

The Case for Peter Romine

Peter and Abigail Romine of Loudoun County, Virginia, had a son named Peter, named in his father's will (1788). The children of Peter the elder's daughter Sarah and his son John are well documented. The children of Peter the younger and another son, Isaac, are not.

In the 1810 census of Loudoun County, Virginia, there is a head of household named Peter Romine, likely Peter the younger. Living in that household were:

Free White Persons - Males - 26 thru 44 - 1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over - 1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 - 1
Number of Household Members Over 25 - 3
Number of Household Members – 3

In the 1820 census of Muskingum County, Ohio, there is a head of household named Peter Romine listed on the same page as Samuel Baldwin. Living in that household were:

Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over - 2
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10 - 1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44 - 1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture - 2
Free White Persons - Under 16 - 1
Free White Persons - Over 25 - 3
Total Free White Persons - 4
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other – 4

Peter Romine appears on Loudoun County, Virginia, tax lists for 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1809, 1810, 1811, and 1812, but not thereafter, so he may have moved away from Loudoun County after 1812. There is a Peter Romine on the 1835 tax list, but this is likely a different Peter Romine. Peter the younger was involved in a lawsuit in Loudoun County, Virginia, (see <https://bryan-martin.net/genealogy/showmedia.php?medialID=4496&medialinkID=4303>) in the mid-1810s which mentions that as executor of his father's estate he had Elias Kent and Christopher Snyder inhabit the plantation of his father, Peter Romine. (Elias Kent married an Abigail Romine who was likely the daughter of Peter the younger. The Kents moved to Ohio, and Abigail Romine Kent is buried in Muskingum County.) Since Peter the younger does not appear in Loudoun County records after the mid-1810s, but a Peter Romine does appear in Muskingum County records later that decade, it would appear that the Peter Romines in the two census records above are the same person. The others in the household were likely one of his children, with the addition of a granddaughter by the time of the 1820 census.

In November 1821 in Muskingum County, Ohio, a Peter Romine, most likely the same Peter Romine who is in the 1820 census, was declared "insane". His property was inventoried and sold in 1822, probably to help pay for his upkeep. Based on the estate inventory, he was probably not insane but suffering from some form of dementia, insane being a term that was commonly used at the time for a variety of ailments. A guardian, Martin McCloud, was appointed for Peter Romine, and Martin

McCloud put Peter in the care of Samuel Baldwin. Samuel was regularly reimbursed for expenses for Peter's care from the proceeds of the estate sale for the next two years. Peter apparently died early in 1824, possibly in April, as that's when the payments ceased. Although there is no indication of a family relationship between Peter and Samuel in the estate records, it seems likely that Peter would have been put in the care of a close relative, in this case, his presumed daughter, Hannah.

There were other Romines, in addition to Elias and Abigail Romine Kent, who moved from Loudoun County to Muskingum County in the early 1800s. These people may very well have been the children of Peter Romine the younger. For further information on the presumed Peter the younger, see <https://bryan-martin.net/genealogy/getperson.php?personID=I28364&tree=gam>. One of these Romines, Jacob, is listed in the 1850 census of Muskingum County, but he apparently died between 1850 and 1860, as his widow Martha and son Peter, age 27, were living in Fountain County, Indiana, at the time of the 1860 census. Living with them was a young man named Samuel Baldwin, age 16. This Samuel Baldwin, likely the grandson of Samuel and Hannah Baldwin, was quoted in a biographical sketch as saying that he went to Fountain County with his uncle, Peter Romine. It's possible that Peter Romine was not his uncle but actually his older first cousin, once removed, and that Peter's parents, Jacob and Martha, were his great-aunt and -uncle. The term 'uncle' was often used at that time to identify an older relative, and not necessarily an actual uncle. In either case, this statement by Samuel Baldwin points to there being a definite family relationship between the Baldwins and Romines, and particularly between Peter Romine the younger and Samuel and Hannah Baldwin.