

Pension No. S-39314.

1840 Census of Marshall County, Tenn.

Marshall County, Tenn. Will Book, A, 1835-1855, p. 99-100.

Marshall County, Tenn. Admr. Returns, 1839-1842,
p. 263-266.

Memoirs of James Norman Smith, State of Tenn. Archives,
Reel #157, Vol. #1 & #2.

Weaver, *The Polk Correspondence*, Vol. 1, p. 105.



First Marshall County Court met here.

JAMES COFFEY

James Coffey was born August 17, 1759, in Kenneth Square, New Garden Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and died December 20, 1836, a few weeks after Marshall County was organized. He married Mary Leeper, April 5, 1787, in Cumberland County, near Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of James and Mary (Blair) Leeper and was born June 28, 1769, in Pennsylvania and died July 27, 1861, in Marshall County, Tennessee.

In a declaration for pension made on November 10, 1830, the veteran stated that he enlisted in the Revolutionary War in the spring of 1776 and served as a private in Captain Murry's Company, under Colonel Atley's Pennsylvania Regiment. He was in the Battle of Long Island and in the Battle of Fort Washington where he was taken prisoner and confined in the Sugar House in New York for 7 weeks and 4 days until he was returned to his troops, which were stationed at Valley Forge. His length of service was one year and 9 months.

He was allowed a pension under Certificate No. S-7297, issued under an Act of Congress June 7, 1832, and paid at the West Tennessee Agency. His widow, Mary Coffey, was allowed pension on Certificate No. W-1187, issued under an act of Feb. 2, 1848, and paid at the Nashville, Tennessee Agency.

In 1776 he lived in Chester County, Pennsylvania. After the war he resided in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; moved to New Castle County, Delaware; then resided in Baltimore County, Maryland, in Hagerstown, Maryland and again returned to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania; and finally lived in Elbert County, Georgia, before moving to Tennessee.

About 1808 several Scotch-Irish families settled around Farmington and Belfast. These families were inter-related by faith and blood. Mary (Leeper) Coffey's parents had also come from Georgia and settled on the head waters of Rock Creek, in that part of Bedford County which, in 1836, became Marshall County. James Coffey settled about a mile from the turn to Round Hill Cemetery on the Liberty Valley Road out of Belfast.

James and Mary Coffey were charter members of the Bethberei Presbyterian Church. He and his wife were buried in Round Hill Cemetery, and their tombstones read as follows:

Sacred to the Memory of
James Coffey
who was born in Pennsylvania
August the 7th, 1761
and died the 20th of December
in Tennessee in the year 1836
Age 77 yrs. 4 mos. 3 days

Mary, wife of James Coffey
of Revolutionary Fame
Born Jan. 28, A.D. 1769
Died July 27, A.D. 1861

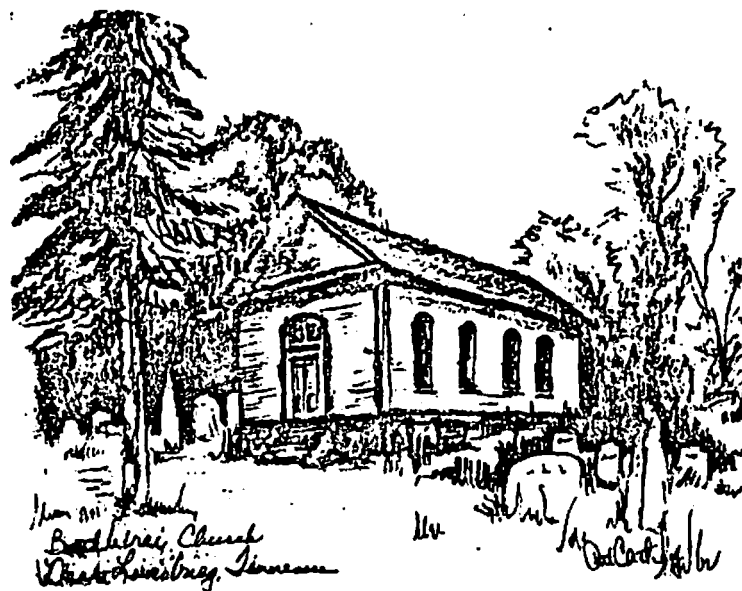
Children of James and Mary Coffey were:

1. Thomas Coffey, b. Jan. 17, 1788, in Pa., d. Nov. 14, 1852, married Dec. 22, 1812, Mary (Polly) Miller, b. Feb. 22, 1795, in N. C., d. Jan. 10, 1887, (Round Hill Cemetery).
2. Mary Coffey, b. Nov. 23, 1789, (Round Hill Cem.).
3. James Leeper Coffey, b. Dec. 15, 1791, d. June 22, 1837, married Mary (Polly) Ramsey.
4. Martha Coffey, b. Mar. 19, 1794, d. 1852, married 1816 in Bedford Co., Tenn., Robert Norman, b. _____, d. 1855 in Perry Co., Tenn.
5. Jane Coffey, b. Mar. 20, 1797, d. (stone broken in Round Hill Cem.).
6. Allen Coffey, b. Sept. 26, 1800, d. June 26, 1884, married Annie Mount, b. Dec. 28, 1804, in Ga., d. July 2, 1873, (Round Hill Cem.).
7. Elizabeth Coffey, b. Nov. 3, 1804, in Elbert Co., Ga.

References:

DAR *Patriot Index*, 1966, p. 141.
Pension No. S-7297 and W-1187.

Whitley, Edythe R., *Roster and Soldiers*, Vol. 1, p. 410.
Whitesell, Ralph, *Tombstone Inscriptions of Marshall County Tennessee*, pp. 71-72.



Bethberei Church

- (2) Martha Haynes, (3) Emma Smith.
9. Katherine Ledbetter, b. 1803, married James McMullen.
 10. James Johnson Ledbetter, b. Nov. 28, 1807, married Jane Wade.
 11. William Riley Ledbetter, b. 1810, married Eliza Massey.

References:

Pension No. R-6237.

State of North Carolina Dep't of Archives and History,
Vol. 1, folio 4, p. 55.

Whitley, *Roster and Soldiers*, Vol. 2, p. 493.

1830 Census, Lincoln County, Tenn.

1840 Census, Marshall County, Tenn.

JAMES LEEPER

James Leeper was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, on February 20, 1743, and died in Bedford County, (now Marshall) Tennessee, on April 14, 1811. He married Mary Blair on November 4, 1766, in Rowan County, North Carolina. Mary Blair Leeper was born February 1748, and died on March 29, 1828, in what is now Marshall County. She was the daughter of Hugh and Mary (Dawson) Blair.

James was the son of Allen Leeper, a Revolutionary War soldier who was born in Ireland on March 10, 1720, and died in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on October 19, 1788. Allen's wife, Elizabeth Cummings, was born in 1722 and died in 1788. They were married in 1742.

He resided in North Carolina during the war and served from 1780 through 1781, taking part in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, March 15, 1781. The section of the country in North Carolina where he lived was overrun with Tories, and his property was destroyed by the enemy. James returned to Pennsylvania where he again enlisted with the American forces and served with Captain James Irwin's Company, of the Second Battalion, Cumberland County militia in September 1781.

After the war James Leeper moved with his family to Elbert County, Georgia, where he lived for several years. From Georgia this family of Leepers moved to Tennessee and settled on the head waters of Rock Creek in 1808 in that part of Bedford County that became Marshall.

James Leeper was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church and served as Ruling Elder under Dr. Caldwell in North Carolina, Dr. Robert Wilson in Pennsylvania, and Reverend John Newton in Georgia. He and his family were among the first members of Bethbirei Presbyterian Church established in 1810.

He was the first person to be buried in the Round Hill Cemetery at Belfast, Tennessee. James and Mary Leeper's tombstones read as follows:

Sacred to the Memory of

James Leeper, son of
Allen and Elizabeth C. Leeper
Born in Pennsylvania
20th of February A.D. 1743
Died 14th of April A.D. 1811
In the 69th year of his age

James Landsdown Supt.
Col. Tenn.
Revolutionary War Soldier

Mary Leeper
Consort of James Leeper
died March 29, 1828

Children of James and Mary Leeper were:

1. Elizabeth Leeper, b. Nov. 18, 1769, married David Ewing.
2. Mary Leeper, b. Jan. 18, 1769, d. July 27, 1861, married April 25, 1787, James Coffey, b. Aug. 7, 1761, d. Dec. 20, 1856.
3. Jane Leeper, b. Sept. 10, 1771, m. James Walker.
4. Allen L. Leeper, b. Aug. 18, 1773, d. Dec. 21, 1839; married June 13, 1795 in Ga. to Rebecca Ewing, b. 1773, d. Feb. 4, 1856.
5. Martha Leeper, b. Sept. 7, 1775, d. Oct. 28, 1851, married Sept. 1, 1796 to Francis H. Woods, b. June 13, 1776, d. Mar. 28, 1849.
6. James Leeper, b. Dec. 24, 1777, died in infancy.
7. James Leeper, b. Mar. 1, 1780, d. June 6, 1848, married Elizabeth Woods who died May 26, 1844.
8. Sarah Leeper, b. May 18, 1782, d. in Ga.; married James Griffith.
9. Tabitha Leeper, b. Nov. 19, 1784, married a Shepherd.
10. John Leeper, b. Aug. 23, 1786, d. Dec. 13, 1835 in Leepers Town, Bureau County, Illinois. married Oct. 25, 1806, in Elbert Co., Ga. to Fidelas McCord, b. Dec. 22, 1790, in N. C., d. May 14, 1840 in Granville, Ill.
11. Charlie Leeper, b. Dec. 5, 1788, died in infancy.

12. Hugh Blair Leeper, b. Feb. 27, 1791, d. Dec. 18, 1881, near Morgantown, Tn., married (1) Melinda Sanders in Aug. 27, 1812, married (2) Easter Harden in Blount Co., Tenn. on Nov. 6, 1859.

References:

- North Carolina Roster of Revolutionary Soldiers*, p. 482.
DAR Patriot Index, 1966 p. 408.
Whitley, Edythe R., *Roster and Soldiers*, Vol. 1, p. 1002.
Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Vol. VI, p. 196.
"Leeper Family of Pennsylvania and New York", *Journal of American Genealogy*, printed 1921-30, Vol. 1-5.
Allen, Penelope, "Leaves from Family Tree", *Chattanooga Times*, Sept. 2, 1934.
Whitesell, Ralph, *Tombstone Records of Marshall County*, p. 72.