

Other Possibilities

Who Could Catherine Sherbondy Be?

Sherbondy Family Association

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When dealing with documents over 200 years old (which weren't even created with the intention of being used 200 years later), there are many uncertainties and inconsistencies to contend with. One of the most important is that, the information we see may not be the whole picture. There may be key information that we may never know and there may be undiscovered documents that turn up later with new information. Some early documented information may be incorrect. It's up to individuals now to analyze the information as a whole in context with each other to see if everything fits together as stated and if not, determine what is most likely true and what is not true.

Based on information we now know, these are still possibilities of who Catherine Sherbondy Betts is:

1. Anna Catharina Cherpantier b. 1784 and 2nd wife of Andrew Betts. This allows all of the statements or evidence found thus far to be true. One statement (existence of a tavern in Crawford County) has not been verified. This also leads to question why no documents would mention 2 marriages of Andrew Betts. If a marriage was less than 10 years long and resulted in no children, after the passage of time it may have been not worthy of mention.
2. Perhaps "Shibondi" is not "Sherbondy" at all, but another surname entirely? This also allows all of the statements or evidence found thus far to be true, except that "Shibondi" is another surname. However, this would assume that Anna Catharina Cherpantier/Sherbondy has no evidence of existence after 1810.
3. Perhaps there is another Catherine Sherbondy (born before 1760) who is Andrew's only wife? Perhaps John Sherbondy #1 had an immigrant sister? This allows only some of the statements or evidence found thus far to be true. False would be the statement that Andrew married Miss Shibondi "in the dawn of the century in a tavern in Crawford County." In addition, there would be no evidence of existence of this Catherine Sherbondy (b. before 1760) prior to 1777 and there would be no evidence of existence of Anna Catharina Cherpantier after about 1810.
4. Anna Catharina's mother was also Catherine (Maria Catharina Bossard). She is on no known records after 1790. We have always assumed that she died between 1790 and 1798, the date of John's will, where she is not mentioned. Is it possible that she left John during that time? She could have been Andrew Betts's second wife. She would be closer to Andrew's age although we don't know Maria Catherina's birth date. This allows most of the statements or evidence found thus far to be true. False would be the statement that Andrew married "Miss Shibondi " because in this case it would be "Mrs. Shibondi."