

My great-great grandfather was named **Thomas Goodman** and he was shot and killed in Henderson “Fishtown”, Kentucky in 1906. He was a fisherman, gambler and moonshiner. He married my great-great grandmother Tura Dossett in 1895 in Henderson. I have their marriage document, their 1900 census record, and records referring to them for their son, my great grandfather, William Joseph Goodman who went by Joseph and was born in 1901.

I had trouble tracing Thomas’s past for a couple reasons. Mainly, on his Kentucky marriage document to Tura, for birthplace of mother, just the word “Ohio” is written. I took that to mean the state Ohio. His father’s birthplace was left blank. However, on the 1900 census he says Kentucky is the birthplace of both of his parents. I believe his mother was born in Ohio County, Kentucky and that he may not have known the county where his father was born. After a while, a clear story developed.

Thomas was born to Joseph S and Idella Goodman sometime around 1870-1872. In 1880, he lives with his grandparents Jordan and Sallie Pearson in Ohio County, Kentucky.

Thomas Goodman

in the 1880 United States Federal Census

Name:	Thomas Goodman
Age:	8
Birth Year:	abt 1872
Birthplace:	Kentucky
Home in 1880:	Stewartville, Ohio, Kentucky
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Relation to Head of House:	Grandson
Marital Status:	Single
Father's Birthplace:	Kentucky
Mother's Birthplace:	Kentucky
Neighbors:	View others on page
Occupation:	At Home

Name	Age
Jordan Pearson	53
Sallie Pearson	45
Charles Pearson	22
Major Pearson	87
Annie Shultz	87
Thomas Goodman	8

At that time, in 1880, Thomas’s parents Joseph and Idella live in Butler County, Kentucky with younger children Charley and Lucia.

Here is that 1880 census record followed by an 1870 census record showing Idella is Jordan's daughter.

Joseph Goodman

in the 1880 United States Federal Census

Name:	Joseph Goodman
Age:	27
Birth Year:	abt 1853
Birthplace:	Kentucky
Home in 1880:	Burdens, Butler, Kentucky
Race:	White
Gender:	Male
Relation to Head of House:	Self (Head)
Marital Status:	Married
Spouse's Name:	Ideller A. Goodman
Father's Birthplace:	Kentucky
Mother's Birthplace:	Kentucky
Neighbors:	View others on page
Occupation:	Works On Farm

Name	Age
Joseph Goodman	27
Ideller A. Goodman	26
Charley D. Goodman	4
Lucia A. Goodman	1

Idella Pearson

in the 1870 United States Federal Census

Name	Age
Jordan Pearson	42
Sarah Ann Pearson	46
Edinkerellis Pearson	17
Idella Pearson	15
Charles T Pearson	12
Major Pearson	75
Ann Shultz	75

Idella, Thomas's mother, dies sometime before 1889. Joseph remarries a Sarah Ann.

A post I found on ancestry.com by a Cathryn McKinney has some good information. Here are the key points in that post:

"Charley D. Goodman was born May 1876 Ky; a professional river boat gambler, who died in a car wreck in Indiana sometime after 1931. Charley D. Goodman's parents were Joseph S. Goodman, born 31 Mar 1851 in Grayson Co; Ky, died 26 Feb 1934 in Ohio Co, Ky; married Idella A. Pearson, on 20 Feb 1871, Ohio Co; Ky. Idella was born in about 1856 in Ohio Co, Ky, died between 1886 - 1889, probably in Ohio Co, Ky. Her parents were Jordan Pearson and "Sallie" Sarah Berryman [Shultz]. Joseph's parents were Thomas Goodman and Nancy Hoskins."

The Thomas Goodman on the 1880 census living with Jordan and Sallie Pearson is almost certainly my great-great grandfather. No later records in Ohio County or anywhere else in Kentucky or Indiana show that this Thomas Goodman is some other person. On top of the government records, the family names Thomas and Joseph tie the Ohio/Grayson County Goodmans to my family in the Henderson/Evansville area.

Sometime between living in Ohio County and Henderson, Thomas lived in Owensboro and had a bad reputation. He was also married once before Tura. Thomas's younger brother Charley lived and died in Warrick County, Indiana right across the river from where Thomas lived and died.

Anyone with information that supports or disproves these claims, please email or call. You can also comment directly in this document by going to Inset > Comment.

I would also love to connect with Goodman relatives.

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UPDATE March 2017

This "theory" is now, in my mind, considered fact. I have built up an arsenal of DNA evidence showing that my great great grandfather Thomas Goodman was the son of Joseph and Idella. Ancestors of Joseph and Idella include Arthur Goodman, Matthias Shultz and Carl Springer, and I have growing lists of DNA-matched cousins with these ancestors in their trees. I also match descendants of Charley Goodman, Thomas's younger brother. All this data is available upon request.