

Gerardus & Leah Smock Ryker

BIBLE FAMILY RECORDS

Transcribed by Mr Lynn Rogers

Jefferson County Historical Society
Madison IN
July 4, 2013
rev Mar 7, 2018

GR (1767 NJ – VA - KY-1839 IN)

Married KY 1791

LS (1774 PA - KY-1858 IN)

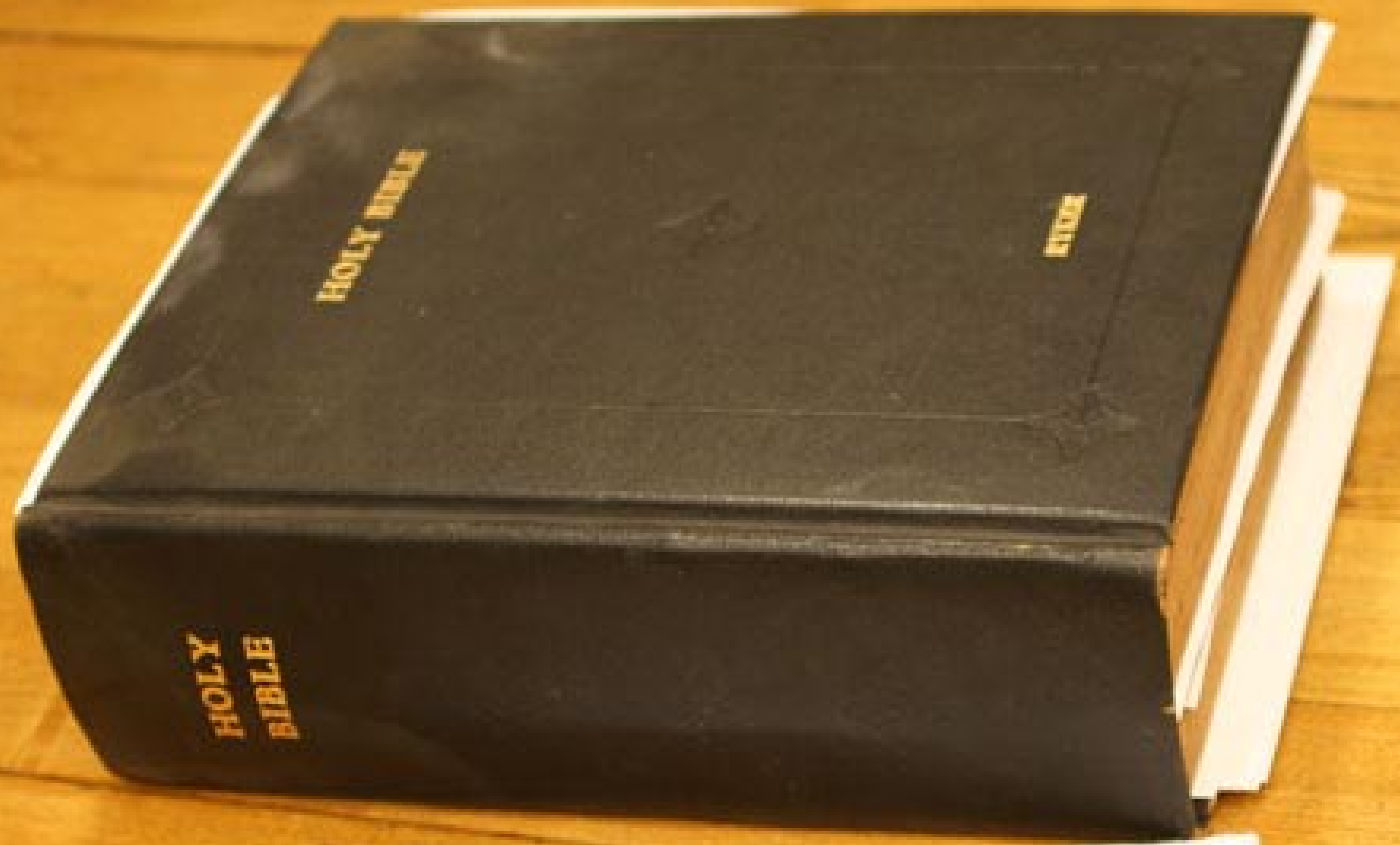
GR & LS Members of the Low Dutch Company 1780s

Buried
Rykers Ridge Cemetery
Lat/Long 38.77500/85.33238

Jefferson County
Indiana

Concise, complete content of the Gerardus & Leah Smock Ryker Bible family record

		Born				Death				Marriage			
		Date			Where	Date			Where	Date			Where
		Yr	Mo	Da		Yr	Mo	Da		Yr	Mo	Da	
	Jacob	Smock	1824	6	22								
	Rachel Vancleave, my mother												
	Rachel	Demaree	1743	11	19								
	Katherine	Demaree	1748	5	6								
	Katherine	Smock				1828	10	22					
	Gerardus	Ryker	1767	11	4	NJ	1839	1	7				
	Leah	Smock	1774	4	8	PA	1858	10	4,5				
	Bible purchased by Gerardus & Leah Ryker		1816	11	25								
ch of Gerardus & Leah													
1	Samuel	Ryker	1792	4	9	Shelby Co KY	1792	4	29				
2	John G.	Ryker	1793	8	9	Shelby Co KY	1875	1	9		1814	3	7
3	Jacob G.	Ryker	1795	6	29	Shelby Co KY	1795	7	4				
4	Jacob S.	Ryker	1796	9	13	Shelby Co KY	1843	3	21	Sparty church	1816	3	7
5	Samuel S.	Ryker	1799	1	20	Shelby Co KY	1839	3	14		1818	9	3
6	Katherine (Caty is lined thru)	Ryker	1800	12	7	Shelby Co KY	1806	5	5				
7	Rachael	Ryker	1802	12	12						1819	6	20
8	Abraham S.	Ryker	1804	10	23						1824	9	3
9	William Crawford	Ryker	1807	10	3						1835	5	21
10	Mary "Polly" Sebourn	Ryker	1809	6	6						1827	3	17
11	Jared H.	Ryker	1811	7	20						1834	2	20
12	unnam son	Ryker	1814	7	1		1814	7	1				
13	Peter V.	Ryker	1816	5	10						1837	12	21
14	Leah	Ryker	1818	2	8						1836	1	14





FAMILY RECORD

MARRIAGES	MARRIAGES
This book was purchased 25 day	
of November 1816 By Gerardus	
Ryker & Leah Ryker ---	
Gerardus Ryker and	
Leah Smock were married	
May 5 th 1791 in Mercer	
County State of Kentucky	
John G. Ryker March 7 th 1814	
Jacob S. Ryker march 7 th 1816	
Samuel S. Ryker Sep 3 rd 1818	
Rachael Ryker June 20 th 1819	
Abraham S. Ryker Sept 3 rd 1824	
Mary S. Ryker March 15 1827	
Jared Ryker February 20 1834	
Jared H. Ryker February 20, 1834	
William C. Ryker May 21, 1835	
Leah Ryker Jany 14, 1836*	* poor legibility
Peter Ryker	
Peter V. Ryker December	
21, 1837	

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS	BIRTHS
Gerardus Ryker was born	Rachel Ryker was born
in New Jersey State	December 12 th 1802
November 4 th 1767	Abraham Ryker was born
Leah Smock was born in	October 23 rd 1804
Pennsylvania State	William Crawford Ryker
April 8 th 1774	was born October 3 rd 1807
Samuel Ryker our first	Polly Sebourn Ryker was
son was Born in Kentucky	born June 6 th 1809
State Shelby County 9 th of April 1792	Jared Ryker was born
John G. Ryker our second son	July 20 th 1811
was born in Kentucky S in	A son born July 1 st 1814
Shelby County August the 9 1793	Peter Ryker was born May 10 1816
Jacob Ryker our third son was	Leah Ryker was born February
born in Shelby County Kentucky	8 th 1818
State June 29 th 1795	
Jacob S. Ryker our fourth son	
was born in Shelby County Kentucky	Jacob Smock
State September th 13 1796	was born
Samuel S. Ryker our fifth son	Jun?qqq 22, 1824??qqq
was born in Shelby County State	
of Kentucky January 20 th 1799	
Katharine Gaty Ryker our sixth child & first dau	
ghter was born in Shelby County State of Kent	
tucky December 7 th 1800	

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS	DEATHS
	Samuel Ryker April 29 1792
(In the margin:)	Jacob G. Ryker July 4 th 1795
Rachel Vancleave, My Mother	Katherine Ryker May 5 th 1806
	A son July 1 st 1814
Rachel Demaree, 19 th Nov 1743	
Katherine Demaree May 6 th, 1748	_ Ryker ??
Ma	Jacob S. Ryker depa
Please examine the	rted this life the 21
records?qqq of New York	day of March 1843
an ? If you can	and he was ordained
find anything of	a minister of the
? ?	Baptist church at
by	Hebron and died at
of	a church called Sparty
New York	Leah Ryker departed
for	this life October the 4
	aged 84 years 5 months
	and 27 days 1858
	Samuel S. Ryker
	departed this life March
	the 14 1839

FAMILY RECORD

BIRTHS	DEATHS
	Samuel Ryker April 29 1792
(In the margin:)	Jacob G. Ryker July 4 th 1795
Rachel Vancleave, My Mother	Katherine Ryker May 5 th 1806
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	aged 84 years 5 months
	and 27 days 1858
	Samuel S. Ryker
	departed this life March
	the 14 1839

FAMILY RECORD

DEATHS	DEATHS
Katherine Smock*	
October 22 nd 1828	(In margin)
Gerardus Ryker departed	Aurora MO, March 9, 1920
this life January the	I, John Ryker, do give this his
7 th AD 1839 aged	grandfather's bible to
71 years two months	Anna B. Ryker
and three days	
Leah Ryker	[Anna Bythinia Ryker and Geo Franklin
departed this life	Ryker were ch of John Milton Ryker;
October the (4 crossed thru) 5	Geo Franklin was father of FAR, p. 151]
1858	
*(transcriber: probably Katherine (nee Demarest), mother of Leah)	
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FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.

MARRIAGES.

This book was purchased 25 day
of November 1836 By Gerardus
Ryker & Leah Ryker —

Gerardus Ryker and
Leah Smock ^{were} ~~to be~~ married
May 5th. 1795 in Mercer
County State of Kentucky

John G Ryker March 6th 1811

Jacob S Ryker March 6th 1835

Samuel S Ryker Sep^{ber} 3rd 1838

Rachel Ryker June 20th 1839

Abraham Ryker Sep^{ber} 3rd 1824

Mary S Ryker March 15th 1827

Jared Ryker February 1834
20.

Jared Ryker February
20

Jared Ryker February
20

Jared Ryker February
20

William C Ryker May 21st

Leah Ryker Jan 1834

Leah Ryker Jan 1834

Peter V Ryker December
21 1837

[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

Gerardus Ryker was born
in New Jersey State

November 4th 1767

Leah Smock was born in
Pennsylvania State

Aprile 8th 1774

Samuel Ryker our first
son was born in Kentucky

State Shelby County 9th of ^{file} April
1792

John G. Ryker our second son

was born in Kentucky S. in

Shelby County August the 9. 1793

Jacob Ryker our third son was

born in Shelby County Kentucky
State June 29 - 1795

Jacob S. Ryker our fourth son

was born in Shelby County Kentuck^{ys}

State September 13 - 1796

Samuel S. Ryker our fifth son

was born in Shelby County State

of Kentucky January 20: 1799

Prathapine

Cathy Ryker our sixth child & first Daug^{hter}

was born in Shelby County State of Kent^{ucky}
December 7th 1800

BIRTHS

Rachel Ryker was born

December 12th - 1802

Abraham Ryker was born

October 23rd - 1804

William Crawford Ryker

was born October 3rd - 1807

Polly Sebovin Ryker was

born June 6 - 1809

Jared Ryker was born

July 20th - 1811

A son born July 1st - 1814

Peter Ryker was ^{born} May 10 - 1816

Leah Ryker was born February

8th - 1818

Jacob Smock

was born

...

Rachel Vanclaw My Mother

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

Rachel Demaree 19th Nov^r 1743
Katharine Demaree May 6th 1748

DEATHS.

1792
Samuel Ryker April 29
Jacob G. Ryker July 4 - 1795
Katharine Ryker May 5 - 1806
A Son July 1 - 1814

Jacob S. Ryker departed this life the 21 day of March 1843 and he was ordained a minister of the Baptist church at Hebron and died at church called Sparty

Leah Ryker departed this life October the 14th aged 84 years 5 months and 27 days 1858.

Samuel S. Ryker Departed this life March the 14 1839

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly describing the lives of the deceased mentioned in the record.]

Aurora Mo March 9 1920
[680]
do Gene this his Grand Father
Bible to Anna B Ryker

FAMILY RECORD.

DEATHS.

DEATHS.

Katharine Smock

October 22nd 1828

Gerardus Ryker Departed

this life January the
7th A.D. 1839 Aged
71 years Two months
and three days

Leah Ryker
Departed this life
October the 5th
1858

GERARDUS & LEAH RYKER BIBLE TIMELINE

- 1816 Gerardus & Leah (nee Smock) Ryker purchase the Bible in Jefferson County Indiana abt 10 years after their re-location from Shelby County Kentucky.
- 1839 Gerardus dies and is buried at Rykers Ridge Cemetery, Jefferson County Indiana
- 1850 Jared H. Ryker, a son, immigrates to Aurora, Lawrence County, Missouri
- 1855 John Milton Ryker, a son of Jared, is born in Aurora
- 1858 Leah dies and is buried beside her late husband Gerardus
- 1891 Jared H. Ryker dies in Aurora
- 1917 Slip in the Bible: "J.M. Ryker – been in the family 111 years – bought by Gerardus Ryker"
- 1920 Writing in margin: "I, John Ryker, do give this my grandfather's Bible to Anna B. Ryker" (John Milton Ryker's daughter)
- 1950 Homer Wallace Ryker (a brother of Anna) had the Bible re-bound; the first 30 pages are missing.
- 1953 Anna gave the Bible to Franklin A. Ryker (who lived in Long Beach California), a son of George Franklin Ryker; George was a brother of Anna
- 1976 Franklin publishes facsimiles (some poor legibility) of the Family Record pages and their transcript (a few errors)
- 1990 Franklin dies, and custody passes to Judith, his daughter, who re-locates to Oregon
- 2013 Judith ships the Bible back east after responding to a query by Mr Lynn Rogers, a descendant of Gerardus and Leah. Volunteers at the Jefferson County Historical Society (Indiana) scan the Family Record pages into modern computer hardware and software. Legibility of the 200 year old handwriting, faded ink, and deteriorated paper is greatly enhanced. Thanks to the digital optics state of the art, which is a spinoff of military research and development, our tax dollars at work. Custody of the Bible was passed to JCI Hist Soc.

Gerardus Jr and Leah Smock Ryker

In 1767 at the northeast corner of New Jersey (present Rockleigh), Gerardus Ryker was born to Dutch parents. The Dutch were pious and industrious. In 1776, the British moved 30,000 troops to New York City, 20 miles away, and the Revolutionary War descended upon them. Every man, woman, and child was severely affected. At age 12, Gerardus' older brother exchanged rifle fire with the British. Patriot and British armies foraged back and forth, stripping the land of sustenance. The Dutch church split bitterly along patriot and Tory lines. The entire area was immersed in guerilla civil war.

The Ryker family decided to join the Low Dutch Company and its migration to Kentucky. The objective was to find a large tract of low cost land and form a Dutch colony, church, schools, etc. In 1778 the family joined relatives in/near present Shepherdstown WV. Part of the Company wintered in Pittsburg, and landed in their flatboats at present Louisville Kentucky in the spring of 1780.

The Kentucky frontier was even more consumed by the war. Immediately, 12 year old Gerardus helped build a fort, soon stood guard at the fort while the militia was away, and spent his 15th birthday as a soldier on Clark's 2nd expedition against the Ohio Indians. In 1781, his father was killed by the Indians.

In 1774 at the Conewago Dutch Colony near present Gettysburg Pennsylvania, Leah Smock was also born to Dutch parents. In the 1780s, her family joined the Dutch in Kentucky. Leah had one brother killed by the Indians, one wounded, and 2 captured but ransomed at the Treaty of Greenville. Leah herself was scalped but lived and wore a leather cap the rest of her life.

Gerardus and Leah (first cousins) married in 1791 in Kentucky.

Even after the Revolutionary War was over in the east, intense Indian hostilities continued in Kentucky. Gerardus was in the 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers, was in the militia, and was in the War of 1812.

In 1795 he bought land on Lutz Run, a tributary Bullskin Creek five miles north of present Shelbyville Kentucky. About 1810 he homesteaded at a location across the field from the present Rykers Ridge Baptist Church in Jefferson County Indiana.

Gerardus and wife were charter members of the Rykers Ridge Community Church in 1819; there had been preaching there in the years before. In 1826 the Madison Presbyterian Church invited members of the RR Church to attend a special meeting. In 1832, Gerardus was an Elder at the Madison Presbytery meeting. In 1841 RR Baptist Church was formed.

Gerardus & Leah had 14 children. They died in 1839 and 1858 and are buried in Rykers Ridge Cemetery.

Gerardus and his 2 brothers combined had 20 sons; the Ryker family was large and prominent in the community.