

Who is Lucy Plemmons ?

The North Carolina marriage index and the marriage bonds database give a marriage date of 27 June 1854 for Andrew Plemmons and Lucia Wood.

Andrew and Lucinda Plemmons (recorded as Plemings) are first listed together as family number 518 on page 77 of the 1860 US Census of Madison County. A careful examination of this census record shows a pattern of family members being split into two or more groups so members of a family are not always listed consecutively. That is the case for family number 518 which is continued near the top of page 78. Putting these groups together gives the following names (and ages) for family group 518: Andrew Plemings (69), Lucinda (23 or 25- unclear), Charles Woody (21 or 24- unclear), Sallie Woody (wife, 28), Susan Woody (7), and Joseph (1).

The NC marriage index gives the date of 1 April 1858 for the marriage of Charles Woody and Sarah [Sallie] Plemmons. It seems likely that Sallie Plemmons is related to Andrew- perhaps even his daughter from a previous marriage. This would help explain why Charles and Sallie and family are living with Andrew and Lucy in 1860, and also makes it quite likely that Lucy's maiden name is probably Woody (not Wood as given in the NC marriage index) and that she could well be the sister of Charles.

Further evidence of these connections is found in pages 160 - 163 of the 1850 census of Buncombe County. Family # 1057 is that of G. W. Woody and includes a daughter Elizabeth age 16 (whom I believe is the Lucy) and a son Charles (age 14). Page 161 includes the family of J.S. Lusk who is a next door neighbor to Andrew and Lucy in Madison County in 1860. Pages 162 and 163 of the 1850 Buncombe County census list several Plemmons families, including one A. Plemmons (age 59) living by himself (household # 1083). So the chances were excellent that Andrew and Lucy knew each other back in Buncombe County. And from the North Carolina marriage Bonds database (1741 - 1868), it was also J.S. Lusk who was the bondsman for the marriage of Andrew and Lucy.

All of this lends quite strong support to Lucy Plemmons as having been the daughter of G. W. and Mary Woody and the brother of Charles Woody. If so, she was born in Buncombe County, NC, in about 1834, married Andrew Plemmons on 27 June 1854, and had 5 daughters with Andrew. But for now, the background of Andrew still remains quite mysterious and speculative.

The marriage certificate of Candy Plemmons and James Patton Miller also lends support to this scenario for the identity of Lucy. According to Antonette (TeVogt) Collins, granddaughter of Candy (Plemmons) Miller, the marriage certificate of Candy and Patton indicates the marriage ceremony was performed in Spring Creek, NC, by R. H. Hipps, Justice of the Peace. From the certificate we find that one of the witnesses was Mr. Joe Woody, most likely the son of Charles Woody referred to in paragraph 1 above and probably Lucy's nephew and Candy's cousin.