

Daniel Hartzell
Son of Adam & Christina (Sink) Hartzell?

By James Dwight Hartzell, March 26, 2007

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The mystery of an old leather-bound Bible now belonging to Ray Bunyard, a descendant of David Hartzell, may finally be solved. In light of recent discoveries, the following provides useful clues about the unidentified son of Adam & Christina Hartzell, born 1800-1804, between Leonard (1799) and David (1805). By ages of the unidentified son in the 1810, 1820 and 1830 Census, he would have been born from 1800 to 1802, in Virginia.

See genealogy chart below for names of people.

David Hartzell's granddaughter Minnie Alberta (Hartzell) Hart inherited the Bible, probably after her father James Alexander Hartzell died in 1910. She had married in 1902. In the Bible, she wrote "Property of Great Grand Father Hartzell". Someone else, maybe James' wife Sophronia, wrote "From Daniel Hartzell to David Hartzell to James Hartzell to Minnie A. Hart". For many years, it was assumed by some of the family that Daniel was David's father. I thought maybe a cousin, or that he wasn't a Hartzell, like his Indiana neighbor Daniel Guise. **What seemed like unreliable family folklore now seems to be an incredibly important clue, both for the ancestry of David Hartzell, and for Adam Hartzell's unidentified son.**

Minnie most certainly meant HER great-grandfather, which would be Adam Hartzell. It seems she, like everyone else, did not know his given name. Adam is presumed to have died around 1832, thus David Hartzell's children, born after that, never knew their grandfather Hartzell. David's grandson William Webster Hartzell, a lawyer, surely knew about his sister's Bible, and knew that Daniel was not David's father, because of his "Ferdinand" notes* told by his aunt Sarah (Hartzell) Walden. Plus, David's great-grandson Donald V. Hartzell, born 1912, who researched family genealogy, did not know who Daniel was. It would make the most sense that a brother named Daniel gave David their father's Bible, and with a reason to do so. A Daniel born about 1801 in Virginia, with a reason for being hard to find. Plus, David's children were far more likely to remember an Uncle Daniel.

In late 2006, after searching via ancestry.com all U.S. 1850/1860 Census records for a Hartzell (Soundex spellings) born in Virginia 1799-1805, I found only one. He was D.A. Hartzell, age 58. The census was taken June 16th, so he was born in the second half of 1801 or first half of 1802. He was in Storrs Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, in 1860. That township is now Lower Price Hill, in southwest Cincinnati, on the Ohio River. He was 40 miles south of Adam's 1830 Ellerton, Ohio homesite. Again, he was born in Virginia. He was unmarried, which made him hard to find, not being head of a household. He was keeper of a boarding house. 99% of Hartzells I've found with a name starting with "D" back then were either David or Daniel. If Adam's son, he would have to be Daniel. He has not been found as head of a household in the 1830, 1840, 1850 or 1870 Census.

In the 1830 Census for Jefferson Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, in the household of Adam Hartzell, there are two males 30-39 years old. We had thought they were live-in farm hands, but Adam

didn't own land, so it didn't make sense. Since David, age 24, (and Daniel?, age 28) were unmarried, it is more logical that they were still at home. After noticing many corrections on that census page (see image in "Evidence for Ancestry of David Hartzell"), it is very easy to believe the census taker mismarked 20-29 years old. If the other male was Daniel, it all falls into place. Daniel being the oldest of the two, "inherited" the Bible when their father died. Nothing was written in the Bible as customary, so it may not have been a "coveted" family heirloom. Since Daniel appears to have never married, and having no heirs, he gave the Bible to David. David had children as of 1837. Daniel died after 1860. David lived near Connersville, Indiana until 1860, then moved to Illinois, and died in 1865.

* On the "Ferdinand" notes, it now seems Sarah Walden may have been recalling her grandmother's father, who could have been Ferdinand Zink/Zinck/Sink.

Adam Hartzell

