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The Family of William Gleaves

About 1748 - 1820

William was the second child and oldest son of Matthew and Esther Glaves. Records involving William list him at various times with four different spellings of his last name, although it is clear that the most predominant spelling was “GLEAVES”. The extensive documentation makes it clear that these records all pertain to one person.

William is thought to have been born in England, although there is no proof of this. In 1932, an application for membership to the Daughters of the American Revolution by Estelle Howe Winkler (National # 262024) claimed William was born in Ireland. As proof, Ms. Winkler submitted a “*Verbatim copy from a family bible now owned by Taylor Gleaves, Roanoke, VA*”. The application does not state the name of the original owner of the Bible. The copy lists William and Elizabeth and their children giving birthdates for all except William. This author does not know if this Bible exists today. Ms. Winkler’s application contained a number of facts that we today know to be incorrect.

There are also some researchers who list William’s middle name as “*Benjamin*”. While this may be correct, this author knows of no historical document that confirms this assertion.

No records pertaining to William’s life have been uncovered prior to him becoming an adult. The earliest entry referencing William appears in the Augusta County, Virginia Court records. On August 20, 1770 “*William GLAVES*” purchased 164 acres on the South River of the Shenandoah from John Lewis of Albemarle, Virginia for the sum of 40 pounds. The document was filed with the court in March of 1771. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*

Augusta County Court Order Book #14 contains an entry dated March 22, 1771, where “*William GLAVES, is appointed guardian ad litem for Esther GLAVES, orphan of Matthew GLAVES, deceased*”. While the subsequent 1772 lawsuit, *Turk vs. Raferty* establishes that William was also named guardian for all his younger siblings, no record has been found documenting the event. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*

The last documented record of William in Augusta County appears to be the first instance where the extra “E” appears in the family surname. On January 24, 1775, “*William GLEAVE*”, apprenticed his youngest brother, “*Matthew GLAVE*”, to a wheelwright named John Finley. Both William and Matthew’s signatures appear on the document and are remarkably similar. William had already left Augusta County by 1775, so his signature may be a forgery. It is not clear if either brother could read or write at this time. While there is no record of the document being filed with the court on that date, it was entered into the record as part of the lawsuit *GLAVES vs. Finley* in March of 1794. This lawsuit is explained in detail in Chapter 6, which details the life of Matthew Glaves. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*

Elizabeth Turk

1753 – 1840

William married Elizabeth Turk in Augusta County, Virginia on May 3, 1770. He would have been approximately 22 years old and Elizabeth about 17. There does not appear to be any public record documenting this event, although it is recorded in the James Turk Bible. Elizabeth, born in 1753, was the daughter of Thomas Turk Sr. and his first wife, Margaret. In 1758, her father indentured her to his brother, James. Although the details of the agreement are not known, a subsequent lawsuit established Elizabeth’s age at the time of the indenture as 5 years and 2 months. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*

Four years before William and Elizabeth's marriage, William's older sister Mary, became Thomas Turk Sr.'s second wife. This made Thomas Turk both William's brother-in-law and his father-in-law. Likewise, Elizabeth's stepmother became her sister-in-law. A more detailed account of the Turk family is contained in the previous chapter.

Elizabeth appears in one additional Augusta County Court entry when her father's Will is written in August of 1808. She is listed as "Betty GLAVE".

Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia

Southward to the Cripple Creek Valley

Some time in the early 1770s William and Elizabeth left Augusta County for the area 150 miles further down the Shenandoah Valley known today as Wythe County, Virginia (pronounced WITH). There is no record yet found of William selling the land he acquired previously in Augusta County. Wythe County was not created until 1790, so the earliest entries appear in a variety of counties as they were subdivided. The area settled by William was located in Botetourt County until 1773, Fincastle until 1780, and Montgomery until 1790. Settlers began arriving in the early 1770s and many of them were Scotch-Irish and German immigrants, who like William, were looking for free land.

After the French and Indian War (1750-1763) the southern part of the Shenandoah Valley was given to the Shawnee & Cherokee Indians as hunting grounds. Col. John Chiswell had discovered lead in the area by 1757 and he was mining the metal when the truce was declared. England required that all settlers leave the area, but this decree was ignored. The only settlers in the area after this treaty was ratified were the miners at the lead mines, in what would become Wythe County. In 1770, the treaty was repealed and a land rush ensued.



The first documented record of William in the Wythe area occurs in 1772 when "William GLEEVES" is listed in a member of Captain Herbert's company of the Botetourt County Militia. The list is not dated. Captain Herbert's list for the previous year does not include William.

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

This would mean that William and Elizabeth moved south shortly after the *Turk vs. Raferty* lawsuit was heard in March of that year. If this date is correct, the only children of this marriage born in Augusta County, Virginia would be their oldest son, Thomas born March 18, 1771 and possibly Matthew, born November 9, 1772.

It appears that William's middle brother, Michael came with him, or shortly thereafter, as he appears on militia rolls by 1774.

The militia organization was very important to the community and William was heavily involved. "It was from this group that men were selected to serve as scouts, Indian spies, fort and frontier protectors and from this group that taxes were levied, road workers selected and overseers were appointed. Educated men of the community were officers and leaders."

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

William settled on land adjoining a watercourse known as Cripple Creek. A Montgomery County land entry some years later reads; "William GLAVIS, assignee of Roger Oats, 200 acres on Mill

Creek, branch of Cripple Creek, settled 1772". The entry is not clear as to who settled the land in 1772, but it would be consistent with William's arrival to the Cripple Creek Valley. This entry appears to legally transfer title to William for lands he had settled in 1772.

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

The minutes of the April 4, 1776 meeting of the Fincastle County Committee of Safety appointed three men to make a list of the inhabitants for militia rolls. They were "*to go as low on Cripple Creek as William GLEEVES'S and return the lists to the County Lieutenant Certify'd*".

Montgomery County, Virginia; The First 100 Years

"*William GLAVES*" is listed as a member of the first Grand Jury ever empanelled in Montgomery County, during the Court's May term, in 1779. There is no record of who the defendant was or the charge they considered.

Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia

William & the War of Independence

During the Revolutionary War each county was required to keep a list of those individuals who took the Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Between September 30, and December 5, 1777, James McCorkle recorded names from several militia companies for this purpose. The Preamble reads as follows: "*We whose names are hereunto subscribed do swear or affirm that we renounce and refuse all allegiance to George third King of Great Britain, his heirs successors and that, I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a free and independent State and that I will not at any time do or Cause to be done any matter or thing that will be make known to some one Justice of the Peace for the said State all treasons or traiterous Conspiracies which I now or hereafter shall known to be formed against this or any of the United States of America.*" Appearing on the list of nearly 90 names is "*William GLAVES*" with the notation "*of Thompson's Company*".

Militia of Montgomery County, Virginia; 1777-1790

While all three brothers served in county militia units during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), William Gleaves is the only one of the three brothers who appears to have served in the regular army, known as the Continental Line. The Daughters of the American Revolution recognize William for his service as a private in Captain Thomas Hamilton's Company, 1st Virginia Regulars. Payroll records show his service was from December 1, 1779 to July 31, 1780. Some have suggested that this could have been another William Gleaves, although no evidence found thus far corroborates this theory.

War Department Payroll #1996107 & #1856474

William may not have spent much time with his unit, if at all. In December 1779, General George Washington dispatched 1,400 Continentals including the 1st Virginia Regiment, to aid in the defense of Charleston, South Carolina, against the impending British siege. The city fell on May 12, 1780 and the continental troops, including the 1st Virginia Regiment, surrendered in what was the most significant victory in the British Southern Campaign. There is no evidence yet uncovered that would suggest that William ever went to Charleston.

If William was present at Charleston he somehow avoided capture and made his way back to Virginia. We know that by July, he was back in Montgomery County, Virginia. A letter from a Colonel Preston to Captain Isaac Taylor, dated July 13, 1780, directed Taylor to lead an expedition to disarm the Tories (British Loyalists) at several locations along the New River in Montgomery County. He was "*to have the assistance of William GLAVES, Lieutenant, and John Ward, Coronet. They were to immediately engage 30 men each, to find a good horse fit for service and proceed up the New River and to disarm all the Tories that resided in the four companies of militia there*".

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

As referenced above, the earliest report of William's militia service appears in 1772, in Captain Herbert's Company, in what was then Botetourt County. He shows up on lists of thithables throughout the 1770s. In 1779, he was recommended for the rank of second lieutenant in Captain Francis' Company and on November 7, 1781, an entry in the Montgomery County Court records reads: "*Ordered that William GLAVES be recommended to his Excellency the Governor as a proper*

person to serve as first lieutenant...in Captain Newell's Company". Seventeen years later, on March 13, 1798, Wythe County Court records show "William GLEAVES qualified as Captain, 35th Regiment, 17th Brigade of the Militia of Virginia". *Annals of Southwest Virginia*

Some family genealogists place William and his brother Michael at the Battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780. This author is reasonably sure that Michael was not present since he participated in the Battle of Shallow Ford one-week later. This author has not found evidence to confirm William's participation in this battle either.

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Lt. William Gleaves is however documented in several sources, as participating at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina, on March 15, 1781. A number of Virginia militia units, including companies from Montgomery County participated in the battle under Colonel William Campbell. They were joined by militia units from North Carolina and some regular soldiers from the Continental Line. The force, some 4,400 men strong, was under the Command of General Nathaniel Greene.

The British Army, under the command of Lord Charles Cornwallis was inferior in number (about 2,400 men including some German allies) but vastly superior in training, equipment and experience. The British soldiers, who fought in tight formation, also had a weapon for close quarter fighting that the militia did not possess, the bayonet. While their rifles could fire at greater distances than the British muskets, the Colonials were no match when the fighting became hand to hand. After several costly engagements early in the war, the lesson learned was that the militia should retreat when the British legions closed in on their position. Only the soldiers of the Continental Line were equipped with bayonets and were able to meet Cornwallis' troops on equal footing.

Nathaniel Greene had been sent by George Washington to command the Southern Campaign after the disastrous Battle at Camden, where Horatio Gates lost most of the Continental Army sent to meet the British in the Carolinas.

Cornwallis wanted a set-piece engagement to deal with the rebels. A great tactician, rather than a charismatic leader, Greene avoided a conflict for weeks until his troops were ready to fight on their own terms, on ground he had scouted previously.

In the following description of the events of March 15, 1781, all quotes are taken from the book *The Road to Guilford Courthouse* by John Buchanan.

Greene deployed his troops in three lines, one behind the other, spread out over half a mile. The first line was made up of his least reliable troops, 1,000 North Carolina Militia. Their role assigned by Greene was very straightforward; *"He spoke of liberty and the cause and their honor and all he asked of them was to volley twice. Then he told them, they could retire"*. To anchor these inexperienced troops and provide moral support while they performed this task, Greene placed more experienced troops on each flank. *"On the right, next to Butler's regiment, were Colonel Charles Lynch's 200 Virginia riflemen supported by William Washington's ninety dragoons and Captain Robert Kirkwood's eighty man company of the Delaware Line. On the left, next to Eaton's regiment, were Colonel William Campbell and two hundred Virginia riflemen (this was Lt. William Gleaves' Montgomery County unit), augmented by Lee's Legion of seventy-five horse and eighty-two foot."*

The second line was made up of Virginia militia and the final was 1,400 Continentals from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware.

When the battle was joined about 1:30 PM, most of the North Carolina militia gave a good accounting and inflicted heavy losses on the British before retreating in disarray in the face of the advancing bayonets. *"One company stayed and fought; they were stationed next to Campbell's riflemen and were perhaps inspired by those veteran mountaineers."*

“The British, however, could not take immediate advantage of their rout of the North Carolinians. The riflemen and Continental infantry on their flanks stood firm and delivered galling enfilading fire that had to be dealt with.” Cornwallis deployed units to address this threat but had to carry the fight on the Patriot’s terms. Nowhere was this more evident than on the left flank with Colonel Campbell’s Montgomery County Militia. *“The contest was fierce, degenerating into a backwoods fight in woods and hills in which the British and Germans some times found themselves assaulted from behind after clearing their front. But it quickly became a sideshow, and only affected the main battle by depriving both generals of badly needed units.”*

The Virginia Militia in the second line was not as successful. Confusion in the ranks due to the thick underbrush caused one regiment to be outflanked and suddenly found the British in their rear. Retreat was ordered to avoid being cut off. This left the other regiment with no one to guard the flank. After firing several volleys, they too had to retreat to avoid being overrun.

The third line, the Continentals, had better luck. As the first battalions of British troops cleared the woods into an open area, they formed and marched straight at the Americans who held their fire until the units were 100 feet apart and shattered them with a thunderous volley. The British were repulsed in disorder. The first Maryland Regiment now went on the offensive. A fierce bayonet charge across the open field ended in hand to hand combat with the additional British troops that had cleared the woods.

Upon arriving at this scene, Cornwallis surveying the melee feared that he was losing the battle and made a decision to regain the initiative, he fired his artillery into the crowd. *“....Cornwallis ordered McLeod to fire grapeshot into the mass of struggling men, into friend and foe alike. The cannons roared, spewing grape into the flesh of Britons and Americans. The melee dissolved as soldiers from both sides scattered. Cornwallis had done what he had to do. The crisis passed.”*

“Cornwallis had to win. But Greene had only to avoid serious defeat while making Cornwallis pay too dearly for victory. He decided that he accomplished both and at 3:30 PM ordered a withdrawal from the battlefield. What was important, the army was unbowed. Their morale unbroken, the Continentals tramped off, ready to fight another day. Greene’s army had suffered seventy-nine killed and 184 wounded, about a mere six percent casualty rate.”

The battle was a tactical victory for the British, but the losses were too heavy and proved to be the end of the British Southern Campaign.

“Cornwallis had set out in January with between 3,200 and 3,300 men. Despite Tarleton’s disaster at Cowpens he had pushed on with some 2,550 men. Now his force was reduced to slightly over 1,400 effectives, and they were no longer fit to campaign. Charles, 2nd Earl of Cornwallis, had ruined his army.” *The Road to Guilford Courthouse*

Cornwallis was forced to abandon his Carolina campaign and march the remnants of his army to Virginia where he surrendered to General George Washington at Yorktown some six months later.

The American Revolution was similar in many ways to the Vietnam War. The British were superior in manpower in their regular army, better equipped and better trained. The Americans on the other hand, had the advantage of the home field and the resources of the civilian population. The British had some success in enlisting the support of Tory Loyalists, but the vast majority of the citizens backed the Continental Army and the militia units that supported them. It became a war of attrition. Despite their tactical victories, the British could not crush the resistance to the Crown or the resolve of the people. In the end the English forces were just worn down.

A Militia roll of Captain James Newell’s Company dated April 5, 1781 lists *“William GLEAVES”*. This appears to be his unit that participated in the battle. *North Carolina Biographical Sketches of Soldiers and Patriots in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse*

On May 8, 1782 “William GLEAVES” was among a group of men who appeared in Montgomery County Court and “...produced sufficient proof to this Court that they ought to be paid 10 pounds for provisions furnished themselves when on Duty in North Carolina to join General Green”.

Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769–1800

There is no record of William or his brother Michael ever applying for a pension based on their service in the Revolutionary War, although both brothers are mentioned in several applications by others.

Ewing, John. S. 31015

“3 April 1833. Logan Co., Ky. John Ewing of said county, aged 72, declares he was born in Prince Edward Co., Va., in June 1761. The foregoing is extracted from his father’s family record. When he was ten years of age his father re-moved to Montgomery Co., Va., to that part which is now Wythe County. Here he continued until he entered service in 1778. He volunteered in a company of militia under Capt. Henry Francis and Lt. William GLAVES. They rendezvoused at the lead mines in said county and marched to the head waters of Yadkin River on the northern boundary of North Carolina. Col. Crocket and Gen. William Campbell were in command. They dispersed the Tories who had collected in the neighborhood. A captain of the Tory party was taken and hanged under one Coxe’s gate, for the Tories had assembled in Coxe’s settlement, as it was called. After they did the work assigned them they returned home. He served thirty days.

In 1780 he entered service in a company of militia (volunteers) commanded by Capt. James Newell, Lt. William GLAVES and Ens. John Whitlock (who did not go with them). They rendezvoused at a place on the south’ side of New River called Harberd’s Ferry, at the mouth of Poplar Camp Creek. Here they were placed under Colonels Preston, Crockett and Cloyd. They marched across the mountains into Guilford Co., N.C., where they were joined by Gen. William Campbell who had about eighty men under his command. They marched to the Court House of Guilford County. They were ordered from Guilford Court House to the neighborhood of Gen. Greene’s army but did not join his army, which was then on the waters of Haw River. They had previous to this dispersed a parcel of Tories not far from Guilford Court House. Gen. Pickens from Georgia joined them about this time. They contemplated capturing Col. Tarleton but a Tory deserted from our army and gave information of the contemplation and Tarleton left his camp in the night and crossed Haw River at the High Rock Ford. They pursued him until they met Col. Lee who informed them that they must retreat for they were in the immediate neighborhood of the main British army under Lord Cornwallis. They accordingly crossed Haw River and encamped in the vicinity of Gen. Greene’s army. The morning after they reached the camp Gen. Greene sent his aide to them and advised them to send their horses home as it was probable they would soon come to a general engagement with the British. They complied with his directions and were ordered to Whitsell’s Mills on the Reedy Fork of Haw River. Here they formed the line of battle and met the army of Lord Cornwallis. They formed near the old mills and fired two rounds and were then ordered to retreat as they were by this time almost surrounded by the overwhelming army of Cornwallis. On the retreat an old Irish man named Buckhannon took shelter in the old mill and fired upon and killed an Englishman as he came down the hill on the opposite side of the river. They were defeated and dispersed. They had orders from their officers in the event of a defeat to rendezvous at Guilford Court House. They there rallied and were ordered homeward. He was out thirty or forty days.”

Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 35

Copenhaver, Thomas. R. 2311

“6 May 1834. Lincoln Co., Mo. Thomas (X) Copenhaver of said county, aged 71, declares he entered service in Aug. 1780 under Capt. William GLAVES for two months. He resided in Montgomery Co., Va., and was a volunteer. They rendezvoused at the Lead Mines in Montgomery County and marched into North Carolina to Hoozier Town where he was taken sick and left behind. They were to keep in subjugation the Tories who had nearly overrun North Carolina. The company was discharged in North Carolina and many of the men came back by way of Hoozier Town and he returned with them.”

Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 23

The Family Grows and Prospers

The 1780s were a busy time for William and Elizabeth. During this period many of their children were born and William acquired a number of tracts of land. His elevation to an officer's rank in the militia leads us to believe that he was becoming a respected leader in the community. Bob Carver's research finds that William became a Justice of the Peace in Wythe County some time after 1790. This author does not have that documentation and cannot establish an exact date.

In 1781, Montgomery County records show that "William GLEAVES" was appointed to be the Overseer for the road "from Lapsely's shop to Michael Lees".

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

On April 2, 1782 William filed three Public Service Claims in Montgomery County Court. "William GLEAVES came into Court and made satisfactory proof that he furnished Captain Campbell's Company of light horse Militia of Montgomery County with sixteen diets, sixteen sheves of Oats, 200 pounds of Beef, and the Washington Militia sixteen Diets, corn and hay for Eight horses one night, also Twenty-four Diets for a Company of patrollers under Sergt. Brumit, the whole amount, 5 pounds, 2 Shillings".

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters, Commissioner's Book

Captain Isaac Campbell's Company was sent to North Carolina and participated in the Battle of Shallow Ford, October 4, 1780. One, of two lieutenants listed as participating in that battle was William's brother, Michael GLEAVES. The details of the battle appear in the chapter on Michael.

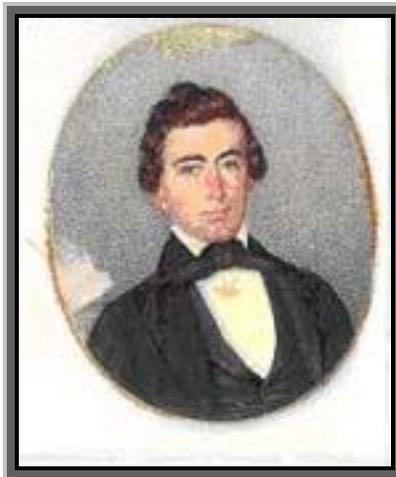
www.cbiinternet.com/shallowford/soldiers

On September 11, 1782, an entry in Montgomery County, Virginia Court Records grants "William GLAVES" a Commissioner's Certificate for an additional 300 acres of land on Mill Creek, branch of Cripple Creek. The entry just above it granted a certificate to "Michael GLAVES for 200 acres on branch of Cripple Creek, adjoining William GLAVES' line".

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters

The Montgomery County personal property tax records from 1782 list "William GLAVES" and his brother Michael. To this day, Virginia collects a personal property tax on cars, boats etc., however, in the 1700s the tax was on slaves, horses and cattle. The 1782 rolls show William owning 2 slaves, 20 horses and 33 head of cattle.

Montgomery County, Virginia Tax Records



*Portrait of William Gleaves, date unknown provided by Betty Gleaves Rhodes
Portrait of Elizabeth Turk-Gleaves date unknown, provided by the Dunkley Family*

Kentucky?

One of the more interesting land acquisitions by William did not occur in Montgomery County, Virginia. On March 13, 1783, a deed was recorded in Fayette County, Virginia where William acquires 562 acres. Under the column where the watercourse on the property is located, the word “*none*” is entered. At that time, Fayette County was part of the Kentucky District of Virginia. The three counties in the District became the state of Kentucky in 1792. Virginia had opened the area to settlers in 1779 with the passage of “The Land Law” which allowed individuals to claim free land.

Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds

There is no record of William ever traveling to Fayette County, which was hundreds of miles from his home. Just over a month after the deed was filed, William is recorded in Montgomery County. On April 23rd and again on June 21st in 1783 “*Lieutenant William GLAVES*” is listed as one of the militia officers present at courts martials conducted in the County.

After the Revolutionary War, the Federal Government and several states, including Virginia, awarded bounty lands grants to citizens and soldiers for services rendered. Most bounty grants went to soldiers in the Continental Line. Virginia gave its grants for lands in Kentucky. The person holding the certificate located unclaimed land and redeemed his grant for the title to the property. Over 30,000 such grants were issued.

While these grants are well documented, there is no record of William receiving one. Many individuals, who obtained these rights, sold them to others. This could possibly be the case, although not likely, since the name of the person redeeming the certificate for land was recorded. A more likely scenario is that someone redeemed their grant and returned to Virginia, selling the property to William as a normal land sale.

After William died in 1820, his son Absalom, who was living in Davidson County, Tennessee, traveled to Kentucky. He was to check on the land and report back as part of the settlement of the estate. He wrote the following to his brother James on April 19, 1834.

“Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to rite you a few lines to inform you that I have been to the State of Kentucky to see about the land that Father had a claim to by a warrant which land is entirely lost by the works not been forwarded in due time for a patton (patent). It is now devoid the Statute of Limitations. The warrant was laid in by Connerkouick Creek the very lowest land in the State of Kentucky not worth paying taxes for.”

The Post War Years

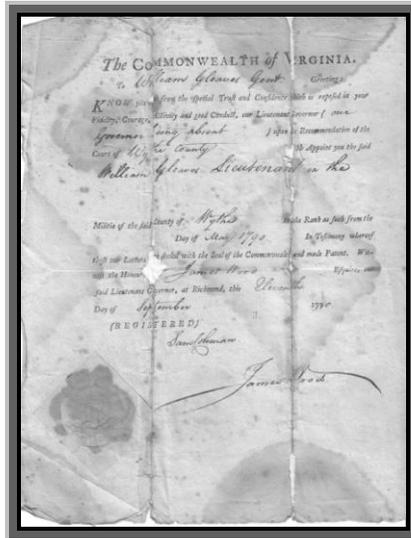


William Gleaves Sr.’s signature as it appeared on a document giving his consent for his daughter Esther to marry Asa Finley, dated August 18, 1806, Wythe County, Virginia. It is very different than the one that appears on his Brother Matthew’s apprenticeship in 1775. William’s son, William Jr. also signed the document as a witness.

By the mid 1780s, William was continuing to acquire more land. Between 1785 and 1810, William obtained tracts through Commissioner’s Certificates, Land Grants or Bounty Warrants associated with his service during the Revolutionary War. He acquired no less than ten additional tracts of land totaling 2,035 acres. All the tracts are listed as being “*on the waters of Cripple Creek*”. All the deeds are in the name of “*William GLEAVES*”. These deeds and those of some of his

descendants may be viewed on the Virginia State Library Internet site: <http://image.vils.com/>. The property where the family homestead was built was called *the Willows*. It is not clear if William or one of his descendants gave it this name. *The Library of Virginia Land Records*

William continued his military service even after the War. The 1790 document below commissioned him as a Lieutenant in the Wythe County Militia.



Gleaves Knob

William and Elizabeth helped settle the Cripple Creek Valley. Several court entries refer to the “*Gleaves Branch*” of Cripple Creek. Although that name does not appear on maps today, there is a geographic feature that still bears William’s name. Just north of the original family homestead is a summit rising 2,827 feet above sea level that bears the name Gleaves Knob. This hill appears on the USGS map titled “Cripple Creek”.



A view of the “Willows”, the land settled by William and his family in the 1770s. Gleaves Knob is in the background.

William and Elizabeth Gleaves had eleven children born between 1771 and 1792. Three of their older sons moved to Davidson County, Tennessee around 1800. They settled land near William’s brother Michael. Another son settled in Kentucky. Some daughters married and moved westward as well. Those living at the time of William’s death were all mentioned in his will. The details of his will are listed in the biography that follows. Sketches of the lives of the children are included later in this chapter.



The Gleaves Cemetery, located on the property, contains the graves of no less than five generations of the Family. In a grove of trees, on a hill overlooking the homestead is the final resting place for approximately 20 Family Slaves. The graves are marked with small piles of stones. If any record of the names of those interred exists, this author is not aware of it.

William's Will

When he died in 1820, William was a very prosperous man. Family records place his age at the time of his death as 72. An inventory of his estate included notes held on the Bank of Washington in Lebanon, Kentucky. Sons, Absalom and James T. Gleaves certified the Inventory.

Elizabeth lived another 20 years, passing away in 1840. She wrote her will September 15, 1820. The remaining family property was to be divided equally among her children living at that time. She never updated the will after the deaths of a number of her children, so settling the family estate would take several years. Her sons James Turk and Absalom would serve as the executors. Her will was probated on August 14, 1840.

William and Elizabeth are buried in the family cemetery at Cripple Creek on land still owned by their descendants. William's grave has been marked and recorded by the Daughters of the American Revolution. A marker initially presumed to be the tombstone of his brother Michael is also located there. This appears rather to be a memorial honoring Michael, since he died in Davidson County, Tennessee in 1811.

Revolutionary War Soldiers Buried in Wythe County, Virginia



The gravestone of Elizabeth Turk-Gleaves and the DAR memorial plaque for her husband William. Cripple Creek, Virginia. Courtesy of June Moore Novick

Gleaves, Old Wythe County Family

The following biography by Mary Kegley was printed in a local Wythe County, Virginia newspaper in 1985. This author's copy does not note the name of the paper. The article was included in her book entitled: *Glimpses of Wythe County*. Although much of the information is repetitive to subjects already covered or profiles of William and Elizabeth's children that appear later in this

chapter, it is included here to document as completely as possible the lives of William and Elizabeth (Turk) Gleaves.

“The Gleaves family of Cripple Creek were descended from the Gleaves of Cambridgeshire, England. William Gleaves, the first of the name to come to this part of Virginia, migrated to Pennsylvania and then down the valley of Virginia where he bought lands in 1770 as recorded in Augusta County records. In 1771 he was appointed guardian ad litem for Ester Gleaves (spelled Glaves in the records), an orphan of Matthew Gleaves deceased. At this time he was probably still living on the South River of the Shenandoah.

In 1772 he was listed as a tithable (taxable) in William Herbert’s Company of militia and this date probably represents the approximate date of his arrival in what is now Wythe County. In 1779, he served on a jury of Montgomery County, and went on the bond of Samuel Doak, the tax collector. In the same year he was recommended to the Governor of Virginia as a second lieutenant in Captain Francis’ Company of Militia. In 1781 he was recommended as a first lieutenant in Captain James Newell’s Company with William Dean as second lieutenant and Robert Sayers as ensign (an officer rank in the militia). The following year he took the oath as lieutenant.

In April of 1782 he reported to the court that he had furnished Captain Campbell’s Company of light horse militia with 16 diets (meals), corn and hay for eight horses for one night, and 24 diets for a company of patrollers under Sergeant Brummit. For provisions for himself when he was on duty in North Carolina he was paid ten shillings in addition to five pounds for the diets, 200 pounds of beef, and 16 sheaves of oats. For several months in 1779 and 1780 he served in the First Virginia Regiment (the regular army) and is always recognized as a Revolutionary War soldier. Although there does not appear to be any documentation, he is said to have been at the Battle of Kings Mountain. In 1797 he was a captain in the Wythe County militia.

William Gleaves was born about 1748 and married Elizabeth Turk. They raised their family on the homestead on Cripple Creek east of the present town on land located on the south side of the creek and the present Route 619. Gleaves owned several tracts of land and the knob in view of his home was named Gleaves Knob in his honor. He owned about 1900 acres of land in the same vicinity.

On March 20, 1820 his will was signed and a few months later on June 13th was probated by the court. He left the house and all the Negroes to his wife for her lifetime. His daughter Nancy was to have certain Negroes and stock. Son Thomas was to have a Negro boy, and his daughter Polly Porter was to have \$100 and daughter -in-law Margaret, the wife of William Gleaves Jr. who was already deceased, was to \$100 for the use of the children, Thomas H., Polly and Eliza Gleaves. The daughter Elizabeth Ramsey, was to have \$33.33, and son Absolum and his daughters Margaret Turk, Ester Finley and Salley Allen were each to have a Negro girl. Following the death of his wife Elizabeth, the Negroes were to go to son James T. Gleaves, who was also to have all the lands where the elder Gleaves lived, with the land adjoining. In return for the land James T. was to pay his sisters each the sum of 25 pounds, the currency of the day. He was also to support his mother and sister Nancy during her single life.

The daughter Nancy never married and left her will probated in 1855. She left Negroes to sons of her brother James T. (Samuel C., George Wythe, James T. Jr., and Robert).

James T. Gleaves married Malvina Crockett in 1822. Margaret married Thomas Turk, probably some relative. Sally married Nathan Allen, and William Jr. Married Margaret or Peggy Finley. Absolum married Cathy Holsey and Polly was the wife of Andrew Porter, son of the pioneer Robert Porter, Sr.

Elizabeth Gleaves, the widow of William Sr., left a will that was probated in 1840. She disposed of the Negroes to her daughters and left Nancy a bureau and her daughter-in-law Malvina a china press. Two pieces of gold were given to Polly Porter and Nancy Gleaves, and her wearing apparel (seldom mentioned in wills) was not to be sold.

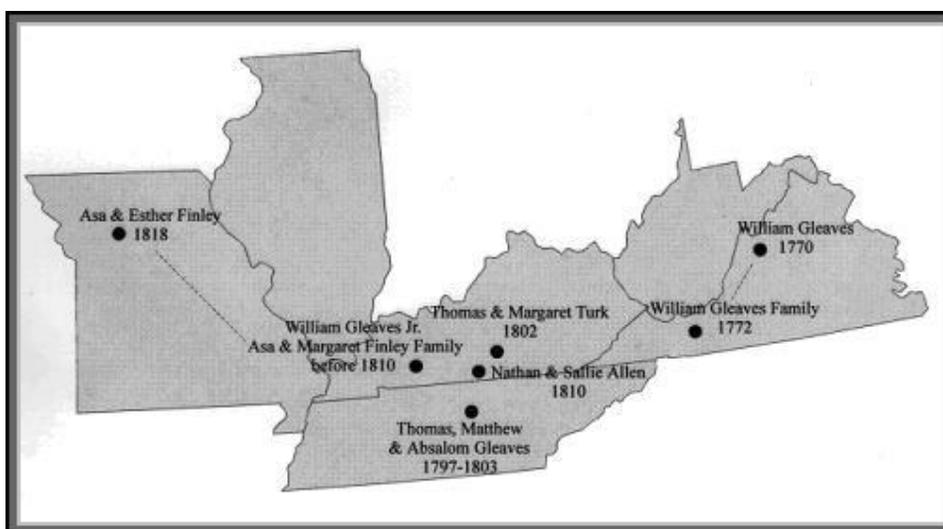
Samuel C. Gleaves, grandson of the first William was a physician and served as medical director for General Floyd during the war. His brothers George Wythe, Andrew Jackson and Robert were to divide the homeplace, but Andrew died young and his share passed to Robert. In 1874 there was an inclusive survey made for Robert and the homeplace included at that time 1,670 acres in

fourteen separate tracts. Robert's descendants own a large portion of the original estate. The family cemetery is located on the premises."

The story of William and Elizabeth is similar to many families during the Colonial Period. They endured hardships, opened a new frontier, and helped give birth to a Nation. We are fortunate that their lives were so well documented.

The Children of William and Elizabeth Gleaves

William and Elizabeth had 11 children over a 21-year period. Many continued in the frontier spirit of their parents joining the western movement. The map that follows chronicles the known migrations of the William Gleaves Sr. family. The Bible belonging to their son-in-law, Nathan Allen, provides the most complete documentation of the dates of birth of their children. The children are listed below in chronological order.



The map above shows the migration of the William Gleaves Family. Four sons and three daughters moved from Wythe County, Virginia beginning in 1796.

1) Thomas Gleaves March 18, 1771 – 1849

Thomas is the oldest child of William and Elizabeth and the only one definitely born in Augusta County, Virginia. His parents moved to the present day Wythe County area when he was less than two years old. No records pertaining to Thomas have been found in Wythe County. Thomas is the most thoroughly documented child of William Gleaves.

Tennessee Migration

Some time prior to 1796, Thomas moved to Davidson County, Tennessee near present day Nashville, Tennessee. His uncle, Michael Gleaves had settled there in the late 1780s and had acquired significant property in the region. Michael is detailed in the next chapter. Several Wythe County historical sources list a number of families that moved to Davidson County in this same time frame. Two of Thomas' brothers also moved to the Nashville area, although it appears that Thomas moved to Tennessee before they did.

The most likely route that Thomas would have taken would have been through the Cumberland Gap, made famous by Daniel Boone. This would have him first going further South in Virginia and through the Gap into Kentucky.

“The influx of settlers started as a trickle. At the end of the Revolutionary War, the spigot opened and more settlers poured in, mostly from southwest Virginia. While North Carolina owned the land, it was the Virginians who first settled in any numbers. At first, they created farmsteads and later little settlements. People also migrated from South Carolina.

..... Many people had come down the Holston River from southwest Virginia. They would enter East Tennessee, then go northwest through the Cumberland Gap, follow the Wilderness Road northerly into central Kentucky. At Crow’s Station, they would take the Kentucky Road westward. They followed the road, turned southward and they would finally arrive in the Cumberland Settlements. The end of the road was French Lick, latter Fort Nashborough (1780), or as we call it today, Nashville.

There were, early on, a few intrepid souls who managed to get to French Lick the hard way. From East Tennessee, they would float down the Tennessee River, around the “Big Bend” in today’s Alabama, over Muscle Shoals, continuing downstream to the Ohio River. Then turning up the Ohio River to its confluence with the Cumberland River, then with Cumberland upstream to French Lick.

[Middle Tennessee Pre 1796 Query Page](http://www.tngenweb.org/queries/mid/mid-tn.htm)

The first record of Thomas in Tennessee is a deed where he purchased a tract of land from one of the first settlers in the Davidson County area, John Donelson. This may have been shortly after he came to Tennessee. The deed identifies the area where Thomas first settled as in the vicinity of Stone’s Creek.

July 26, 1796

Thomas Graves This Indenture made this eleventh day of January in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and ninety six between John Donelson of the County of Tennessee of the one part and Thomas Gleaves of the County of Withe and state of Virginia of the other part witnesseth that the said John Donelson for and in consideration of the sum of six hundred Dollars to him in hand paid by the said Thomas Gleaves the receipt whereof the said John Donelson doth hereby acknowledge. He the said, John Donelson hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth sell unto Thomas Gleaves his heirs and assigns forever a certain tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in Davidson County adjoining the East of William Stewart's preemption and on both the sides of a sinking branch of Stones creek and bounded as follows. Beginning at the said Stewart s corner a poplar, thence along his line with one hundred and forty poles to to a white oak, thence a new line east Three hundred and sixty three poles to a stake. Thence north two hundred and sixty poles to a stake, thence west four hundred and forty three poles to a white oak on stones's lick survey thence along the said line south one hundred poles to three small white oaks on William Stewart line thence along his line east eighty poles to the beginning. Also all trees, woods and underwoods tytles commons common of pasture profits commodities advantages emoluments & hereditaments whatsoever to the said tract of land above mentioned, belonging or in anywise appertaining or in or upon the same tract growing happening or Arising also all the estate right title interest claim & demand whatsoever of him the said John Donelson of in and to the same premises and every part thereof. To have and to hold all and singular the above premises, above mentioned and every part and par4cel thereof, with the appurtenances unto the said Thomas Graves his heirs or assigns to the only proper use and behoof of the said Thomas Graves his heirs and assigns forever. And the said John Donelson for him and his heirs the said tract Tythes and premises and every part thereof against him and his heirs and against all and every other person & persons shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents. In witness whereof he the said John Donelson hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

John Donelson LS

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of Joseph Davis, John Hays & John Enochs. The execution of which deed of conveyance above recited was in open court held for the county of Davidson.

Davidson County Register of Deeds, Tennessee State Library and Archives Roll 1; Vol. D: Page 21

Less than a year later “*Thomas GLEAVES*” appears in a record of his marriage to “*Sally Smith*” dated March of 1797, although researchers differ on the exact date. The Marriage Bond was issued on March 13, 1797 in Davidson County, Tennessee. *Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

That same year Thomas executed a document relinquishing any claim to his father’s land back in Virginia. “*Received from my father Wm Gleaves full Satisfaction of all his moveable property as witness my hand and Seal*” *Thomas Gleaves (seal)*

Test. Richard Hobs

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=482&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Some family researchers have identified Thomas as “*Thomas Harvey Gleaves*”. Thomas’ younger brother, William Jr. had a son named Thomas Harvey Gleaves, although his adult life was spent in Missouri. This author has not found any documents that confirm this middle name.

“*Thomas GLEAVES*” next appears in court records in April 1805, when he is mentioned in his Brother Matthew’s will. This will is included in its entirety later in this chapter. The court appointed Thomas as Administrator of the estate and on May 30th of that same year, he filed an inventory of Matthew’s possessions, which included his Bible. On January 9, 1813 he reported to the Court that Matthew’s land in Kentucky had been sold for \$690 of which \$615.45 was due the estate.

Davidson County Will Books

From about 1810 until 1831 it becomes more difficult to positively document Thomas, since his Uncle Michael Glaves had a son by the same name, born in 1789. Although both were in the same area, the other Thomas appears to have lived in Wilson County adjacent to Davidson. In some instances, the subject of this sketch is listed as “*Thomas Gleaves, Sr.*” and his cousin as “*Thomas Jr.*”. During this period these designations for unrelated individuals with the same name were fairly common. In most instances it referred to their age, but in some cases, the “*Sr.*” title was awarded based on an individual’s status in the community. The other Thomas died in 1831 and is profiled in the next chapter.

“*Thomas and Absalom GLAVES*” (his brother) are listed among the buyers at the estate sale of William Stuart recorded February 19, 1810. “*Thomas GLAVES*” appears again on November 8, 1813 at the sale of the estate of George W. Payne. This second entry may pertain to the other Thomas although not likely, due to his young age. A third entry for “*Thomas GLEAVES*”, January 23, 1816 regarding the estate of Benjamin Seabourne is also inconclusive. *Davidson County Will Books*

On November 12, 1821 “*Thomas GLEAVES*” appeared in Court selling 48+ acres to Benjamin Castleman for the sum of \$112.50. This author is quite confident that this is the subject of this sketch, since Thomas’ son “*William B. GLEAVES*” sold Benjamin Castleman an additional 37+ acres ten years later on May 10, 1831. *Davidson County Deed Book Q page 406*

Several entries in 1827 list a “*Thomas GLEAVES*” although limited detail makes it impossible to identify the Thomas referred to.

A court entry dated November 28, 1828 deals with what appears to be the County’s support for a widow and her family. “*Absalom GLEAVES, Thomas GLEAVES and James R. GLEAVES, (Thomas’ Son) Commissioners to set apart one years provisions for Drusilla Johnson and her family*”.

Davidson County Will Book

It appears in later life Thomas was afflicted with a number of ailments. The first report of these comes from a letter his brother Absalom wrote to their mother back in Virginia in September 1831. *“As brother Thomas is lying at the point of death at this time with the pleurisy. It is thought he is a little better this morning.”* Thomas obviously recovered.

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=216&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

A second letter from Absalom in February of the next year provides more detail. *“Brother Thomas is confined to his bed for 45 weeks by a strain of one the nerves of ???onig his leage. He cant walk one step. It is thought by some it will bring faith to him in the end. It goes very hard with him to be confined to his bead as he is a man that stirs very much when his health admits of it. The rest of your relations are all well as far as I know at this time.”*

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=222&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Several letters written by Thomas to his mother have been transcribed. He was very good about giving the news of her children and grandchildren in Tennessee. His ailments continued to afflict him. In a letter from 1835, he again has been stricken with pleurisy. His letter of May 13, 1838 shows that he is still suffering from the illness. *“Dear Mother After a long affliction I take up my pen to inform you that I am on foot once more I was taken the 10th of December with a swelling in my leg occasioned by the Cramp for I am very subject to that complaint I was confined to my bed five weeks and a half I lay on my back for I Could not be any other way my Pane was so severe Seven weeks elapsed before I was able to walk a step I was confined to my room until the last of march I keep my leg wrapt from my toes to my knee I can pay(?) through my farm and ride to town but rideing causes my leg to swell it was all we could do to keep my ancle from mortification I am yet very weak in my right hip mother I must tell you something very extraordinary about the 18th of March I was taken with the whoopingcough ____ (page torn) tough time you may expect I a nearly ____ (page torn) with my heard last”*

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=402&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Others wrote as well.

“All of the(m) are well as usual. Father has not changed much since you saw him excep the loss of his teeth, which a(l)ters his appearance some he has exalent health is un-commonly active for one of his age he tends to his farm and frequently works and does not seem no more fatigued than one of his sons. My Mother has changed very much as she has lost al(l) her teeth but her hair is not the least gray her health is better than it was some years since and indeed I believe is as good as persons health usually is at her age.”

Letter from Emeline Gleaves Wright to her Aunt Nancy in Wythe County August 31 1841

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=424&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

On September 17, 1843, after the death of his mother, Thomas was among 13 heirs to his parent’s estate that signed a power of attorney to have his son Benjamin act in their behalf.

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=450&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Sarah “Sallie” Smith
About 1776 – December 24, 1845

Davidson County marriage records identify Sallie Smith as marrying a “Thomas GLEAVES” in March of 1797. Some family records give her birth date as 1776. The bondsman for the marriage was a man named John Davis, who the following year married Mary Dorcas Gleaves, believed to be Thomas’ cousin.

The Matthew Gleaves Will (included later in this Chapter) positively identifies her as the wife of his brother Thomas, son of William Gleaves.

Matthew’s will also lists two other individuals, his cousin Matthew Gleaves Jr. (son of Michael Glaves) and a woman named Betsy Smith. If any relationship between Sallie and Betsy

exists, it is not documented in the will. Cousin Matthew and Betsy Smith married in Davidson County, August 19, 1809 and they are profiled in the next chapter.

Matthew's will doesn't identify any land he owned in Davidson County so it is possible that he was living with Thomas and Sallie at the time of his death.

Bill Smith has done research on this branch of the Smith Family and states that Sallie's father was Ezekiel Smith. Sallie's mother was his first wife, name unknown. "*She was the Cherokee Widow of Emanuel Choate who lived on The Holsten River in Washington District NC, (now a part of Tennessee) and was killed by Indians in Dunsmore's War in 1774.*" Ezekiel moved to the Davidson County area in 1784 and remarried. Mr. Smith goes on to report that Betsy Smith was the daughter of Ezekiel and his second wife, again her name is not known.

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/gleaves/messages/200.html>

Ezekiel Smith wrote his will on January 10, 1822. The will, contested by a son of the family of his second wife, is somewhat confusing, although several facts are clear. Ezekiel willed land to his "sons"; each being mentioned by name "...on White's Creek...within the boundary of Stull's run off". The will goes on to mention several women by their married names but does not identify which, if any, are daughters. One mentioned is "*Elizabeth GLEAVES*". Sallie is not mentioned in the Ezekiel Smith Will. Cousin Matthew's father, Michael Gleaves, left land on White's Creek to a son in his will and had dealings with several members of the Stull family. *Davidson County Will Book*

There is some confusion dealing with Sallie. According to researcher Robert Milnor Gleaves, there is a letter from James Turk Gleaves, brother of Thomas Gleaves, which states that Sally "Smith" was the daughter of Felix Robertson. This would mean that Sally Robertson was first married to a Mr. Smith before she married Thomas Gleaves. This author has not seen the letter and can offer no further information on this subject. Bob Gleaves tends to discount this information as being incorrect, and the Smith family research disputes it as well, although a number of male children in this line were given Robertson as their middle name. A case in point is Thomas and Sallie's second child, James Robertson Gleaves.

Thomas and Sallie were married nearly 50 years. Very little record of her life during this time exists. Thomas reports in a letter to his brother that Sallie died on December 24th, 1845. His will written in 1846 does not mention her.

A Letter from Thomas

Several years before his death, Thomas wrote to his brother James Turk Gleaves who still lived on the family homestead on Cripple Creek. It is included here as a valuable insight to a man in his declining years, who recently lost his wife. This author has attempted to copy the letter exactly as written, including punctuation (or lack thereof) and spelling.

"State of Tenn. Davidson County Feb 4th 1846

Dear brother and sisters I take my pen in hand to inform you of my troubles and loss of friends last July about the 20th of the month Jane Ramsey Stamp was brought to bed with twin children her and the children all died. The same day my son Wm. B Gleaves' wife was sent to bed and had a young daughter born and flooded fainted and died in seven hours the child lived and is doing well.

More troubles I have seen many a merry Christmas but the last ballanced for all.

My beloved companion departed this life on the 24th of December and was buried on the 25th Christmas Day. Her complaint was imflamation of the stomach she suffered three weeks and departed. During this time I was down with a sore leg her in one bed me in another my leg is perfectly well at present.

I went to the grave when we buried her. It being a cool day I took the pleurisy and am not clear of it yet. I believe with care I shall recover again. I am about a little at present and hope to recover.

Sally left me on a short notice I did not have much conversation with her. Her breath would not admit more than two or three words at a time. I am hard of hearing She called Nancy Ann and desired us all to leave the room. She informed her that she was going to rest and told her what to do with her clothing and asked her if she was going to get married Nancy Ann answered she was, and accordingly was married on the 20th of January to Mr. Cherry west of my farm half mile

I have no house keepers but the black girls I am obliged to attend to business my self Frank said he will get a wife to keep house shortly then I will be at liberty

If my wife had lived until the 23 of May next she would have been 70 years of age. And if she had lived until the 16th day of march next we would have been married fifty years.

The comminication(?) is all well except had coals(?), you must write to me and let me hear from you, nothing more at present but (illegible) in your loving brother until death”

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Thomas Gleaves".

The following two postscripts appear to be written by a different hand.

“I as(k) you will please to answer my letter at the receipt of this.

I wish Sister Nancy would come and Spend this Summer With me it would be a Satisfaction to me to see her at my dwelling Once more Sister Malvina a lock of my hair also a lock of my beloved Companions hair for her to keep for her sake as a Sister “

THOMAS GLEAVES

Transcription by Holly Hook

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=511&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

The Will of Thomas Gleaves

Thomas died on March 26, 1849. *“Thomas Gleaves d. 26 Mar, Davidson County, Tennessee, 78 yrs, 8 days; b. Wythe co, Va; 1795 to this state, settled in Davidson co. where he resided until his death; left a large family of children. H.F. Gleaves”* Nashville Christian Advocate, April 13, 1849

His will was recorded on March 22, 1850. The will was dated December 5, 1846 and delivered to the Davidson County Court during its April Term in 1849.

Thomas appears to have been a fairly wealthy man since he bequeathed several large tracts of land to his sons. At least 15 slaves are mentioned by name. While most of his property was given to specific children, one provision directed a sharing by his descendants. *“Item #11: I give to all my children the use in common of my still and tubs and not to be sold”*

Some of his sons received more than a proportionate share of his holdings and Thomas appears to have felt compelled to explain this in his will. *“Item 17: I have given to Felix R. and Benjamin F. Gleaves more than the rest of my children in consideration of their trouble and kindship in running and taking care of me in my old age.”* Davidson County, Tennessee Court Records

The lengthy will is included in its entirety here as an aid to those researching this family line. It appears to mention all of his children.

I Thomas Gleaves of Davidson County and State of Tennessee, do make and establish this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all others by me at any time made.

1st I hereby give and bequest unto my son William B. Gleaves the sum of twenty Dollars to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

2nd I hereby give and bequeath unto my son James R.. Gleaves my Negro girl named Ellen, to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

3rd I hereby give and bequeath unto my son John G. Gleaves my Negro boy Moses to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

4th I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Hill my Negro woman Chainy and her two children now in her possession. Also one bed and furniture to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

5th I give and bequeath unto Felix R. and Benjamin F. Gleaves, their executors, and administrators, my Negro woman Jane and all her future increase to be held in trust by them for the support and benefit of my daughter Emeline Wright and her natural life, and at her death to be conveyed to her children then living or the issue of such living or this issue of such as maybe dead and such issue to take as the parents would have done if living. But if the said Emeline Wright and her family during her natural life, and at her death to be conveyed to her children then living, or the issue of such as may be dead, and such issue to take as the parent would have done if living. But if the said Emeline Wright should die without children or the issue of such children, then and in that case Jane and all her future increase shall go to and belong to my children their living or the issue of such as may be dead, and said issue to take as the parents, would have done if living. Always excepting my son William B. Gleaves, whom I have heretofore given all that I intend giving him.

6th I hereby give and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy Ann Cherry my Negro John and Elizabeth and all her future increase to her and her heirs and assigns forever.

7th I hereby give and bequeath unto my son Americus D. Gleaves my Negro boy Phillip, 2 cows, 10 head of sheep, and 2 beds, bedsteads and furniture, to him and his heirs and assigns forever.

8th I hereby give and bequeath unto my son Felix R. Gleaves, my Negro man Benjamin and Negro girl Theresa and her future increase and I also give and bequeath unto him the tract of land on which he now lives. Beginning at a Rock, John G. Gleaves north west corner in Stewart's east boundary line, thence east with John G. Gleaves line to a Rock corner. thence north to a Walnut marked as a corner and being John G. Gleaves north west corner. thence northwesterly to two white oak saplings both standing on the same stump, marked as corners. thence in a direct line to the centre of the spring and through the center of said spring down the branch with the fence as it now stands to the public road: all west of said line owned by me is what I intend to convey to the said Felix R. Gleaves. I also give to the said Felix R. Gleaves all that part of the Baker tract as it is called, lying east of the following lines, viz: Beginning at a corner stone in the middle of the dry fork, two cedar stumps marked as pointers running thence southeastwardly a crooked line to a corner stone with a black oak, white oak and elm trees marked as pointers, thence southwardly to a black walnut corner thence eastwardly to a black oak & Elm marked as corners standing on Wilshire Bandy's line. I give to the said Felix R. his heirs and assigns forever a right of way for a Wagon from said Spring to the said part of the Baker tract of land above given to him. I also give to him one Bed, bedstead & furniture & one shot gun. To have and to hold said Negro and increase, and said lands & right of way and said other property unto him the said Felix R. Gleaves, his heirs and assigns forever.

9th I give and bequeath to my son, Benjamin F. Gleaves Negro man Minor and Negro woman Margare and their increase. I also give to him all the balance of my land on which I now live, and all the balance of the Baker tract of land not above given to F. R. Gleaves. Also 2 beds and bedsteads & furniture & all my house hold and kitchen furniture of which I may die possessed. One wheat fan and cutting board, one rifle gun, 10 head of cattle to be his choice of any I may have at the time of my death. 10 head of sheep, my cotton wheels, spinning machine, loom, reel and all the fixtures of said loom and machine. Also a very old Negro woman named Milley. To have and to hold said Negro and increase, said lands, and other property unto him the said Benjamin F. Gleaves, his heirs, and assigns forever.

10th I give and bequeath unto Felix R and Benjamin F. Gleaves in joint tenancy my cedar tract of land near Seaborns ferry containing about six acres. My four horse wagon & gun & four horses said horses are to be the choice out of any of my stock at the time of my death; each three

axes and 3 plows with their fixtures to be the choice out of my stock, all of the crop of every kind, all the corn fodder & grain & all the stock of hogs and the provisions on hand at the time of my death & the soap, one two horse wagon, one cross cut saw, 2 mattocks, 6 hoes, blacksmith tools, one pair steel yards, 1 log chain, 1 fifth chain, 2 pair stretches, 2 iron wedges. To have and hold said land and other property divided in this clause to them the said Felix R and Benj F. Gleaves in equal proportions, their heirs and assigns fore ever.

11th I give to all my children the use in common of my still & tubs & not to be sold.

12th I hereby authorize my executors herein after named to sell my Negro man Lewis either publicly or privately and to sell all the residue of my personal property not herein disposed of either for cash or on such time as they may deem best, and apply the proceeds to the payment of all my just debts and the balance to be divided amongst all my children excepting Wm. B. Gleaves.

13th It is my will that my executors herein after named shall, either sell my Negro man Henry at public or private sale for cash or in such time as they deem best; or if they shall choose to do so they may take the said Henry as and for their own property, by becoming responsible to my estate for the sum of five hundred dollars, and in either case the proceeds be held by them until the suit is decided in which I am bound with others as security for William B. Gleaves, and in case of any liabilities shall arise against my estate in consequence of said security, the said proceeds to be applied to the payment of my proportion of the same, and the balance if any to be applied to the payment of the share of my co-sureters in said liability, but if said suit shall be settled or decided and no such liability arise, then the said proceeds to be held by my said executors and applied to the payment of any liabilities that may arise from any suits that may be brought hereafter against my estate, but if everything should be settled, and no suits should be brought, then said proceeds or the balance of any proceeds that may be left after satisfying any liabilities, to be equally divided amongst all my children always excepting William B. Gleaves.

14th It is my will that my Negro shall remain on the farm until the 25th of December next after my death for the purpose of making, gathering and taking care of the crop.

15th It is my will and I hereby direct that if any of my children or any person interested under my will or in my estate shall attempt to set aside this will or contest the title to any property devised or interfere try to thwart my intention as herein expressed in any way whatever, or shall throw any obstacles in the way of it being carried into effect according to the true intent and meaning, such person shall forfeit all claim to any property devised in this will, and the same shall revert to my estate and go to the rest of my heirs.

16th Where as Mathew Gleaves by his will dated 27th Nov. 1803 and recorded in the Clerks Office of Davidson County Court Term April 3rd 1805 devised to Sally Gleaves my wife during her life and then to remain to her children afterwards, Negro boy Green if he was not redeemed and eighty five dollars of the price to be paid to Absalom Gleaves. And whereas said Negro boy was redeemed on the 25th day of Dec. 1803 at two hundred dollars eighty five of which has been paid by me to Absolom Gleaves the balance is now and has been ever since in my hands ready for distribution whenever the Court should have settled to whom it belonged and the demand was made; but no demand has been made, and there being a question as to the rightful owner of said money, whether it belongs to the children of my wife or otherwise, I leave the decision to the Courts of Justice whenever a demand shall be made on my Executors, for the same; it is ready for distribution when legally demanded.

17th I have given to Felix R. and Benjamin F. Gleaves more than the rest of my children in consideration of their trouble, and kindness in nursing & taking care of my old age.

18th I hereby nominate and appoint my two sons Felix R/ and Benjamin F. Gleaves my sold executors of this my last Will and Testament. Witness my hand and Seal this 5th day of December 1846

Signed sealed and acknowledged in presence of
James B. Gleaves
Sarah S. Gleaves
I. H. Armstrong
John Terry Dec. 14, 1846

James B. Hardy, Dec. 14, 1846 *acknowledged to us*
Davidson County Will Book 14: pages 490-492

The Gleaves House

In 1987, a man named Paul Clements published a collection of short sketches of some of the prominent homes in Davidson County. While the home in question was probably built by Thomas' son Felix, the sketch is included here as an insight into Thomas' family.

“Thomas Gleaves was born in Virginia in 1771, grew up during the revolutionary war, and had come from Wythe County, Virginia, to Davidson County by 1796, when he bought a tract of land on the east side of Stones River near the land a William Stuart. He married Sally Smith the following year, and their first child, William, who would grow up to help two disenfranchised slaves reclaim their inheritance, was born soon afterward. Thomas and Sally Gleaves would have a number of other children, and in addition to William, both John, who was born around 1801, and Felix, born around 1816, would have connections to the Stuart tract. Felix Gleaves was still growing up on his father's farm when his older brother John married in 1828, and by the time Felix married eight years later, John had several children. Sally Gleaves died in the 1840's, not long before the death of her husband Thomas, and in 1854, her son, Felix Gleaves, who had taken care of his father in his last years and had been rewarded with a large share of his estate, bought 128 acres of the Stuart tract from the former Stuart slaves, David and Moses. Felix Gleaves probably built the stylish two-story house soon after buying the land and apparently lived there with his wife until the autumn of 1860, when the property was sold to his nephews, Richard and John Bell Gleaves, sons of his older brother John, who had died in the early 1850s.

At the beginning of the Civil War the household apparently included Richard and John Bell Gleaves, their widowed mother, and a younger sister and brother, and although the farm was small, there were some twenty slaves living on the place. Although the house was not damaged during the war, the Gleaves farm suffered significant losses to foragers, and of those who had been living in the house in 1860, only John Bell Gleaves was still living there by the end of the decade. In 1866, the year before the death of his brother, Richard, John Bell Gleaves had married Annie Ridley, a descendant of early Davidson County settler George Ridley, and by 1870 two daughters had been born in the house. Four additional children were born over the next few years, but Annie Ridley Gleaves died in 1876, and her husband's cousin, Charity Gleaves, came to help him raise the children. Most of the Gleaves children grew up and left home during the latter years of the century, but two daughters, Carrie and Blanche, remained in the house after the death of John bell Gleaves in 1909. The house stayed in the family for a number of years, and in 1967, after several changes in ownership, the Gleaves house became the property of Jerry D. Nelson. The house remained in Nelson's possession for nearly twenty years, but in the spring of 1986 Nelson sold it to the Chapel Road SASA Apartment Company, a business concern located in Texas the Gleaves House was razed soon afterward”.

A Past Remembered: A Collection of Antebellum Houses in Davidson County, Tennessee, 1987

2) Matthew Gleaves ***November 9, 1772 – October 8, 1804***

Matthew was the second child born to William and Elizabeth. The location of his birth is uncertain, since his parents moved from Augusta County to what was then Botetourt County some time in 1772. His father appears on militia rolls there in 1772 although no date is given for this record.

Matthew made the migration to Davidson County, Tennessee around 1800, as did his brother Absalom. We know he did not arrive at the same time as older brother Thomas since documents place him in Wythe County after that date. On June 4, 1798, a man named James Bebbler wrote his will in

Wythe County, Virginia. Two of the men signing the will as witnesses are “*Matthew GLEAVES and Absolum GLEAVES*”. *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III*

Matthew’s life ended shortly after the move to Tennessee at the age of 31, the cause of his death is unknown. His date of death is listed in family records as October 8, 1804. His Will, dated November 27, 1803, was entered in Davidson County on April 3, 1805. It provides valuable insight into the family. An exact copy is included here.

The Will of Matthew Gleaves

“I Matthew Gleaves of the County of Davidson and the State of Tennessee in a Good State of health and memory do make this my Last will and Testament. Viz I leave to my brother Thomas all my Horses and Cattle and all the little debts that is due me in this Neighborhood and that Sixty Dollars that is in my Fathers hands I Allow it to be Divided Equally Betwixt my Brothers and Sisters that lives in Virginia Also I leave to my Sister in-Law Sally Gleaves wife of Thomas Gleaves my Negro Boy Green If he is not Redeemed she may keep him During her life and then to remain to her Children Afterwards only I Allow Brother Absolom Eighty five Dollars out of the price in Good Property Also I allow that Land in Kentucky to be Sold and the Price to be Divided Equally Betwixt my Father and Mother Sisters and Brothers I Allow my Cousin Matthew Gleaves twenty Dollars out of the Price of it Also I allow Betsy Smith Ten Dollars out of the Price of my Big Steer paid by Thomas Gleaves I do Renounce and Disdain all Other wills by me made”

*November the 27th 1803
Witness
Matthew Gleaves Junr*



Signed: Matthew Gleaves

The following appears to have been added by the Davidson County Court when the will was proven to be authentic.

“The Execution of which will as Above Recited was in Court held for the County of Davidson January Sessions 1805 Proven to be the Act and Deed of the said Matthew Gleaves Senr by the Oath of Matthew Gleaves Junr a Subscribing Witness thereto, the said Matthew Gleaves Junr being a Legatee in said Will having first came unto Court and Acknowledged a Release of any Legacy or Benefit in said Will” *Davidson County Will Book 3, page 4*

“*Matthew Gleaves Jr.*” who is the subject of this addendum is actually his cousin, son of Michael *GL(E)AVES* who is detailed in Chapter 4. As mentioned previously, when two men with the same names lived in close proximity, the titles of “*Sr. & Jr.*” were often given to them even though they were not father and son. This differentiation was normally based on age but some times was based on the individual’s status in the community.

The will confirms that the three brothers all settled in Tennessee as well as linking the Smith women to specific family members.

His brother Thomas entered an inventory of Matthew’s estate into court records. Among the items listed is one that may give a clue to Matthew’s occupation; “*a set of hatters tools*”. Other items mentioned included; “*fourteen head of cattle, two horses, one bed and furniture, A certificate for two months service at Natchez, (Mississippi) as a private in Captain F. Robertson’s Company (no date given), a silver watch, Knife and Tomhock, one bible and one razor*”. Neither Matthew’s will nor the

inventory mentions any land owned in Tennessee. It is possible that had not acquired any yet and was living at the time with his brother Thomas. *Davidson County Minute Book*

Several researchers believe Matthew married a woman named Elizabeth Pate, giving the date of the marriage as the same day he wrote his will. No record of this marriage has been found to date. There is no mention of a wife or children in his will and this author tends to discount these reports. When Matthew's father, William wrote his will, he listed all living children and the widow of son William Jr. If Matthew had been married, his widow is not mentioned in William's Will.

3) Mary "Polly" Gleaves December 13, 1774 – About 1832

The third child of William and Elizabeth, Polly, married Andrew Porter Sr. (1773-1853) in Wythe County sometime around 1790. No record of the marriage has been found. The names of the nine children from this marriage are known, although not all of their dates of birth.

Andrew may have been the only child of Robert Porter (1740-1781) and his wife, Margaret Ewing, (about 1735-after 1803) since no other children have been identified. They settled in the Cripple Creek area about 1775. They had lived in the general vicinity even earlier, since Andrew is reported to have been born in Fincastle County, April 4, 1773. At that time, Cripple Creek was a part of Fincastle County. Robert Porter has been documented for his service to the New Country during the Revolutionary War and is recognized for his participation by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

At the time of his father's death, Andrew was less than 10 years old. Some of the family property passed to him shortly thereafter, but because of his age, it was controlled by a guardian, William Ewing, a relative of Margaret's. In 1782 Andrew, as heir to Robert Porter, entered several Commissioners' Certificates (through William Ewing) for land that his father had settled. He was eventually granted a certificate for 400 acres on both sides of Cripple Creek.

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III

A document executed in 1800 adds proof to Polly's marriage to Andrew. Polly's father William appears to have wanted clear title to his property and had some of his sons sign releases over the years. In some cases they had moved away and in others he may have already given them land. He had Andrew do the same.

"Sept the 13 1800

Received from my father (in-law) Wm Gleaves full Satisfaction of all his (the word moveable is scratched out here) property as witness my hand and Seal

Andrew Porter (seal)

Test Wm Gleaves Junier"

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=482&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Some time before 1803, Andrew's mother Margaret, moved to Blount County, Tennessee. It is not clear if she had remarried. In 1803 she is listed as living in Blount County when she deeded to Andrew an additional 50 acres on the Thorn Branch of Cripple Creek.

In 1811, Andrew again appears in Wythe County court records in conjunction with his father's will. He filed a lawsuit against the heirs of William Ewing over the handling of a Bounty Warrant granted to his father for his war service. According to Andrew, William Ewing used the Warrant to enter a tract of 100 acres in his own name. The land changed hands several times and Andrew's lawsuit eventually became *Porter vs. Gannaway*. In 1817, Andrew's father-in-law, William GLEAVES testified in his behalf. Andrew eventually won his case and recovered 86 of the 100 acres in question.

Wythe County Court Records

Over the years of their marriage, Andrew and Polly's holdings grew beyond the land reported in this sketch. Polly is mentioned in her father's will written in March 1820. William Gleaves' will states "To my daughter Polly Porter I bequeath the sum of one hundred dollars for hir use arising from the proceeds of the sale". Polly's brothers and sisters each received a specific slave as well, but for some reason she was left out. William may have already provided for Andrew and Polly. Polly died before her mother but since Elizabeth Turk Gleaves wrote her will in 1830, she is mentioned in it as well.

Andrew outlived Polly Gleaves by more than 20 years. Family records report Polly's death as occurring on November 11, 1832. It does not give a location although it is assumed to be Wythe County. There are no details as to how she died, but we know she would have been 57 at the time. Andrew remarried a woman named Mary and outlived her as well.

The year following Polly's death, Andrew conveyed nearly 1,000 acres of land to his son Stephen Porter. He retained use of his house and other buildings on the land. Andrew had previously given land to his son Andrew Jr. that included the land from the *Porter vs. Gannaway* court case.

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III

Andrew wrote his will on June 22, 1850 and died March 9, 1853. Andrew was buried in the Porter Family Cemetery on his farm. Although there is no record, it is assumed that Polly was buried there as well.

4) William Gleaves Jr. ***September 27, 1777 – April 17, 1811***

William's life is not well documented. We know he was born on Cripple Creek, when it was still part of Montgomery County, the fourth child of William and Elizabeth. There are no known records of his formative years. Of all the children, only his brother Matthew would have a shorter life than William.

Margaret "Peggy" Finley ***February 5, 1783 – January 2, 1859***

The first legal record pertaining to William Jr. is his marriage to Margaret "Peggy" Finley, September 16, 1802 in Wythe County. *Wythe County Marriages 1790-1850*

Margaret was born about 1780, although the location is not known. She was the daughter of William Finley Sr. and Mary Pettus. The family had also come from Augusta County, Virginia where Margaret's uncle, John Finley, was a wheelwright. John Finley had a young apprentice in 1775 named Matthew Glaves, William's uncle. This apprenticeship is covered in detail in Chapter 6.

Both of Margaret's parents had died before she married William. Margaret's father died in December 1801 or January 1802 and her mother some time prior to that. Margaret appears in her father's will and received "*a sorrel mare*". Her sisters each received a mare as well.

Christian County, Kentucky

About this same time, several of Margaret's brothers were venturing westward, into Kentucky and claimed land in the Christian County area. Likewise, three of William's brother's were migrating through the Cumberland Gap into the Davidson County, Tennessee region. William and Margaret chose Kentucky and sometime after their marriage, joined Margaret's brothers, Dabney and Asa Finley in Christian County.

Asa Finley would return to Wythe County, and in 1806, marry William's younger sister, Esther. Esther was underage and her father had to give his written consent to the marriage. William Jr. also signed the document as a witness. This single document bears the signatures of William Sr. and Jr. as well as Asa Finley. Asa and Esther returned to Christian County some time after the marriage but before 1810. It is possible that this is when William and Margaret made the journey to their new home.

Wythe County Marriages



The signature of William Gleaves Jr. when he witnessed his father's consent for his sister Esther to marry Asa Finley, August 18, 1806

There is a good possibility that William and Margaret did not leave Wythe County until after Asa and Esther. In 1808 William's father conveyed 430 acres to him in Wythe County. He and Peggy in turn conveyed the land to Joseph Bell and Andrew Kincannon that same year. William and Margaret did not have to reside in the County to complete these transactions, although if they had already left, his father could have sold the land and sent the money to them in Kentucky.

Wythe County Court Records

The 1810 census finds William and Margaret living in Christian County, Kentucky. All three of their children had been born and William is listed as owning three slaves. Margaret and the children are not named in the census, only counted in age groups. Only the head of household was listed by name until the 1850 Census.

1810 Kentucky Census Records

William died April 17, 1811. This author has not found any record of his will. William Jr. would have been no more than 34 years of age at his death. It is presumed that he died in Christian County, Kentucky.

Peggy Writes to William's Family

Within a week of William's death, Peggy sent a letter to his parents informing them of this event. While parts are difficult to read due to lack of punctuation and capitalization as well as spelling mistakes, it provides glimpse into the life of this woman. The transcription below has been altered slightly to make it easier for the reader to follow.

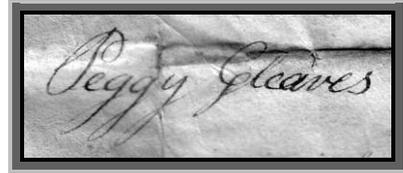
Aprile the 22 1811

Dear father mother and friends

with a Considerable degree of trouble and sorrow I have to inform you that your dear son and my dear husband has departed this life. he was taken the tenth of aprile and died the seventeenth he was taken withe a puking and a Cramp in the breast and a pain in his righte side. the evening before he died it moved to the left. he was somewhat delerious twenty four ours before his last he still new all the neighbours it was the opinion of the Doctors that it was the pluresy in his sickness. he was a reading in the bible the fourteenth Chapter of Saint john he toald me it was his desire that I should read it to his Children and his friends. he left great Charges about his children

NB he left all his business unsettled and how to manage I Dont no I want your advice to break up housekeeping with my children. it seams hard (he had) one hundred dollars toward the land to bee paid it was oed last fall and the Docters to be paid and that is the cheap he oed. he had cleared twelve acres after returned and had it all redy for planting. will (Will was one of the Family slaves) has behaved very well since he came home but I am rather doutfull of him and Spence. Asa

says if they wont do well of course the(y) will have to be hired out and if that be the case. there will have to be a sail to sell off the perishable stock. we are all at this time well thank God hoping theas lines will fine you in the same case. Asa and his family air well Easter has got very hevty and looks (for) a little won in august. I want you to write to me what I had beast do. It seems fortune has bean hard on my side all the satisfaction that I can see at this time is thinking that I will see you all or some of you at least. nothing more but remains your afectionate daughter till Death



William Gleaves Elisabeth Gleaves

Remember me to Andrew Porter and his family ,& Mrs Bell

Transcription by Holly Hook

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=257&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Peggy and her brother Asa Finley, were named Administrators of William's estate. A sale of the estate was conducted and a list of items sold was entered into the Christian County Court records: A typed copy of the items sold and the names of the buyers is almost four pages long. It begins "*The following articles of the said Estate was this day exposed to publick sale*". The document ends with a statement by the administrators. "*We Asa Finley and Peggy GLEAVES, administrators of the estate of William GLEAVES, deceased, do hereby certify that this list contains a true account of the proceeds of the sale of the above estate this 11th day of October 1811*". Under Dower Rights, Peggy was entitled to a third of the proceeds of the estate sale. She had to bid on any items she wanted to keep for herself. Many items were reclaimed this way. Among the items purchased by Peggy were: *1 looking glass (50 cents), 2 beds and furniture (\$112), 1 bee hive (\$1), 1 cow and calf and bell (\$9.50), 33 hogs (\$27), 1 pewter dish (\$5) and 1 crop of corn in the field (\$5)*. Peggy's brothers purchased a number of items as well. Some of the more valuable items were appraised prior to the sale and included three slaves, "*Judith (\$330), Spencer (\$350) and Will (\$450)*". There was no mention of any land owned by William in either the appraisal or the sale. *Christian County, Kentucky Estate Records 1797-1816*

Peggy appears on the County Tax Rolls at least until 1817. In that year she is listed as owning three slaves and two horses but owning no land. It is likely that she and her children were living with the family of one of her brothers. *Christian County Tax Lists 1814-1817*

Peggy and the children are mentioned in her father-in-law's will made in March of 1820. "*To my daughter-in-law Margaret Gleaves formerly wife to William Gleaves dead. I deviseth the sum of one hundred dollars for the use of hir children (to-wit) Thomas H. Gleaves, Polly Gleaves and Eliza Gleaves*". *The Will of William Gleaves Sr.*

Details regarding Margaret after 1820 are at best, sketchy. About 1818, her brothers, Dabney and Asa, left Christian County with their families headed for Missouri. Details of their lives in Saline County, Missouri are presented later in this chapter relating to Asa's wife, Esther Gleaves. William and Margaret's children show up in Lafayette County, Missouri as early as 1825. It is possible that Margaret and her children made the trip with her brothers.

Margaret reportedly married for a second time to a man named James Holman in Ray County, Missouri in 1828. This author has no other details on this subject. There are reports that she was living in Ray County Missouri in 1837 and Cass County, Missouri in 1855. Margaret is reported to have died on January 2, 1859 in Lafayette County, Missouri. She would have been more than 80 years old at the time.

5) Elizabeth Gleaves **October 2, 1779 – After 1820**

Elizabeth was born at Cripple Creek, in what was at the time, Montgomery County, Virginia, the fifth of eleven children. Wythe County was not formed until 1790. Her date of birth is documented in family records. Nathan Allen Bible

Elizabeth currently is the least documented of William and Elizabeth's children with little known about her life and marriage. The only definite fact known about her is the date of her birth. Most of the other details come from letters dealing with her children.

There is a marriage record in Wythe County where a "Betsey GLAVES" married George Eller Jr. on May 16, 1799. Elizabeth would have been 20 years old at the time, so this could be her. The nickname and the misspelling of the last name have caused family researchers to question this entry. The only person known to use the spelling of the family name without the second "E" in Wythe County was Michael Glaves, Elizabeth's uncle. Every other occurrence in Wythe County where the name is recorded as Glaves appears to be a spelling error. Michael Glaves had left Wythe County for Tennessee by 1783. The possibility exists that Betsy could be Michael's daughter from a previous marriage. There is reason to believe that he was married more than once, although no proof exists. This possibility is discussed in detail in the next chapter. Little is known about George Eller Jr. since this appears to be the only time he shows up in Wythe County records.

Wythe County Marriages 1790-1850

Adding to the confusion is the will of Elizabeth's father, William Gleaves Sr. Written in March of 1820, it lists all his living children as beneficiaries. Elizabeth appears in the document as "Elizabeth Ramsey". No mention is made of her husband's first name. The will provides: "To my daughter Elizabeth Ramsey I bequeath the sum of thirty three dollars and thirty three cents", the lowest amount received by any of the children. William's personal property was to be sold and the money divided among seven of his nine living children. The two oldest daughters: Polly Porter and Elizabeth Ramsey were left out of this division.

The Ramsey Connection

There is no proof that Elizabeth indeed is the woman marrying George Eller Jr. in 1799, although it is presented here for further research. There is an undocumented report on *rootsweb.com* that states Elizabeth Gleaves married an Unknown Ramsey on December 24, 1802. A second report states that the marriage occurred in Wythe County, Virginia. Further evidence provided here confirms Elizabeth's marriage to a Ramsey, but does not provide the missing details. No document has been found that positively identifies the Christian name of Elizabeth Gleaves-Ramsey's husband.

Researcher Rosemary Ramsey Cox has done extensive work on this line and is credited with much of the detail contained in this section.

It appears this riddle starts with a man named Josiah Ramsey. He married Elizabeth Holleys in Old Swedes Church, New Castle County, Delaware in 1744. He first appears in present day Wythe County in 1762 when he claimed land on Reed Creek. There are entries in Augusta County as early as 1748 pertaining to a Josiah Ramsey, although there is no proof that this is the same person. Ramsey Mountain, near the present day town of Max Meadows, is named for him.

In 1773 he recorded his mark for cattle and hogs as "a crop in the left ear". Over the next 30 years, Josiah appears in numerous entries serving on juries, appraising estates and as a Road Viewer.

In 1774, “*Josiah Ramsey of Reed Creek*” served 43 days with Captain Walter Crockett. This was one of the Militia Companies that fought at the Battle of Point Pleasant. See Chapter 4 for more details of this engagement and the involvement of Michael Glaves.

Josiah and Elizabeth had several daughters as well as at least three sons; Thomas, Joseph and William. Thomas died before 1805 and Joseph married a woman named Mary Ann, whose last name is unknown. The following will focus on the circumstantial evidence that leads several researchers, including this author, to suspect it was William Ramsey, born in 1768, who married Elizabeth Glaves.

The Search for William Ramsey

The turn of the 19th century was a busy time in Wythe County with many emigrating to the West seeking their fortunes through free or cheap lands. It was no different for the William Glaves family. Already, in 1796, oldest son Thomas had moved west to Tennessee and would be joined there by his brothers Matthew and Absalom by 1804. William Glaves Jr. would marry and move to Kentucky as would his sisters Margaret and Esther after they married. All this happened prior to 1810.

The 1810 Census finds William and Elizabeth Glaves with only three of their 11 children at home. Remaining are a son 16-25 which would be James T. and two daughters 16-25, Sallie, who would marry and move to Kentucky in 1812 and youngest child Nancy. Until 1850 only the head of household was listed by name.

Likewise, the Ramsey clan was depleted. Son Joseph was now the head of the household and it appears that Josiah was living with him. There is no sign of William in Virginia.

At this point we should say something about Elizabeth’s children as they provide a clue as to the family’s movements. Although records are incomplete, several Glaves family letters from Tennessee to those living in Virginia mention seven Ramsey children. Other reports list eight children. The 1850 Census records provide ages and birth locations for at least some of them. Son William was born in Virginia in 1805 and what appears to be son John is listed as being born in Tennessee in about 1807. It is clear that the three youngest children were all born in Tennessee between 1818 and 1823.

There is a deed recorded in Davidson County, Tennessee that may be our William. On September 13, 1805 Andrew Ewing sold a tract of land to William Ramsey for \$100. Since there was more than one William Ramsey living in the area, we can’t know for sure if this is him. We do know that there were a number of Ewings in Wythe County, Virginia, so this individual may be related to them.

The next piece of evidence is found in Josiah Ramsey’s will. He wrote this document in Wythe County on May 21, 1805 and it was probated August 13, 1811. Both Joseph and William are mentioned. Each son was to receive land from the estate. In William’s case, there was language stating if he wished to sell his part, he should give Joseph first chance to buy it. No such stipulation pertained to Joseph. This adds credence to the suggestion that William had left the area before the will was drafted.

Wythe County Will Book 2

Although Elizabeth’s children would later show up in Tennessee, no William Ramsey family can be found in that state in 1810. Two men with that name, of the correct age, are found in Kentucky. Both have young families and wives ages 26-44. Elizabeth would have been 31. At this point it is not possible to definitely say if either of the two families are Elizabeth’s. One family is found in Clark County and the other Henderson. Given the age of the children, the Henderson County entry appears the most likely. At least two of William Ramsey’s sisters married and moved to Kentucky although neither settled in these two counties.

The 1812 tax enumeration of men in Davidson County, Tennessee includes a William Ramsey as a member of Captain Williamson's company, but it is not conclusive as there were a number of Ramseys in the county at that time. Davidson County was where three of Elizabeth's brothers settled before 1804. <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~nashvillearchives/enumeration1812.html>

On May 10, 1818 a man named William Ramsey sells a slave named Nancy to Elizabeth's father, William Gleaves for one hundred fifty four dollars. No location for this transaction appears on the document, although it was found at the Gleaves homestead in Wythe County. *"Rc'd of William Gleaves one hundred and fifty four dollars for which I have sold him my Negro woman Nancy & on his Paying the residue of her value will Deliver warrant and Defend the Said Negro to the Said William Gleaves his Heirs or Assigns forever. The aforesaid Remainder of her value to be Ascertained By reference to two or more Disinterested Persons as may be Agreed when Demanded By the Said William Gleaves Given under My hand & Seal this 10th Day of May A.D. 1818 William Ramsey (seal) Attest James T. Gleaves Nancy Gleaves"*

At a later date, someone reviewing this document added the following notation dealing with William Ramsey. The entry is in pencil. *"[Lived in Tenn Later moved to Mississippi]"*. http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=308&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

This author can offer several theories as to this transaction. First, that William returned to Wythe County to complete this transaction. If William was Elizabeth's husband, we know that she had a child, Polly Ann in Tennessee that same year and although possible, this trip appears unlikely. A second possible explanation is that William was still in another location and this slave was part of the settlement of his father's estate. From the 1810 Census we know that the Joseph Ramsey household had four slaves. It is not clear if these individuals were owned by Joseph or his father. It is also possible that Joseph exchanged Nancy for some of the land that William was entitled to. If this was the case, he could have sold her to William Gleaves without ever taking possession and had the money sent to him.

The 1820 Census offers more possibilities regarding Elizabeth's family. In that year, there is no William Ramsey living in Kentucky or Virginia that would be the correct age. In Tennessee, we find several men by that name.

The most likely candidate for our family member would be the William Ramsey living in Davidson County. William's age is correct, although Elizabeth is listed as being over 45 when in fact she is 41. Davidson County, as mentioned before was home to Elizabeth's now deceased uncle Michael as well as her two brothers, Thomas and Absalom. Again the evidence is circumstantial.

Elizabeth's father, William Gleaves signed his will on March 30th, 1820 and died in May in Wythe County. *"To my daughter Elizabeth Ramsey I bequeath the sum of thirty three dollars and thirty three cents."* No mention of Elizabeth's husband is made in the will. Elizabeth received the smallest amount of any of the children. This could mean she was out of favor with her father or more likely he may have already provided for her during his life or third that her husband was well enough off that they didn't need much of the inheritance. On September 12th of that same year James Turk Gleaves filed with the court a list of notes due to his father's estate. Included on that list was a note due from William Ramsey. No details about this note have been found. *Wythe County Will Book #2*

The 1830 Census offers few definitive clues. While there are separate entries for both a William as well as an Elizabeth Ramsey, neither is conclusive. Neither appears to be the correct age nor are the ages of children.

Letters from Tennessee

The first letter to mention the Ramsey family in Tennessee was from Thomas Gleaves, oldest brother of Elizabeth Ramsey. On January 18, 1835 he wrote to his mother in Virginia and reports on a number of family members. “...on the night of the 7th inst. Wm Ramsey and his family started on a steam boat down the river to the Mississippi I don't(.) nor he dont know where to(.) I stayed with them until after eleven o'clock at night on the warf.” It is not made clear as to who this individual was, although given our William Ramsey would have been 67, this is most likely Elizabeth Gleaves Ramsey's son who would have been about 30 at that time.

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=403&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Three years later Thomas again writes to his mother on May 13, 1838. “I must say something about Betty Ramseys family(.) John lives at Triggs store Emeline lives with him(.) Wm Ramsey is learning the Shoe and Boat (Boot?)making trade(.) George is learing the Sadler trade(.) Allen Ramsey is learning the cabinet business(.) Jane Ramsey is married to Annanias Stamps a blacksmith the(y) all live within the bounds of my neighborhood(.) the children have all steadied them selves to business Polly ann lives with June Mather” In both letters Thomas mentions his siblings as well as nephews and nieces. Given that neither letter mentions William or Elizabeth Ramsey, it is assumed that they had both died sometime prior.

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=402&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

In 1840, Elizabeth Turk Gleaves, the family matriarch passes away in Virginia. Her youngest son James is named executor of the William and Elizabeth Gleaves estate. Elizabeth had written her will in 1820 and never updated it when a number of her children passed away. In 1843, 13 family members living in Tennessee sign a Power of Attorney to help settle the estate. Those signing the document include her son Thomas, the widow and several children of his brother Absalom and seven members of the Ramsey clan (Jane Stamp and her husband Ananias, Emeline Hagar and husband John, Allen, Polly Ann, and John Ramsey). Of the five Ramsey children, only John signed his name to the document, the others simply made their mark (X). Sons George and William Ramsey are not listed in the document and are unaccounted for.

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=450&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

Less than one month later, James T. Gleaves settles the estate “*The following is a memorandum of receipt given by the heirs of Elizabeth Gleaves decd. together with receipts for debts paid by me for her estate.*”

Item 9 reflects the settlement with the Ramseys who signed the Power of Attorney “*Elizabeth Ramseys children (\$)*188.53 ½”. But perhaps the biggest surprise has to do with son William who has been located and is dealt with separately in Item 8, “*William Ramsey Jr. by B. F. Gleaves (\$)*11.90”.

This is the only known time when the suffix “Jr.” has been noted describing William Ramsey, son of Elizabeth. Although, not definite proof, it adds credence to his father's Christian name. It is perhaps the most compelling piece of evidence found so far.

By now, we have covered more than 60 years since Elizabeth's birth. Despite the antidotal evidence, the known facts about her life remain sketchy at best. Her movements and that of her husband can't be positively traced, nor can we document her date of death. We can only suspect that William Ramsey was the father of her children. Her connection to her children comes from reports from other family members, as no known record such as a bible has been uncovered.

The children are documented in Chapter 8. Future researchers may solve these riddles, but they cannot be answered here.

6) Absalom Gleaves

September 3, 1781 – September 18, 1834

Absalom was born in the Cripple Creek Valley during the American Revolution, the sixth child of William and Elizabeth Gleaves. Like his brothers and sisters, there is no documentation of his formative years. His birth is recorded in family records in the *Nathan Allen Bible*. The first reference to him in any material way occurs when he is 17 years old and witnesses the will of James Bebbler on June 6, 1798. *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III*

Catherine Halsey

About 1784 – July 5, 1866

Just short of his 22nd birthday, Absalom married Catherine Halsey on August 18, 1803. The marriage occurred in Wythe County, Virginia. Catherine was the daughter of James and Sarah (Hildreth/Heldrith) Halsey. The Halsey family name appears in records under numerous different spellings, although this is thought to be the correct one. James and Sarah were married on August 13, 1775, in Bloomingrove, Orange County, New York.

New Windsor Presbyterian Church Marriage Records 1774-1796

James Halsey first appears in local records in 1782 but may have come to the area earlier. This first entry is on a list of members of Captain James Finley's Company of Militia. If Catherine was born in 1784, she would have been born in Virginia. James died about 1785 and Sarah remarried in 1789. Her second husband, John Belsh/Belshee/Belshey/Belshire died in 1809. Sarah's son from this marriage, Joseph Belshee evidently moved on to Tennessee while still a young man. He is mentioned in at least one of Absalom's letters written to his family in Virginia. It appears that he settled near Absalom and Catherine. It is possible that Joseph made the journey with them in 1803. Sarah wrote her will on February 25, 1830 and it was probated on December 13, the same year. In this document she names her four children including "*Catherine GLEAVES*". There is no information on James' Will, if one existed. *Wythe County Families*

Catherine's younger sister, Sarah, is listed as being a christened member of the St. John's Lutheran Church in Wythe County, Virginia. Additional research may show that Catherine was a member of this same congregation. *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History, Vol XII*

Tennessee Migration

Absalom's older brother, Thomas had moved westward and married in Davidson County, Tennessee by 1797. The lure of free or cheap land may have enticed Absalom and Catherine to seek these greener pastures as well. A number of families from Wythe County migrated through the Cumberland Gap, to Davidson County during this period.

Some time shortly after their wedding in 1803, they joined this migration. They most likely traveled with others, although no records have been found. Absalom's older brother, Matthew also came to Davidson County about the same time and may have been a member of their party. Catherine's younger sister, Sarah may have been a part of this group, as she married Jacob Harkreader in Nashville in 1809. As discussed earlier, the party probably included her half-brother Joseph as well.

Brother Matthew Gleaves made his will on November 27, 1803 and it was entered into Davidson County court records April 3, 1805. Absalom is mentioned but Catherine is not. The Will, that appears earlier in this chapter, appears to make it clear that Absalom was in Tennessee when it was written. The will reads: "*I allow Brother Absalom Eighty five Dollars out of his Price in Good Property*". *Davidson County Will Book 3, page 4*

By 1805 Absalom and Catherine had established themselves in the community and Absalom purchased land from his older brother, Thomas. This transaction is recorded in the Davidson County Deed Register. A copy of the document follows.

Decr. 13th 1805

The Indenture made this Twenty first day of October in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and five Between Thomas Gleaves of the state of Tennessee and County of Davidson of the one part and Absolom Gleaves of the County and State Aforesaid of the Other part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the Sum of Three hundred and twenty Dollars to him in hand paid the Receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged hath and by these presents doth Grant Bargain Sell Allien Enfeeoff Convey and Confirm unto the said Absolom Gleaves his heirs and Assigns forever a certain Tract or Parcel of Land lying and being Situate in the County of Davidson and on the East side of stoner River and waters of stoner Creek Beginning at a Dogwood Hickory and Poplar said Thomas Gleaves North east Corner and runs South one hundred and thirty poles to a Dogwood and two white Oaks then east twenty poles East twenty poles to a dogwood and Poplar then south one hundred and thrifty poles to a stake North East Corner of the Original Survey then west two hundred and Sixteen poles to the Beginning And Containing by Estimation three hundred and thirty five Acres be the Same more or less with all and Singular the Appurtenances whatsoever unto the said Tract of land belonging or in anywise Appertaining with the Reversion and Reversions rents and Issues thereof and all the estate Right Title Interest Property Claim and Demand of him the said Thomas Gleaves his heirs and Assigns off in and to the Same Either in law or Equity. To have and to hold the said three hundred and thirty five Acres of land with the Appurtenances unto the said Absolom Gleaves his heirs and Assigns forever and the said Thomas Gleaves for himself his heirs & c. Doth Covenant and Agree to and with the said Absolom Gleaves his heirs & c that he will warrant and forever Defend the Above Bargained Land & Premises Against the Lawfull Title Claim and Demand of all and every Person or Persons wha5tsoever. In Witness whereof I have Witness.

Thomas Gleaves (LS)

The Execution of which Deed of Conveyance as Above Recited was in Court held for the County of Davidson October Sessions 1805 Acknowledged by the said Thomas Gleaves to be his Act and Deed for the uses and purposes therein Contained.

Andrew Ewing Clerk of Davidson County Court.

Davidson County Register of Deeds Vol. F: Page 296 Tennessee State Library and Archives

“Thomas (his brother) and Absalom GLAVES” are listed among the buyers at the estate sale of William Stuart recorded February 19, 1810. “Absolom GLEAVES” is listed among the buyers at the estate of Jesse Thomas on November 27, 1816.

Davidson County Will Book

Absalom’s Military Exploits

Absalom served in the Wythe County Militia upon coming of age. His unit was Capt. Joseph Fanning’s company of the 34th Regiment. A December 10, 1800 entry in court records shows that he had achieved an officer rank. “Absolom GLEAVES, lieutenant in place of Fanning promoted;”

Abstracts of Court Records, Wythe County 1790-1791 1795-1810

His military involvement continued after his move to Tennessee. “Absalom GLEAVES” is listed as a member of Captain Creel’s Militia Company in 1812. Also listed on the rolls is his cousin, “Michael GLEAVES”, and a “Thomas GLEAVES” (unclear if this is his brother or cousin). All three are privates. Of note: another private listed was Andrew Jackson, the future president.

Pioneers of Davidson County

Action Against the Creek Indians

During the War of 1812, Absalom is listed as being a private in “*Rangers, United States Volunteers*”. No specific unit is listed in this publication. [War of 1812 Muster Rolls, Ancestry.Com](http://www.indixie.com/genealogy/history/war_of_1812/Some%20History%20of%20the%20War%20of%201812.htm)

Only recently, has this author been furnished with a copy of a document that identifies the unit and makes the inclusion of the following possible. Many years after Absalom’s death, Catherine would file a Bounty Land Claim in which she identifies his unit as Captain Eli Hammond’s Company, of Lt. Col. Robert Dyer’s Mounted Rangers. The unit fought against a portion of the Creek Indian Nation that was allied with the British, in the Alabama Indian Territory. These Creek Indians were known as *Red Sticks*, because of the red painted clubs they carried; and they took great pride in their name. We know Absalom’s unit was present at the battles of Tallushatchee on November 3rd and Talladega on November 9th, 1813. The unit was under the command of General Andrew Jackson.

“Tennessee troops under Andrew Jackson rendezvoused at Fayetteville, Tennessee in early October 1813 for their first excursion into Creek territory. This army of 2,500 men marched to Huntsville (Alabama), crossed the Tennessee River at Ditto’s Landing and established a supply base nearby named Fort Deposit. They next penetrated the rugged terrain of enemy territory and began construction of Fort Strother on the Coosa River at a spot known locally as the Ten Islands. Fort Strother became the main rendezvous point for the American armies during the Creek War.

Less than fifteen miles from Fort Strother lay the Creek village of Tallushatchee, where a large body of Red Sticks had assembled. Jackson ordered General John Coffee, along with a thousand mounted men, to destroy the town. On the morning of 3 November 1813, Coffee approached the village and divided his detachment into two columns: the right composed of cavalry under Colonel John Alcorn and the left under the command of Colonel Newton Cannon. The columns encircled the town and the companies of Captain Eli Hammond and Lieutenant James Patterson went inside the circle to draw the Creeks into the open. The ruse worked. The Creek warriors charged the right column of Coffee’s brigade, only to retreat to their village where they were forced to make a desperate stand.

Coffee’s army overpowered the Creeks and quickly eliminated them. Coffee commented that “the enemy fought with savage fury, and met death with all its horrors, without shrinking or complaining: no one asked to be spared, but fought as long as they could stand or sit.” One of the Tennessee soldiers, the legendary Davy Crockett, simply said: “We shot them like dogs.” The carnage ended in about thirty minutes. At least 200 Creek warriors (and some women) lay dead and nearly 100 prisoners, mostly women and children, were taken. American losses amounted to five killed and about forty wounded.

Shortly after Coffee’s detachment returned to Fort Strother, Jackson received a plea for help from a tribe of allied Creeks at Talladega, who were besieged by a contingency of Red Sticks. Jackson responded to the call by mobilizing an army of 1,200 infantry and 800 cavalry and set out for the Creek fort at Talladega, arriving there in the early morning of 9 November. Using the same tactics that had worked at Tallushatchee, Jackson surrounded the town with a brigade of militia under General Isaac Roberts on the left and a brigade of volunteers led by General William Hall on the right. A cavalry detachment, under Colonel Robert Dyer, was held in reserve and an advance unit, led by Colonel William Carroll, was sent in to lure the Red Sticks out into the open. When the Creeks attacked the section of the line held by Roberts’ brigade, the militia retreated allowing hundreds of warriors to escape. The gap was quickly filled by Dyer’s reserves and Roberts’ men soon regained their position. Within fifteen minutes the battle was over. At least 300 Creeks perished on the battlefield while American losses amounted to fifteen killed and eighty-six wounded. Jackson marched his troops back to Fort Strother to attend to his wounded and obtain desperately needed supplies”.

Brief History of Tennessee in the War of 1812
www.indixie.com/genealogy/history/war_of_1812/Some%20History%20of%20the%20War%20of%201812.htm

After the Battle of Talladega on February 11th, General Jackson wrote a letter to Tennessee Governor William Blount in which he describes in great detail the actions of that day. An excerpt dealing with Absalom's unit (Hammond's) is included here.

"Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the advance led on by Colo. Carroll for the spirited manner in which they commenced and sustained the attack, nor upon the Reserve commanded by Lt. Colo. Dyer and composed of Captns. Smith's Molton's Acum's Edward's and Hammond's companies for the gallantry with which they met and repulsed the enemy. In a word the officers of every grade, as well as the privates realised the high expenditures I had formed of them and merit the gratitude of their country." <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~cmamcrk4/crkwr4b.html#anchor534182>

Catherine's Bounty Land Claim

"Catherine applied for a Bounty Land Claim on April 14, 1855, stating she was the widow of Absalom Gleaves, deceased who was a Private in the company commanded by Captain Hammons in The war of the Creek Indians, declared by the United States. Her husband enlisted somewhere in Davidson County, Tennessee, on or about ----day of September, A.D., 1813. He was honorably discharged at Huntsville, Alabama, (she thinks) on the 16th day of December 1813 and further states she was married to the said Absalom Gleaves in Wythe County, Virginia on the 18 day of August, A.D. 1803 by one ----- Stronger, a Minister of the Gospel and before her marriage she was Catharine Halsey; that her said husband died in Davidson County, Tennessee on the 18th day of September, A.D., 1834. Catharine made her mark (X)." Notes from June Novick

Absalom returned to Davidson County where he appears to have lived most of his life, although several entries bearing his name appear in nearby Wilson County, home to other family members. The first entry, dated April 14, 1815 reads: "*Absolum GLEAVES of Davidson County to Jacob Woodrum 128 acres on Stoner Creek*". The book *Wilson County History* lists Jacob Woodrum as one of the earliest settlers on Stoner's Creek. Also on this list is a "*Thomas GLEAVES*". Since no date is given, it is difficult to know for sure which Thomas Gleaves this entry refers to, although it is most likely Absalom's older brother. Wilson County, Tennessee Deed Book E, page 521

The second entry is a more serious matter. Quarterly Court minutes from Wilson County contain an entry from the June Term, 1828 (p. 475) which reads; "*Absolum Gleaves found guilty of assault and battery. He submitted himself to the mercy of the Court*". No other reference to this event has been found, so the details remain a mystery. History of Wilson County

Absalom is mentioned in his father's will in 1820, although his name appears to be recorded incorrectly. This author has only a typed copy of the document prepared by an unknown researcher and has not reviewed a true copy of the Will, if one exists. The entry reads; "*To my son Abraham GLEAVES I bequeath my negroe girl Sharlotte with hir increase*". His brother James T. who still lived in Wythe County received the bulk of the estate including all land. The Will of William Gleaves

Absalom was active in his community and appears in a number of sources in varying capacities. Several are listed here.

Reverend Gleaves?

There is at least one report that Absalom may have received a calling to the ministry. Catherine Halsey's sister, Sarah, married a man named Jacob Harkreader. An article entitled *The Harkreader Family of Middle Tennessee* contains the following: "*Jacob and Sarah named two of their children for Sarah's sister and her husband, Catherine Halsey who married Absolum Gleaves (Methodist preacher in Wilson Co., Tennessee)*".

Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy and History Vol XII

There is also a record of two weddings performed by Absalom in 1825 and 1826. The individuals that were married do not appear to be related to him. Both marriages are documented in the *John Hays Bible*. The Hays family also lived in Davidson County. No church records have been found by this author to document this information. *Tennessee Bible Records and Marriage Bonds*

On March 15, 1827 four members of the family are among a group of men signing a document establishing the dower rights of a widow named Penelope Overton. The Gleaves men are “*Thomas GLEAVES* (his brother), *Absalom GLEAVES*, *Matthew GLEAVES* and *Thomas GLEAVES Jr*” (his cousins, sons of Michael). *Davidson County Will Book*

A court entry dated November 28, 1828 deals with what appears to be the County’s support for a widow and her family. “*Absalom GLEAVES, Thomas GLEAVES and James R. GLEAVES, (Thomas’ Son) Commissioners to set apart one years provisions for Drusilla Johnson and her family*”. *Davidson County Will Book*

The following month an estate sale entered into this same Will Book lists one of the buyers as “*Sheriff Gleaves*”. This author has not researched this entry and cannot tell which family member held this office. It is mentioned here to aid those doing further research. If this reference refers to Absalom, it most likely would be cleared up by reviewing his obituary.

There are at least two Acts of the Tennessee Legislature that pertain to Absalom Gleaves. Both appear to be narrow in scope, but give additional insight into the man. In 1827 Absalom is named in a private act establishing “*The Stones River Improvement Lottery*” (Chapter 159.1 Serial, # 32 Private). This appears to be an authorization to conduct a lottery to raise funds for the construction of some public facility, most likely a bridge. The river may be Stoner Creek mentioned earlier. A second entry in 1833, shortly before his death, simply reads; “*Davidson County-precinct election held at his house*” (Chapter 94.1, Serial # 38). <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/g-2.htm>

A Letter from Absalom

Absalom wrote a number of letters to his family members who remained in Wythe County, Virginia. Many of these still exist today. Robert Lee Gleaves has been attempting to copy and preserve these valuable documents and the wealth of information contained in them. One such letter is included here that deals with the death of his daughter. Absalom was terrible at spelling and did not believe in punctuation. This letter has been slightly edited to make it easier to understand.

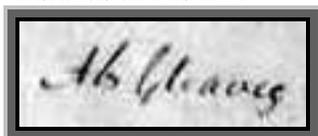
State of Ten, Davidson Cty May 25, 1832

Dear Mother Brother and sisters

I feel the (illegible) and am sparde(?) to embrace this opportunity to rite you a few lines to in for (illegible) you that we are well at present. Hoping these lines will find you all well when the (illegible) hand. It hath pleased the Allmity God to take my daughter Marthy Curde from time to eternity. She Departed this life on the first Day of May in the Morning a few minutes after seven in the morning. She was delivered of a babe nine Days previous to her Death The infant lived three or four Days. It is beleived that she was the principal cause of her Death by fretting about the Death of her infant. Her friends ware numirous and gave every attention to that was necessary. The Doctor Dun all in this power to save her. God giveth and God taketh. One conciliation left her dearest friends to think off when We think of Martha M Carde that on her Deing bed Jesus visited her Sole and took her out of her sins and set on the rocks of ages whare sorrow and trouble is no more. She told me when she awoked out of her Drowssy Slumber that she had a babe that the Lord would smile on her poor sole. I told her to pray with every breath that a few hours longer would the fate with her in this world that God was about to execute his office. She prayed constantly when awake but when her Drowssy spells would come on she would have a smiling countenance and when awaked out of them she told me that she had a vision of her Jesus Christ and further told me that she could see him at that time before

her Mother left for Joy and praised her Jesus that he come into the world to save sinnors. She continued in her Drowsy waye till she Died and when She would wake out of them, She still would defend that she was willing to die and that all was well with her and she loved Everybody and wished them to prepair to meat her in heaven where trouble and sorrow is no more. Dear Mother and Brother the death of my Daughter Martha Carde is warning to all her friends and relations to prepair for Death. She was about 20 years old. The old must die and the youge Do Die. Dear Brother you saw my Daughter Martha M Carde when you was at my house, you recollect her countenance. Her and my little son William H Harrison Gleaves that was killed by the Fall of a tree and had a strong resemblance of thare father. God give me sick(six) children and has taken two out of that number the allmity will must be Dun and not mine. My Children often talks about you and look up to you as second Father and if God (illegible) my heart the Longer I Live the Better I like you. GT Hambleton family is all well, Sally Hambleton Little Daughter Malvina is very fine child, tho small Pox is with in one Mile of me and many other places in our country the people are very much alarmed ---

When I wrote last to you I thought I would have Been at your place before, but circumstances altered and I was suppenied to attend Corte in two cases (illegible) the third Monday in April last which prevented my starting to North Carolina. I also receved a kick from a yong horse that wounded me very much. He kicked me and just above the ere and cut it to the bone and if he had hit me in the temple he certainly would of killed me and on the hand and arm at the same time which laid me up for several weaks and the Death of my daughter with all the rest of my troubles come on at the time I was laid up with my wounds. It is uncertain now when I can go to North Carolina. Will trye to make it out this Fall if nothing Else occurs. We had the harde wintor hear last winter that ever was seen in Tennessee. The peachtrees are nearly all killed and Grate many Large trees in the woods are Dead. Crops of wheat are very likely (illegible) and Cottain are likely corne are small. Your friends are well as far as I know. Will you please to answer this letter when you receive it and Let me know how you all are and adoing and how Mme Crocket and family is and wheather that suite is Determined between myself and Capt Stephen Halsey and how time is in Wythe. The suite is Determined about (illegible) Sawyers Estat or not. You will please to tauk to a constable that lives in Wythe that for the mannagement of Sally Grubs Bisnese and write what is the situation of her Bisnese and how it stands at this time --



Transcribed by Holly Hook

Absalom and Catherine had at least six children whose names are known to us. Several of these children are documented in a later chapter. Hilda Barnes has researched the Davidson County Will and Court records from this period. Absalom's estate is listed in a number of entries. It appears that he owned a number of contiguous properties totaling more than 650 acres. The inventory of his estate included 28 notes of debts owed to him. He and Catherine would seem to have done very well for themselves. Davidson County Will Book 10, page 397

When Absalom died in Davidson County in 1834, at the age of 53, his obituary was carried in two Nashville papers; The National Banner and The Nashville Whig on September 24, 1834. Next to his name was the title "Esq." a designation usually associated with attorneys. This author does not have a copy of either obituary and can shed little light on this curious question. His will was filed in Davidson County that same year. Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851

Catherine outlived Absalom by more than 30 years. Little is known about her in these later years, although, there are several records dealing with the disposition of their property. Her Bounty Claim application was a great tool for researchers. Catherine appears in the Davidson County, Tennessee Census from 1840-60. In both 1850 & 60 she is living with her son James T. Gleaves. She

would have been about 84 years old when she passed away in 1866. Her will divides her remaining properties among her children but offers no surprising revelations.

Davidson County Will Book 20, page 376



Obelisk erected in honor of Absalom and Catherine, date unknown

Family researcher, Bob Carver offers the following information regarding the final resting-place of Absalom and Catherine in his recently published paper. *“They are buried in their own family cemetery in Davidson County, on Central Pike, ½ mile from the Wilson County line. This land was originally owned by the family. In addition to Absalom and Catherine, there are two other markers found there: Mary C. Woolford, born November 10, 1807 and died December 4, 1873, and “Aunt” Nancy McCauley, born March 10, 1830, died December 4, 1905. “Aunt Nancy” is said to have been a former Gleaves family black servant.”* There is no explanation of any connection Mary Woolford had to the family.

Gleaves Family of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee

7) Margaret “Peggy” Gleaves January 1, 1784 – September 14, 1855

Margaret was born on the family homestead on Cripple Creek. She was the seventh of eleven children born to William and Elizabeth. There is little or no information about her formative years. Her birth and death dates are listed in family records, although there are conflicting dates reported from other sources.

Nathan Allen Bible

Margaret married Thomas Turk III (1782-1826) in Wythe County, Virginia on December 24, 1802. The name should be familiar to readers, as Thomas’ grandfather was Thomas Turk Sr. Margaret and Thomas were first cousins. Margaret’s mother Elizabeth and Thomas’ father Thomas Jr. were both children of Thomas Turk Sr. and his first wife, Margaret.

Adair County, Kentucky

Some time after the marriage, Thomas and Margaret moved to Kentucky. The 1810 Adair County Census shows them living in that County with their first four children, all under the age of 10. Only the heads of households were listed by name until 1850. Two additional males, ages 16-26 are also listed as living with them, although we do not know if they were related. The census also shows that Thomas and Peggy owned two slaves at the time. *1810 Adair County, Kentucky Census Records*

Like his father before him, Thomas answered his country’s call to arms. The Daughters of the American Revolution recognize Thomas’ father, Thomas Turk Jr., for his service in the American Revolution. Thomas III served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812.

As early as April 4, 1808, he appears in County records involved with the militia. On that date, he is named an Assistant in Captain Charles Moore's Company of Patrollers.

Adair County, Kentucky Court Records 1802-1813

In May of 1809, he is mentioned again, when Captain Moore's Company is "Ordered to Patrol Negro Quarters and Other Places of the Resort of Negroes at least 12 hours in each month for 12 Months". In November of that same year, Thomas was paid \$6 for serving as an Assistant for 144 hours.

Adair County, Kentucky Court Records 1802-1813

A short sketch contained in a history book provides some confirmation of these facts in Thomas' life. "Thomas was a first lieutenant in the American Army in the War of 1812. A native of Virginia and one of the first to the counties of the bluegrass region and later to the County of Adair, Kentucky, where he spent the rest of his life".

Kentucky, A History of the State

By July 6, 1812, there are references in court records to "Captain Turk" in the militia although there is no documentation of his being promoted to this rank.

Adair County, Kentucky Court Records 1802-1813

Margaret is mentioned in her father's 1820 will, "To my daughter Margaret Turk I bequeath my negroe Girl Kiskey". She also received a share of the proceeds from the sale of William's personal property.

Thomas Turk is believed to have died on February 18, 1826 in Adair County, Kentucky. Margaret is reported to have lived another 30 years passing away on September 14, 1855 at the same location. An abstract of a Bible owned by one of their sons, Hiram, contains conflicting dates for both his parents' birth and death dates. The most significant difference has Margaret living until September 1, 1865.

Hiram K. Turk Bible

Margaret Writes to her Mother

We are fortunate to have several letters written by Margaret to family members back in Virginia. We have the Dunkley family to thank for their stewardship in preserving these valuable glimpses into our family history. These letters provide a special way to bring the lives of our ancestors to life. This first letter appears to have been written after the death of her husband. It is offered as insight into a woman who misses her family. There is a large hole in the center of the document so some of the text has been lost.

"May the 1st 1831 Adaire County Kentucky

*Dear mother I onst more am permitted to lift my pen to inform you that myself and family are enjoying a [] life? portion of health at excelent? to feeling those will find you enjoying the same. _____
_____ County dis? Mother I do _____ you onst more while we live on this earth []
could be so it appears to me that I never shall be satisfied without I see you onst more knowing it to be a duty that children owe to their parents. I feel it so it is a long road but I would not dred it if I had money anuf to take there and come home again. I would wish to bring my three youngest children with me. I could be much better satisfied during my visit. I have paid my daughter in athens in eas Tennessee a visit this Spring. My son ????? set for there the 8th day of March last and returned the 5th of April. Found our friends well accept my son in law. He was some time in bed and some times about He had chils and fevors. The complaint was called of plage. Several had died in that place just before arive there. We returned through Blount County. My old father in law has got to be very helpless. It is as much as he can do to get to the door with two slaves. he is in tolerable health. He has a very tiresome time sitting and lying and never expects to be any better while he lives. Dear mother heard from Sister Allen a few days since the were all well then Sister had yet sent you a letter you hear from them the _____ my dear If I never should Se you more I [trust] we will meet above when parting is not [] ever affect[ionate] child till death.*

Give lines to sister Nancy dear sister. I do wish you to rite me a letter and let me no how you are and when you are coming to se me for I no I wish well tell brother James I would be [] that he would send me a letter and let no [] his journey and how he liked the mis[] how he got home tell sister polly port[er that] I hope to see her and her family if I come. Give my best love to her and family. Remember my best respects to my brother James and sister Malvina and their little children and please to accept a portion of the same for your self” *Transcribed by June Novick and Alice Hix*
http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=235&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

In her later life Margaret was concerned about the salvation of some of her brothers. In this letter to James, written about 1840, she shares her profession of faith and prays for him to see the light.

*“Maj. James Gleaves
Cripple Creek
Wythe County Va
Pr. Revd Wm. G. Brownlow*

*August 10 Adair County, K
Dear brother,*

It is through the mercies of kind providence that I am permitted to lift my pen oncst more to let you no that I am blest with a reasonable portion of health at this time and my sons and their families are all in common health[. A]lso I do hope these may find you and family all in good health[.] I received a letter from sister Allen not long since[. H]er health was some better than it been[. S]he had just returned from Nashville[. I]t fetuigued her very much[. S]he was distressed about our poor old brother Thomas[. H]e was bed fast and almost gone by using ardent spirits[. A] few day before sister got there he had his will drew[. H]is family was in grate distress about him[.] O what a distressing thought to think of a dear brother or sister a going headlong into everlasting punishment beneath the frows of an angry God where mercy never can come[.] O Lord pittty poor sinners[. P]oor Thomas promised sister when she bade farewell that he would try to seek his soul’s salvation[. T]his happened bast May[.] I have not hurd from him since now[. M]y dear brother, I have one request to you that I want you to seek an interest in the savour and not to put off any longer if you have not already found him precious to your soul for he/his promises none who comes shall be denied[. H]e that seeks is sure to find[. G]o to the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the wored[. G]o on your self with full purpose of hart[. P]ray in father and our fathers who are in heaven will bestow the blessing[.] I trust it is an awfull thing to die in sin[.] I have thought it my duty my dear brother to advise you to fly to the wide expanded arms of a crucified savour for refuge[.] I pray you in stead be reconciled to God for I waunt meet my friends all in heaven to part no more for ever[. T]he last account I had from my daughter, Elisa Crawford, she in bad health in June last[.] O my brother, this is too worn world of sorrow and tears to me, but my days am fast a winding to a close when my sorrows will have an end[.] I wish to serve the Lord with a perfect hart and a willing mind while traveling here below and it is my cinceare wish that you and your whole family may be fit meat for the Master’s use in that grate and awfull? day may these words rest days on your mind as it is from a sister that wishes you well in time and eternity[.] I expect to impower doctor Samuel Feald to receive what falls to me from the estate of father and mother[. H]e was one of the phisisons that attended on me in my long spell of sickness[. H]e is a citizen of Collumbia; a very fine man[. Y]our will send it by him if your please[. T]ake ? I want you to send me a nice dress and shall and pay for them with my own mony and then I can say you sent them to me.

/S/ Margaret Turk”

Transcribed by Robert Allen
http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=525&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1

8) Esther Gleaves
January 14, 1786 – About March 1, 1839

Esther was born in the Cripple Creek Valley of present day Wythe County. She was the eighth of eleven children of William and Elizabeth Gleaves. As with her brothers and sisters, there is no information about her early years.

Asa Finley
About 1788 – 1853

Asa was born in Montgomery County, Virginia. He was the youngest of seven children of William Finley Sr. and Mary Pettus. A number of early records list his given name as “*Esau*” although “*Asa*” appears to be more prevalent especially in the later part of his life. The family had also come from Augusta County, Virginia, where Asa’s uncle, John Finley was a wheelwright. As reported earlier, in 1775 John Finley had a young apprentice named Matthew Glaves, Esther Gleaves’ uncle. This apprenticeship is covered in detail in Chapter 6.

Both of Asa’s parents had died before he married Esther. Asa’s father died in December 1801 or January 1802 and his mother some time prior to that. “*Esau Finley*” appears in his father’s will and received a parcel of land from the family farm in Wythe County as well as one of the three family slaves. *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III*

Kentucky Pioneer

About the time of his father’s death, or shortly thereafter, he and his brother Dabney ventured westward into Kentucky and claimed land in the Christian County area. His earliest survey was recorded on August 30, 1803 for 400 acres in an area known as Buck Grove. A second survey for 100 acres on the West Fork of the Red River was recorded on January 16, 1805. *Finley Family Records*

Some time after this second survey was recorded Asa Finley returned to Wythe County and on August 18, 1806, married Esther. Asa’s sister Margaret had married Esther’s brother, William Gleaves, four years earlier in Wythe County. Esther was underage and her father had to give his written consent to the marriage. This document makes her date of birth suspect since girls only needed consent until they were 18 years old. If the dates were correct she would have been 20 years old. Her brother William Jr. also signed the document as a witness. This single document bears the signatures of William Sr. and Jr. as well as Asa Finley. *Wythe County Court Records*



Asa Finley's signature on his application for a Marriage Bond to marry Esther Finley, August 18, 1806.

Shortly thereafter, Asa and Esther returned to Christian County to make their home. Asa shows up claiming additional land “*on the West fork of the Red River*” on September 26, 1807. Asa also is listed as buying land from a man named John Roberts on February 1, 1808. He paid \$100 for 100 acres “*on the West Fork of Red River*”. At some point after Asa and Esther’s marriage and before 1810, Esther’s brother, William Gleaves and his wife also made the move to Christian County, Kentucky. It is quite possible they traveled together. *Christian County Deed Extracts*

The 1810 census finds the family of “*Asy Finley*” along with the families of his brother and sister all living in Christian County. Esther was not named in the census, only counted in her age group. Only the head of household was listed by name until the 1850 Census. Their first of five children is also counted although family records show Eliza Finley was not born until 1811. Also listed in the census are four slaves; no names were given. *1810 Kentucky Census Records*

Asa and Esther are listed in County Tax Rolls until at least 1817. In that year he is listed as owning five tracts of land totaling 875 acres. He also owned four slaves and six horses. *Christian County Tax Lists 1814-1817*

Westward to Missouri

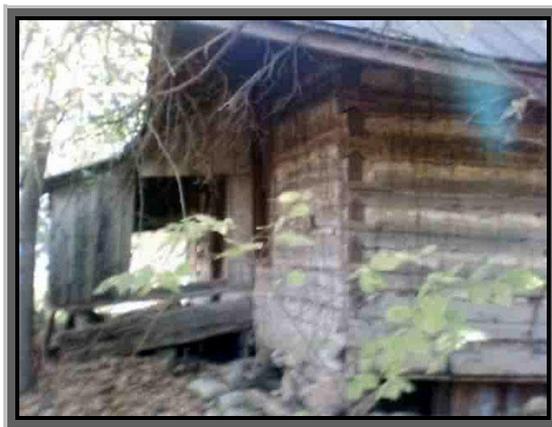
Some time in 1818, Asa and his brother Dabney decided to push further westward and moved their families to Saline County, Missouri. Esther and their three oldest children made the trip with Asa. The reason for the move is not known, although we know they had arrived prior to September 18, 1818. On that date the sale of Asa’s last parcel of land in Kentucky was completed and he is listed as living in Missouri at the time. *Finley Family Records*

Esther is mentioned in her father’s 1820 will, “*To my daughter Esther Findley I bequeath my negroe Malinda*”. She also received a share of the proceeds from the sale of William’s personal property. *The Will of William Gleaves Sr.*

Asa signed a Power of Attorney naming his nephew Thomas Harvey Gleaves as his personal representative to settle his father in law’s estate. “*Received of James T. Gleaves executor of the estate of William Gleaves Sr. decd. One negroe girl named Malinda also her Child named Emley which child was born since the devise was made Given under my hand this 15th day of July 1823*” For Asa Finley Thomas H. Gleaves *Letter # 1166*
http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=844&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1&Exact=1

The Family Homestead

Saline County is in the central part of the state about 50 miles east of Kansas City. The Santa Fe Trail, opened in 1821, ran through the county. Asa and Esther were some of the earliest settlers in the Sappington Neighborhood near the town of Arrow Rock. Local Saline County historical records list them living there by 1819. Their three youngest children were born here in Missouri *History of Saline County, Missouri*



Portions of the home built by Asa Finley for his family still exist today. An account of these early years is contained in a lengthy article by Gerald Ulmer titled *The Cabin in the Woods* in which he describes in great detail the life and times of Asa. “*Asa Finley was a man who was respected and*

liked by many. I believe this to be so because of his involvement in not only the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian church (later called the Salt Dork Presbyterian Church), but in the fact that he was also elected as one of the first voting judges for the county, for Arrow Rock Township, in 1824, when Jonesboro was the county seat.”

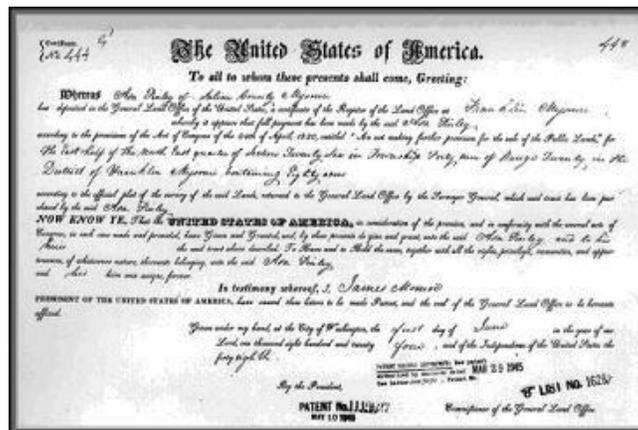
http://lulmer.homestead.com/files/The_Cabin_in_the_Woods.htm

William Earl Finley, a direct descendant, reports that during these early years Asa also served in the Missouri State Legislature. Missouri was admitted to the Union in 1821. State records show that Asa was elected as the state representative from Saline County in 1822 and again in 1826.

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/history/historicallistings/molegf.asp>

The Cash Entry Act

Asa and Esther began acquiring land after Congress passed the Cash Entry Act. Under this law, parcels of land, up to a Section in size (640 acres), were sold at auction to the early settlers of Missouri and several other states. The Act of April 24, 1820 set the minimum price for sale of public land at \$1.25 an acre and the minimum unit of sale at 80 acres.



This deed for eighty acres of land was issued to Asa Finley on June 1, 1824. It was the first of 25 such deeds. The price paid for each acre does not appear on the document.

Land was initially offered by district land offices at pre-announced, scheduled public auctions. Then, if unsold, lands became available for purchase at the \$1.25 minimum price on a first-come-first-served basis. From 1824 through 1851, Asa aggressively bid and purchased at least 25 parcels in and around Saline County. It is reported that at the time of his death, his holdings were in excess of 3,000 acres.

There are no known letters penned by Esther although at least one written by Asa still exists. It provides some insight into the lives of this couple. It was written to his brother-in-law James Turk Gleaves who still lived on the homestead where Esther was born. It is dated August 1, 1832. It appears below in its original form including grammar and spelling mistakes

“Dr Sir I take my quill in hand in grait hast just hearing this Day that Capt Mongomerey starts with the first Steam Boat on his way to Wythe and a few minutes ago hearing the cannons fiering on the River you see I have but a very little time to Write you the situations of times and things in this Country My family and conections at this time are engaging of Good health Hoping this few hasty lines will find you and friends enjoying the Same Blessing On the 2 day of last July Esther met trully with a very severe misfortune there came a swarm of wild bees to my house and they undertook to hive there and one of them Stung hur on the Eye led & I suppose the sting must of entered the Eye Ball This was done late in the Evening and about Common

Bed time She complained of a good dale of Pain in the head and Eye and in 15 or 20 Minutes it threw her into violent Convulsions I sent immediately for a Docter and after a few days I had the Second Docter called in But the affect continued 4 or 5 days very violent indeed Before any alteration for the Better could be discovered I think she Must have had some where near one hundred fits in the time But are now in good health

I Received your letter some time in the Spring after you left this Country and Should of answered you long since But have not had Any thing worth Writing about I find old Mr Casels Will not tak a Reasonable price for his lan tho if you wish to move to this Country you can still get a plenty of good places to purchase no doubt you will see Capt Montgomery and he can give you a full Detale of all there mater and thing he has purchased land in the neighbourhood of Casels

We have just understood hear that old Jackson have vetoed the Bank Bill to gratify his ambition no doubt I hope by this time the Citizens of Virginia have found out that it is not a thing of necessity that a man should be a Millitary Chieftain to Administer the government in a Juditious maner that is for the Hapiness and prosperity of the Nation But Jackson I Believe goes in toto against Economey industry internal improvement and Honesty of Course Espetially in Political Matters of things.

I wish you to Write me by Capt Montgomery Whether you expect to move to this Country shortly or not I should lik to hear from you all the important matters and things Respecting the old Neighbours and Neighbourhood as you Will have time to Do So Before the Captain Returns home again

I must now close for the want of time therefore you will excuse my Short letter

Therefore I am yours with Respect

August 1st 1832 Asa Finley

James Gleaves, Esqur.

I am very Much engaged at this time in Building”

Letter # 296 Transcribed by Virginia Melton and Alice Hix

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=260&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1&Exact=1

Esther died sometime around March 1, 1839, although the exact date is not known. She would have been about 53 years old at the time. Asa lived another 14 years, passing away on April 08, 1853. During this period he married twice more and had additional children.

There are a number of children listed as being born to Asa and Esther, although some of the information may not be reliable. Some researchers credit Esther with giving birth to children after her date of death. These are most likely children from Asa's second marriage. At least five children can be identified with the marriage of Asa and Esther Finley. They are profiled in Chapter 8 that deals with subsequent generations.

Asa Finley's Will

In his will, Asa was very generous with the all his children. He appears to have been a very prosperous man. His land speculation may have led to this fortune. After providing roughly \$3,000 in property for each child, the estate was still reported to be in excess of \$30,000. Below is a transcribed copy.

In the name of God amen. I Asa Finley of Saline County Missouri being of Sound mind & memory but calling to recollection the uncertainty of human life & desirous to avoid all contention & strife which spring up among my heirs in the absence of a clear & well defined disposition of the Property & effects which it has pleased the lord to bestow upon , do therefore make my last will & testament in the words & figures following First As I have heretofore given unto my daughter Eliza Wear & her husband William B. Wear the Sum of two thousand & Seventy eight dollars in money & property & for which amount I have taken the receipt of the Said William B. Wear which receipt will be found in my red Pocket book I now give & bequeath unto my said daughter Eliza the further Sum of Seven hundred & twenty two dollars, that is to say, She Shall have an equal half of a certain tract of land lying in Morgan County in the State of Mo being one half of a tract of land deeded to me by Benjamin C. Finley which she is to take at the price of two dollars per acre less the quantity be what it

may & the balance of the said sum hereby bequeathed, shall be made up to her in Money by my executors & this will make the amount which she will have received of my estate three thousand dollars - 2nd. I have heretofore given to my son James W. Finley in money & property the sum of two thousand eight hundred & three dollars & taken his receipt for the same, which receipt is also filed away in my red Pocket book. I have also given to my said son James W. Finley a negro man named Plim, valued at four hundred dollars and for which I have not taken a receipt making the whole amount given to him three thousand two hundred & three dollars. I therefore give him nothing more at this time. 3rd. I have heretofore given to my daughter Rhoda & her husband Thos. B. Finley, the Sum of two thousand & fifty three dollars & fifty cents in money & property & taken the receipt of the said Thos. B. Finley for the Said Amount which receipt is also filed in my red Pocket. I now give & bequeath to my said daughter Rhoda, the remaining half of the said tract of Land, deeded to me by the Said Benjamin C. Finley lying in Morgan County, which I value in this bequest a two dollars per acre, be the quantity more or less & I further direct that my executors after ascertaining the amount of this bequest at the above Valuation, Shall make up to the Said Rhoda in Money Such an amount as added to the Sum already given will make the amount which She will have received of my estate twenty five hundred dollars which shall be her full share in my estate. 4th. I have heretofore given to my Son Asa W. Finley in money & property, the sum of two thousand seven hundred & thirty dollars, & taken his receipt for the Same which receipt is filed away in my red Pocket book. Since the date of the above receipt I have given to Said Son Asa W. Finley a negro boy named Clark & some other property for which I took no receipt which negro boy & other property I valued at the price of four hundred & Sixty nine dollars, making the amount which he has received of my estate three thousand two hundred & three dollars. I therefore give him nothing more at this time. 5th. To my Daughter Mary Jane McCorkle, I have heretofore given the Sum of twenty five hundred dollars in Money & property & have taken her husbands receipts for the same which are also filed away in my red Pocket book. I therefore give her nothing more at this time. 6th. As I have now made what I consider a fair disposition of my estate so far as my oldest children are concerned, I now make these further provisions for my Younger Children And First I give to my son Harrison Decatur Finley the following named property to wit The west half of the South West quarter of Section twenty Six also the South east quarter of Section twenty Seven, all in Township fifty & Range twenty, containing two hundred & forty acres which I value in this bequest at twelve hundred dollars. And I further direct that my Executors shall make up to him the further sum of twenty three hundred dollars, making in all which I give to him the sum of thirty five hundred dollars And I further direct that my Executors shall appropriate in addition to the above, of my estate, a Sufficiency to give to my said son Harrison Decatur a good classical education. Upon his arriving at maturity, Should he prefer it, my executors shall instead of the money mentioned in this clause, let my said Son have two negro boys & one negro girls, that may then be on hand belonging to my estate, at a fair & just valuation & deduct from the Said twenty three hundred dollars, the valuation of said Slaves. 2nd. To my Daughters Helen, & Henrietta I give and bequeath each the sum of three thousand dollars and in addition thereto such amount as may be necessary to give them good plain educations when they arrive at years of maturity. Should they prefer it each of them have the right to select from the Slaves that may be on hand two negro girls & one negro boy each, at a fair & just valuation which amount shall be deducted from the above Sum of three thousand dollars. I also wish & do hereby direct that each of my said daughters, Helen & Henrietta Shall have two hundred acres of land, Suitable for farms which may be selected by Commissioners appointed by the County Court, & fairly valued to them by said Commissioners, and the value of said lands are also to be deducted from the three thousand dollars above mentioned. Should each my three youngest children above named die without issue before they arrive at years of maturity, I hereby direct that the portion of my estate given to such child shall be divided among my children generally, in the same proportion that I have given in this will. 3rd. To my wife Sarah I give the sum of one thousand dollars or rather I direct that my executors shall pay over to her annually the interest on one thousand dollars - She shall also have a negro Girl named Emily - two good work horses - two yoke of oxen one waggon which She may Select herself also the household & kitchen furniture which may be on hand at my death - also the use of the farm with a Sufficiency of Stock hogs - Stock Cattle Sheep & to be kept on the Same & used and enjoyed as the wants of my family residing with her may require. Also all my Poultry. She Shall also have the use of the following Slaves, which

are to be kept on the farm & labor for the Support of my wife & the family residing with her to wit. Wash - Eli, Nancy & her children - Polly Ann & Shadrick She Shall have free access to any timber that may be necessary for the use of my said farm The property above named are given to my said wife as above mentioned, to be used & enjoyed by her natural life or widowhood. At the death of my said wife, or at her Marriage, I will and direct that all my property above in this clause enumerated, Shall be divided among my children or their desendants in proportion to the amounts above given respectively & I further that all tools and implements necessary for farming Shall remain on the farm 4. Should my said wife Sarah have a child or children I will & direct, that if Girl or Girls they Shall have of my estate the sum of three thousand dollars or if a boy or boys Shall have thirty five hundred dollars & the Same provisions for Support & education as are made for my three youngest children above named. I further direct that all my youngest children Shall be Supported until they arrive at years of maturity, out my estate in addition to what I have given them severally. 5. I direct that Executors Shall have all of my personal estate not herein before disposed of, Sold at public Sale and also all my real estate lying in the neighborhood of Marshall including my Lots in said town be also Sold at public or private sale as my executors may deem best & the money arising from said Sale to be put out at Interest. My said executors will exercise a Sound discretion as to the time of Selling the Said real estate in the clause mentioned. 6. To my Great grand Son Asa Jameson - son of Janis Jameson who intermarried with Jane Ware I give & bequeath the Sum of one hundred dollars - 7. After all my just debts are fully paid I direct that the money in the hands of my executors Shall be put out at interest until my youngest children arrive at years of maturity when the said money & the residue of my property Shall be by my said Executors divided among my children or their descendants in the proportion Severally given them in this will aforesaid 8. I have four Slaves to with Green, Boce, Henry & Hardin, that I have not disposed of yet, and I now direct that my executors Shall either hire them out until my youngest children arrive at years of maturity, or Sell them & put the money out at interest, as they may deem best. 9. I hereby appoint my son in law William B. Wear & my son James W. Finley the executors of this my last will & testament. And I hereby revoke & renounce all other wills by me heretofore made. In Witness whereof I Asa Finley the above named testator have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of December A.D. 1847. Signed & acknowledged published & declared in Asa Finley presence of us who have Signed our names as Witnesses in the presence of the said Testator Jno. A. Trigg Joseph A. Field State of Missouri County of Saline Be it remembered that on this the 2nd day of May 1853 personally appeared Joseph Field one of the ??? witnesses to the foregoing will and upon oath deposes and ??? that he heard the testator Asa Finley declare the above to be his Signature and the foregoing to be his last will and testament and at the time the said Asa Finley was of sound mind and over the age of twenty one years and that he signed his name as witness as aforesaid at the request ... (last page missing). ----- 11 December 1847.
Saline County, Missouri Book A:253 (1-137, Box 65 & 66, CE #668) provided by Lois Gleaves

9) James Turk Gleaves
February 26, 1788 – June 5, 1862

James is the ninth of eleven children and youngest son of William and Elizabeth. Of the five sons, he is the only one to live his life in Wythe County, Virginia.

James was involved in the Wythe County Militia. In 1813, “*Ensign James T. GLEAVES*” was a member of Captain Samuel Graham’s Company, a unit of the 35th Regiment, 3rd Division of Virginia Militia. The Company served for a period in the defense of Norfolk, Virginia. *Wythe County History*

James received land from his father as early as 1818. There are reports of a transaction that year although this author does not possess the details of the conveyance. *Wythe Count Deed Book*

At the age of 30, James was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. He served from 1818 until 1825 and again in 1838. Family history reports that he was repeatedly encouraged to run for

Congress, but declined since it would take him away from his beloved Wythe County for extended periods of time. *The General Assembly of Virginia*



*James Turk Gleaves and Malvina Crockett Gleaves
Courtesy of the James Dunkley Family and Alice Hix*

On June 1, 1820, James was appointed a Magistrate on the Wythe County Court and qualified to hold this position on August 8th of the same year. It is not known how long he served in this capacity. *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III*

The Family Homestead

A number of researchers have stated that the home James built on the family property is still standing today. It sits on the banks of the Gleaves Branch of the Cripple Creek waterway. Others credit his son Robert with building it after the Civil War. An 1880 photograph of the home is included in Chapter 8 in the section dealing with Robert. Robert's descendants, who live in the home today, state that the name of the family homestead is the "Willows". This author does not know when this name was given to the property. The family cemetery is located on this property.

In November of 1937, a man named Eldridge H. Hager was working for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a project created during the Depression. His job was to do a Historical Inventory of older buildings in Virginia. One of the houses he recorded was reported to have been built by James T. Gleaves.

The following comes from his report.

"Location: 2 miles south of Max Meadows, Virginia on Route #121, thence 1 mile south on Route #52, thence 7 miles west on #94, thence 3 miles west on Route #619, thence 1 mile west on Route #646, on the south side of Cripple Creek.

Date: About 1818

Description: This Home is in a beautiful location on the bank of Cripple Creek. Fine bottom lands are all around it, and the high hills that surround it are covered with forest verdure.

Historical Significance: The Gleaves family was a prominent one, and they were identified with the early shaping of Wythe County.

Among them there were farmers, doctors, bankers, lawyers, politicians and army and naval officers.”

His report on the building follows.

The James T. Gleaves Home

Number of stories: 2

Material: Frame

Kind of Roof: Gabled

Roof material: Metal

Chimneys: 3, 1 interior, 1 at each end

Cornices: Elaborate, Painted

Windows: 21, 4 panes 16” by 32”

Shutters: none

Porch: 1 story across entire front; 2 story in back

Number of Rooms: 8, Large, Approximate ceiling height: 9 feet

Stairway: Open String, 2 flights, round rail and newel, turned balusters

Doors: 4 paneled, painted

Walls: papered

Hardware: Common iron

Floors: New oak

Present condition: and state if spoiled architecturally by remodeling: Fine, No

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/cgi-bin/vhi.gateway?bib=0000-62660&conf=010000>

When his father died in 1820, James was the recipient of the bulk of his father’s estate. Virtually all the land passed to him, although his mother had use of some of the property during her lifetime. Two of his older brothers had already died and the remaining two had established themselves in Tennessee. None of his sisters received any of the family land. In return, he was to pay his sisters \$25.00 each and “*support his mother and sister Nancy in her single life*”.

The Will of William Gleaves Sr.

James was named the Executor of his both his parents’ estates. The final settlement would take place almost 25 years after William’s death following wife Elizabeth’s death. Elizabeth died in 1840. A Power of Attorney, signed on September 7, 1843 by 13 Family members living in Tennessee, named Benjamin F. Gleaves (his Nephew) as their Attorney to settle with James. The exact date of the settlement is not known.

Malvina Crockett

November 10, 1800 – November 19, 1870

On November 14, 1822, James married Malvina Crockett in Wythe County. Malvina was the daughter of Samuel Crockett (1772-1808) and Elizabeth Campbell Taylor (1775-1855). Several researchers have made the claim that Malvina was the sister/cousin of Davy Crockett, noted for his role at the Alamo. Alice Hix reports that they were in fact fourth cousins sharing a great-great-grandfather Antoine Desaure Perronette deCrocketagne.

Malvina’s Black Cake Recipe

In the 1940s, Malvina’s granddaughter, Mary Ruth Gleaves compiled the *Blue and White Cookbook* for the Longwood (VA) College Alumni Association. Listed among the recipes is “*Grandmother Gleaves Black Cake*”, the recipe Ruth states “*..is over one hundred years old*”. A copy is included here.

<i>1 lb. Flour</i>	<i>½ pt. Molasses (black)</i>
<i>½ lb. Sugar</i>	<i>½ lb. Butter</i>
<i>1 c. Sour Cream</i>	<i>6 Eggs</i>
<i>1 tsp. Soda dissolved in the Cream</i>	

Cream, butter and sugar, add beaten egg yolks, molasses, 1 tsp. each of ground cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, allspice and cloves. Add flour and sour cream alternately. Fold in beaten egg whites. Let stand one hour before baking. Bake in a well greased stem pan in 300 degree oven.

Growth of the Family Homestead

James continued in his father's tradition by acquiring and improving land. There are at least six Land Grants issued in the name of "*James T. GLEAVES*". The dates of the grants range from 1820 until 1851. The grants totaled 587 acres and were all described as being "*On the Waters of Cripple Creek*".
State Library of Virginia

When his mother died in 1840, James received additional slaves and clear title to all lands. Malvina also received a china press. James was named the executor of the will. All proceeds from the sale of the estate were to be divided equally among her remaining children.

Early Adventurers on the Western Waters III

In 1850, James was listed in an Agricultural Census with land holdings of 2,550 acres in Wythe County. The property was valued at \$20,000.
1850 Wythe County Census of Agriculture

According to the 1860 Slave Census, James and his sons owned a total of 58 slaves.

"Major J. T. Cleaves, Sr., father of Dr. Samuel Cleaves, has now three of his four sons in the service of the Confederacy, viz: Jas. T. Cleaves, Jr. of the Wythe Grays now in Martinsburg, Capt. Robert H. Cleaves of the Wythe Minute Men, in camp at this place, and Dr. S. C. Cleaves, surgeon of the First Regiment. Mr. George Wythe Cleaves, his fourth son, though unavoidably detained at home for the present, is ready to pitch in whenever his service is required. When it is taken into consideration that the Major was himself a volunteer in the War of 1812, it must be conceded that few men can boast of having rendered better service to the Country. The Major's boys are all over 6 feet high and make no. 1 soldiers, and their father though well advanced in life is yet able to give the Yankees considerable trouble if it should become necessary for him to take a hand in the fight."

Wytheville Telegraph July 3, 1861

James wrote his last will on January 24, 1862. It runs more than five pages in length. Most of his possessions were left to Malvina, with the majority of his lands passed on to his sons. Over a dozen slaves are mentioned by name in this document. James appears to have felt strongly that the slaves should remain with the family and not be sold. "*I also give to her (Malvina) my negro man Perry to dispose of to my sons as she may think proper, not wishing him to go out of the family.*"

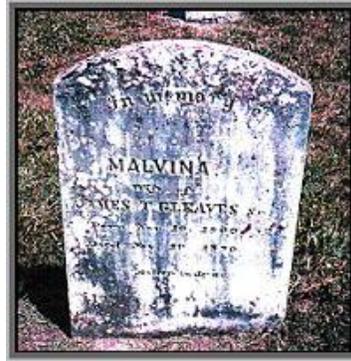
The Will of James Turk Gleaves

James died less than five months later on June 5, 1862.

Obituary for Malvina Crockett Gleaves A Mother In Israel Gone

"Mrs. Malvina Gleaves, relict of Major James T. Gleaves, and mother of our friends Dr. Sam'l, Major G. Wythe, and Capt. Robert H. Gleaves, died at her residence on Cripple creek [sic], on Saturday last, Nov. 19th, aged 70 years and 10 days. Her death was caused by a severe attack of pneumonia. Mrs. Gleaves had been for many years an exemplary member of the Evangelical Luthern [sic] church, and died in the full hope of a blessed immortality beyond the grave. Her death causes sorrow to the hearts of a very large family connection and a wide circle of friends throughout the county. The bereaved by this sad affliction have our warmest sympathies".

Southwest Virginia Enterprise, 26 November 1870



Courtesy of June Moore Novick

James and Malvina raised five sons: all fought in the Civil War for the Confederacy. Two sons died as a result of that conflict. Malvina outlived James by eight years. They are buried in the Gleaves Family Cemetery in the Cripple Creek Valley. The story of their sons continues in Chapter 8.

10) Sarah “Sally” Gleaves
February 20, 1790 – March 11, 1862

Sarah was the 10th of eleven children born on Cripple Creek. As with her brothers and sisters, there is no known record of her until her marriage to Nathan Allen. Only her brother James would have a longer life.

Nathan Allen
1781 – 1871

Nathan was born in Augusta County, Virginia, the son of Robert Allen. Robert Allen married Jane Turk on May 18, 1768 in Augusta County, Virginia. Robert Allen was a Revolutionary War soldier and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781. He died about 1789. After her husband's death, Jane immigrated to Kentucky in 1798 with 7 sons and 4 daughters and settled in Cumberland County, in the Marrowbone Valley, on Allen's Creek. Robert had explored this land previously and hoped to move his family there. He died before he could realize his dream, so Jane fulfilled his vision.

Allen Family records state that Sarah married Nathan Allen in September 6, 1810, in Cumberland County, Kentucky in the Marrowbone Valley and settled on Allen's Creek in the same county. This author had previously documented the marriage occurring in Wythe County, Virginia. Sally and Nathan were first cousins. Their mothers were both daughters of Thomas Turk Sr. and his first wife, Margaret.
The Genealogy of Robert Allen Sr.

Nathan is responsible for much of what we know of the family history since he dutifully recorded in his Bible the most important events in the lives of the William Gleaves family; researchers have found this to be an invaluable tool in this study. The Bible lists the names and information on Nathan and Sallie's ten children and Sallie's brothers and sisters. The family history also states that Nathan and Sarah moved to Warren County, Kentucky in 1835. This author has found no reason for this move. More research is needed.
The Nathan Allen Bible

Sallie stayed in touch with at least some of her siblings. Her brother Thomas wrote to his mother on January 18, 1835 and had the following to say about Sallie.

“I have just received a letter from Sally Allen which states that she has just removed to warren County Kentucky and she is well pleased with her new home she informed us that her son

George was expected to marry about to marry: they live in three miles of the dripping springs post office: She states in her letter that Margaret Turk and her family are all well aunt Jane Allen is yet a living” Letter # 196, Transcribed by Virginia Melton

Sallie was also in contact with her mother back in Virginia. The following letter is the only one found written in Sallie’s hand. The letter has deteriorated over time and only partly legible.

*“March the 31 1838
State of Kentucky, Warren County*

Dear Mother, after a long time wateing for a letter from you I have gotten inpatient for one and have come to the conclusion to write to you once more lakeing(?) that time is not past with (unreadable) altho it has been a long time since I have heard from you my health is better than it was some years ago but I am weakly yet and expect to remane so. Our famaly is in tollerable health at this time[.] Nathan has not had his health so well for the last to or three years as he use to. [W]e hope this will find you all well[.] We have had some sickness in our family the last year. James Turk Allen was taken sick the first day of July and has not got well yet but he has got so that he has started to school and I am in hopes that he will get well[.] We had have the misfortune loose our son-in-law Elexander.[H]e departed (obliterated to end of page) . . . soon have gras plenty we han a fine crops last year[.] We have at this time gran in abundance[.] We have just sold one hundred bushels of wheet and court spare one hundred barrels of corn if we could get soil for it[.] I have not heard from sister Margaret lately but she was well the last account old Mother Allen was well as stout as could be expected of a person of her age[.] We have had a very helthy winter and spring so far[.] Mother, I cannot see you but would be great to see you but it appears we will not meet on.....” The rest of the letter is torn.

Letter # 332, Transcribed by Robert Allen

http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=1420&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1&Exact1

Obituary of Sallie Gleaves Allen

We do know that Sallie died in Warren County, Kentucky on March 11, 1862. Nathan would live another ten years. Pasted into her husband’s bible is a copy of her printed obituary. The newspaper it appeared in is unknown to this author.

“Died at her home in Warren County, Ky., on the 11th of March, 1862, Mrs. Sallie Allen, wife of Mr. Nathan Allen, and for many years a most exemplary member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Sister A. was born in Wythe Co., Va., and lived to the ripe old age of 72 years and 19 days. Professing religion at Marrowbone, Cumberland Co., Ky., more than 30 years ago, under the ministry of A. Chapman, W. Harris and our now venerable Bro. C. Weeden, and trained under the ministry of these faithful brothers, her piety was that of the old Cumberland type; that is deep, earnest, and yet unostentatiously quiet.

The writer, for years intimate with the family, and often visiting the departed in her long affliction, remembers, with melancholy pleasure, the many seasons of holy Christian communion enjoyed with the now broken household. Her house was the preacher’s home.”

Nathan and Sallie lived their lives on Allen’s Creek and eleven children were born to this marriage. This author is sure that more documentation exists on their lives in Kentucky, although he has not had an opportunity to research them further.

11) Nancy Gleaves ***April 7, 1792 – May 16, 1855***

Nancy was the youngest child of William and Elizabeth and never married. She remained with her parents until the death of her mother in 1840 and probably lived the remainder of her life with the family of her brother, James T. Gleaves. Nancy appears in the 1850 census at the age of 58.

Several documents written by Nancy exist, although we have no letters written by her. One such document was a deposition she made regarding gossip. It would appear that some sort of legal action for defamation of character is involved here although the details have yet to be found. The lady in question is the cousin of her sister-in-law Malvina Turk Gleaves.

“I do hereby certify that Sometime last Spring I was at the house of Mr Jos. Bell, with Mrs. Malvina Gleaves and some short time after we got there, I left the room with Mr Samuel McCammet Miss Catherine Bell Miss Maria Pearce and Mrs Gleaves in it and when I returned to the room again Malvina Gleaves told me that Mr McCammet had just told her that Mary Taylor had been writing Montgomery Friel, and my answer was that I did not believe it that I thought if it was so Montgomery Friel would have been out there before this time, and that Mr McCammet Said he believed it, that he had been creditably informed by a young lady in town that Mary Taylor had written to him, and Mr McCammet said that if he had have went home with Silas Friel he could have seen the letter, that Silas had promised to show the letter to him, and said that he would go shortly and if Silas was at home he would see the letter, and Mrs. Gleaves requested of him to get the letter and let her see it and if it was Mary Taylors hand writing she would know it, and Mr McCammet said that he would memorize it and when he seen her again he would tell her the particulars of it, Given under my hand this 4th day of July 1825”

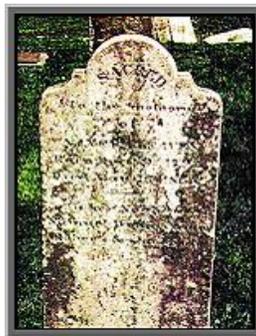
http://gleavesfamily.com/letters/index.cgi?Key=423&Field=key_field&cdisplay=1&Exact=1

It appears that Nancy Ann made the trip to visit her brothers in Tennessee at least once. *“...and there was seven of my family down at the same time with the same complint the conjestive fever Nancyann has not entirely recovered yet during the time of sickness the house was crowded with neighbors an doctors”.* *Thomas Gleaves to his mothe,r January 18, 1835*

While the previous letter may be referencing Thomas’ daughter by the same name, a second letter from Thomas confirms her visit. *“I wish Sister Nancy would come and Spend this Summer With me it would be a Satisfaction to me to see her at my dwelling Once more.”*

Thomas Gleaves writes to his brother James Turk Gleaves, February 4, 1846.

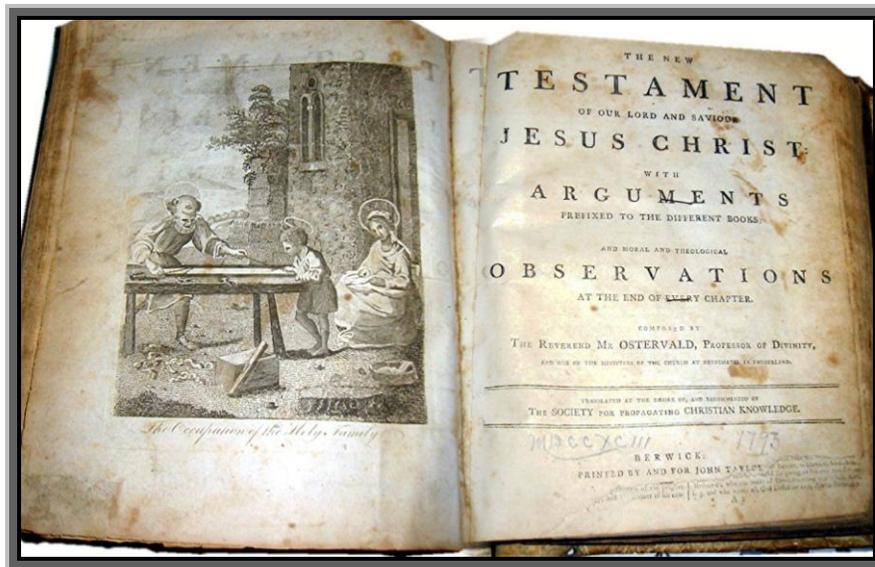
Nancy wrote her will on March 27, 1843 and died May 16, 1855 at the age of 63. Her will was probated the following month. She left \$50 to each of her sisters, Margaret Turk and Sally Allen and her slaves went to her nephews, the five sons of James Turk Gleaves.



Her nephews erected a tombstone in Nancy’s honor in the Gleaves Family Cemetery in the Cripple Creek Valley. *Courtesy of June Moore Novick*



The Gleaves Branch of Cripple Creek runs in front of the Family Homestead



*William Gleaves' Bible, circa 1794.
A page documents the birth of the many of the Family's slaves.*

More About William & Elizabeth's Family

The story of the William Gleaves Family continues later in this manuscript. Additional generations are chronicled in Chapter 8.

