64 in Jonesboro, page 2 of index, Book D-4, page 370-71.
- 1834 John & wife to William Grammar<sup>117</sup> \$50 SW¼ of NW¼ Sect 25 T12S R3W, page 2 of index, Book D-4, pages 437-38.

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<sup>115</sup> In 1830, Jacob married John's niece Sarah.

<sup>116</sup> Son-in-law.

<sup>117</sup> Son.

- 1836 John & wife to Caleb Frick for \$50 Lot 68 in Jonesboro, page 2 of index, Book E-5, pages 200-01.
- 1836 John & wife to Alexander Frick for \$50 Lot 69 in donation to Jonesboro or Union Co., page 2 of index, Book E-5, page 458.
- 1839 John & wife to Joseph Hough for \$50 Lot 59 in Jonesboro, page 3 of index, Book F-6, page 124.
- 1841 John & wife to George McElhaney<sup>118</sup> for \$50 SE part of NE¼ Sect 26 See deed, page 3 of index, Book F-6, pages 205-06.
- 1819? John & wife to John Shullebargar for \$50 Lot 140 in Jonesboro, page 3 of index, Book F-6, pages 316-17.
- 1841 John Sr.? & wife to George **McGhahey** for \$50, a piece of land in the SE part of NE¼ Sect 26, T12S R3W, page 3 of index, Book H-8, pages 524-25.
- 1839 John to James P. Edwards for \$?, **Check original index**, page 4 of index, Book J-10, page 128.
- 1849 John Sr. and wife to Michael Cravers heirs for \$1000? (check-something here doesn't match.) Book J-10, page 212.
- 1849 John & wife to John Kimmell for \$200, **Check original index**, page 4 of index, Book J-10, page 252.
- Commissioners' Court Proceedings, 1818-1826, Union County, Illinois.
- Sistler, Ruth Ann. *Commissioners' Records, Johnson County, Illinois*. Johnson County Historical Society, 1992.
- "List of property in the county of Union, Illinois, 1839," Court House Ledger, Union County, Illinois. Neither John nor Jacob Grammer are listed, but John J[r.?], William, Wm. B., Hiram, and Joel are.
- "Land Patentees and 1846 Land Owners," Court House Ledger, Union County, Illinois.
- Condon, Dr. Sidney S. *Pioneer Sketches of Union County, Illinois*. 18??. Reprint by Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, ed. and annotated by Darrel Dexter. Out of print in 1991, but copy in Jonesboro, Illinois, Library.
- Dexter, Darrel. "John Grammer of Union County." *Gazette-Democrat*, September 24, 1992. Jonesboro, Illinois.
- Dexter, Darrel. *Union County, Illinois Guardianships, 1818-1918*. Ulin, Illinois.
- Jackson, Ernest Harding. *Federal Census of Union County, Illinois, 1820-1880, Vols. 1 and 2*. Dixon, Illinois: The Print Shop, 1978.
- Jackson, Ernest Harding. *Marriages of Union County, Illinois, 1818-1880*. Thompson, Illinois: Heritage House, 1977.
- Mount, Mary Ellen. *History of Johnson County, Illinois*. Reprint by Johnson County, Illinois, Historical Society, 1992.
- Parks, George E. *History of Union County, Illinois*. Anna, Illinois: 1984. Pages 69, 84, 91, 94, 100, 112, 115, 130, 134, 213, 843.
- Perrin, William Henry. *History of Alexander, Union, and Pulaski Counties, Illinois*. Chicago: O.L. Baskin and Company, 1883. Reprint 1990 by Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, Carterville, Illinois. Pages 269, 271-275, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 315, 327, 353, 354?, 436, 456, and 459.
- Checked with Illinois State Historical Library for an obituary on Senator John, but they said that no newspaper was published in Union County in 1849. However, the Jonesboro Gazette supposedly began publication that year.  
**Check in person.**

## Illinois, General

- Lincoln Papers, online with Northern Illinois University. Nothing found in 2002 search, but should check again because new documents are constantly being added.
- A letter from the Illinois State Historical Library states that there were no newspapers for Union County, Illinois, in 1849, so there would not be an obituary. **Check in person. Check statewide papers, news in legislature, etc.**
- Alvord, Clarence Walworth. *The Centennial History of Illinois, vol. I: The Illinois Country 1673-1818*. Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Co., 1922. Reprinted Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1965. Page 432.
- Bateman, Newton and Selby, Paul, eds., *The Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*. Chicago: Munsell Publishing, 1907. Page 205.
- Brieschke, Walter L. *Notes on Makanda Illinois*. At Shawnee Library, 977.3994, B853.

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<sup>118</sup> Relative of Senator John's first wife Julia?

- Buck, Solon Justus. *The Centennial History of Illinois, introductory volume: Illinois in 1818*. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1918. Pages 217 and 300.
- Chapman, Mrs. P.T. *A History of Johnson County, Illinois*. Reproduction by Johnson County Historical Society, 1973. Pages 45, 69, 226, 253, 254.
- Davidson, Alexander and Stuve, Bernard. *A Complete History of Illinois from 1673 to 1884*. Springfield, Illinois: H.W. Rokker, 1884. Pages 284-85. Copy in the Illinois State Historical Library.
- Dunne, Edward F. *Illinois, the Heart of the Nation, vol. I*. Chicago: the Lewis Publishing Company, 1933. Page 268.
- Ford, Gov. Thomas. *A History of Illinois from its Commencement as a State in 1818 to 1847*. Chicago: The Lakeside Press, R.R. Donnelley and Sons, 1946. Pages 95-98.
- Moses, John. *Illinois, Historical and Statistical, vol. 1*. Chicago: Fergus Printing Company, 1895. Pages 259, 261, and 318.
- Pease, Theodore Calvin. *The Centennial History of Illinois, vol. II: The Frontier State*. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1918. Page 303.
- Philbrick, Francis S. *The Laws of Illinois Territory 1809-1818*. Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library, 1950. Page 293.
- Smith, ?. *History of Southern Illinois*, p. 542. **Get complete citation for this.**
- Wright, John W.D. *A History of Early Carbondale, Illinois 1852-1905*. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1977. Page 214 states that Dr. Joel was believed to be the son of Senator John Grammer.
- *The Saga* of the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, XVIII, vol. 1, page 37.
- Illinois Historical Library, Springfield. Contacted on September 13, 1991. They sent me some information copied from three of the history books listed above.

## Further Research

- Did John lose 1826 and 1928 elections, or just not run?
- Find John's marriages – check other KY counties, and if that fails, TN.
- Next time in Southern Illinois, check the following cemeteries:  
Grammer Cem. NW-1/4, NE-1/4, Sec. 32 R2W T12S  
Grammer Cem. SW-1/4, SW-1/4, Sec. 35 R1W T11S
- **Check Early Illinois Papers for info on Sen. John:** *Illinois Emigrant*, Shawneetown 1818-24; *Illinois Gazette* Shawneetown 1824-?; *Republican Advocat* Kaskaskia 1823-?;

## Miscellaneous

- Robinson, Nellie G. and Thom, Jay Webb. *The Descendants of Joseph and Elizabeth Craig Thom*. Bound, typewritten record in the Newberry Library, Chicago. This is probably just a duplicate or update of what is in the Riggs book, but **check just to be sure.**

## Senator John's Children

<b>1. William GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1803 <sup>119</sup>	Sen. John & Juliet (McELHENEY) GRAMMER <sup>120</sup>	North Carolina?
married	1) November 20, 1832 <sup>121</sup>	Lavina McGRAW	Union County, Illinois
	2) after 1850? <sup>122</sup>		
died	1853-1865 <sup>123</sup>		Union County, Illinois

<b>1) Lavina (McGRAW) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1810	Nicholas and ? McGRAW	South Carolina <sup>124</sup>
married	November 20, 1832 <sup>125</sup>	William GRAMMER	Union County, Illinois
died	by 1846 <sup>126</sup>		

<b>2) ? (?) GRAMMER</b>			
born			
married	after 1846?		
died	by 1865		

In April of 1832, William Grammer's son Hiram charged William and John Grammer, Jr., as well as their father, Senator John, with assault, battery, and trespass. At one point in April, William and John Jr. were found guilty and fined \$5. However, in October of that year, a jury found them all not guilty.<sup>127</sup> Also in 1832, William married Lavina McGraw, sister to his own stepmother and to the woman that William's brother Isaac would go on to marry in a few years. William Grammer served in the Black Hawk War in 1832.

<sup>119</sup> 1850 Union County, Illinois, census.

<sup>120</sup> Parentage: Both Senator John and his brother William had sons named William. The William that married Lavina and that had the children listed here is the one that matches the 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate. Also, William's son William used the middle initial "B."

<sup>121</sup> Union County, Illinois, certificate 355, Book 1, page 29, James P. Hodges, J.P.

<sup>122</sup> William's two oldest children, John and Mahuldah, both inherited Lavina's portion of Sarah (McGraw) Grammer's estate. William's younger children did not inherit from the estate, so they are apparently not Lavina's children, but are instead children of a second, though yet unknown, wife.

<sup>123</sup> William obtained a land grant in 1853 but was dead in time for the 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate.

<sup>124</sup> 1850 Union County, Illinois census.

<sup>125</sup> Union County, Illinois, certificate 355, Book 1, page 29, James P. Hodges, J.P.

<sup>126</sup> William's three youngest children were not heirs of the 1865 partition of Senator John's estate. .

<sup>127</sup> Index of the Union County Circuit Court Journals 1818-1869.

On March 6, 1838, William was appointed supervisor of Grammer road district No. 2½, T13S, R3W.<sup>128</sup> In 1839, a William Grammer had 19 horses valued at \$195, 6 cattle at \$38, no land, and \$50 other property, all for a total of \$183. On December 7, 1841, he was appointed supervisor of Roberts road district, T11S, R1W. He was summoned as traverse juror on June 7, 1842. On March 9, 1843, he was appointed supervisor of Roberts road district 26, T11S, R1W. In April of 1844, he was charged with neglect as a supervisor. He was found guilty and fined \$5. In April of 1845, he was charged with malfeasance in office as a justice of the peace and bail was set at \$200. In September of 1846, a year and a half and several continuances later, the State's Attorney agreed not to continue to prosecute.<sup>129</sup> On July 10, 1847, Alphonso, William's half-brother, was convicted of pulling a knife on William.<sup>130</sup> William was appointed supervisor of road district T11S, R1E on March 13, 1848, but then the entry is marked "rescinded." On April 23, 1850, William, James, and Isaac Grammer filed suit against John Jr. and Sarah contesting the validity of Senator John's will.<sup>131</sup> John Jr. and Sarah won the case.<sup>132</sup> Later, in 1852, William testified for John Jr. and Sarah when Alphonso sued the estate. William had various land transactions in Union County, starting in 1834 when he bought 40 acres from Senator John, and ending in 1853, when he redeemed his last warrant for public domain land.

There is a rather large contradiction in the records concerning whether or not William had a second wife. His proven wife, Lavina/Melvina, was a sister to Sarah "Sally" (McGraw) Grammer. When Sally died, Lavina's heirs inherited in Lavina's place, since Lavina was already dead. However, only two such heirs were named, Mahuldah and John. That would imply that John's other surviving (and proven) children – Angeline, Nancy, and Matilda – were born to another wife. Still, the 1850 census shows Angeline, age 4, but also shows Lavina still alive and living in William's household. A mistake in the census, perhaps? Therefore, at least Angeline appears to be Lavina's child. Perhaps the others were, too? Also keep in mind that a William Grammer married a Turzey Bateson in Union County in 1845. If this marriage is for this William, then the 1850 census is in error when it states that Lavina was in the household. In any case, there is still a puzzle here yet to be solved.

William had at least the following children:<sup>133</sup>

*by Lavina*

- **Mahulda**, born ca. 1837-38; married Harmon/Samuel Sprouse (probably a cousin) on November 14, 1853 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri;<sup>134</sup> living in Scotland County, Missouri, in 1860.<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Perrin, page 326.

<sup>129</sup> Index to Union county Circuit Court Journals 1818-1869.

<sup>130</sup> See section on Alphonso for all of the dirty details.

<sup>131</sup> Union County, Illinois, Circuit Court records, pages 58, 70, 72, 85, and 122. No original papers were found.

<sup>132</sup> See the section on Senator John for more information on the suit.

<sup>133</sup> As listed in the 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate.

<sup>134</sup> Book B, 1839-1854, page 418, #31.

- **John**, born ca. 1840, died after 1867.

*Mother unknown* (Turzey Bateson?)

- **Angeline**, born ca. 1846; died after 1867.
- **Nancy**, born after 1850; m. ? Lewis by 1865; died after 1871.
- **Matilda**, born after 1850; m. John S. Elmore in Union County, Illinois, in 1871; died after 1871.

Census records imply that William may have also had other children who did not survive and did not have any living descendants in 1865:

- **Julian** (female), born 1836.
- **Adaline**, born 1836.
- **Emaline**, born 1837?.
- **Turvey** (female), born 1840.
- **Mary**, born 1842.

The family appears on the 1850 Union County, Illinois, census, and William appears on various records up through 1853, but then they all disappear. Neither parent nor any of the children appear in later censuses.

- See Bibliography for a full list of sources checked.
- No Union County, Illinois, probate file.
- 1835 UCI state census, William Grammer, #145  
males: 1 age 30-40  
females: 1 age 20-30, 1 0-10
- 1840 UCI census, William Grammer, page 74  
males: 1 age 30-40, 1 20-30, 1 0-5  
females: 1 age 60-70, 1 20-30, 2 5-10, 1 0-5
- 1850 UCI census, #047
  - ♦ William, 47 (or 44), NC, farmer, \$280 real estate
  - ♦ Laviza [McGraw],<sup>136</sup> 40, SC, cannot read or write
  - ♦ Adaline?, 14, IL
  - ♦ Julian (female), 14, IL
  - ♦ Emaline, 13?, IL
  - ♦ Mahuldah (female), 12, IL
  - ♦ Turvey (female), 10, IL
  - ♦ John, 10, IL
  - ♦ Mary, 8, IL
  - ♦ Angeline, 4, IL
- UCI land transactions:<sup>137</sup>

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<sup>135</sup> Federal census, #428/541, household of William Sprouse, age 31, farmer. Mahuldah, age 23, born Illinois, housekeeper. Margaret, age 1.

<sup>136</sup> Per Jackson's index.

- 1834 William bought from John Grammer and wife [40 acres] for \$50 SW¼ NW¼ Section 25, T12S, R3W, Book D #4, pages 437-38.
- 1838 William *Gamer?* bought 200 acres from Rosa Cunningham for dower, see also book F #6, pages 53-4.
- 1837 William of UCI bought 40 acres from public domain for \$50, SE SE Section 25, T12S, R3W, vol. 31, page 91.
- 1839 William of UCI bought 40.56 acres from public domain for \$50.70, NW SW Section 7, T11S, R1E, vol. 110, p. 139.
- 1839 William of UCI bought 81.12 acres from public domain for \$101.40, W½ NW¼ Section 7, T11S, R1E, vol. 110, page 139.
- 1839 William & wife sold 37 acres to George McGehee for \$500, SW¼ of NW¼ Section 25, R12S, R3W, Book F no. 6, pages 115-6.
- 1839 William & wife sold [40 acres] to George McGehee for \$250, NW¼ NW¼, Section 36, T12S, R3W, Book F no. 6, pages 116-7.
- 1839<sup>138</sup> William & wife sold 37 acres to George McGehehey for \$500, SW¼ NW¼ Section 25. T12S R3W, Book J No. 9, pages 1-2.<sup>139</sup>
- 1839 William & wife sold [40 acres] to George McGehehey for \$250, NW¼ NW¼ Section 36, T12S, R3W, Book J. No. 9, pages 2-3.
- 1847? William & wife sold 61.30 acres to John Davie for \$60, part of Sect 25, T12S, R2W, Book J No. 10, p. 435.<sup>140</sup>
- 1849 William bought 19.64 acres from public domain for \$66.95, Lot 552, NW NW, Section 16, T14N, R3E, vol. 819, page 134.
- Land transactions in other counties (these may not be for our William):
  - 1853, Franklin County, Illinois, a William Grammer obtained by warrant 77.04 acres from public domain, N½ NW¼ Section 5, T6S, R2E, vol. 105, page 96.
  - 1853, Franklin County, Illinois, a William Grammer obtained by warrant from public domain 38.52 acres, SE¼ NW¼ Section 5, T6S, R2E, vol. 105, page 95.
- 1860-1880 UCI censuses – no listing for either William or Lavina.
- 1860-1865 Jackson County, Illinois – no listing.
- Union County, Illinois, Court House Ledger, “List of Property in the County of Union, 1839.”
- No UCI second marriages for a Lavina Grammer.
- A William Grammer married Turzey Bateson, July 27, 1845 in Union County, Illinois, Book 1, page 78, Henry Casey, M.G.

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<sup>137</sup> I have not checked original public domain land transactions, only the index. The originals would show whether the public domain transactions were from warrants issued in William's name or whether William purchased the warrants from other veterans.

<sup>138</sup> Hard to read year – recorded in with transactions from 1843-44.

<sup>139</sup> This and following land transaction duplicate the above two entries. It appears that the sales were accidentally entered twice on the records.

<sup>140</sup> **Get this for wife's name.**

<b>2. Elizabeth "Lizzie" (GRAMMER) MORELAND McGRAW</b>			
born	ca. 1808 <sup>141</sup>	Sen. John & Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER <sup>142</sup>	Logan County, Kentucky?
married	1) April 8, 1828 <sup>143</sup> div. Feb. 15, 1831 <sup>144</sup>	Samuel MORELAND 1075	Union County, Illinois
	2) September 8, 1833 <sup>145</sup>	Elijah McGRAW 1221	Union County, Illinois
died	1841-1847 <sup>146</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

<b>1) Samuel MORELAND</b>			
born			
married	April 8, 1828 div. Feb. 15, 1831	Elizabeth "Lizzie" GRAMMER	Union County, Illinois
died	by September 8, 1833 <sup>147</sup>		

<b>2) Elijah McGRAW</b>			
born	ca. 1811 <sup>148</sup>		
married	1) September 8, 1833	Elizabeth "Lizzie" GRAMMER	Union County, Illinois
	2) February 21, 1847	Elizabeth (LITTLEJOHN) GRAMMER <sup>149</sup>	Union County, Illinois
died	by August 20, 1863 <sup>150</sup>		

On October 21, 1831, Senator John and his wife Sarah deeded 80 acres over to S. Moreland/Mowland for the token sum of \$1.00.<sup>151</sup> The cheap land sale reinforces the idea that Samuel Moreland was Senator John's son-in-law. Samuel Mowland was a sergeant in the Black Hawk War in 1832.<sup>152</sup>

<sup>141</sup> Estimated from marriage date.

<sup>142</sup> Parentage from the partitioning of Senator John's estate in 1865. It specifically states that Betsy was a sister to Mary Ann, mentioned as Senator John's daughter in his will.

<sup>143</sup> Union County marriage records, A.H. Brown, J.P., certificate 188, Book A, page 36.

<sup>144</sup> Illinois State Genealogical Quarterly, vol. IX, no. 4, page 185, "Genealogical Abstracts from Early Laws for Illinois 1827-1832."

<sup>145</sup> Union County marriage records, Kineth Hargrave, J.P., Book 1, page 35.

<sup>146</sup> Her last child was born ca. 1841. Elijah remarried in 1847.

<sup>147</sup> When Elizabeth married Elijah McGraw.

<sup>148</sup> From 1860 Union County census, #1404.

<sup>149</sup> Widow of Carrol Grammer, Elizabeth's brother.

<sup>150</sup> On August 20, 1863, Elijah's widow, Elizabeth (Littlejohn) Grammer McGraw married Zachariah Corzine. Note that this implied age must be wrong if she were indeed a daughter of Samuel, since he died in 1833.

<sup>151</sup> Land records book 4, Union County, Illinois.

<sup>152</sup> Descendants might want to check the National Archives for a service or pension record. One of these might indicate that Samuel was killed in the Black Hawk War.

Elizabeth and Samuel Mowland were divorced in 1831, just three years after they were married. In 1833, *Mrs. Elizabeth Mo(w)land*<sup>153</sup> married Elijah McGraw, brother to all of the McGraw sisters that married Elizabeth's father and brothers. At the time of the marriage, Elizabeth was most likely pregnant with her daughter Lucinda. According to *The Aldridge Family*, Lizzie lived at Carruthersville, Missouri.

Elizabeth had the following children:<sup>154</sup>

*By Samuel Moreland, m. April 8, 1828 UCI*

- **John Moreland**, b. 1828-1833; no known marriage; Pvt. Co. B, 18<sup>th</sup>, Civil War; died May 22, 1865 at Little Rock, Arkansas. On December 18, 1849, John Moland was fined \$4 for the December 12 assault and battery on the body of John Brooks. In 1852 a John Moreland, presumed to be Elizabeth's son, testified on behalf of Alphonso's suit against the administrators of Senator John's estate.
- **Lucinda Moreland**, b. 1833-34; m. July 18, 1861 UCI John T. Corzine;<sup>155</sup> d. October 8, 1865, age 29 years;<sup>156</sup> buried Morgan Cemetery, near Ware. It appears that Lucinda is in the 1860 census at the home of Elijah McGraw, her stepfather, and that she was at that point using the surname McGraw. However, when she married one year later, she used the surname Moreland. Her husband, John T. Corzine, died in the Civil War<sup>157</sup> on December 14, 1864, age 24 years, 11 months, 17 days; buried Morgan Cemetery. John T. and Lucinda had one known child, Mary F., born June 15, 1862; died September 17, 1864; buried Morgan Cemetery. Lucinda led a short and sorrowful life – she was married only three years when she buried first her two year old daughter, then her husband. She died less than a year later.

*By Elijah McGraw, m. September 8, 1833 UCI*

- **Lydia McGraw**, b. 1840, d. 1860-65.
- **Carroll McGraw**, b. 1841, d. 1860-1865. Probably the Carroll McGraw that was a pvt. in Co. C, 60<sup>th</sup>; enlisted from Jonesboro on Feb. 8, 1862; mustered in Feb. 21, 1862; died March 13, 1862 at Cairo, Illinois. He lasted less than a month in the service, and most probably never saw action, instead dying of one of the diseases that did in many of the soldiers.

Elizabeth must have died by 1847, because on February 27, 1847, in Union County, Elijah married Elizabeth (Littlejohn<sup>158</sup>) Grammer, apparently the widow of Senator John's son

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<sup>153</sup> Spelled both ways on the same certificate.

<sup>154</sup> Dexter, Ip. 80, 835 Union County, Illinois guardianship, appointed Elijah McGraw guardian for John, William, Charles Slade, and Lucinda. **Check this again and evaluate.**

<sup>155</sup> Son of Andrew Corzine, third husband (divorced) of Elizabeth's sister Julia.

<sup>156</sup> From tombstone.

<sup>157</sup> Per Darrel Dexter. **Get pension.**

<sup>158</sup> Per Darrel Dexter.

Carrol and thereby Elizabeth's sister-in-law.<sup>159</sup> Elijah and this Elizabeth were found in the 1860 census along with:<sup>160</sup>

- **Lucinda** (must have been Moreland although census index lists her as McGraw), b. 1834
- **Lydia**, b. 1840, so apparently Elizabeth's daughter.
- **Carroll**, b. 1841, so apparently Elizabeth's son.
- **Seth**, b. 1849, so apparently born to Elijah and his second wife, Elizabeth (Littlejohn) Grammer McGraw.

It appears that none of Elizabeth's descendants were still surviving for the estate partitioning in 1865. Because of that, Elizabeth's heirs are confusing. When Senator John's estate was settled in 1865, Elizabeth was dead and her heirs were listed as: Hester P. Corzine, Sarah [Corzine?] Keith,<sup>161</sup> Andrew M. Corzine, Zachariah Corzine, Giles L. Corzine, Alice Lyerle and Mary Lyerle. Each of the first five heirs received 1/6 of the share that Elizabeth was entitled to. It also appears that the two Lyerle heirs were children of Jane Allertine (Corzine) Leyerle, who would have been entitled to a 1/6 portion.<sup>162</sup>

These heirs do not at first examination appear to be the heirs one would expect for Elizabeth. The only explanation seems to be the following:

- All of Elizabeth's children – John Moreland, Lucinda (Moreland) Corzine, and Lydia and Carrol McGraw – were dead by 1865. This fits with the information that there are no recorded marriages for three of these, leading one to believe that they died young.
  - Elizabeth's daughter Lucinda and her husband John T. Corzine left only John's Corzine brothers and sisters<sup>163</sup> as heirs. These folks do indeed match the list of heirs in Senator John's estate partitioning.<sup>164</sup> Still, Elizabeth died *after* her husband, and in this case it seems to me that her heirs would be her family, not the family of her deceased husband. This, of course, could depend upon instructions in her husband's will. Therefore, this is still only a partly-solved puzzle.
- See Bibliography for a complete listing of sources checked.

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<sup>159</sup> This would make Elijah's new wife the sister-in-law of his deceased wife.

<sup>160</sup> Union County #1404.

<sup>161</sup> No Sarah Corzine/McGraw/Mowland m. a Keith UCI.

<sup>162</sup> Jane Allertine Corzine and Isaac J. Leyerle were married August 29, 1850. Alice and Mary Leyerle were living with them at the time of the 1860 Union County, Illinois census. Jane did not appear in the 1860 census with Isaac Leyerle, so she had apparently died by then, which again matches the 1865 partition.

<sup>163</sup> Per the probate files of Andrew Corzine (John T.'s father, 1861, Box C-47) and William Corzine (John T.'s brother, 1857, box number unknown). Both files provide the entire list of brothers, sisters, and other heirs.

<sup>164</sup> Thank you, Darrel Dexter, for figuring this out. Note that the Corzine heirs were also step-children of Senator John's daughter Julia/Judy (Grammer) Connaway Corzine by way of her marriage to Andrew Corzine.

- No Samuel Mo(w)land/Moreland in any UCI census 1820-1880.
- 1831, S(amu(e)l?) Moreland bought from John Grammer 80 acres for \$1.00, N½ SE¼, Sect. 20, T12S, R2W, Book D #4. page 270-71.
- 1840 UCI census, #71<sup>165</sup>
  - ♦ Elijah McGraw, age 20-30 (presumably Elizabeth (Grammer) Moreland McGraw was with him – need to check ages of females.)
- 1850 UCI census, Elijah McGraw not in index.
- 1860 UCI census, #1404
  - ♦ Elijah McGraw, 49, NC
  - ♦ Elizabeth (Grammer)<sup>166</sup> McGraw, 33, AL
  - ♦ Lucinda,<sup>167</sup> 26, IL
  - ♦ Lydia, 20, IL
  - ♦ Carrol, 19, IL
  - ♦ Seth, 11, IL
- Elijah McGraw married Elizabeth (Littlejohn) Grammer, widow of Carrol Grammer, on February 21, 1847. Elijah apparently died prior to 1863, because Elizabeth (Littlejohn) Grammer McGraw married Zachariah Corzine on August 20, 1863 in Union County. This same Elizabeth Corzine showed up as an heir to the estate of Sarah “Sally” Grammer, widow of Senator John. She was an heir because she was the widow of Sarah’s brother Elijah.
- 1850-1865 Jackson County, Illinois, censuses – no listings.
- *The Aldridge Family*. No other publication information on microfilm available through the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 1850 UCI census, #634<sup>168</sup>. This household is shown only because Betsy’s heirs were Andrew’s children, and they were living with Andrew for this census.
  - ♦ Andrew Corzine, 54, NC, farmer
  - ♦ Elizabeth [Penninger]<sup>169</sup> Corzine, 48, NC
  - ♦ Samuel, 23, NC, farmer
  - ♦ Washington, 22, NC, farmer
  - ♦ Sarah, 16, NC, in school [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
  - ♦ William, 15, NC, farmer
  - ♦ Andrew, 14, NC, in school [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
  - ♦ Zachariah, 11, IL, in school [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
  - ♦ John, 9, IL, in school [The John that m. Lucinda Moreland and died 1864]
  - ♦ Thompson, 8, IL, in school
  - ♦ Giles, 4, IL, in school [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
  - ♦ Hester [Corzine] Davis,<sup>170</sup> 26, SC [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
  - ♦ Jane, 5, IL, in school (Corzine?) [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
  - ♦ Elizabeth, 3, IL [Elizabeth’s heir in 1865]
- 1860 UCI census, #1721 **Get original**
  - ♦ Andrew Corzine, 64, NC

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<sup>165</sup> **Get original.**

<sup>166</sup> Per Jackson's index. This seems to be Elizabeth (Littlejohn) Grammer McGraw.

<sup>167</sup> Index lists surname McGraw, but I suspect this should be Moreland.

<sup>168</sup> Note that the original copy of the census differs substantially with what is listed in Jackson.

<sup>169</sup> Penninger per Gladys Penninger Harris (2929-B Lichen Lane, Clearwater, FL 34620 in 1995), a descendant. Jackson’s index lists her maiden name as McGraw.

<sup>170</sup> Hester, daughter of Andrew, was involved in a divorce in 1866, and their relationships get a little confusing — see Dexter, *Early Courthouse Records*, page 66.

- ♦ Tabitha [Brown]<sup>171</sup> Corzine, 53, TN [m. 1857 UCI]
- ♦ Susan, 18, TN
- ♦ Thompson, 18, IL
- ♦ Giles, 14, IL

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<sup>171</sup> Per Jackson's index.

<b>3. John GRAMMER, Jr.</b>			
born	ca. 1810 <sup>172</sup>	Sen. John & Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER <sup>173</sup>	Logan County?, Kentucky <sup>174</sup>
married	ca. 1834 <sup>175</sup>	Elizabeth <sup>176</sup> ?	not Union or Jackson Counties, Illinois
died	October 15, 1853 <sup>177</sup>		Union County, Illinois

<b>Elizabeth (?) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1813 <sup>178</sup>		Mississippi <sup>179</sup>
married	ca. 1834	John GRAMMER, Jr.	
died	before October 15, 1853 <sup>180</sup>		

John, Jr. seemed to be the son that John Sr. depended upon the most and he was the one that Senator John appointed as executor of his will. On October 30, 1830, John J. Grammer was listed as a member of the Illinois State Militia.<sup>181</sup>

In April of 1832, William Grammer's son Hiram charged John, Jr. and William Grammer, as well as their father, Senator John, with assault, battery, and trespass. At one point in April, John Jr. and William were found guilty and fined \$5, However, in October of that year, a jury found them all not guilty.<sup>182</sup>

On December 9, 1835, John Jr. was summoned as petit juror. On December 4, 1838, he was summoned as traverse juror. In 1839, John had 1 horse valued at \$35; 5 cattle at \$25; 2 clocks and watches at \$100; land SE15, 12S-2W, 160 acres @ \$4 per acre for a total of \$640; \$200 other property; for a total (excepting land) of \$360. On December 7, 1841, John Jr. was appointed constable in Treese Precinct, upon the petition of a majority of qualified voters on December 2. John Sr. served as his security for the bond.

<sup>172</sup> 1850 Union County, Illinois census.

<sup>173</sup> Parentage from a) Senator John's will; b) the appointment of John Jr. as the executor of Senator John's estate; c) frequent mention in records of John Sr. and Jr.; d) the 1865 partition of Senator John's estate, which lists survivors of John Jr. which closely match this John's children on census records.

<sup>174</sup> 1850 Union County, Illinois census lists Kentucky as birthplace.

<sup>175</sup> From birth of first child.

<sup>176</sup> From 1850 Union County, Illinois census.

<sup>177</sup> Union County probate box #118, 1854-56.

<sup>178</sup> 1850 Union County, Illinois census.

<sup>179</sup> 1850 Union County, Illinois census.

<sup>180</sup> John Jr.'s probate files specifically state that there was no widow.

<sup>181</sup> Parks, page 147.

<sup>182</sup> Index of the Union County Circuit Court Journals 1818-1869.

In June of 1846, John enlisted in the company of John S. Hacker (his father's political rival) to fight in the Mexican War.<sup>183</sup> He was a Sergeant in Company F.<sup>184</sup> He was discharged on June 18, 1847, in Camargo, Mexico.

On December 5, 1848, John<sup>185</sup> was allowed \$2 for two days attendance as constable at the September term of the circuit court. On September 5, 1849, John Jr., Wash. Brown, and George W. Kimmel were appointed election judges in Trees Precinct, with the election to be held at the dwelling house on the Old Littleton farm on the Mississippi. On December 18, he served as judge and was paid \$2 for returning the poll books.

John bought 80 acres from public domain land 1836-1837.

John's children included:<sup>186</sup>

- **Mary Jane**, born 1832-1835; m. (1) John Tweedy April 7, 1854 UCI; married (2) John W. Burton<sup>187</sup> December 13, 1866; died after 1867.
- **William J.**, born December 24, 1835, died between 1854 and 1865.
- **James**, born October 4, 1843; died after 1867. This may have been the James Grammer that enlisted from Jonesboro on Feb. 8, and mustered in on Feb. 21, 1862; Pvt. Co. E, 60<sup>th</sup>; reenlisted as veteran on Feb. 18, 1864; mustered out July 31, 1865. He may have also been the James that was appointed constable December 8-9, 1876. A James Grammer married Hannah Gunn in 1867 in Union County, Illinois, and was on the 1880 census in Jonesboro (#65/69), keeping a saloon.
- **John**, born February 10, 1839; helped settle Senator John's estate in 1865; died after 1867. Most probably the John Grammer that enlisted as a pvt. in Co. C, 60<sup>th</sup> on Feb. 8, 1862; resident of Jonesboro; mustered in on Feb. 21, 1862; reenlisted as veteran on Feb. 18, 1864; mustered out July 31, 1865. Alternately, this could be the John Grammer that married Cynthia Jane Gully and died in the Civil War.
- **Isaac**, born December 4, 1848;<sup>188</sup> died 1854-1865. Most probably the Isaac that enlisted from Jonesboro on August 26, 1861; mustered in September 18, 1861; Pvt. Co. E, 31<sup>st</sup>; wounded Battle of Belmont; discharged for disability. Could that disability have been his eventual cause of death, which occurred shortly?

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<sup>183</sup> Dexter, 1992. I have not checked the files in the National Archives.

<sup>184</sup> Perrin, page 327.

<sup>185</sup> In this case, the "Jr." was not specifically stated. However, since John Jr. had been appointed constable prior to this, and since John Sr. must certainly have been getting feeble by then, I have made the assumption that this reference is for John Jr.

<sup>186</sup> Parentage from John Jr.'s 1854 probate file and from the 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate, both Union County, Illinois. Parentage and birth dates of children from John Jr.'s probate, Probate Book 6, page 44, which assigns guardianship of minor heirs.

<sup>187</sup> From Union County, Illinois, marriage records and the signature of a Mary J. Burton for the partitioning of real estate that was supposed to go to Mary Jane (Grammer) Tweedy.

<sup>188</sup> UCI guardianship papers, May 1865, Isaac son of John Grammer, Samuel Rendleman appointed guardian.

A Jasper Grammer, age 14, is listed in the census with John Jr.'s family in 1850. He is apparently not John's son, however, since: a) he seems to have been alive in 1860, when a Jasper Grammer, age 24, born Illinois, was living with ? and Minerva Davie,<sup>189</sup> but b) he was not listed as an heir in the estate of John Jr. in 1853, even though it seems he was still alive at that time. A doctor's note in John Jr.'s probate file, however, lists Jasper as a son of Elizabeth. Note that William B. Grammer had a son named Jasper, born 1841. A puzzle?

John, Jr. died intestate on October 15, 1853.<sup>190</sup> Estate papers specifically state that there was no widow.<sup>191</sup> Administrator of his estate was Jacob Grammer, presumably John Jr.'s cousin. The estate appeared on the 1855 tax list under Jacob as administrator. The listing states "total value 6., state and county tax 2.38, pd." John Tweedy (brother-in-law) was appointed guardian of the minor children William, James, John, and Isaac.<sup>192</sup> Notes in the probate file appear to refer to the estate of Sarah Grammer, deceased, who would have been the widow of John Sr. but who did not die until later, in 1865.

A doctor's bill from December 28, 1853, stated "*Elizabeth Grammer decesd Dr. to Geo Dougherty for visit to Sone and course of Medicine \$3.00.*" The Elizabeth was crossed out and "John" was written above in a different handwriting. This note implies that Elizabeth lived a few months beyond John Jr. but died before the estate was probated.

Purchasers at John's estate sale included Jonathan and ? Eaves (Jacob Grammer married Susan Eaves); William Sprouse (John Jr.'s brother William had a daughter who married a Sprouse, as did an apparent sister of Senator John); Thomas Barker (various Barkers married into the Grammers in both Kentucky and Illinois); Elijah McGraw (various McGraws married Grammers in Illinois); and Isaac, Jacob, Jasper, Jane, and Sarah Grammer. The estate sale brought in \$598.83. After bills were paid there was \$470.60 left to distribute to the heirs.

An almost illegible account from Dr. Jephtha Randolph was included in the probate file. It billed the estate for \$23.50 in visits and medicine from January 1 through January 15, 1854. Mention was made of a Mr. Sprouse, of a "little son", perhaps of Mr. Sprouse or of John Jr.; to Mrs. Grammer [widow?] and her son Jasper. Perhaps this was for Elizabeth's last illness?

- See Bibliography for a complete listing of sources checked.
- Union County probate box #118, 1854-56. Administrator was Jacob, probably Jacob Sr.'s son. Some of the receipts in this file appeared to be for Sarah Grammer, John's step-mother. There were also notes from Hugh Penrod. See also Probate Journal A, 1847-1855, page 295. Appointed Jacob administrator, bond at \$800, specifically states "there being no widow."
- No marriage in Union County, Illinois, so no maiden name for wife.

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<sup>189</sup> UCI census, household 1123/1121, page 153.

<sup>190</sup> Union County, Illinois probate files, box 118, 1854-56, Journal A-295.

<sup>191</sup> Probate Journal A, 1847-1855, page 295.

<sup>192</sup> Probate Book 6, page 44.

- Union County, Illinois, Court House Ledger, "List of Property in the County of Union, 1839."
- 1830 UCI census, John H. Grammer, page 58/114
  - males: 1 age 20-30
  - females: 1 age 20-30
- 1835 UCI state census, John Grammer, Jr., #143
  - males: 1 age 20-30
  - females: 1 age 20-30, 1 10-20
- 1840 UCI census, John G.,<sup>193</sup> page 65.
  - males: 1 age 30-40, 1 25-20, 1 5-10
  - females: 1 age 20-30, 1 15-20, 2 0-5
- 1850 UCI census, #1173, page 161
  - ♦ John, 40, KY, farmer, \$500 real estate
  - ♦ Elizabeth, 37, MS, cannot read or write
  - ♦ Jasper, 14, IL, in school
  - ♦ Mary, 12, IL, in school
  - ♦ John, 10, IL, in school
  - ♦ James, 6, IL, in school
  - ♦ Isaac, 1, IL
  - ♦ Susannah, 12, IL (a cousin? not in Senator John's estate settlement)
- 1860 UCI census, #48
  - ♦ John Tweedy
  - ♦ Mary J. Tweedy
  - ♦ James Grammer, 16, IL [John's son]
  - ♦ Isaac Grammer, 11, IL [John's son]
- 1860 UCI census, #59
  - ♦ William Parker (should be Barker?)
  - ♦ Elizabeth Parker
  - ♦ John Grammer, 20, IL [John's son]
- 1860-1880 UCI census, no listings for John or Elizabeth. (John Jr. died 1853.)
- John Jr. ("of Union County") had the following land transactions:
  - ♦ 1836 bought 40 acres for \$50 from public domain, NW¼ NW¼, Section 36, T12S, R3W (near Ware), Vol. 31, p. 59.
  - ♦ 1837 bought 40 acres for \$50 from public domain, NE¼ NE¼, Section 26, T12S, R3W (near Ware), Vol. 31, p. 92
- *List of Land Patentees and Land Owners in 1846*, 80 acres.
- UCI guardianship papers for children after John died, boxes 593 and 596:
  - ♦ James b. 10-04-1843, Isaac 12-04-1848, William J. 12-24-1835, John 02-10-1840
  - ♦ John Grammer 1855 (presumably date of processing), Elizabeth Grammer 1857 (596), 1865 (593)
  - ♦ John Tweedy appointed guardian 1857, Book. 6, page 44
  - ♦ Samuel Rendleman, appointed guardian 1865

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<sup>193</sup> Yes, I double-checked the "G."

<b>4. Julia "Judah" Ann (GRAMMER) CONNAWAY CROWELL CORZINE</b>			
born	by 1818 <sup>194</sup>	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b> <sup>195</sup>	Union County, Illinois
married	1) April 21, 1838 <sup>196</sup> annulled Oct. 27, 1841	<b>William CONNAWAY</b>	Union County, Illinois Union County, Illinois
	2) May 9, 1842 <sup>197</sup>	<b>John CROWELL</b>	Union County, Illinois
	3) July 20, 1854 <sup>198</sup> divorced May 10, 1857	<b>Andrew CORZINE</b>	Union County, Illinois Union County, Illinois
died	1857-1865 <sup>199</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

<b>1) William CONNAWAY</b>			
born			
married	April 21, 1838 annulled Oct. 27, 1841	<b>Julia Ann GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois Union County, Illinois
died	after 1841 <sup>200</sup>		

<b>2) John CROWELL</b>			
born			
married	May 9, 1842	<b>Julia Ann GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	by July 20, 1854 <sup>201</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

(continued next page)

<sup>194</sup> Estimated from date of first marriage.

<sup>195</sup> Parentage speculation based upon a) she is not William Grammer's daughter (not listed in his will), b) she married in Union County Illinois in 1838, just before Jacob Grammer was known to be in Illinois, and c) she has the same name as Senator John's wife, presumably her mother. Neither she nor any issue is listed in Senator John's will, she was presumably died childless.

<sup>196</sup> Union County, Illinois, marriage records, Wesley G. Nimmo, J.P., Certificate 308, Book I, page 73.

<sup>197</sup> Union County, Illinois, marriage records, Nicholas K. Tripp, Commissioner, Book I, page 130.

<sup>198</sup> Union County, Illinois, marriage records, Paul Frick, J.P., Book 2, page 48. Julia is named as Judah H. here and on many records to follow.

<sup>199</sup> Julia was divorced from Andrew in 1857. She was dead in time for the 1865 partition of Senator John's estate.

<sup>200</sup> Date of the divorce.

<sup>201</sup> When Julia married Andrew Corzine.

<b>3) Andrew CORZINE</b>			
born		by 1818 <sup>202</sup>	
married	1)	before 1850 <sup>203</sup>	<b>Elizabeth Penninger</b> <sup>204</sup>
	2)	July 20, 1854 <sup>205</sup> divorced May 10, 1857	<b>Judah H. (Grammer) Crowell</b> Union County, Illinois Union County, Illinois
	3)	May 24, 1857	<b>Tabitha Brown</b> Union County, Illinois
	4)	January 15, 1861	<b>Mrs. Catherine J. Wiggs</b> Union County, Illinois
died		November, 1861	Union County, Illinois?

Darrel Dexter found a lot of new information on Julia, back in 1998. Apparently some of this information included here is for a different Julia that was Andrew Corzine's later wife. I can no longer put my hands on this information. **Check files.**

Julia was not lucky in love. She had her first marriage annulled (William was later divorced from his second wife, too), her second husband died after less than eight years of marriage, and her third husband divorced her. No heirs have ever been found for Julia.

On April 21, 1838, Julia married William Connaway. Prior to that, in 1819-1820, a William Connaway was brought before the Union County Circuit Court in a case brought by the state. He pled not guilty but was found guilty. No further details are available,<sup>206</sup> so this could very well be for a different William Connaway entirely.

William was appointed constable in 1837, with Edward Conoway and George Smiley as securities for his bond. He was allowed \$1 for services as judge in the 1837 August election. In 1839, he was appointed election judge in Treese Precinct for a period of four years.

In 1839, a year after William's marriage to Julia, he was charged with forgery and/or perjury and posted a \$200 bond. Within two days the case was dropped on the motion of his attorney, John Dougherty (the same attorney who defended many of the boisterous Grammer boys).

<sup>202</sup> Appointed Clerk of the Clear Creek Baptist Church in 1838; most probably he would have to have been at least age 20 to be appointed to such a position.

<sup>203</sup> Per 1850 Union County, Illinois census, #6343.

<sup>204</sup> ??? some of this footnote was lost when translating from one word processor to another... Penninger per Gladys Penninger Harris (2929-B Lichen Lane, Clearwater, Florida 34620 in 1995), a descendant. Jackson's census index for Union County list's Elizabeth's maiden name as McGraw. No Union County marriage of an Elizabeth (?) to Andrew.

<sup>205</sup> Union County, Illinois, marriage records, Paul Frick, J.P., Book 2, page 48. Julia is named as Judah H. here and on many records to follow. Note that according to Gladys Penninger Harris (address above), Andrew's first wife may not have died until 1857. If so, then Andrew may well have been a bigamist. Also, Andrew and Elizabeth had a slew of kids.

<sup>206</sup> Per Darrel Dexter.

In 1839-1840, a William Connaway attempted to divorce an *Elizabeth* Connaway, but the jury denied the divorce (there is no record of a William and *Elizabeth* Connaway marrying or living in Union County). This attempted divorce appears to be for William and our Julia, with Julia's name mistakenly recorded as Elizabeth.

On October 27, 1841, Julia filed for annulment against William. He did not show up for the proceedings. The jury granted Julia the annulment and ruled that William must pay court costs.

Julia married 2) John Crowell in 1842. Long before that, in 1828, a John Crowell bought several items, including a Bible, at William Grammer's auction.

John must have died by 1854, when Julia married 3) Andrew Corzine. Prior to that, in 1838, Andrew Corzine had the dubious distinction of being the "owner" of Peggy, "a bright mulatto girl aged 15 years...", who was the only person in Union County indentured after the 1818 Illinois Constitution. Before he married Julia, Andrew was a member of the Clear Creek Baptist Church.<sup>207</sup> He was appointed clerk in 1838 (so he must have been able to read and write quite well). In 1840, he acknowledged that he had gone astray by making use of language. The church forgave him. In 1841, he confessed unchristianlike conduct by attempting to fight Wiley Davis. He said he was sorry and the church expressed satisfaction. In 1843, he reported that his feelings were hurt by Eber Carlock making false statements about him. Carlock apologized, but both men were later excluded from fellowship because they failed to make necessary acknowledgement.

Throughout 1855-1857, Andrew Corzine attempted to divorce *Judy H.*<sup>208</sup> (Crowell) Corzine, apparently our Julia. Andrew's lawyer was John Dougherty, who often attempted to get Julia's brothers out of jail, while Julia's was Cyrus G. Simmons, who often did legal work for Senator John. Andrew claimed that Judy committed adultery with Nathan Richeson on December 20, 1854 and eloped with him on December 24, 1854. John Trexler, Zachariah Corzine, John Corzine, America Henderson, Sarah Grammer (Julia's stepmother), and Richard Parrish (living with Sarah in 1860) testified on Andrew's behalf, verifying his claim of desertion. Andrew stated that he "*treated her with kindness and in all things sought to alleviate her cares and make her happy.*" Judy testified that she was driven from the house by Andrew's "*violence, \_\_\_, cruelty, and improper conduct.*" She had no objections to the divorce but she did object to the slander. On January 2, 1856, the jury denied the divorce, but the divorce was taken up again in 1857. This time, Andrew dropped the charge of adultery and just claimed abandonment. Judy did not fight this second attempt, even failing to show up at two court dates. Andrew was directed to pay court costs and the divorce was granted on May 10, 1857.

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<sup>207</sup> Dexter, *The Saga*, Fall 1993, page 24.

<sup>208</sup> Records with Andrew refer to her as Judah.

Julia's alleged "partner in crime," Nathan Richardson, was constable when on December 2, 1856, the Commissioners Court paid him \$4.50 for attendance at the October term of court. Only four days later he was dead, according to the December 6 Commissioners Court payment to C.H. Williford for building Nathan's coffin. Probate records disagree, showing that he died November 2, 1858, two years later than the payment for his coffin. Also, in 1859, William Penrod was allowed \$6.06 for burial clothes for three men, one of whom was Nathan Richardson. Obviously, there must have been two Nathan Richardsons, and which one was Judy's Nathan is in question. In any case, if Nathan and Judy did have a relationship, Nathan did not live long enough to benefit much from Judy's divorce. The personal property of the Nathan in the probate records was appraised by Jacob and Jasper (x) Grammer and Robert (x) Goodman. The widow was Minerva Richardson (not married UCI).

Ten days after Julia and Andrew were divorced, on May 24, 1857, Andrew married Mrs. Tabitha Brown. In January 1861, he may have married Mrs. Catharine J. Wiggs.<sup>209</sup> He died the following November.

Julia is not listed as an heir to the 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate. This fits with our theory that she died prior to then, leaving no surviving children or husband.

- See Bibliography for complete listing of sources checked.
- UCI divorce records E426, E494, E562, F76, F91, F113. Also clerk's minutes p. 43, 56.
- 1820-1840 UCI censuses – not listed.
- 1850-1865 Jackson County, Illinois, census – not listed.
- 1850 UCI census, #1184
  - John Crowell, age 50, NC
  - Michael, age 14, born IL (too old to be Julia's son from this marriage)note: no Julia listed in index – **check original**
- 1860 UCI census, #1721
  - Andrew Corzine, age 64, NC, \$200?
  - Tabitha [Brown],<sup>210</sup> 53, TN
  - Susan, 18, TN
  - Thompson, 18, IL
  - ??? Sarah Lev??? 14, F, MO (**Don't know where I got this one.**)
  - Giles, 14, ILnote: none of these children would have had Julia as their mother; they are too old.

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<sup>209</sup> I have probate record filed away; need to check widow.

<sup>210</sup> Per Jackson's index.

<b>5. Isaac GRAMMER</b>			
born	1815-1819 <sup>211</sup>	Sen. John & Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER <sup>212</sup>	Union County, Illinois <sup>213</sup>
married	December 03, 1835 <sup>214</sup>	Mary "Polly" Ann McGRAW	Union County, Illinois
died	November 25, 1870 <sup>215</sup>	cause: diphtheria?	Union County, Illinois

<b>Mary "Polly" Ann (McGRAW) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1816-1820 <sup>216</sup>	Nicholas? and Elizabeth McGraw <sup>217</sup>	North Carolina <sup>218</sup>
married	December 03, 1835	Isaac GRAMMER	Union County, Illinois
died	after 1870 <sup>219</sup>		

On March 2, 1834, William McLaughlin paid a \$3 fine for assault and battery on the body of Isaac Grammer. On March 6, 1839, Isaac was appointed supervisor of Grammer road, district No. 2½, T12S, R3W. On June 6 of the same year, he was summoned as a grand juror. On September 3, John H. Grammer was appointed road supervisor to replace Isaac, who "removed without the bounds" of the district. On December 8, 1841, Isaac was summoned as traverse juror. In 1842, Isaac testified when the estate of Patience Delaney was contested. He was illiterate, as is shown by his use of a mark rather than a signature. Isaac, his brother William, and his father Senator John married three McGraw sisters.

When Isaac's half-brother Alphonso pulled a knife on another brother William, Isaac was the one who pulled Alphonso away. Because his wife was gravely ill, Isaac was excused from testifying in the 1847 trial.<sup>220</sup>

When Senator John died, Isaac owed him \$3.50, which was listed as "doubtful." Isaac testified against Alphonso in Alphonso's suit against the executors of Senator John's estate. On April 23, 1850, William, James, and Isaac Grammer filed against John Jr. and Sally contesting

<sup>211</sup> 1850, 1860, and 1870 Union County, Illinois, censuses.

<sup>212</sup> Parentage from Senator John's note giving Isaac permission to marry Polly, Union County marriage files. Also from 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate.

<sup>213</sup> 1850, 1860, and 1870 Union County, Illinois, censuses. Also from son Carrol's death certificate.

<sup>214</sup> Union County, Illinois marriage record, Kineth Hargrave, J.P., certificate 480, Book 1, page 51.

<sup>215</sup> Death date from the November 26, 1870, *Jonesboro Gazette*. Union County probate box G-120, 1871, states that the death date was November 29; I am assuming that the earlier date is correct. Probate also B167, A82.

<sup>216</sup> 1859, 1860, and 1870 Union County, Illinois, censuses. Could also check son Carrol's death certificate.

<sup>217</sup> Mother listed on Isaac and Mary's marriage certificate.

<sup>218</sup> 1850 and 1860 Union County, Illinois, censuses.

<sup>219</sup> Appointed administrator of Isaac's estate in 1870.

<sup>220</sup> See section on Alphonso for more details.

the validity of Senator John's will.<sup>221</sup> This suit pitted Isaac against Sally (McGraw) Grammer, his wife's sister. See the section on Senator John for more information on the suit.

In 1851 Isaac pled not guilty to a charge of public indecency.<sup>222</sup> His bail was \$200, and his attorney was John Dougherty.<sup>223</sup> He was found guilty and fined \$10. He moved for a new trial, but the motion was denied. December 6, 1852, he was fined \$3 for assault and battery on the body of ? Cox. On March 9, 1853, he was again fined \$3 for assault and battery, this time on the bodies of J.F. Persons and T. Demming. On May 20, 1853, he was charged with keeping open a "tippling house" on the Sabbath.<sup>224</sup> His bail was \$50. He pled not guilty, but the jury disagreed and fined him \$5.

Also in 1853, Isaac bought several items from the estate of John Grammer, Jr., including "bones and sundries," a wash pan, a trunk, and cooking utensils, for a total of \$2.65. On September 24, 1855, he was fined \$3 for assault and battery on the body of Staniford Gray. Also in 1855, Isaac appears on the Union County tax list, with a "total value" of .35, state and county tax .40, and road tax 3 (paid). In 1869, Isaac found a stray mare at his residence "near L.F. Brooks' mill in T11S, R1W."

The 1870 census index does not list Polly as living in the household.<sup>225</sup> Instead, it lists a Rhoda, same age and birthplace as Polly, in the house. However, when Isaac died at the end of the year, Polly was appointed administrator. It appears that Polly may have used the name Rhoda on occasion.

Isaac's estate was valued at \$250 on one document and \$400 on another. Although Isaac is not listed in either the Union County land transaction indexes or public domain land records, his estate included 40 acres and two houses. Other items in the evaluation included 5 acres of wheat in the field, 6 head of cattle, 9 hogs, farming tools, a wagon harness, and household and kitchen furniture. His death notice<sup>226</sup> stated the following:

*There has been considerable sickness of a low type for the past few months, and several children have died of diphtheria. Isaac Grammer, one of the oldest residents of your county, died yesterday.*

Probate and census records confirm that Isaac and Polly had at least the following children:

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<sup>221</sup> Union County, Illinois, Circuit Court records, pages 58, 70, 72, 85, and 122. No original papers were found.

<sup>222</sup> Book E, pages 123 and 125.

<sup>223</sup> Isaac, Alphonso, Alphonso's son Hugh, and Jacob Jr.'s son William should have put Dougherty on retainer.

<sup>224</sup> Book E, page 224, May 20, 1853. Also September 19, 1853.

<sup>225</sup> From Jackson's index – **Check original.**

<sup>226</sup> *Jonesboro Gazette*, November 26, 1870.

- **Martha J.**, born 1838 Illinois; married George W. Lumpkins on September 14, 1854 Union County, Illinois; household 573 on 1860 Union County census.<sup>227</sup> On January 28, 1855, a George Lumpkins married a Nancy Sammons. On May 24, 1859, Nancy attempted to divorce George. She said he was married to another woman (our Martha?) at the time she married him and that he deserted her in Tennessee on August 10, 1855. The charges were dismissed.
- **Seth**, died after 1870.
- **Sarah**, born 1841-43; married William John Hunsaker on April 22, 1861 in Union County; died by 1870. This would explain the Hunsaker grandchildren named in Isaac's probate file. Named after Isaac's stepmother?
- **Elizabeth**, born 1844; at age 16, married Levi R. Hagler<sup>228</sup> on April 19, 1860, in Union County, Illinois; died by 1870. This would explain the Hagler grandchildren listed in Isaac's probate file.
- **Alfonzo**, born 1848, died after 1870. Probably the Alphonso that married Sarah Jane Crowell in 1869 in Union County, Illinois. Was this Alphonzo named after Isaac's half brother, Senator John's illegitimate child?
- **Carol**, born March 12, 1850; married August 13, 1871 Mrs. Eliza Emiline (Dillow) Treece in Union County; had at least one child, Lillie B. (Grammer) Brasel; died from pneumonia on December 1, 1926.<sup>229</sup> Named after Isaac's brother?
- **Calvin** (also called Caleb?), born 1855, died after 1870.
- **George Ann**, born 1859, died after 1870.

Census records imply that they may have also had children named:

- **Jeanette**, born 1852, died by 1870?
- **Silas**, born 1865, died by 1870?

Note that Isaac appears to have named children after his stepmother (Sarah), his half-brother (Alphonso), and his newly-deceased brother (Carrol).

Surviving grandchildren at the time of Isaac's death included the surnames Hunsaker, Hagler, and Lumpkins. Isaac's widow Polly was appointed administrator of his estate, which was valued at around \$250. She signed court papers with a mark.

- See Bibliography for complete listing of sources checked.
- No marriage to a Rhoda ? in Union County, Illinois.
- Isaac's probate file, UCI box 120, 1871. Also B167, A82.

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<sup>227</sup> **Check this – seem to remember Martha from some other family.**

<sup>228</sup> I may have him married to some other Elizabeth Grammer – **Check.**

<sup>229</sup> Information on Carol from Ruth Brazel Larson, a descendant; from death certificate, Union County, Illinois; and from guardianship papers (Union County, Feb. 26, 1862), #596, 574 for Lafayette Treece, Eliza's son by her first marriage. Pictures of Carol and Eliza were published in *The Saga of Southern Illinois*, vol. XV/4, page 29.

- Carrol's parentage from his death certificate, December 1, 1926, Union County, Illinois.
- No public domain or Union County land transactions. However, Isaac's probate file lists 40 acres and two houses.
- 1840 UCI census, Isaac Grammer, page 74
  - males: 1 age 20-30, 1 0-5
  - females: 1 age 20-30, 1 0-5
- 1850, UCI, #366,<sup>230</sup> microfilm page 51
  - Isaac, 31, IL, farmer
  - Mary [Polly McGraw],<sup>231</sup> 30, NC, cannot read or write
  - Martha, 12, IL, cannot read or write
  - Sarah, 7, IL
  - Elizabeth, 6, IL
  - Alphonso, 2, IL
- 1860, UCI, #572 (discrepancies on this one – **check original**)
  - Isaac, 44, farmer, IL, cannot read or write, \$600 real estate, \$200 personal property
  - Polly, 43, NC, cannot read or write
  - Sarah, 19, IL
  - Alphonso, 12, IL, attended school during year
  - Carrol, 10, IL, attended school during year
  - Jeanette, 8, IL, attended school during year
  - Calvin, 5, IL
  - Georgiana, 9 mos., IL
- 1870 UCI census, Casper #237/235
  - Isaac, 55, TN, farmer, \$500 real estate, \$200 personal property, cannot read or write, eligible to vote
  - Rhoda, 54, NC, keeping house, cannot read or write
  - Aaron, 22, IL, farm hand, cannot read or write, eligible to vote
  - Caleb, 15, IL, in school
  - Georgia Ann, 11, IL, in school
  - Silas, 5, IL
- Not in 1880 UCI census index.

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<sup>230</sup> Harman F. Whitacre, the lawyer who defended John Jr. and Sally in settling the John Sr.'s estate, lived next door.

<sup>231</sup> Per Jackson's index.

<b>6. Carrol GRAMMER</b>			
born	by 1824 <sup>232</sup>	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b> <sup>233</sup>	Union County, Illinois
married	May 30, 1844 <sup>234</sup>	<b>Elizabeth LITTLEJOHN 1077</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	1844-1847 <sup>235</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

<b>Elizabeth (LITTLEJOHN) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1838 <sup>236</sup>		Alabama <sup>237</sup>
married	1) May 30, 1844	<b>Carrol GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois
	2) February 21, 1847 <sup>238</sup>	<b>Elijah McGraw 1077</b>	Union County, Illinois
	3) August 20, 1863 <sup>239</sup>	<b>Zachariah Corzine</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	after 1880 <sup>240</sup>		

Carrol was not listed in the 1865 partition of Senator John's estate. It seems that he was certainly dead by then, and he left no legal heirs. Yet his wife, Elizabeth (Littlejohn) Grammer McGraw Corzine was still alive at that time. Wouldn't she have inherited Carrol's share? Or did widows sometimes forfeit such claims if they remarried? Perhaps it depended upon the way the husband's will (if it existed) was written.

Elizabeth was shown in the partitioning of Senator John's estate as an heir to Sarah "Sally" McGraw, probably because she was the widow of Sally's brother Elijah.

This Elizabeth Grammer is easy to confuse with her sister-in-law, Senator John's daughter Elizabeth. I am not yet certain that we have them sorted out properly.

<sup>232</sup> Estimated from date of marriage.

<sup>233</sup> Parentage speculation based upon: a) family tradition, b) Carroll could not be a son of William because he was not named as a young child in his father's will, c) Senator John swore to the ages of the bride and groom when Carroll was married, and d) Carroll died young, making it likely that he had no surviving children for the 1865 partition. As a result, he would not have been on the list of Senator John's children.

<sup>234</sup> William Elmire, J.P., certificate 997, Book 1, page 162. Senator John swore that Carrol was at least 21 and Elizabeth at least 18.

<sup>235</sup> The last mention of Carroll in the records was his marriage in 1844. In 1847, his widow remarried.

<sup>236</sup> From 1880 Union County, Illinois, census. Also, Senator John swore that Elizabeth was at least 18 at the time of her marriage in 1844.

<sup>237</sup> 1880 Union County census, household 256.

<sup>238</sup> Kenneth Hargrave, J.P., Book 1, page 199.

<sup>239</sup> Isaac Miller, J.P., Book 2, page 384.

<sup>240</sup> Elizabeth appears to be living in Zachariah Corzine's household for the 1880 census, Jonesboro #256.

- See Bibliography for complete listing of sources checked.
- 1820-1880 UCI censuses – not listed.
- 1850-1865 Jackson County, Illinois, census – not listed.
- 1870 UCI census, Jonesboro #256
  - Zachariah Corzine, 30, IL
  - index lists no Elizabeth
- 1880 UCI census, Jonesboro #256
  - Zachariah Corzine, 41, IL
  - Elizabeth (McGraw)<sup>241</sup> Corzine, 48, AL
- No public domain or Union County, Illinois, land transactions.

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<sup>241</sup> Per Jackson's index.

<b>7. James GRAMMER</b>			
born	by 1825 <sup>242</sup>	<b>Sen. John &amp; Juliet (McELHANEY) GRAMMER</b> <sup>243</sup>	Union County, Illinois
married	May 22, 1848 <sup>244</sup>	<b>Polly Ann COX</b>	Union County, Illinois
died	by March 4, 1856 <sup>245</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

<b>Polly Ann (COX) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1828 <sup>246</sup>		
married	May 22, 1848	<b>James GRAMMER</b>	Union County, Illinois
died			

On December 5, 1837, James was paid \$1 for guarding the jail for one day while ? McGuire was being held. In 1842 James testified in a suit against the estate of Patience Delaney. He was apparently illiterate, since he signed with his mark. In June of 1846, James enlisted in Company F in the Mexican War.<sup>247</sup> His commander was Colonel John S. Hacker, his father's political rival. James was discharged on June 18, 1847, in Camargo, Mexico. On April 23, 1850, William, James, and Isaac Grammer filed suit against John Jr. and Sarah contesting the validity of Senator John's will.<sup>248</sup> See the section on Senator John for more information on the suit.

James died prior to March 4, 1856, when the Union County Commissioners Court paid Jeremiah Rymer \$5 for making the coffin for James Grammer, a poor person. James and Polly had one child, name unknown. The child died prior to the 1865 partitioning of Senator John's estate, leaving Polly Ann as James' only heir.<sup>249</sup> Polly Ann was still alive in 1867 and had apparently not remarried when she received her share of Senator John's real estate partition.

- See Bibliography for a complete listing of sources checked.
- 1820-1880 Union County, Illinois censuses – not listed.
- 1850-1865 Jackson County, Illinois, census – not listed.
- 1850-1860 Cape Girardeau, Missouri, censuses – not listed.
- 1850 census, Morgan County, Tennessee – James Grammer, per *Saga of Southern Illinois*, IX, 4, p. 42. I have not checked the original, nor do I remember the context of why a Tennessee census was mentioned in the *Saga*. I am not sure this is the same James, either.

<sup>242</sup> His mother was dead by then.

<sup>243</sup> Parentage from the partitioning of Senator John's estate in 1865. This file also states that James was dead by then.

<sup>244</sup> Wesley G. Nimmo, J.P., certificate 220, Book 1, page 220.

<sup>245</sup> Death date from the March 4, 1856 payment of the UCI Commissioners Court to Jeremiah Rymer for making the coffin for James Grammer, a poor person.

<sup>246</sup> Estimated from date of marriage.

<sup>247</sup> Dexter, 1992.

<sup>248</sup> Union County, Illinois, Circuit Court records, pages 58, 70, 72, 85, and 122. No original papers were found.

<sup>249</sup> From estate papers of Sarah "Sally" (McGraw) Grammer.

- No Union County, Illinois, or public domain land sales or purchases.
- No Polly but several Mary Grammers (Polly was sometimes the nickname for Mary) married Union County, Illinois, after 1848.

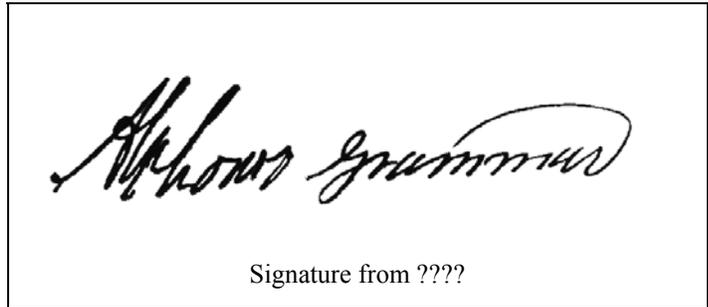
<b>8. Alphonso A. GRAMMER/MERRYMAN</b>			
born	1824-25 <sup>250</sup>	Sen. John GRAMMER & Rowena MERRYMAN <sup>251</sup> (unmarried)	Union County, Illinois
married	1) April 20, 1846 <sup>252</sup>	Elender "Nelly" GODWIN 1222	Union County, Illinois
	2) June 07, 1849 <sup>253</sup>	Eliza Jane TWEEDY 1071	Union County, Illinois
died	1852 <sup>254</sup>		Union County, Illinois

<b>1) Elender "Nelly" (GODWIN) GRAMMER</b>			
born	April 9, 1831 <sup>255</sup>	Wilkerson and Nancy (BEGGS) GODWIN	
married	April 20, 1846	Alphonso A. GRAMMER/MERRYMAN	Union County, Illinois
died	by May 12, 1853 <sup>256</sup>		

<b>2) Eliza Jane (TWEEDY) GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1829 <sup>257</sup>		
married	1) June 07, 1849	Alphonso A. GRAMMER/MERRYMAN	Union County, Illinois
	2) May 12, 1853 <sup>258</sup>	John A. SHRIVER	Union County, Illinois
died			

It appears that Alphonso was Senator John's son, born out-of-wedlock:

- In 1824, John Grammer, Sr. was tried and acquitted (by a jury of his cronies) of fornication with Rowena Merryman/Merriman. The case started on Mar. 23, 1824, when the case of The People of the State of Illinois vs.



<sup>250</sup> Estimated from date of the trials for John Grammer and Rowena Merryman.

<sup>251</sup> Parentage argued in narrative below.

<sup>252</sup> John Grammer, J.P., Book 1, page 186. Henry Sowers, guardian of the bride, gave consent.

<sup>253</sup> John Grammer, J.P., certificate 1356, Book 1, page 240.

<sup>254</sup> Death date estimated from December 1852 probate of estate, Union County, Illinois, probate files, box G-117, also Book A, page 233.

<sup>255</sup> Birth date and parentage from *The Saga of the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois*, Spring 1992, page 30. The Godwins moved from Logan County, Kentucky, around 1810, about the same time as Senator John and William.

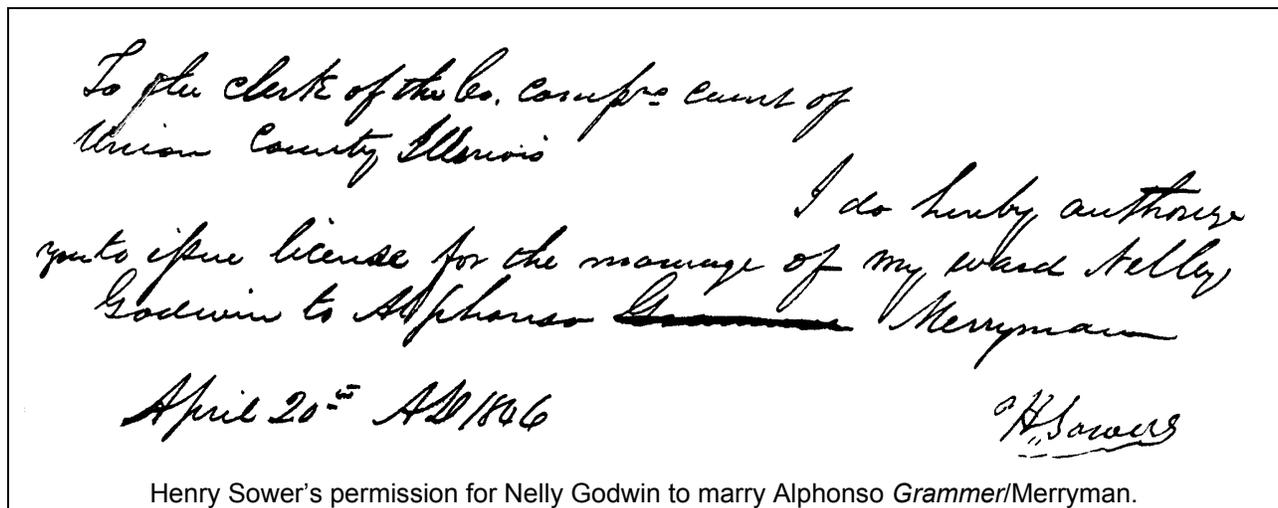
<sup>256</sup> When Aphonso married Eliza Jane.

<sup>257</sup> Estimated from date of marriage.

<sup>258</sup> Book 2, page 6.

John Grammer and Roenna Merreman, fornication, was continued with each defendant held to bail in sum of \$300. In August, Senator John pled and was found not guilty. On May 16, 1825, John Davis (who apparently posted bail) surrendered the defendant in discharge of her recognizance, whereupon she was ordered into custody of the sheriff. John S. Hacker and James Whitlock stood bail for Rowena, acknowledging themselves indebted \$300 if Merryman did not appear in court the next day. On that next day, a jury found her not guilty.<sup>259</sup>

- In 1846, an Alphonso Merryman/Grammer married Nelly Godwin in Union County. This Alphonso would have been of an appropriate age to marry in 1846 if he had been born as a result of a liaison in 1824. On the marriage papers, Alphonso's surname was originally written as Grammer, then crossed out and replaced with Merryman (see below).<sup>260</sup>



- Union County, Illinois, court records (see below for further discussion) explicitly mention Alphonso as a brother of Senator John's son William.
- Neither Alphonso nor his surviving son, Hugh, were listed in the 1865 partition of Senator John's estate. Out-of-wedlock children were not usually considered eligible for inheritance.

Around 1846, Alphonso switched from using the Merryman name to using Grammer. Alphonso's unorthodox birth could explain why both he and his son Hugh seemed to be such angry young men, always in some sort of trouble. At least Rowena saw that Alphonso was educated enough to read and write, as is proven by his signature ("John Mermon") on his marriage records.

<sup>259</sup> Get the originals of the trial records.

<sup>260</sup> Thank you, Darrel Dexter, for finding this!

Neither Alphonso Grammer nor Alphonso Merryman appear in the 1820-1865 census indexes, even though it seems that they should have been in the area around 1850.

State of Illinois } <sup>Merryman</sup> Alphonso Grammer } Application  
 County of Union } } for Mr. Lewis  
 } } Godwin }

Alphonso ~~Grammer~~ <sup>Merryman</sup> being first duly sworn  
 deposes and says, that he has attained the age  
 of twenty one years and upwards, to the best of  
 his knowledge, information and belief and  
 further saith not

Subscribed & sworn to before  
 me this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April A.D. 1866  
 J. D. Milcox clerk  
 By J. Holliman Alphonso Merryman

Alphonso Grammer/Merryman's statement that he is of age to marry Nelly Godwin.

Legitimate or not, Alphonso's connection to Senator John seems to have been strong, and in fact, most of the records we have of him are those in which he is involved with Senator John or Senator John's children. Just five months before Senator John died, he officiated at Alphonso's marriage. Alphonso built Senator John's house on John's farm near Ware and was apparently living with John, too. One can only imagine the scandal when Senator John, in his dotage, began showing favoritism to a hell-raising illegitimate son. Still, Senator John did seem to take responsibility for his son, which is certainly preferable to ignoring the consequences of his 1824 affair.

The Union County Courts fined Alphonso \$1 on December 4, 1844. Although the transgression is not noted in the record, if his subsequent escapades are any indication, it was probably for assault and battery.

Alphonso married Elender Penelope "Nelly" Godwin when she was just was just fifteen years old. Alphonso swore that he was 21 or older, meaning that he was born by 1825. Henry Sowers was Nelly's guardian, and he gave consent for the marriage. Nelly's father had died by 1839 and had left her an inheritance of \$83.38.

Two months after the marriage, in June, 1846, Alphonso enlisted in the Mexican War.<sup>261</sup> He enlisted as a private but was later promoted to "Second, Second Lieutenant." He served under Captain John S. Hacker and Colonel W.H. Bissell in Company F of the Second Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. His discharge was filed June 18, 1847 in Camargo, Mexico.<sup>262</sup> The First Lieutenant for the company was Sidney S. Condon, who later went on to write *Pioneer Sketches of Union County, Illinois*.

On July 10, 1847, less than a month after Alphonso was discharged in Mexico, he supposedly pulled a knife on William, specifically noted as his brother. The case was first brought to court in September 1847, when he was charged with assault with intent to do bodily injury. Bail was set at \$200. The record states that Alphonso assaulted William with a knife, "*where no considerable provocation appeared, and where the circumstances of the assault showed an abandoned and malignant heart.*" A warrant was issued for his arrest on September 29, 1847, although the comment "Alphonso Grammer, *late* of Union County" leads one to believe that he skipped town and may not have been found immediately. On February 29, 1848, five months later, Hugh Penrod served as security to post \$200 to bail Alphonso out of jail.

The case continued for several months. Witnesses subpoenaed to testify for Alphonso included William Grammer (the supposed victim), Isaac Grammer (another of Senator John's sons), John Moland (Senator John's grandson), and James Lewis. Witnesses subpoenaed for the state also included William Grammer, as well as Joseph Tripp, N.K. Tripp, William Tripp, John Godwin, Alexander Douglass, and Lafayette Dameron. Isaac missed the court date "*in consequence of the sudden and dangerous illness of his wife on Monday morning.*" Apparently Isaac, as a witness to the "affray," was expected to be Alphonso's salvation, because Alphonso states that he expected Isaac to testify that he "*was not angry with William Grammer, that there was the most cordial feelings existing between them.*" Alphonso went on to say "*that the said Isaac Grammer so held your deponent that it was not possible for him to inflict an injury upon the said William Grammer if he had wished do so...*" Alphonso expected Jones to testify that he could "*discern no knife in his hands, that the said Alphonzo had no ill feeling towards his brother William and did not wish to injure him.*" Alphonso also stated that "*the only knife which [he] had on that day was a small pocket knife with four blades of a very slender description and the largest blade not more than one inch or one inch and a half in length with a very hooked point.*"

The jury foreman was William C. Whitlock (who is found on many records involving the Jacob Grammer). The jury also included Lorenzo Roberts, George P. Shively, Peter Cruse, Charley? Lence, John Hileman, Alexander Treese, Wesley Tinsley, Thomas Freeman, Wilson Meisenhimer, Jacob Treese, and Caleb Hartline, "*12 good and lawful men.*" The instructions given to the jury were explicit:

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<sup>261</sup> Pension file 63927, National Archives. Perrin, page 327.

<sup>262</sup> Dexter, 1992.

*The defense Counsel asks the Court to instruct the jury that the states attorney is bound to prove every substantive allegation in the indictment and unless he has done so beyond a reasonable doubt the verdict ought to be not guilty.*

*That if the jury have a reasonable doubt of the defts ? ability to inflict a bodily injury upon the person of William Grammar at the time the assault is proven to have been made the verdict ought to be not guilty.*

*That the intention of the defendant in this case is a necessary ingredient to constitute the offence and that unless the States Attorney has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant intended to inflict upon the person of William Grammar a bodily injury is charged the verdict will be not guilty.*

*That if the jury have a reasonable doubt of the guilty of the debt he is entitled to the benefit of that doubt and the verdict ought to be not guilty.*

As this states, the jury was not to determine merely whether or not the assault occurred, but also Alphonso's *intent*. That seems a rather sophisticated view of the law, one that shows that the court system was not then as primitive as one might expect. This also seems to have been written by Alphonso's attorney, of the firm Simons and Allen, which indicates that he was skilled in defense.

Nonetheless, Alphonso was found guilty of assault to do bodily injury. On April 27, 1848, he was sentenced to a fine of \$10 plus costs and one hour in jail. Perhaps the time was so short because he was credited for time already served? Alphonso requested a new trial, apparently because his star witnesses had not appeared, but his request was overruled.

In 1848, Alphonso is listed as selling a 1/18 portion of 281 acres that he was never on record as purchasing in the first place. This appears to be an inheritance from the estate of Wilkerson Godwin, Nelly's father.<sup>263</sup> Alphonso sold the land to John Godwin, his brother-in-law. Nelly did not sign the deed, so it seems that she might have been dead. Still, she is mentioned indirectly in an April, 1949, court suit (see below), so that doesn't jive.

In 1849, Alphonso applied for and apparently received a land warrant for his service in the Mexican War.<sup>264</sup> Witnesses for his application were Adam Lingle and Wright C. Pender. Also in 1849, Alphonso, again with his signature but not his wife's, sold 1/18 of 160 acres to Jacob Casper. Additionally, Alphonso bought 40 acres in 1851 that he sold in 1852, just before his death.

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<sup>263</sup> *The Saga*, Spring 1992. Try to check land records to find out who originally owned the land and how it was transferred.

<sup>264</sup> National Archives pension file #63927.

On April 23, 1849, "The People for the use of" Alphonso Grammer *and wife* sued Henry Sowers, Nelly's guardian, and others for a debt.<sup>265</sup> Simons was the attorney for Alphonso, and on his motion the case was dismissed and the defendants were to recover their costs from Alphonso. Since Nelly turned 18 on April 9 of that year, it seems likely that she wanted to gain control of her inheritance, but perhaps Sowers was not cooperating.

The suit against Sowers seems to prove that Nelly was still alive on April 23, 1849. On June 7, just 6 weeks later, Alphonso *Grammer* married Eliza Jane Tweedy. He seemed to waste little time in mourning Nelly's untimely death.

On September 4, 1849, Alphonso and David Adams were each fined \$3 for assault on each other. On September 26, 1849, Alphonso and William Ballard<sup>266</sup> were indicted for public indecency, with bail set at \$100. On the same day, Alphonso alone was indicted for assault with intent to do bodily injury, with bail set at \$200. John Dougherty was their attorney for the cases. The case against Ballard was settled on May 19, 1851 with a fine of \$15. Alphonso's cases were continued throughout 1850 and 1851, with several "alias capias" writs issued against Alphonso.<sup>267</sup> It seems that the law was unable to catch up with Alphonso. Witnesses against Alphonso included John Godwin (most probably Alphonso's brother-in-law) and David R. Brummitt. On September 22, 1851, both cases against Alphonso had a change of venue to Johnson County.<sup>268</sup> Apparently that is where Alphonso had beaten a retreat from the law. Perhaps this is why Alphonso did not appear in the 1850 census for Union County?<sup>269</sup> Final outcome of this case is unknown.<sup>270</sup>

Alphonso brought suit against John Jr. and Sarah as executors to Senator John's estate. Although he did not dispute his lack of inclusion in Senator John's will, he was arguing over a debt that he felt the estate owed him for building Senator John's house. In one place, court papers record that "*The court gave judgment for plaintiff for the sum of \$5 to be paid in due course of administration.*"<sup>271</sup> Another entry records where the suit appears to have been dropped when John Jr. convinced the court that Alphonso would not be good for court costs. See the discussion of Senator John for more information on the suit.

Alphonso died intestate, perhaps under "mysterious circumstances,"<sup>272</sup> prior to December 31, 1852. His widow Eliza Jane (x) was appointed administrator, with Isaac Miller as

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<sup>265</sup> Book E, page 3.

<sup>266</sup> William Ballard was later murdered by George W. Lacy at Hamburg on the Mississippi River in Union County on August 3, 1871. *Jonesboro Gazette*, August 12, 1871. Also note that Jacob's daughter Senthly married a Ballard.

<sup>267</sup> An alias capias is essentially a warrant for someone's arrest.

<sup>268</sup> **Check Johnson County records for outcome.**

<sup>269</sup> **Check Johnson County census.**

<sup>270</sup> **Check Johnson County court cases.**

<sup>271</sup> Probate Journal A, page 198, April 5, 1852.

<sup>272</sup> Per Darrel Dexter, but he can no longer find the original reference to the coroner's inquest.

her security for the \$300 bond. Alphonso's probate file includes "desperate" debts to his estate from Hugh Penrod, \$900; William Roach, \$100; Frederick King, \$500; George Parmerly, \$100; John Trexler, \$90; and Hiram Kendall, \$25. The appraisal included a fiddle, a nag, saddle, saddlebags, bridle, trunk, pan, pots and chattels, traces ham, bedstead and bedding, clock, singletree, and 200 bushels of corn. The total of this appraisal came to \$102. The widow's dower was set at \$217.37, more than the entire value of the estate. Note that had Alphonso not been so generous with lending money to bad prospects, his wife and child might have been left with a decent estate. Also note, however, that there are no notes in the file for any debts for Alphonso, so apparently he did not like to borrow money (or no one was willing to lend him any). There is no mention of any children in the file, but that could be because there was nothing left for them to inherit. Or, perhaps the estate was probated before Alphonso's son Hugh was born, since both events happened in the same year.

Alphonso and Eliza were known to have just the one child, Hugh, born in 1852 (the same year Alphonso died) in Illinois. Hugh was most probably named after Alphonso's friend, Hugh Penrod.

Eliza went on to marry John A. Shriver on May 12, 1853, in Union County, Illinois. 1866 guardianship papers state that Hugh's mother Eliza was by then dead and that Hugh was born in 1852. Hugh was eligible to inherit in his mother's stead from the estate of John Tweedy, presumably Eliza Jane's father. Daniel H. Lee, specified as Hugh's uncle, was appointed Hugh's guardian. Columbus S. Whitaker, Hugh Penrod, and Isaac Miller also signed the guardianship bond.

Hugh seemed to be as prone to trouble as his father was. On December 20, 1876, when he was 23 years old, he and William H. Grady, George Grady, William Bittle, William Chandler, and William Miller were charged with murder. This was probably for the murder of Alfred Riggs on October 29, 1876.<sup>273</sup> John Dougherty was the lawyer for the defendants, and Isaac Miller and George W. Miller were witnesses. All of the defendants pled not guilty initially, although later Chandler changed the plea to guilty and was sentenced to one year at hard labor in Joliet. Perhaps he plea bargained in exchange for information on the other defendants? Eventually, a jury found Miller and Bittle not guilty but George Grady and our Hugh guilty.<sup>274</sup> They were sentenced to 18 months at hard labor at Joliet prison.

Later, on July 31, 1879, in Union County, Illinois, Hugh married Sarah I. Penrod, apparently the daughter of David Penrod. Alphonso, Sarah, and baby Felix E. are in the 1880 Union County census.

- See Bibliography for a complete listing of sources checked.
- Parentage argued above.

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<sup>273</sup> Jonesboro Gazette, November 4, 1876.

<sup>274</sup> Circuit Court, page 203.

- Alphonso's probate file, UCI box 117, Book A, page 233,<sup>275</sup> probated December 1852. Eliza was listed as widow and administrator.
- Union County Court Records. Most pages of the trial are listed in the index under P (the People) or G (Grammer), although the final outcome was on page 378, not recorded in the index.
- UCI guardianship papers for Hugh Grammer, b. 1852, father Alfonzo Grammer, mother Eliza J. Shriver. Guardianship appointed to Daniel H. Lee 1866 (*after 1865 partition*). Book A, page 383, box 579. **Need to check book A.**
- The National Archives has no record of a pension for Alphonso.
- 1830 UCI census, page 96/49, Rowena Merryman  
males: 1 aged 5-10 (undoubtedly Alphonso).  
females: 1 aged 20-30, 1 0-5.
- 1820, 1840-1880 UCI census – not listed under either Grammer or Merryman.
- 1820-1860, 1865 Jackson County, Illinois censuses – not listed under either Grammer or Merryman.
- 1860 Union County, Illinois, census, Cobden Precinct #364.
  - James M. Tweedy
  - Charlotte Tweedy
  - other Tweedys not copied
  - Hugh Grammer, 8, in school (Alphonso's son).
- Land transactions in UCI:
  - 1848 Alphonso A. sold to John Godwin (his brother-in-law?) for \$50, 1/18 share of 241 acres total:
    - 2 lots ? Town of Preston, in Range C?
    - 124 acres, *1/18 pt.* (apparently 1/18 of the total acreage) undivided NE¼ Sect. 6 T13S R2W
    - 40¼ acres, SE of SW¼ Sect. 31 T12S R2W
    - 80 acres, W½ NE¼ Sect. 31 T12S R2W
    - 40 acres, SW¼ SE¼ Section 341, T12S, R2 W. All of this Book 10, page 273.Nelly did not sign the deeds.  
(Note that Alphonso never seemed to *purchase* any of this land. Possibly an inheritance from the estate of his first wife's father?)
  - 1849 Alphonso A. sold to Jacob Casper for \$25 his 1/18 share of 160 acres, SE¼, Section 7, T13, R1W., Book J #10, page 238.
  - 1849 Alphonso sold to Jacob Casper 160 acres for \$200, NW¼ Sect 30 T12S? R1W<sup>276</sup>  
(Alphonso never seemed to *purchase* this land. The land was in Senator John's first land grant, but Senator John supposedly sold the land to Michael Craver in 1828.) **Check this!!!**
  - 1851 Alphonso bought from Azel Thornton & wife 34.25 acres for \$75, NW SW¼ Sect. 7, T12S R2W, Book K #11, page 345.
  - 1852 A. Grammer and wife Eliza (x) sold to John W. Regan 34.25 acres for \$100, NW of SW¼ Sect 7 T12S R2W, Book K #11, page 350. (This is the land bought in 1837.)
- Alphonso's 1849 court cases: see Book E, pages 45, 52, 59, 79, 96, and 133.
- Hugh Grammer, age 27, m. UCI Sarah I. Penrod, age 17, July 31, 1879 (son Felix E. born five months later per 1880 census).
- 1880 Union County, Illinois, census (Vol. 54, ED116. sheet 28, line 9)
  - Hugh Grammer, age 27, farmer, can't read or write, IL/?/IL
  - Sarah [Penrod]<sup>277</sup> Grammer, 19, IL/IL/IL
  - Felix E. Grammer, son, age 6 months, born January, IL/IL/IL.
- Hugh's probate, 1891 administration, C416, A171

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<sup>275</sup> Haven't yet checked the book reference.

<sup>276</sup> Per index. This may be a mistake in the index, and it may refer to the previous transaction instead. **Check original.**

<sup>277</sup> Per Jackson's index.

John I?...Reverend John...Senator John...Senator John's children

- **I need to find Alphonso in 1850 census to get birthplace, age, etc.** Check Illinois statewide index?

<b>9. Elijah GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1835 <sup>278</sup>	Senator John & Sarah (McGRAW) GRAMMER <sup>279</sup>	Union County, Illinois
died	1853 <sup>280</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

Elijah died at age 18.

- See Bibliography for a complete listing of sources checked.
- No marriage in Union County, Illinois.
- In 1850 UCI census with his mother.

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<sup>278</sup> Death date and age at death stated in mother's probate file. Age also stated in 1850 census, in his mother's household.

<sup>279</sup> Parentage stated in John's will and Sally's probate file.

<sup>280</sup> Death date stated in mother's probate file.

<b>10. Mary Ann GRAMMER</b>			
born	ca. 1843 <sup>281</sup>	Senator John & Sarah (McGRAW) GRAMMER <sup>282</sup>	Union County, Illinois
died	1856 <sup>283</sup>		Union County, Illinois?

Mary Ann was called as a witness in her brother Alphonso's suit against Senator John's estate in 1852, when she was about nine years old. She died at age 13.

- See Bibliography for a complete listing of sources checked.
- Birth and death dates from Sally's probate file.
- In 1850 census with her mother.

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<sup>281</sup> Death date and age at death stated in mother's probate file. Age also stated in 1850 census, in her mother's household.

<sup>281</sup> Death date stated in mother's probate file.

<sup>282</sup> Parentage stated in father's will and mother's probate file.

<sup>283</sup> Death date stated in mother's probate file.