

Rev. War Soldier **Abraham Reed** and Descendants Early Settlers of Knox Co., TN

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Corrections Welcomed

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Chapter 1 - Abraham Reed - Draft #5b

Abraham Reed's Line of Ancestry

The Reed ancestry line of Abraham Reed is thought to be as follows.

1. (Possibly) **WILLIAM REED** (d. 1746, Isle of Wight Co., VA) Wife: Elizabeth _____.

2. **JOHN REED** (d. 24 May 1773, Bedford Co., VA) Wife: Elizabeth __ (Tate?)__. Owned 275 acres in Bedford Co, VA on both sides of the South Fork of the Falling River. He made his Will June 3, 1767. John left his land and a mill to sons William, Ajonadab, and Daniel. He left his daughter, Elizabeth Simmons, and son Thomas's children, Abraham, Marianna and Isaac, all his movable personal property divided four ways. Sons Jonadab and Daniel were the executors. Richard Stith, Lucy Stith, John FitzPatrick, and Harry Terrell witnessed the Will. It was filed in Bedford County, VA, on May 24, 1773. John's wife Elizabeth last appears in the 1787 Campbell County, VA, Tax Digest. She and her son William were listed there.

The children of John and Elizabeth are said to have been:

- a. William (abt b. 1741 - d. 1795) Married Agnes _____
- b. Ajonadab - Married (possibly) Elizabeth Steppe [Step]
- c. Daniel - Married Nancy [Ann]
- d. Thomas (d. bef 1767) Married Rachel _____
- e. Elizabeth - Married John Simmons

Source: 1. & 2. from The Read's of Virginia and Georgis by James W. and Augusta (Krebs) Reid, April 15, 2009 - http://volgagermanbrit.us/documents/reid_chapter.pdf

3. **THOMAS REED** (b. 1728, VA - d. bef June 3, 1767, Bedford Co., VA) Wife: Rachel ____ (b. 1735). They married in 1754 in Bedford Co., VA. Apparently, Thomas died before his father's Will was made. The children of Thomas and Rachel are said to have been:

- a. **Abraham Reed (b. 1755, Bedford Co., VA - d. 1839, Monroe Co, TN) Wife: Sara _____ (b. 1785, TN)**
- b. Marianna [Mary Ann] Reed (b. 1757, Bedford Co., VA -)
- c. Isaac Reed (b. 1759, Bedford Co., VA -)

[These three children of Thomas Reed were named in the June 3, 1767 Bedford Co., VA Will of their grandfather, John Reed, as noted above from "The Read's of Virginia and Georgia." That document does not assert that Thomas' son Abraham was the same Abraham Reed who served in the Revolutionary War and settled in early Knox Co., TN. Information on the children beyond their names comes from Ancestry.com, but without sources shown.]

QUESTION: Was Abraham Reed, the son of Thomas and Rachel Reed, the same Abraham Reed who served in the Revolutionary War and settled in early Knox Co., TN?

ANSWER: Though not proven, that family connection seems quite possible, given some information found in the Revolutionary War Pension documents of the Abraham Reed who settled in early Knox Co., TN.

Abraham Reed – My Fifth Great Grandfather and His Family

My research thus far has led me to think that **Abraham Reed** was the father of my **Jacob Reed**, who was born abt 1791 in TN and lived in Knoxville, TN throughout his life. Here is a list Abraham's likely children in the order of their birth, as best as can be determined at present. It is also possible that Abraham had additional children. I will note that Abraham was sometimes known as "**Abram.**"

1. **ELIZABETH REED** (b. abt 1786 - d. bef 1850) She married **Thornberry Elledge** on Feb 24, 1809 in Knox Co., TN. Abraham Reed was a bondsman for their marriage and at one point Abraham and Thornberry had an agreement whereby Thornberry would possess about 39 acres of a 163.25 acre plot of land on Knob Creek which Abraham had acquired on Knob Creek in 1809. Thornberry also served as a bondsman for the marriage of Abraham Sr.'s son Abraham Reed Jr. when he married first wife Nancy Murray in 1815 in Knox Co.

2. **JACOB REED** (b. abt 1791, TN - d. abt Apr 6, 1864, Knox Co., TN) He married **Esther Hollis** on Aug 10, 1812 in Knox Co., TN. Robert Sevier was a bondsman for their marriage. Robert may have been the youngest son of Gov. John Sevier, whose property was adjacent to Abraham Reed's property on Knob Creek in Knoxville. I believe **Sarah Reed** (b. July 29, 1818, Knoxville, Knox, TN - d. February 6, 1905, Knoxville, Knox, TN) likely was a daughter of Jacob and Esther. Sarah was a 3rd great grandmother of mine.

3. **ABRAHAM REED (Jr.)** (b. abt 1795, TN - d. 1840 or later, Knox Co., TN) He appears to have gone by the name "Abram." He appears to have married twice in Knox Co., TN:
 ~ **Nancy Murray** on Sept 17, 1815
 ~ **Martha "Patty/Patsy" Pratt** on Dec 14, 1826
 Abraham (Jr.) served in the War of 1812.

4. **ISAAC REED** (b. 1796, TN - d. 1878, New Harmony, Pike, MO) He married **Sarah "Sallie" Cullop** on Jun 6, 1822, in Washington Co., VA. He served in the War of 1812. My **Jacob** also named one of his sons Isaac.

5. **THOMAS REED** (b. - d. -) He married **Ellis Burnett** on Aug 15, 1811 in Knox Co., TN. Abraham Reed was a bondsman for him.

Other possible children of Abraham and his first wife might have been:

Mary
Sally

Children of Abraham and his second wife, Sarah, are said to have been:

Catherine b. abt 1807
Rebecca b. abt 1810
Michael Ault b. abt 1811
William Joseph b. abt 1813
Letty b. abt 1815
John b. abt 1819

Note: In early Knox Co., TN records, Abraham's sons Jacob and Thomas are to be distinguished from another Jacob Reed and another Thomas Reed who were living in the county at that time.

The idea that **Abraham Reed** was the father of my **Jacob Reed** is strengthened by a great grandson of **Abraham Reed**, namely **Isaac N. Reed**, who filed a 1907 Eastern Cherokee application [no. 42305] which indicated [question #22] that Isaac's Indian ancestors were:

"Great Grandfather, Abram Reed, a full blood Cherokee, also Grandfathers, Abram Reed and Jacob Reed."

22. To assist in identification, claimant should give the full English and Indian names, if possible, of their parents and grandparents back to 1835: *First Grandfather, Abraham Reed, a full blood Cherokee, also Grandfathers, Abram Reed and Jacob Reed*

Isaac N. Reed was a son of **James S. M. Reed** and **Arminda Reed**, who were married on Nov 12, 1840 in Knox Co. The bondsman for their marriage was **William Wilson**, apparently the same person who served as a bondsman for the marriage of my ancestor **Sarah Reed** when she married **John R. Baker** the following year, in 1841, in Knox Co., TN. I believe **Sarah** was an older sister of **Arminda** and both were daughters of **Jacob Reed** and wife **Esther Hollis**. **James S. M. Reed** was a son of **Abraham Reed Jr.**, who, I believe, was a brother of my **Jacob Reed**.

[For more information on that Cherokee descent claim, see my document: "Reed Cherokee Descent Question." A thanks to Mike Reed who found the early 20th century Cherokee descent claims of **Isaac N. Reed** and also his two sisters. Their brother James Reed also made a claim, which I have received.

The connection of my **Jacob Reed** to **Abraham Reed** is also strengthened by the fact that **Jacob** named one of his children Abraham. I also find it interesting that **Jacob** named a daughter Sarah, and that possibly she was named for a wife of Abraham. My suspicion though is that **Abraham** had a wife previous to Sarah [if that, indeed, was her name] and that first wife would have been the mother of my **Jacob**.

Abraham Reed's Service in the Revolutionary War

Abraham received a government pension for his Revolutionary War service. That pension was received after his Knox Co., TN years while he was living in Monroe Co., TN.

→ **Note:** See [Appendix I](#) of this chapter on Abraham Reed for a transcription of his pension application, [Appendix II](#) for National Archive images of it, and [Appendix III](#) for pension payments.

Abraham's declarations within those pension documents which seem compatible with his being the Abraham of Thomas and Rachel Reed are the following:

~ **He was born in August 1755 in Bedford Co., VA.**

Thomas and Rachel Reed are said to have been married in that county in 1754, though the source for that date/place is not presently known to me.

~ **He was living in Campbell Co., VA in 1777.**

Campbell Co., VA did not exist until 1782. It was created then out of the eastern part of Bedford Co., VA. Eight years later, the 1785 Campbell Co., VA Tax Assessment, Clement's Tax List shows Thomas' brother William and mother Elizabeth Reed living in Campbell Co.

Source: The Read's of Virginia and Georgia, 4 - http://volgagermanbrit.us/documents/reid_chapter.pdf

Abraham Reed's Pension is summarized as follows:

Monroe Co., TN Private, Virginia State Troops, \$59.20 Annual Allowance \$177.60 Amount Received, August 2 1833 Pension Started Age 79 (1835 Tn Pension Roll)

Source: Tennesseans in the Revolutionary War - <http://tngenweb.org/revwar/records/r.htm>

Abraham Reed's Service at Valley Forge appears to be recorded, as follows, in transcriptions of two primary Revolutionary War documents connected with Valley Forge which appear in The Muster Roll Project of the Valley Forge Legacy website. I thank Robert Reed for finding that site.

Source: Valley Forge Legacy: Muster Roll - <http://valleyformemusterroll.org/muster.asp>

Private Abram Read <i>Rank and File</i>			DEC 1777
State: Virginia	Ethnicity:	ID: VA02480	JAN 1778
Division: 5th	Regiment: 14th Virginia		FEB 1778
Brigade: Weedon's	Company: Capt Cyrus L Roberts		MAR 1778
			APR 1778
			MAY 1778
			First Borne On Roll Without Remark
			JUN 1778
			Sick, Valley Forge
			Personalized Products Available for Purchase

Private Abraham Reed <i>Rank and File</i>			DEC 1777
State: Virginia	Ethnicity:	ID: VA32305	JAN 1778
Division: 5th	Regiment: 14th Virginia		FEB 1778
Brigade: Weedon's	Company: Capt Cyrus L Roberts		MAR 1778
			Enlisted
			APR 1778
			MAY 1778
			On Roll Without Comment
			JUN 1778
			Sick At Valley Forge
NOTES: Date of enlistment 19 March 1778. Remains sick at Valley Forge through August of 1778.			Personalized Products Available for Purchase

A Time Line of Abraham's Military Service

(Drawn from his Pension Application and Amendment, primary Revolutionary War Documents including 14th Virginia Regiment Muster Rolls researched by Robert Reed, together with additional sources and comments)

1776 - 1777

~ In 1776, the Colony of Virginia had no standing army. It couldn't afford one. Instead, individual Virginia counties had militia groups, largely made up of local farmers who preferred short terms of service in order to keep up with their farm responsibilities. Those militias gathered at times for training at their local courthouse. When news of an emergency situation in their area, such as an attack by Indians, was spread on horseback from farm to farm, militia members came together to deal with it.

~ On October 12, 1776, in response to the Continental Congress, and as part of the Colony of Virginia's contribution to the Revolutionary War effort, the Virginia General Assembly called for the 14th Virginia Regiment to be raised to serve as a part of the Continental Army. That 14th Regiment was to consist of ten companies and its recruits were to be raised from Virginia's counties. In contrast to local militia work, active service in the Continental Army was for an extended period of time.

~ In 1777, those who joined the 14th Virginia Regiment were vaccinated against smallpox. That regiment was assigned to Weedon's Brigade, Greene's division of the Continental Army. During 1777, that regiment participated in Pennsylvania battles at Brandywine, Whitehorse Tavern, Germantown, and Fort Mifflin. When December came, the 14th Regiment settled in for the winter at Valley Forge.

Sources: The Virginians Who Fought in the Revolutionary War -
<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/military/revwarfought.html>
 The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>

~ On May 5, 1777, the General Assembly of Virginia adopted "An act for regulating and disciplining the Militia." Apart from some exceptions noted in that act, that act mandated that

“. . . all free male persons, hired servants, and apprentices, between the ages of sixteen and fifty years . . . shall, by the commanding officer of the county in which they reside, be enrolled or formed into companies of not less than thirty two, nor more than sixty eight, rank and file, and these companies shall again be formed into battalions of not more than one thousand, nor less than five hundred men, if there be so many in the county.”

When this act was passed, **Abraham Reed** was age 21. At this time, Abraham was living near the Clinch River. If he wasn't already a militia member there, he would at this time, by law, have become a member of a 32-68 member militia group in that locale. I think Abraham likely was residing in Washington Co., VA at this time.

~ Later in 1777, Virginia signed into law a draft from its militia members to make it easier to secure the quota of soldiers for regiments in the Continental army, which Virginia was expected to supply.

1778 - 1779

~ In February 1778, Abraham's militia group [or divisions within it] joined other militia groups across Virginia in having lotteries to determine which single men from their groups would be drafted to serve for a year in the Continental army at the pay rate of 15 dollars for that year. Married militiamen weren't expected to be a part of this lottery this particular year. In fact, this was the first year Virginia had such a draft. At the time, many people in Virginia were opposed to this draft. Nonetheless, it was held.

As Harry M. Ward wrote about such lotteries during the Revolutionary War in his 2009 book "Going Down Hill": Legacies of the American Revolutionary War [p. 99]:

"The state drafts for the Continental army had a feature used in conscription during modern times—selection by lot. Typically, drafts were arranged by counties, towns, or districts. Militia were formed into classes or divisions, according to age, with members from the youngest group (ages eighteen to twenty-five) being drafted first. Persons drew lots of either "service" or "clear" (non-service). Heavy fines awaited persons who refused to honor a draft notice as well as local officials who did not bring forth the selectees."

John R. Van Atta noted the following in his article "Conscription in Revolutionary Virginia: The Case of Culpeper County, 1780-1781." A person drafted could get out of serving if he produced another recruit for the Continental army, other than a servant or apprentice, who was willing to remain in the army at least three years. Also, a person drafted over the age of 30 and having a sizeable estate could avoid serving in the Continental army by paying an annual fee. Drafted persons who did not secure a substitute or pay a fee, but who just refused to serve were considered deserters.

In that February lottery in 1778, **Abraham Reed** apparently picked a "service" lot. However, Abraham did not find a substitute to serve in the Continental army instead of him for three years. He wasn't old enough to pay a fee to be free of the draft. And, perhaps he didn't have enough money to pay such a fee, even if he had been old enough at that point. According to VA law at that time, every VA man drafted in that state-wide February 1778 militia lottery had to head north to join Washington's army by the last day in March.

[Abraham enlisted in military service on March 19, 1778, the year after he moved from the eastern portion of Bedford Co., VA {which became Campbell Co. in 1782} to live on the Clinch River in VA. Apparently his draft for one year of Continental army service was overseen by Col. Arthur Campbell, who then lived on the Holston River in Washington Co., VA and was a brother-in-law of Col. William Campbell, whom Abraham served under later. Campbell Co. was named after Col. Arthur Campbell.]

Sources: "Going Down Hill": Legacies of the American Revolutionary War by Harry M. Ward -

https://books.google.com/books?id=ldT9Qu29phwC&source=gbs_navlinks_s

"Conscription in Revolutionary Virginia: The Case of Culpeper County, 1780-1782," The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, July 1984, 263-281-

https://www.jstor.org/stable/4248727?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

The Papers of George Washington Letterpress Edition (March-April 1778) -

<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/editions/letterpress/revolutionary-war-series/volume-14-march-april-1778/>

Arthur Campbell (Virginia) - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Campbell_\(Virginia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Campbell_(Virginia))

The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, Arthur Campbell -
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=183>

~ Abraham and about 60 men in his company marched with Lieut. Quirk to the Schuylkill River in PA, where by May 1778 Abraham joined the 14th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army of General George Washington. He first appeared in that regiment's muster rolls in May, 1778. He was listed there as under the command of Brigadier General George Weedon, Colonel William Davies, and Captain Syrus L. Roberts.

+ May 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 439]: listed as on guard duty.

[Abraham went to Valley Forge, apparently arriving as conditions at that camp began to improve following the terrible suffering the Continental Army endured there during the winter months. Washington's troops were at Valley Forge from December 19, 1777 to June 18, 1778. The Lieutenant Abraham marched with likely was Thomas Quirk, who came to America from County Kerry, Ireland and served as a recruiting officer in Virginia among other military positions during the Revolutionary War. It has been said that in March of 1778, following their hard winter at Valley Forge, the 14th Virginia Regiment Abraham was soon to join had 294 men on its rolls, but only 49 of those men were fit for duty.]

Sources: The Papers of George Washington Letterpress Edition (May-June 1778) -

<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/editions/letterpress/revolutionary-war-series/volume-15-may-june-1778/>

Washington Describes the Continental Army at Valley Forge, Winter 1777-1778 -

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/turning/valley.html>

Valley Forge (Sons of the American Revolution) - <http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/valleyforge.html>

Valley Forge - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_Forge

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters, Thomas Quirk -

<http://www.revwarapps.org/w5958.pdf>

Captain Thomas Quirk -

<http://www.genealogy.com/ftm/w/h/i/Betty-l-otero-L-Whiteotero/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0065.html>

The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>



Sources: The following webpages contain information on the clothing, arms and accouterments commonly used by that 14th Virginia Regiment, which was renamed the 10th Virginia Regiment in September 1778.

The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/uniforms.html> & <http://10virginia.tripod.com/arms.html>

~ Abraham became ill at Valley Forge in June 1778 and suffered Camp fever there for four or five weeks. His main diet was codfish and herring—likely salted—which he wasn't accustomed to and didn't like.

+ June and July 1778 14th Regiment Muster Rolls: [images 442, 495, 496, 445, 499, 500]: listed as sick at Valley Forge.

[Likely he suffered from Typhus, contracted through lice, fleas, ticks, etc. while forced to camp in close quarters and dirty conditions. It afflicted many at Valley Forge in that period. The 14th Virginia Regiment left Valley Forge during this month of June. It is said to have then had 408 men on its rolls, but only 225 who were "present and fit for duty."]

Sources: Valley Forge - <http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/gemedia/amrev/revwar/vforge.htm>

The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>

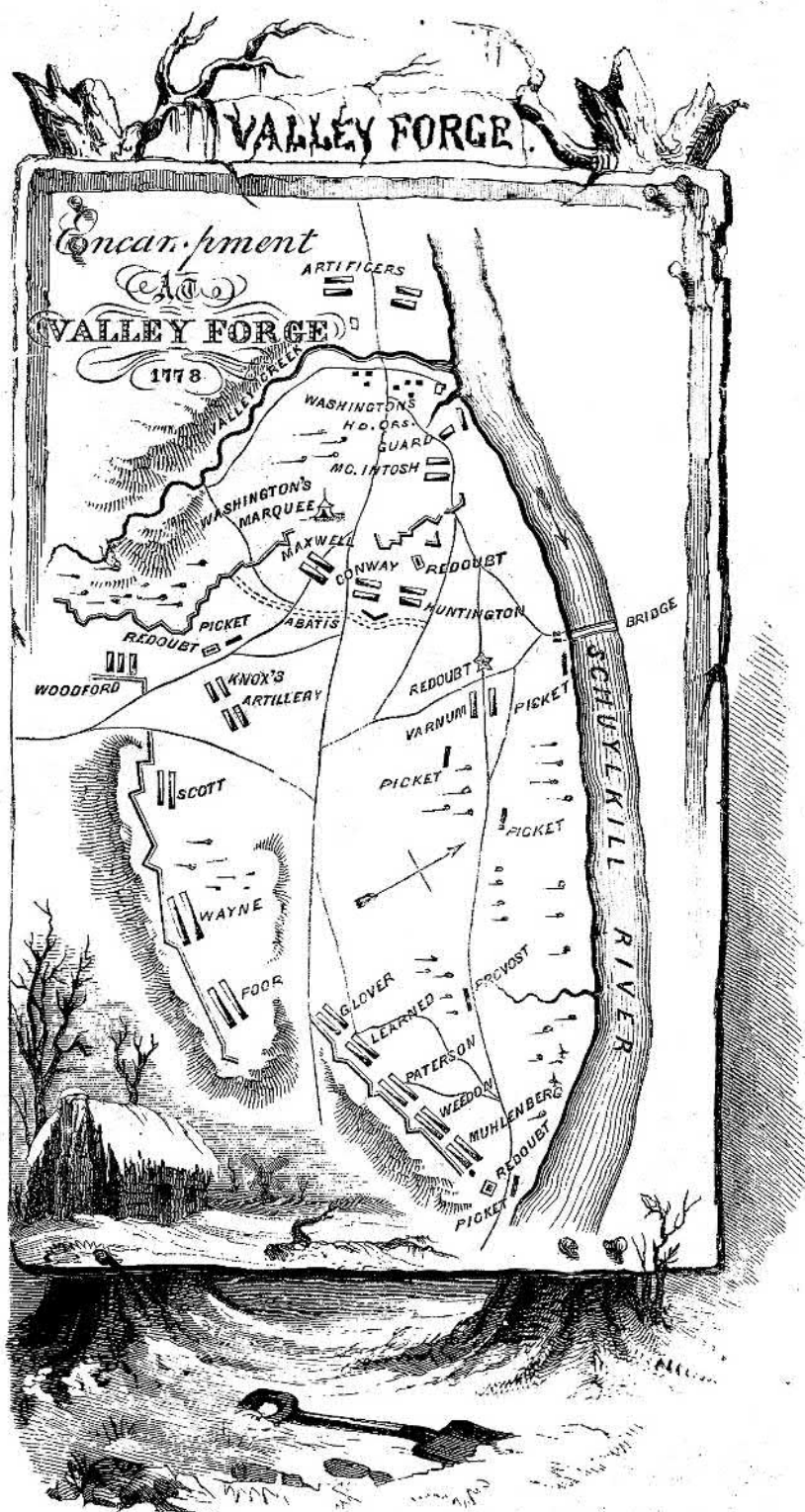


Model of the type of hut used by the Continental Army at
Valley Forge, 1777-1778
Djmasek/Wikimedia Commons

~ Because Abraham's illness worsened, he was sent to Yellow Spring Hospital where he became jaundiced, lost some of his reasoning power and memory, and was not expected to live. He remained in that hospital "for some months."

[Yellow Spring was America's first military hospital, located ten miles west of the Valley Forge encampment.]

Source: Historic Yellow Springs - <http://yellowsprings.org/about/virtual-village-tour/hospital-ruins-herb-garden/>



The Encampment at Valley Forge, PA 1778
Lossing, Benson John. "Field Book of the Revolution," Vol. 2, 1851, 128
Abraham Reed was in Weedon's Brigade [near map bottom]

~ After Abraham finally recovered from his illness, he and some other recovered soldiers marched to rejoin Washington's Army which was now at White Plains, New York.

+ August 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 448]: listed as being at Valley Forge

+ August 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [images 502, 503]: listed as 'joined'

[The second Muster Roll above may indicate that Abraham rejoined Washington's Army in later August of 1778. Washington stayed at the home of Elijah Miller in White Plains three different times, including the summer of 1778. In 1776 that house served as Washington's headquarters as the Battle of White Plains was fought.]

Sources: The Papers of George Washington Letterpress Edition (July-September 1778) -

<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/editions/letterpress/revolutionary-war-series/volume-16-july-september-1778/>

Elijah Miller House - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elijah_Miller_House

File: Elijahmillerhouse.JPG - <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Elijahmillerhouse.JPG>



Elijah Miller House, White Plains, NY
NortyNort at English Wikipedia

~ Abraham indicated in his pension application that after going to White Plains he marched through towns in New Jersey. Abraham noted that he then marched up the Hudson River where land artillery batteries and floating batteries on the river were being built and at one point he saw Gen. Putnam there. It seems that Abraham may have the order of these two events reversed, according to one time line of the activities of the then 10th Regiment.

+ September 9, 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 460]: Abraham's enlistment date listed as being March 19, 1778

+ September 1778 14th Regiment Muster Rolls [image 451, 505, 506]: listed

+ October 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 454]: listed, bottom of roll says "Middle Brook Dec. 24, 1778]

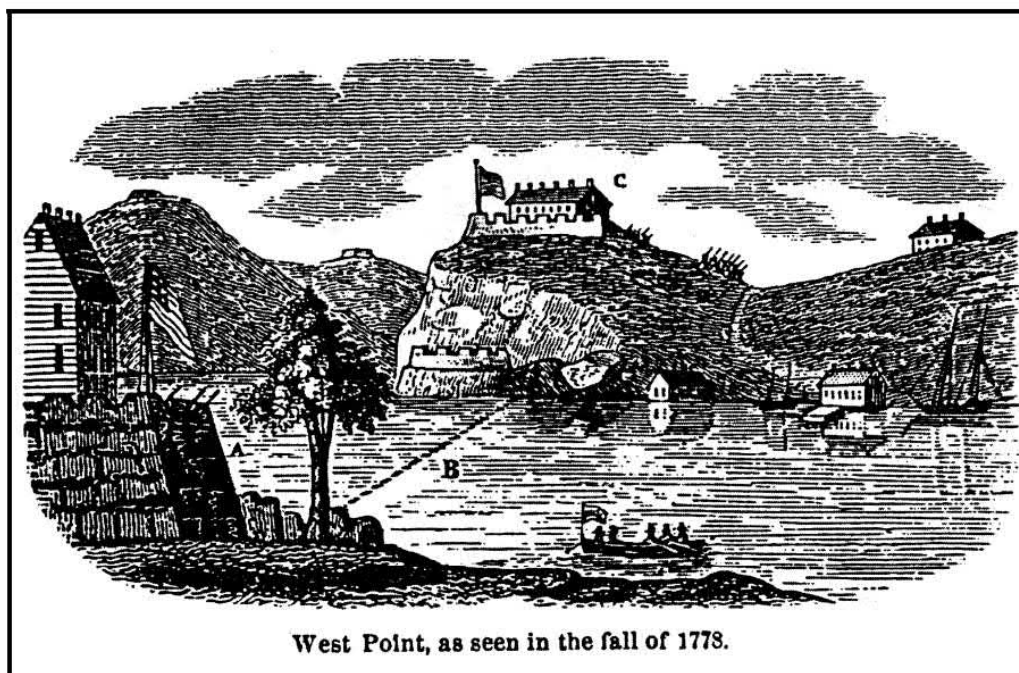
+ October 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 508]: listed

[On September 14, 1778, Abraham's 14th Virginia Regiment was officially renamed the 10th

Virginia Regiment. The next day, on September 15, most of Washington's troops left White Plains to travel north to new positions, from West Point on the Hudson River to Fishkill, Fredericksburg, and Danbury, Connecticut. Presumably Abraham's regiment joined those troop movements going north up the Hudson River.

During the period of October and possibly into November of 1778, the renamed 10th Virginia Regiment appears to have been in the area of Fort Clinton at West Point on the Hudson River {known then as the North River}. There were two Fort Clintons in the Hudson River highlands. The Fort Clinton at West Point was built up in 1778 and is more likely where Abraham's regiment was that year. The other Fort Clinton was about 6-8 miles south of the West Point one and it had been conquered and devastated by the British in October 1777.

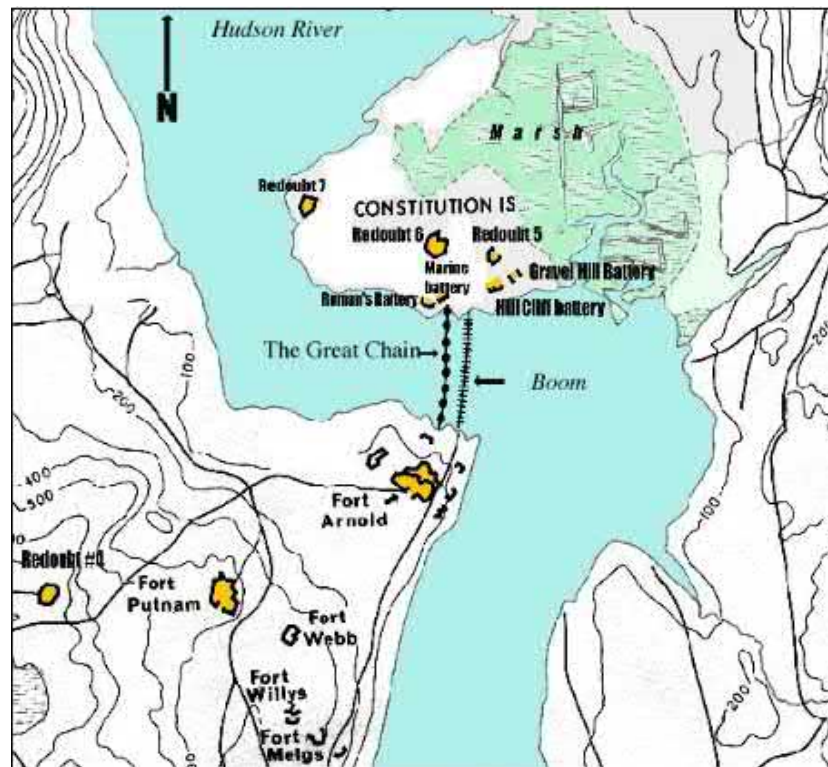
During 1778, a stout chain was placed across the Hudson River and fortifications {including floating/water batteries} were built at West Point to prevent British war ships from passing through and cutting New England {a center of Patriot fervor} off from the rest of the colonies so its resistance and ability to send troops against the British could be overcome. Washington is said to have considered Fortress West Point the "Key to the Continent." Gen. Israel Putnam is credited with recommending West Point to Washington as the place on the Hudson River to construct those fortifications. In that same year of 1778, Putnam's cousin, Col. Rufus Putnam's 5th Massachusetts Regiment began to build Fort Putnam, named after Rufus, on the dominant high piece of land which overlooked West Point, Constitution Island, and the Hudson River.]



West Point, as seen in the fall of 1778.

Looking West toward West Point
 A. a battery on Constitution Island B. the great chain suspended across the Hudson
 C. Fort Clinton on West Point

Simms, Jephtha R. "The Frontiersmen of New York," Vol. 1, 1883



Map of West Point fortifications
during the Revolutionary War from 1775-1783
U.S. Military Academy Depart. of Geography, 2008

- Sources: The Papers of George Washington Letterpress Edition (15 September-31 October 1778)-
<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/editions/letterpress/revolutionary-war-series/volume-17-15-september-31-october-1778/>
- The Military Geography of Fortress West Point by Palka and Galgano, Jr. -
<http://www.westpoint.edu/gene/siteassets/sitepages/publications/the%20military%20geography%20of%20fortress%20west%20point%202001.pdf>
- Historic Structures Report Logistical and Quartermaster Operations at Fortress West Point, 1778-1783, by Cubbison, 2006 -
http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/library/pdfs/articles_books_essays/westpointlogistics_cubbison.pdf
- Life of Israel Putnam ("Old Put") by Tarbox, 1876 -
https://books.google.com/books?id=pdl5AAAAMAAJ&dq=israel+putnam,+increase+tarbox&source=gbs_navlinks_s [pp. 314-315]
- The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>
- From George Washington to Henry Laurens, 27 November 1778 -
<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-18-02-0332>
- Hudson River Chain - http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Hudson_River_Chain
- West Point Fortifications Staff Ride Note Cards -
<http://www.westpoint.edu/history/siteassets/sitepages/staff%20rides/west%20point%20fortifications%20staff%20ride.pdf>

~ After being in the West Point area, and possibly near the end of November, Abraham and his regiment appear to have headed south to northern New Jersey. Their ultimate goal was to reach the winter quarters in the Watchung mountains in Middlebrook, New Jersey to which George Washington

had assigned them.

+ November 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 510]: listed

+ December 1778 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 77]: listed as at Middlebrook, N.J.

[On their way through northern New Jersey, Abraham's regiment may have been charged with the duty of containing British soldiers foraging for supplies and helping colonists move or destroy their grain, hay, and livestock, so the British would not benefit from them.. A notation on the bottom of the sheet of one of Abraham's October 1778 Muster Rolls says "Middle Brook Dec. 24, 1778." That may indicate that Abraham and his regiment arrived at Middlebrook on that date or it may indicate that it was simply recorded on that date that he was in Middlebrook—which his December 1778 muster roll also notes. The 10TH Virginia Regiment spent December 1778 through April 1779 camped at Middlebrook,]

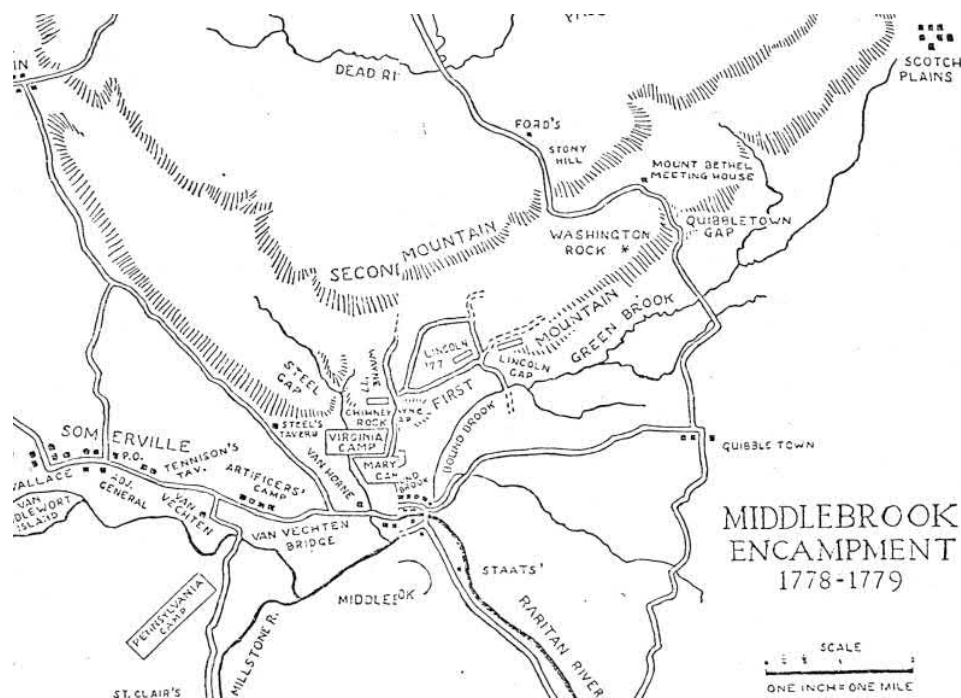
Sources: The Papers of George Washington Letterpress Edition (Nov. 1778-14 Jan.1779) -

<http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/editions/letterpress/revolutionary-war-series/volume-18-1-november-1778-14-january-1779/>

The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>

Middlebrook encampment - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middlebrook_encampment

New Jersey Events During the Revolutionary War - <http://www.njskylands.com/hsAmRev225>



"The Army at Middlebrook 1778-1779," Peter Angelakos, 1952

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, vol. 70, no. 2

See also: <http://donsnotes.com/nyc-nj/mdlbrk.html#liesenbein>

~ During that 1778 winter period, Abraham was ready to enter active service, but his knee prevented his walking, thus he was sent to a hospital to recuperate. There his leg was "blistered" and "after some weeks" he was able to walk.

+ January 1779 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 65]: listed as sick at Brunswick, bottom of roll has

date as 5 Feb. 1779.

[Brunswick, known today as New Brunswick, was a community at a key crossing on the Raritan River about 8 miles south of the Middlebrook encampment. During the winter of 1776-1777, British forces occupied that town. They emptied Brunswick's First Reformed Church {organized 1717} of its pews and used it as a hospital. Later it was turned into a stable. British forces left Brunswick in June 1777. After the Battle of Monmouth, Washington's troops were back in Brunswick. There, on July 4, 1778, they celebrated America's 2nd anniversary with "a formal salute and double rations." It is not known if that same church was the hospital Abraham Reed was treated in, when the 10th Virginia Regiment was camped at their 1778-1779 winter quarters in nearby Middlebrook .

Blistering and blood letting were accepted medical procedures in the Revolutionary War period. In fact, George Washington himself was subjected to both those procedures near the time of his death. In such a procedure, blistering agents were applied to a person's skin to raise blisters, which were then drained. The expectation was that this procedure would draw inflammation out of the body. The procedure was painful.]

Sources: The Papers of George Washington Letterpress Edition (15 Jan.1779 - 7 Apr 1779) - <http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/editions/letterpress/revolutionary-war-series/volume-19-15-january-7-april-1779/>

The History Buff's Guide to Middlesex County by Walter A. De Angelo -

http://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/Government/Departments/BDE/Documents/history_buffs_guide.pdf

The County of Middlesex in the Province of New Jersey During the American Revolution [map] -

http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/MIDDLESEX_COUNTY/MidCo_Rev_War_recto.jpg

First Reformed Church of New Brunswick, New Jersey - <http://firstreformedchurch.net/history-of-frc/>

A Modern Medical Report on George Washington (Sons on the American Revolution) -

<http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/washhealth.html>

The History of Medicine, The Revolutionary War - <http://www.mnwelldir.org/docs/history/history02.htm>

Medicine in the Revolutionary War - <http://www.tehistory.org/hqda/html/v26/v26n3p090.html>

Medical Blistering in the Georgian Era - <http://www.geriwalton.com/medical-blistering-in-georgian-era/>

~ Abraham Reed was discharged from his year of Continental army duty on February 16, 1779.

+ February 1779 14th Regiment Muster Roll [image 68]: listed as among a number discharged 16 Feb. 1779.

[As researcher Robert Reed wrote:

"Documents for the 14th Virginia Regiment state that Abraham Reed enlisted on 19 March 1778. . . However, his one year of service would have ended 19 March 1779. So, either his original enlistment date was 16 Feb. 1778 with the 19th March being when he arrived at Valley Forge, or he was discharged a month before his tour of duty was to end."

My own guess is that likely Abraham was discharged early. There was recent precedent for that. John U. Rees noted that early the year before, in 1778, many Continental soldiers were discharged early, apparently in the hope that would encourage them to re-enlist.]

Source: "The pleasure of their number" 1778: Crisis, conscription, and Revolutionary soldiers' Recollections (A Preliminary Study) by John U. Rees, Part I. "Filling the Regiments by drafts from the Militia." The 1778 Recruiting Acts, p. 9 - <http://www.reenactor.ru/ARH/PDF/Rees.pdf>

1780

~ May 12, 1780, the 10th Virginia Regiment was defeated at Charleston, South Carolina and its 209 remaining men were taken into captivity by the British, thus marking the end of that regiment. *[Fortunately for Abraham, he was no longer with the 10th Virginia Regiment at that time. But, that capture of his old regiment, may have contributed to Abraham's decision to rejoin the fight against the British, but this time as a volunteer and in a militia unit.]*

Source: The 10th Virginia Regiment - <http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>

~ May 24, 1780, while living on the Holston River in VA, Abraham volunteered to go South with 60 or 70 others to fight in the Patriot cause. *[In 1780, British General Lord Cornwallis sought to defeat American forces in South Carolina and North Carolina, so those colonies would remain under British control. British Major Patrick Ferguson was given the task of recruiting Loyalists in the backcountry of the Carolinas in order to provide protection for Cornwallis' troops at Charlotte, North Carolina. Instead of being drafted again as a Continental Army member, Abraham was now serving as a volunteer member of a militia group. Why did Abraham volunteer to serve again at this time? I wonder if the defeat and capture of Abraham's former 10th Regiment, just twelve days before Abraham's decision to join this militia group, was a compelling factor behind his decision.*

As it happened, Abraham was one of about 1,000 militiamen, from a number of Virginia and North Carolina militia groups, who gathered at Sycamore Shoals {today's Elizabethton, Tennessee} and then headed south on September 26, 1780, to fight Major Ferguson's Loyalist forces. Here is a description of those Patriot militiamen from the web page below which bears the title: The Overmountain Men and the Battle of Kings Mountain:

“On September 26, the throng of a thousand militiamen headed south from Sycamore Shoals. Most of the men were on horseback, but some walked. This was not an army in the strictest sense of the word. All the men were volunteers; none was paid. Each expected to serve for only a few weeks before returning to his home to tend to his chores, his farming, and personal matters. The militia did not follow strict military protocol. They elected their commanders deciding among themselves whose leadership they would follow. The men were all skilled hunters and woodsmen. They were fighters, too, but they lacked the discipline of a military unit. For this last reason alone, the British military, the best army in the world, generally dismissed any threat from a fighting force composed of American volunteer militia.”]

Source: The Overmountain Men and the Battle of Kings Mountain - www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-revolution/4272

Patrick Ferguson - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Ferguson

Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War by J. T. McAllister, 1913 - <http://lib.jrshelby.com/mcallister-harris.pdf>

~ Abraham fought in the Kings Mountain battle in Captain Daisey's [Dysart] Company—a battle fought on the Patriot side, entirely by such volunteer militia groups. In that battle, Abraham marched to the front between two wings of Patriot attackers, fired his rifle three or four times at the

enemy, then his gun jammed. He went to secure another gun from a place along the mountain from which the enemy had retreated. But, by the time he found one and returned, the battle was over. Abraham then helped take prisoners, bury the dead, march prisoners under guard, and drive a wagon with the wounded some distance. Then he returned home. He served at least four months and three quarters this time.

[The King's Mountain battle in South Carolina on October 7, 1780 was a key battle in the Revolutionary War, even though the actual fighting lasted only about an hour. The battle was unusual, because the Loyalist troops under Patrick Ferguson were Americans who supported the British cause. Ferguson's troops had the advantage of being on a mountain top, but repeated assaults by the Patriot militia groups around the mountain won the battle. The Patriot militias fought mostly with rifles, whereas the Loyalist troops fought mostly with muskets. Rifles could fire about one shot per minute, whereas muskets could fire three shots per minute. However, rifles were far more accurate, hitting targets at 200 to 300 yards, whereas the accuracy of muskets was about 100 yards at most.]

There is some confusion as to which militia company Abraham served in during that battle. A ration document signed by both Capt. David Beattie and Capt. James Dysart indicated that Abraham was in Beattie's Company. See: <http://revwarapps.org/b8.pdf> However, Abraham in his pension application recalled serving in the company of Dysart—called Daisey by some. During the battle, Dysart was badly hurt, having been shot in the left hand. Before the war, Dysart had settled on the Holston River and married a sister of David Beattie. Beattie's and Dysart's companies were among the nineteen known Washington Co., Virginia militia companies which were led by Col. William Campbell. Campbell was also the overall commander of the Patriot militia groups in that battle. As his troops charged the enemy on Kings Mountain, Campbell is said to have told them to "shout like hell and fight like demons!"]

Sources: The American Revolution in South Carolina, Kings Mountain -

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

The Beatties at the Battle of Kings Mountain -

http://mediasvc.ancestry.com/v2/stream/namespaces/1093/media/08f73835-2251-4752-9b0b-3bf8ab15656b.pdf?client=Trees&filename=The_Battle_of_Kings_Mountain.pdf

The Battle of King's Mountain, 7 Oct 1780 - <http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/kingsmountain.html>

King's Mountain and Its Heroes by Draper, 1881 -

<https://books.google.com/books?id=fbBYAAAAMAAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

The Battle of Kings Mountain, An Eyewitness Account (Sons of the American Revolution) -

<http://www.revolutionarywararchives.org/kingsmountain.html>

Kings Mountain, More Battle Information (National Park Service) -

<https://www.nps.gov/kimo/moreintroinfo.htm>

The Overmountain Men and the Battle of Kings Mountain - www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-revolution/4272

Muskets and Rifles: The Soldier's Experience [Very informative video] -

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-revolution/4989>

1781

~ About the end of February 1781, while living on the South Fork of the Holston River in Virginia, Abraham volunteered to serve in a militia group again under Col. William Campbell. Campbell's group sought to reinforce the Continental Army forces led by General Greene. In the morning of March 6, 1781, Campbell's militia almost marched into the British line, but was saved by the intervention of a company of Light Horse, presumably from Greene's Army. In their retreat, Campbell's militia men then ran seven miles. Although exhausted, that same evening the one hundred or so men in Campbell's group fought the British in a close engagement near Wietzel's Mill in Guilford County, North Carolina. Campbell's militia was outnumbered. But that battle was inconclusive. Abraham served not less than one month at this time.

[In his pension application, Abraham referred to the above battle as having taken place at Ramshour's Mill. But, that does not seem correct, in part because the Ramshour battle actually took place the previous year, in 1780, on June 20 or 22 near Lincolnton, North Carolina. The timing and circumstances of the Wietzel's Mill battle in 1781 are a much better fit with the description Abraham gives in his pension application.]

In early 1781, Col. William Campbell could only raise about 60 men to help Gen. Greene's Army which was then being pursued by the troops of British commander Lord Charles Cornwallis. Campbell's group of frontiersmen has been referred to as Campbell's Virginia Rifle Corps. At the Battle of Wietzel's Mill they were under the overall command of Col. Otho Williams. Col. Campbell went on to play a major role at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781. But, as Abraham noted in his pension application, he himself was not in that battle. After the battle at Weitzel's Mill, some militia men complained that they had been exposed to harm unnecessarily, in order to protect Gen. Greene's Continental troops, which they felt Greene valued much more than he valued them. With that complaint, those militia men withdrew from Greene's Army and were not present for the subsequent Battle of Guilford Courthouse. It is not known if Abraham withdrew at that time for that same reason, or not.

Col. Campbell, who became famous for his victories at Kings Mountain and the Guilford Courthouse, died on August 21, 1781. The following year, Campbell County, Virginia was formed and named after him. Abraham's birth family may have lived in the eastern portion of Bedford county which subsequently became that Campbell county.]

Sources: Making History: Ramsour's Mill -

<http://miniawi.blogspot.com/2010/07/making-history-ramsours-mill.html>

The Battle of Wetzel's Mill - <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/810306-wetzells-mill/>

The Service of Colonel William Campbell of Virginia -

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/06/the-service-of-colonel-william-campbell-of-virginia/>

The Battle of Whitesell's Mill - http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html

North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program, Weitzel's Mill -

<http://www.ncmarkers.com/Markers.aspx?MarkerId=J-37>

Clapps' Mill: The Battle on Foust's Plantation by Dunaway & Bright, 2013 -

<https://books.google.com/books?id=1V0DBAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>

William Campbell (general) - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Campbell_\(general\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Campbell_(general))

~ Abraham's total service time during the Revolutionary War was about 17 and 3/4 months. He remained on the Holston River in Virginia about one year after the Kings Mountain battle. Then, he moved to Knoxville, Tennessee until he moved to Monroe Co., Tennessee in about 1825.

*[James Mason witnessed **Abraham's** Pension Application. Apparently, James was a son-in-law of Abraham, having married Abraham's daughter Catherine Reed, who was born about 1807 in Knox Co., TN. Enoch M. Moore was a clergyman in Monroe Co. at that time who attested to his belief in Abraham's truthfulness as to his age and service in the Revolutionary War.]*

Locations of Abraham Reed

As noted in **Abraham Reed's** Pension Application and Amendment in Monroe Co., TN in 1832 and 1833 respectively, Abraham was in the following locations:

1755 ~ Abraham was born in Bedford Co., VA in the month of August.



<http://www.sos.ky.gov/admin/land/resources/PublishingImages/HammonVirginiawesternCounties1776.jpg>

1777 ~ He moved to the Clinch River in Virginia, after living in the eastern part of Bedford Co., VA, which became Campbell Co. in 1782. The Clinch River was then on America's frontier. It passed through Virginia's Washington County--formed in 1776 from Fincastle Co. and named after George Washington.

The map by Frederick Smoot on the next page is based on a 1774 map. But the red text/lines show today's VA counties. Russell Co. was formed from the northwestern part of Washington Co. in 1786. Part of Russell Co. became Lee Co. in 1793. Then, parts of Lee, Russell, and Washington counties formed Scott Co. in 1814.

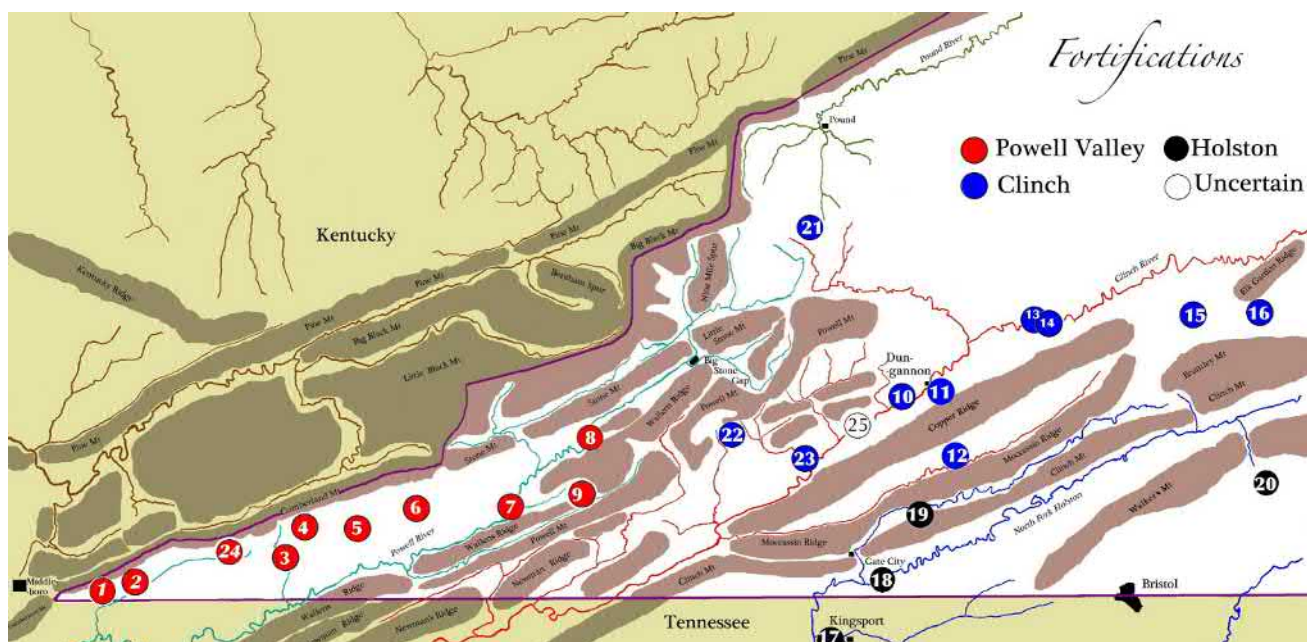
western waters. Official records and contemporary writings of that time give an inkling of the situation on the frontiers in the many appeals for flour and ammunition which had to be sent in from the east by pack train and heavily guarded by troops through the dangerous gaps and valleys of Southwest Virginia.

Source: The Dreadful Year of 1776 on the Western Waters -
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varussel/indian/10.html>

When **Abraham Reed** moved to the Clinch River in 1777, it seems likely, for the sake of safety, that he would have chosen to live near one of those forts, if not also in one of them at times. Here is a list of known forts on the Clinch River in that period, as shown on the map which follows. Some of those forts were settlers' homes which had been fortified.

- 10 - Raleigh Duncan's Fort (1775-1790) - between Dungannon and Gray's Island
- 11 - Patrick Porter's Fort (1774-1780) - Falling Creek near Dungannon
- 12 - Rev. Robert Kilgore's Fort House (1786-1790's) - Copper Creek
- 13 - William Moore's Fort (1769, 1774-1777) (Fort Byrd, Snoddy's Fort) Castle's Wood
- 14 - Fort Preston (1774) (Cowan's Fort, Fort Preston, Bush's Fort, Russell's Fort, Bickley's Fort) Castle's Wood
- 15 - Glade Hollow (1774) (Fort Christian) near Lebanon
- 16 - Elk Garden Fort (1774-1794) - eight miles east of Lebanon
- 21 - Guest's Station (1777) (Guesses Station) at Coeburn, Wise Co.
- 22 - Rye Cove Fort (1774-1794) (Crissman's Fort, Fort Lee, Carter's Fort) Rye Cove
- 23 - Blackmore's Fort (1774-1795) Mouth of Stoney Creek, Clinch
- 25 - Osborne's Fort (1777- 1792) (Osman's Fort, Ritchie's Fort) on Clinch River

Sources: Forts of Southwest Virginia - http://www.werelate.org/wiki/List_of_Forts_of_Southwest_Virginia
 Southwestern Virginia Forts - <http://www.northamericanforts.com/East/vasowest.html#scott>



www.werelate.org/wiki/Map_of_Forts_of_Southwest_Virginia_1
 Used by permission of copyright holder: WMWillis

Spring 1778 to Spring 1779 ~ Abraham was drafted and served one year in the Continental Army.

By 1780 ~ **Abraham** was living on the Holston River. As shown in the previous map, forts on the Holston River in that period were:

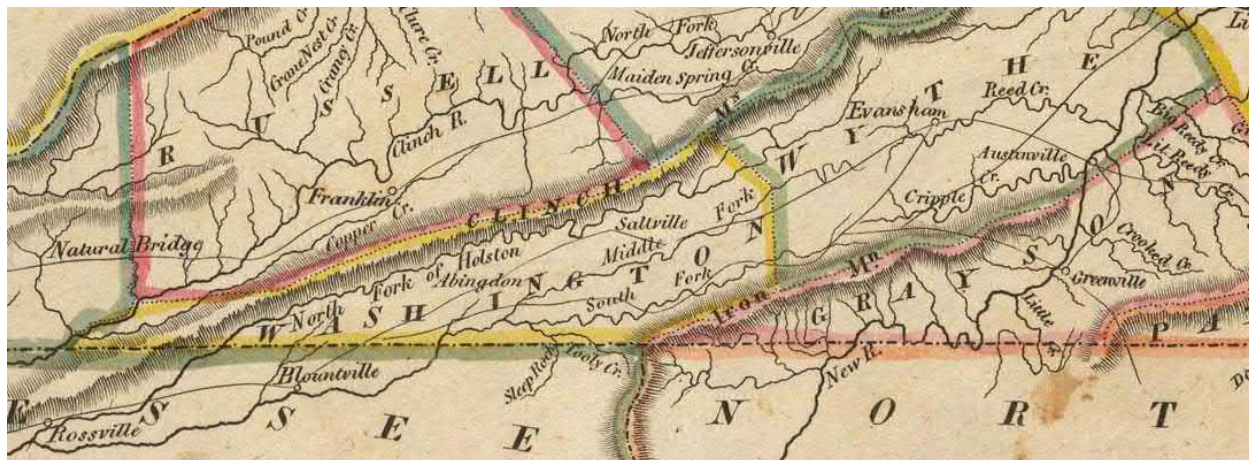
- 17 - Fort Patrick Henry (1776-1780's) (Long Island, Kingsport, Tennessee)
- 18 - Anderson's Blockhouse (1775? - 1790's) (Start of Wilderness Road)
- 19 - Houston's Fort (1774) (near Snowflake on Moccasin Creek)
- 20 - Joseph Black's Fort (1774-1781) (Abingdon)

Source: Fort Patrick Henry - [http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Patrick_Henry_\(1\)](http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Patrick_Henry_(1))

May 24, 1780 ~ Abraham volunteered to join Capt. Daisey's militia and headed south where he participated in the battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina on October 7, 1780.

By 1781 ~ Abraham was living on the South Fork of the Holston River. At the end of February 1781, he volunteered to serve in a militia again and participated in a battle at Weitzel's Mill in Guilford Co., North Carolina on March 6, 1781. The map excerpt below shows the South Fork of the Holston River where Abraham was living at this time. The map itself is from 1814, after other counties were formed from parts of the Washington Co. that existed in 1781.

1782 ~ Abraham was taxed for having personal property in Washington Co., VA: 1 Tithe, 1 Horse, 5



Excerpt from: A Correct Map of Virginia - Matthew Carey - 1814

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection -

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~626~50065:A-Correct-Map-of-Virginia->

Cattle. He was among those taxed in Col. William Edmondson's Precinct, which is said to have been located between the Middle and South Fork of the Holston River.

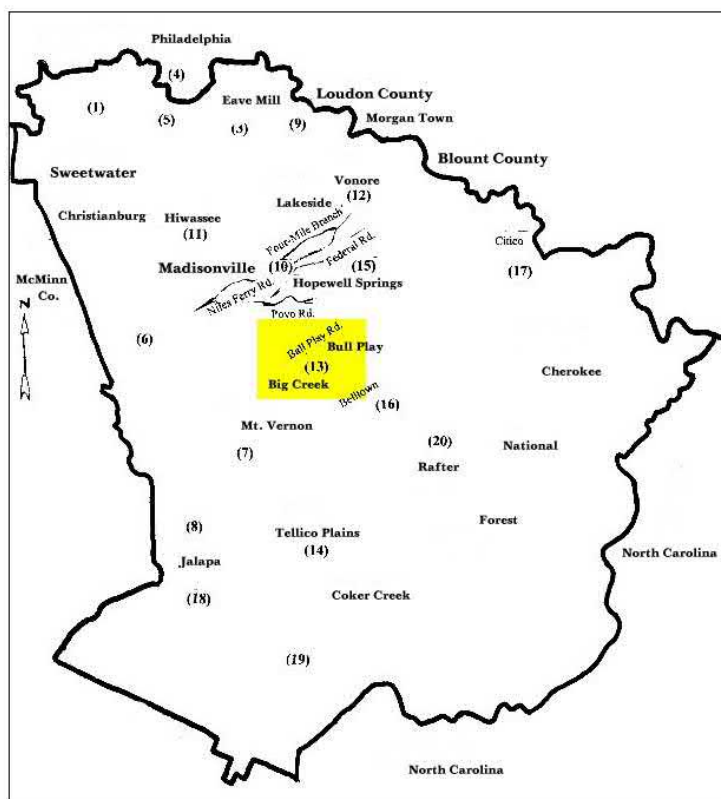
Sources: 1782 Washington County, VA Personal Property Tax List - http://www.newrivernotes.com/washington_enumerations_1782_personal_property_tax.htm

Analysis: 1782 Washington County Tax List. Geographic Distribution http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Analysis:1782_Washington_County_Tax_List._Geographic_Distribution

At present, it is not known exactly what part of Monroe Co. the 98th Regiment covered. However, the 1836 Monroe Co., TN tax list indicates that Abraham Reed owned 145 acres in that county's 13th District. That district has been described as being a section on the south side of Madisonville, from Ball Play Road toward Big Creek.

[I consulted Rev. Von W. Unruh, Archives & History division of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN. Records available to him indicated that likely Rev. Enoch M. Moore, the minister who vouched for Abraham at his pension hearing, was a local pastor in Monroe Co. serving a church there—not a circuit rider as many Methodist clergy were on the frontier in that period. Rev. Unruh also noted that Moore was a strong anti-slavery advocate. One can wonder, was Abraham also a Methodist? Was he also opposed to slavery? Unfortunately, Rev. Unruh did not find an obituary for Rev. Moore.]

MONROE CO. TN DISTRICTS



Approximate District 13 (emphasis mine) - Monroe County
 TNGen Web Project - <http://www.tngenet.org/monroe/modist.htm>

Sources: The History of Henry Co., Iowa [p. 403] -

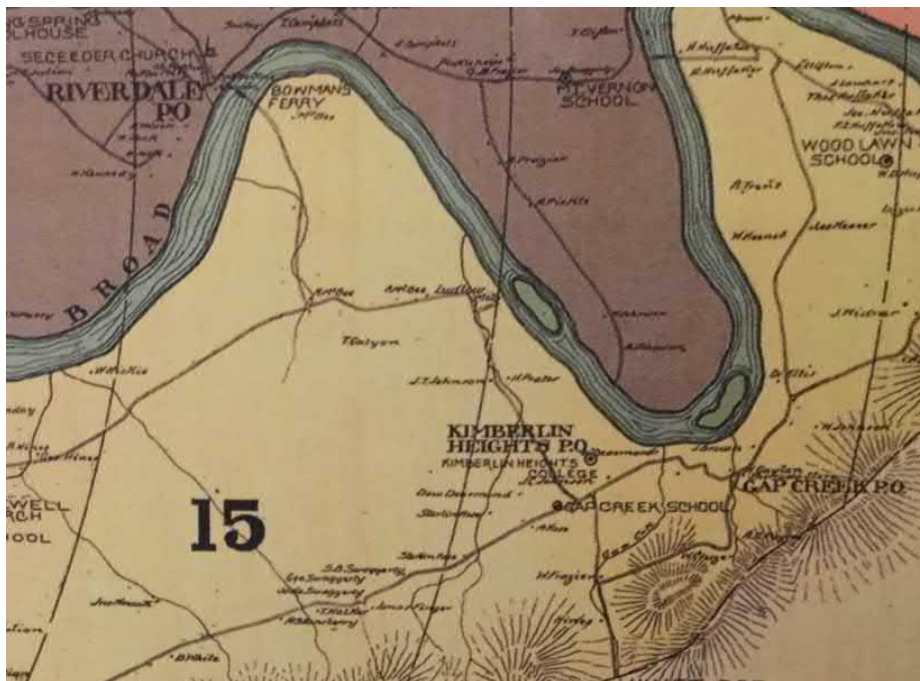
<https://books.google.com/books?id=6PcZP7kLyYEC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false>
 1850 U.S. Census, Dwelling/Family No. 798, Jefferson Twp, Henry Co., Iowa - Enoch M. Moore, age 63,
 clergyman M.E.C., b: Virginia

Abraham's Land in What Became Knox Co.,TN

1783 and later

In 1783, the state of North Carolina sought to raise revenue by selling nearly all its property in the remote western lands beyond the Appalachian mountains. By May of 1784, about 4 million acres of that land were sold. The NC legislation that allowed that sell-off has since been sarcastically referred to as the "Land Grab Act." At present, it is not known if **Abraham Reed** purchased any of that western land from NC.

Abraham Reed moved to the Knoxville area about 1783, after living in Washington Co., VA. At that time, Knoxville did not yet exist. The late George T. Reed of Newark, Delaware, believed that when Abraham came to that area, he took up land in what is now known as **Kimberlin Heights**. That land is on the south shore of the French Broad River. Today it is part of South Knoxville and roughly 12 miles southeast of downtown Knoxville.



Section of Map of Knox Co., Tennessee, 1895, Coffee and Pill
Roughly two miles between the Heights and Riverdale on the south bank of the River

The community at Kimberlin Heights is said to have been founded about 1786. In 1787, Revolutionary War soldier Jacob Kimberlin discovered lead deposits in that area which were then mined. That community was long known as Gap Creek. In 1887 its name was changed to Kimberlin Heights.

→ **NOTE:** It is not known, at present, what source led George Reed to believe that Abraham settled in this area when he came to the Knoxville area. A likely possibility is that George believed that Abraham Reed had some family connection to Jeremiah Reed and his Reed relatives who were early settlers in this same general area. Here is what researcher and former

Knoxville resident Amy Martin wrote me in 2016:

“I’m wondering if your Jacob [son of Abraham Reed] could be the son of Jeremiah and Sarah HINES KIMBERLIN REED. Jacob Kimberlin was Sarah’s first husband. He was a prosperous and well-known land holder and Rev War vet. The early Reeds appear to have owned most of the south slope of Bays Mtn. in Sevier Co. just over the Knox Co. line from Jacob Kimberlin’s holdings on the French Broad in Knox. Widow Sarah married Jeremiah in 1797, so if your Jacob Reed was himself married in 1812, he’d be very young if he IS their son. So, anyway, that’s one theory. The REEDS were a prominent family . . .”

Clearly, according to Abraham Reed’s pension document, in about 1783 he settled somewhere in the area of what became the city of Knoxville. However, at the time of this writing, absolutely no family connection has been found, that I know of, between Jeremiah Reed’s relatives and Abraham Reed. Thus, the idea that Abraham settled in the Kimberlin Heights area may not be accurate. Still, there is a definite possibility Abraham settled there or somewhere else south of the French Broad River when he first came to the Knoxville area. Also, we do know that later on, in 1809, Abraham did obtain a grant to land on Knob Creek, which is in that south of the French Broad River area. Thus, here I will continue to look at the history of settlements in that south area.

A 2003 report by the Knoxville Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission has helpful historical information about the Euro-American settlement of the Riverdale and Kimberlin areas of today’s Knox county. That report, which is entitled “The French Broad River Corridor Study,” contains the following description [p. 24]:

HISTORY OF SETTLEMENT

The first settlers of east Knox County migrated over the Appalachians from the Carolinas or followed the path of the rivers from the Shenandoah Valley. This area was still part of North Carolina when settlement began in the 1780s. Many of the early settlers were motivated by the “Land Grab Act” of 1783, a piece of North Carolina legislation that was enacted to sell the state’s western lands to produce revenue. William Blount, then in the North Carolina congress, was instrumental in creating the act, resulting in the sale of millions of acres in the Tennessee Valley.

*Speculators “grabbed” the opportunity to purchase land. James White, Francis Alexander Ramsey, Robert Love and James Connor were among these early speculators. They surveyed and purchased land **between the Holston and French Broad Rivers** [emphasis mine, in other words on the north shore of the French Broad River] in 1785, and by the late 1780s, had formed frontier settlements near the lower French Broad. They looked to the area between the rivers, in part, because there were no native claims there, making it safer and less likely to suffer attacks. Native settlements along this section of the French Broad had been abandoned by this time, likely as a result of diseases introduced through early European explorations.*

(Note: White’s original home site is off Thorn Grove Pike. He purchased several thousand additional acres in what became Knox County, including the plateau above First Creek, a site

where he established a fortified home in 1786 that led to the creation of Knoxville.)

Although Indian attacks were less likely in the Forks of the River, the rapid migration of the pioneers to the area caused resentment among the remaining Native People. Settlers in the greater region occasionally had to defend their property and families. A technique of defense was to cluster settlements together and use the strongest cabin, referred to as a "station," for shelter and safety. Stations were usually spaced a day's journey (roughly ten miles) apart. Two stations along the French Broad were Greene's and Manifold's stations. Greene's station, established in 1786, was in the Riverdale area on the south bank of the French Broad. Early settlers in this vicinity were Reverend James Kennedy, Alexander Campbell, John McNutt; their names are still associated with historic homes.

If **Abraham** did settle on the south shore of the French Broad River in this period as George T. Reed maintained, he likely was opening himself to a greater risk of Indian attacks and more difficulty in securing a clear title to his land.

The land south of the French Broad River had long been an Indian hunting ground. A path through its length, known as the Great Indian Warpath, had also been a route for trade with northern tribes. By 1782, Euro-Americans were already settling on that land, much to the dislike of the Native Americans who had long used it. About 1783 the Governor of North Carolina warned settlers to leave that land and he indicated he might even send troops to force them off it. But, the settlers kept coming.

Sources: George T. Reed Post on Abraham Reed, 2002 -

<http://boards.ancestry.com/localities.northam.usa.states.tennessee.counties.greene/3830.1/mb.ashx>

A Place in History: University's Founder Helps Establish Kimberlin Heights -

<http://archive.knoxnews.com/entertainment/life/a-place-in-history-universitys-founder-helps-establish-kimberlin-heights-ep-359645022-356447191.html>

The French Broad River Corridor Study, 2000, p.24 -

<http://archive.knoxmpc.org/plans/corridor/FrenchBroadRiverCorridorStudyScreen.pdf>

Knox - Early Forts and Stations - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tnknox/Forts.html>

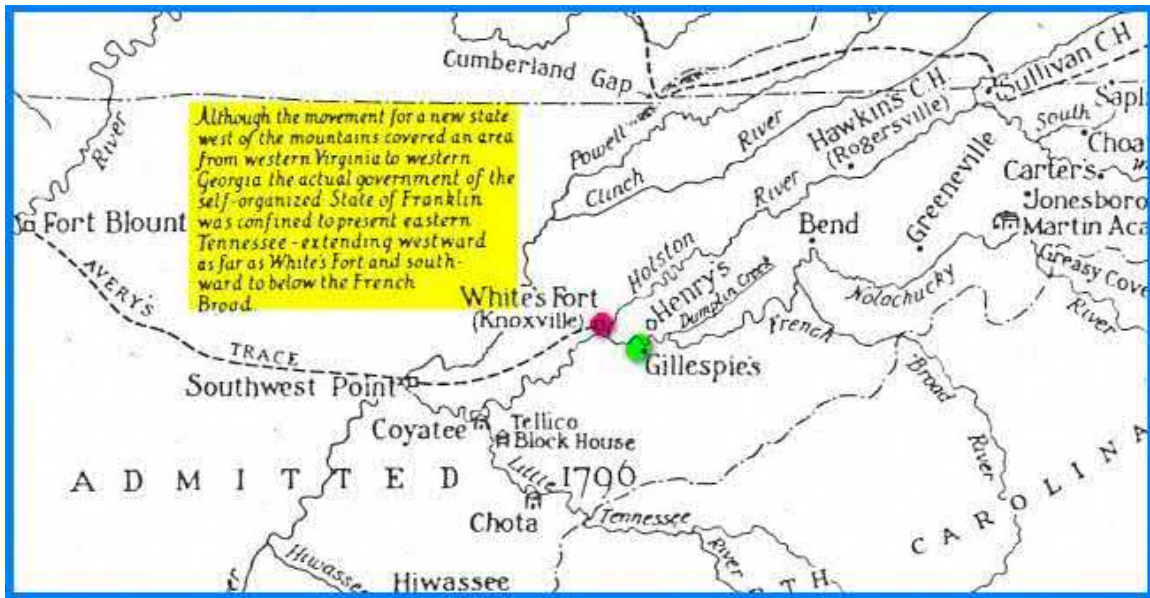
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829, by Cherel Bolin Henderson, Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

1784

In April of this year, North Carolina ceded most of the western lands beyond the Appalachian mountains it owned to the federal government, particularly so NC no longer had responsibility for protecting the people who settled in those remote areas. But then, NC rescinded that act. Those actions led many settlers in those western lands to want to form their own state, in part to ensure their own protection, though some settlers continued to maintain their loyalty to North Carolina.

1784-1789

Through the initiative of some settlers in those western lands, the **State of Franklin** came into being in 1784. That state declared itself independent of North Carolina and the Kings Mountain battle hero Col. John Sevier was elected to serve as its governor. It was the hope of State of Franklin proponents to have it accepted as a new state of the United States. As indicated below, the government of the State of Franklin apparently defined itself as including a significant portion of what later became Knox Co., including the Knoxville and Kimberlin Heights areas.



Section from "State of Franklin and Cumberland Settlements, 1779-1796" Map
 Drawn under Supervision of Samuel Cole Williams, author of "History of The Lost State of Franklin," 1924
 My emphases: Yellow - Key Text , Red - Knoxville, Green- Approximate site of Kimberlin Heights

In 1785, the State of Franklin negotiated the **Treaty of Dumplin** with some Cherokee chiefs. That treaty gave Euro-Americans the right to the land south of the French Broad and Holston rivers. However, later that same year, the federal government negotiated a very different treaty with the Cherokees, namely, the **Treaty of Hopewell**, which intended to keep such settlers well north of the French Broad and Holston River areas.

Needless to say, the difference between those two treaties was disconcerting to those who had settled in those western lands. In October 1786, it was estimated that 400-500 families were settled south of the French Broad River. And, that number was predicted to double that same year.

In 1788, settlers south of the French Broad River were virtually at war with the Cherokees. In May of that year, a family named Kirk in that region was brutally massacred by Cherokees. In revenge, John Sevier led a group of settlers against Cherokee villages. That summer, the desire for revenge led to much bloodshed and destruction on both sides. For safety, many settlers south of the French Broad River had to abandon their farms and seek shelter in area forts that summer.



Section from Treaty Map No. 52
 Indian Land Cessions in the American Southeast
 (TenGenWeb Project)
<http://www.tngenweb.org/cessions/ilcmap54.jpg>
 My emphasis: Turquoise line - 1785 Treaty of Hopewell -
 Settlers Must Stay Above It

There was considerable rivalry in this period between North Carolina and the State of Franklin for control in those western areas they both now claimed. That was reflected in a personal feud which essentially led to the end of the State of Franklin in 1789.

That feud was between Franklin's Gov. John Sevier and Col. John Tipton who had opposed the formation of the State of Franklin. While Sevier was away from his farm, Tipton had some of Sevier's slaves arrested, because Tipton maintained that Sevier still owed taxes to North Carolina. Learning that, Sevier brought 150 militia men with him to Tipton's house on February 29, 1788. Sevier demanded his slaves back, but Tipton and some 45 supporters with him refused. A brief gun battle ensued. Sevier's forces surrounded Tipton's house, but they were routed a couple of days later when a militia group loyal to North Carolina came to help Tipton. Shortly thereafter Sevier's term as governor of the State of Franklin came to an end and interest in continuing the State of Franklin movement virtually collapsed.

Because of resistance from North Carolina, the U.S. Congress never accepted the State of Franklin into the Union. With the demise of that State in 1789, settlers south of the French Broad River had all the more reason for concern. As Cherel Bolin Henderson wrote in her very helpful article on this subject, those settlers were then "regarded by the United States government as illegal squatters on Indian hunting lands."

To put it in a nutshell: the settlers south of the French Broad River now found themselves in the unhappy situation of being caught between conflict with the Cherokees and their inability to gain legal title to their lands.

Sources: The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829, by Cherel Bolin Henderson, Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

History of the Lost State of Franklin by Samuel Cole Williams, 1924 -

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/Places/America/United_States/_Topics/history/_Texts/WILLSF/home.html

State of Franklin and Cumberland Settlements 1788-1796, Samuel Cole Williams -

<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~allensofwhiteoak/maps/images/franklin%20%282%29.jpg>

On This Day State of Franklin Declares Independence from North Carolina -

<http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/on-this-day/July-August-08/On-this-Day--State-of-Franklin-Declares-Independence-from-North-Carolina.html>

In Search of the State of Franklin - http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/places/state_of_franklin

The Treaty of Dumplin Creek - <http://loststate.weebly.com/treaty-of-dumplin-creek.html>

The Treaty of Hopewell - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Hopewell

John Sevier - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sevier

John Tipton (Tennessee) - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Tipton_\(Tennessee\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Tipton_(Tennessee))

Is there any mention of **Abraham Reed** in the records of the State of Franklin? At this point, I'm not aware that he appears in such records—as few and as scattered in different archives as they are.

Cherel Bolin Henderson transcribed the signatures on thirteen petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from inhabitants south of the French Broad River from 1784-1789. It is not assumed that petition signers necessarily were or had been supporters of the State of Franklin movement. Abraham's name does not appear on any of those petitions. Reed names that do appear on two of those petitions

are as follows:

William Read - Living South of French Broad River on the frontiers of Green Co. - November-December 1788 [p. 217]

Alexander Reed - Memorial of the Inhabitants So of French Broad - November-December 1789 [p. 224]

Source: Petitions to the North Carolina General Assembly from Inhabitants South of the French Broad, by Chere Bolin Henderson, Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

Sandra (Nipper) Ratledge transcribed names of residents who, in a 1787 petition to North Carolina, sought release from all obligations to North Carolina. The signers were supporters of the State of Franklin. Abraham's name does not appear on that petition. The one Reed/Read/Reid whose name does appear on it was:

Soloman Reed - North Carolina State Records, Vol. 22, pp. 795-714.

Source: State of Franklin Petitioners 1787 by Sand (Nipper) Ratledge - <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~snipper/wau/petitioners.html>

1783-1791

The founding of **Knoxville** itself is traced back to Revolutionary War veteran **James White**. In 1783 he led an expedition into the upper Tennessee Valley, during which he discovered the future site of Knoxville. Taking advantage of North Carolina's 1783 land sale act, White secured a 1,000 acre land grant for that area.

In 1784, James White was elected to the Senate of the short-lived State of Franklin. The following year, in 1785, White built a simple cabin to live in on the north bank of the French Broad River—in today's Riverdale section of Knox county. Greene's Station was built across from it on the south bank of that river. In 1786, White moved farther west on his land grant and built White's Fort on a hill which overlooked the junction of the Tennessee River and First Creek.

In 1789, North Carolina again gave its western lands to the federal government. That ceded land was called the Territory South of the River Ohio, but was better known as the Southwest Territory.

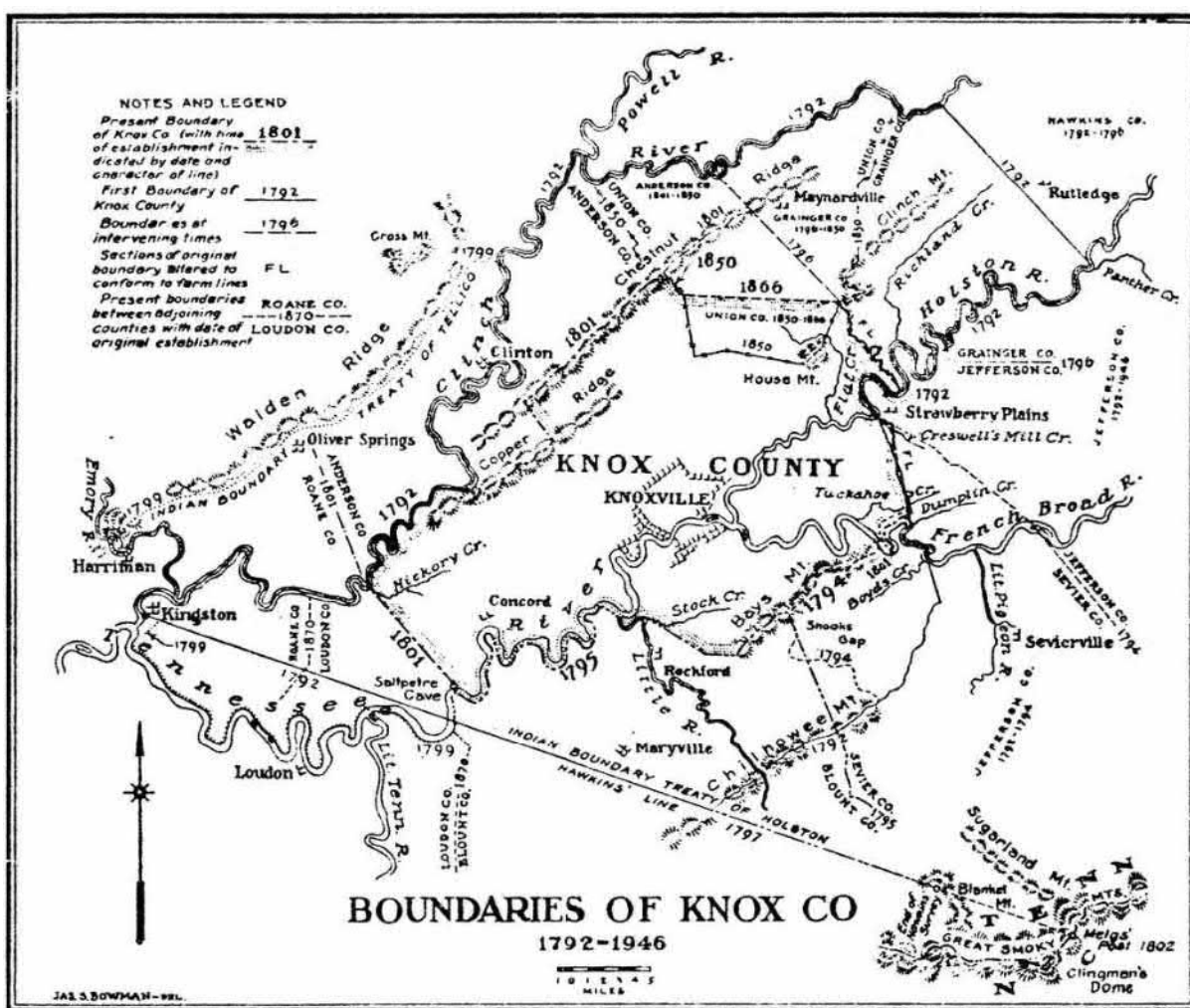
In 1791 the town of **Knoxville** was established on James White's land where his fort was. White provided parcels of his land there for the development of that town. Also that year, the **Treaty of Holston** between the Cherokees and the U.S. was signed. Among its provisions, the Cherokee gave up their right to much of the land south of the French Broad River. Settlers there received the right of first refusal (pre-emption right), but were not provided a way to secure a title for their land there.

Sources: History of Knoxville, Tennessee - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Knoxville,_Tennessee
 James White (general) - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_White_\(general\)#cite_note-rothrock-3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_White_(general)#cite_note-rothrock-3)
 The History of James White's Fort - <https://www.jameswhitesfort.org/about/>
 Knox - Early Forts and Stations - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tnknox/Forts.html>
 Treaty of Holston - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Holston
 Treaty of Holston map (Tennessee4me) - http://www.tn4me.org/tpsapage.cfm/sa_id/11/era_id/2

1792-1793

After the establishment of Knoxville, **Knox County** was created in 1792. As Pollyanna Creekmore wrote,

“Knox County was one of the first two counties created by the territorial government at Knoxville, on June 11, 1792. The land was taken from Hawkins and Greene counties. In 1795 Blount County was taken from Knox; and in 1796 Grainger County was taken from Knox and Hawkins; in 1801 Roane County was cut off; and in the same year Anderson County was created from Knox and Grainger counties. . . Upon its creation Knox County was a part of Washington District, but on March 12, 1793, along with Jefferson County, it was made a part of the newly-created Hamilton District.”



It should be noted that in 1889-1890, the Holston River northeast of Knoxville was renamed the Tennessee River.

Source: East Tennessee Historical Publication, no. 26, pp. 66-67 [map and Creekmore text]

1796

On June 1 of this year, Tennessee became the 16th state of the Union. It was formed from the Southwest Territory land ceded by North Carolina to the federal government in 1789. Tennessee's First Constitution contained the following provision. People in that named region were considered land owners in the state with the right to vote and hold office, but they still were not able to secure titles for their land.

Section 31st: That the people residing south of French Broad and Holston, between the rivers Tennessee and the Big Pigeon, are entitled to the right of preemption and occupancy of that tract.

Source: Tennessee Law The Early Days TNGenWeb Project - <http://www.tngenweb.org/law/constitution1796.html>

1797-1798

A dispute arose over the exact location of the southern boundary established by the 1791 Holston Treaty. According to the federal government, some settlers were living below that southern boundary line on land which that treaty had designated for the Cherokees. In 1797 the federal government forced settlers to stop living on that disputed land. But then in 1798, the **Treaty of Tellico** made with the Cherokees gave that disputed southern land [as well as a swath of land west and north of Knoxville] to the settlers.

Source: Treaty of Tellico - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Tellico
Treaty of Tellico map (Tennessee4me) - http://www.tn4me.org/tpsapage.cfm/sa_id/11/era_id/2

1806

In 1806, North Carolina, Tennessee, and the federal government finally came to an agreement by which settlers south of the French Broad River could finally secure titles to their land from Tennessee. This was the first time Tennessee itself was allowed to grant any land titles. Some people, including **Abraham Reed**, may have been living on south of the French Broad River land for decades without being able to secure a title to it. The U.S. Congress bill authorizing this was called the Compact of 1806. It was passed on April 18, 1806.

The Compact of 1806 also included provisions for Tennessee to set aside two tracts of land of 100,000 acres each. The money raised from the sale of land in one of those tracts was to support the establishment of two colleges in TN. The money raised from the sale of land in the other tract was to support an academy in each county of TN. Those tracts were set aside on the land south of the French Broad River and settlers there were expected to pay for it at the rate of \$1 per acre, which those settlers considered a much too high, unfair rate and particularly considering all the hardships they had suffered over the years on that long disputed land.

In fact, the controversy over this land's expense continued for many years as settlers complained and often failed to make their required land payments and legislators went back to the "drawing board" again and again, creating new laws related to the sale and purchase of this land. All the while, the issue hung like a dark cloud over many of those settlers and also the colleges and academies that expected to benefit from the proceeds received from that land. As Cherel Bolin Henderson wrote [p. 204],

“For most of the French Broad settlers, failure to make payments on the land sprang not from obstinate refusal but from an inability to pay. They simply did not have the money; those who could pay, did.”

This concern regarding that land and its proceeds would not finally be resolved while **Abraham Reed** lived in Knox Co. He left in about 1825 to live in Monroe County, TN. In fact, this concern would not be finally resolved until **1829**.

Source: A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 - 1875
Annals of Congress, 9th Congress, 1st Session [1262-1265] -
<https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llac&fileName=015/llac015.db&recNum=627>
The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829, by Cherele Bolin Henderson, Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

Abraham's Known Land in Knox Co., TN

1803-1804

Abraham Reed does **not** appear in the Knox Co., TN tax lists of 1803 and 1804 that have survived. The Reeds who do appear in those lists are as follows:

1803 Knox Co. Tax Lists:

Solomon Reed - no acres listed [Capt. Green]

Jacob Reed - no acres listed [Capt. Green]

1804 Knox Co. Tax Lists [slaves between the ages of 12 and 50]:

Solomon Reed - 100 acres, Stock Creek [Capt. Haslet]

Jacob Reed - 100 acres, Stock Creek [Capt. Haslet]

Thomas Reed - 210 acres, bever Creek, 1 white person, 1 black person [Capt. Childs]

However, Abraham was subject to a possible land related charge of £ 0.9.0 on September 26, 1804, which he paid with cash on January 17, 1805. He is listed as being “3 miles south [--- e ?] Holston.” This record appears in an 1803-1805 account book [image 137] in the back section of a microfilm entitled “Series 05: Board of Commissions Office Files > 1817-1845,” which appears in the Ancestry.com database on Tennessee, Early Land Registers, 1778-1927.



Source: 1803-1805 account book, Series 05: Board of Commissions Office Files > 1817-1845 -
http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=KsE6&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=LandRecordsTNNC&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsln=Reed&gsln_x=0&MSAV=1&uidh=bi1&pcat=36&fh=19&h=245255&recoff=5&ml_rpos=20

1805

This Knox Co., TN tax list does not seem to have survived.

1806**1806 Knox Co. Tax Lists [poll tax on white persons & servants age 21-50]:**

Solomon Reed - 100 acres, 1 Poll tax [Capt. Haslet]

Jacob Reed 50 acres, 1 Poll tax [Capt. Haslet]

Jeremiah Reed - 450 acres, 1 Poll tax [Capt. Haslet]

Thomas Reed - 210 acres, 1 Poll tax, 3 slaves [Capt. Chiles]

Henry Reed - 1 Poll tax [Capt. Booth]

Abraham Reed - 244 acres, **no** Poll tax [Capt. Tipton]

This year's tax list includes Abraham Reed. It also shows that Abraham was likely the oldest Reed owning land in Knox Co. at that time. Born in August 1755, as noted in his 1832-1833 Pension application/amendment, Abraham was just over the maximum age of 50 for paying that poll tax in 1806. The other five Reeds mentioned in 1806 in that list were all age 21 to 50. The act of 1797 in Tennessee set those age limits for owing poll taxes. As noted earlier, 1806 was the first year that the state of Tennessee was able to grant land titles.

1807**1807 Knox Co. Tax List:**

Abraham Reed - 244 acres, no Poll tax [Capt. Tipton]

Abraham Reed was taxed on 244 acres of land in Capt. Tipton's district in the the tax lists of 1806-1807. Presumably that is the same parcel of land being taxed in each of those two years. Where was that land?

Apparently it was on Knob Creek in Knox Co. The evidence for that is an 1807 Knox Co. Land record which mentions Abraham's land. A brief transcription of that land record mentions the following:

*#360 Thomas Anderson and William Anderson-81 acres-2 rods-Knox County-on the waters of Knob Creek beginning on a post oak on the top of a ridge corner with **Abm. Reed**, Murphy's corner- cc **Abraham Reed** and John Anderson - Surveyed April 3, 1807*

[cc = chain carrier, carried 66 foot lengths of chain for measuring from stake to stake]

Source: Territory South of French Broad – Land Grants -

<http://www.gwingenealogy.net/GENEALOGY/TENNESSEE/TNeastLandGrants.htm>

1808**1808 Knox Co. Tax List:**

Abraham Read - 324 acres, no Poll tax [Capt. Tipton]

Abraham apparently has acquired an additional **80 acres** this year, presumably near his Knob Creek property as this additional acreage is still within the district of Capt. Tipton for tax purposes.

Anderson's 81.50 acre land grant on Knob Creek in 1807:

“ . . . beginning on a post oak on the top of a ridge corner with Abrm. Reed . . . ”

This seems to be further evidence that the 163.25 acres of land granted Abraham in 1809 was a section of the same land Abraham had already been taxed on in Capt. Tipton's district in 1806-1808.

Why did Abraham have fewer acres of land on Knob Creek now—as compared, for example, to the 324 acres of land he was taxed on the previous year, in 1808? Perhaps the difference now was that after years of not being able to receive a perfect Tennessee title to the Knob Creek land he occupied, he was now able to secure one. However, in securing that title he now had to pay \$1/acre for that land, in addition to paying the yearly taxes on it. Therefore, in 1809, perhaps he sought a grant for only as much acreage of that land as he thought he could realistically afford to purchase?

As Abraham's 1809 grant for 163.25 acres of Knob Creek land indicates, that grant has been made possible by a November 23, 1809 act of the General Assembly of Tennessee. There were a number of acts regarding grants for land which were passed by that General Assembly in 1809. It is not clear, at this writing, exactly which of those grants was involved in Abraham's case, in part because I could not find the exact date many of them were passed. However, here is an example of one of those 1809 acts which may have led to Abraham's land grant.

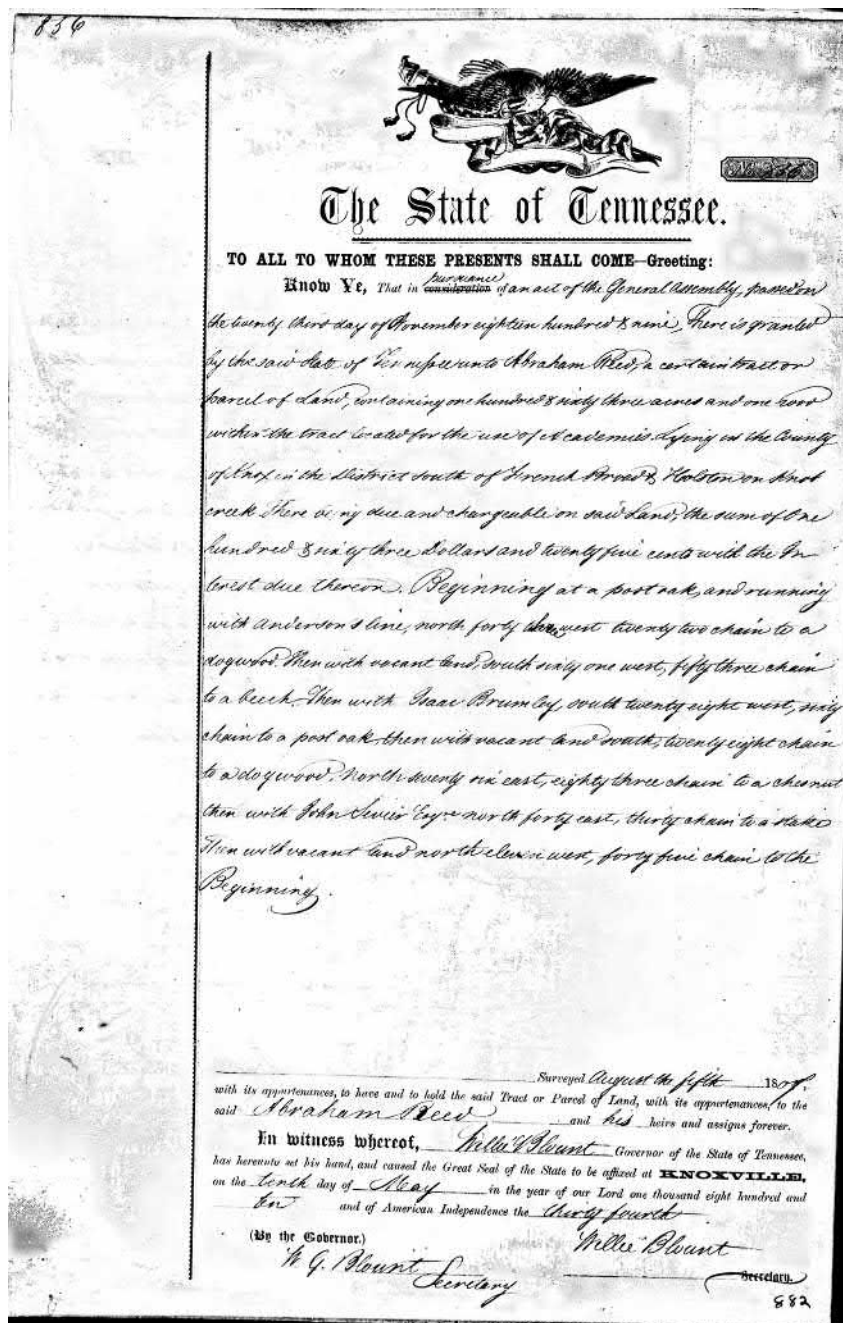
“1809 - Chapter 12 - An Act for Extending Further Indulgence to Occupants.

Section I. Be it enacted, etc., That all those persons who have by any law or laws, be entitled to an indulgence in securing, their occupant claims, be allowed the further term of two years from and after the third day of December next, to procure warrants to secure their titles, and obtain their grants for such lands as they may have had surveyed, and returned to the surveyor's offices under the authority of any former law or laws.

Sec. 2. Where any person has settled down, and was in actual possession on or before the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and nine, on vacant and unappropriated land, and where no person has entered the same by virtue of a good and valid warrant, previous to the passage of this act, the said person in possession, shall be allowed the further time of twelve months, from and after the passing of this act, to survey the same, including said improvement, of not less than one hundred acres, nor more than three hundred acres; and he or they shall file plats of survey agreeably to the directions of the thirty-sixth section of the land law, passed at Knoxville, the third day of December, one thousand eight hundred and seven, and shall be allowed until the third Monday in September, one thousand eight hundred eleven, to obtain warrants for the land so settled, and to be surveyed; at the expiration of which time it shall be the duty of the registers to make out grants by virtue of such entry and survey, made on a good valid warrant or certificate, as in other cases.”

Source: The Land Laws of Tennessee by Henry D. Whitney, 1891, 166-173 -

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Land_Laws_of_Tennessee.html?id=I7kZAAAAYAAJ



Abraham Reed's 1809 Land Grant - 163.25 acres, Knob Creek, Knox Co., TN

Source: North Carolina and Tennessee, Early Land Records, 1753-1931 - East Tennessee Land Grants Roll 56:

Book 1 [image 891 of 911] -

http://interactive.ancestry.com/2882/33118_290641-00894?pid=186031&backurl=http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv%3D1%26db%3DTNCLandRecordc%26h%3D186031%26tid%3D%26pid%3D%26usePUB%3Dtrue%26_phsrc%3DiDA4%26_phstart%3DsuccessSource%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue%26rhSource%3D3658&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=iDA4%26_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true

Abraham's 1809 grant [previous page] indicates that his 163.25 acre plot was surveyed on August 5 of 1807, the same year the adjoining Anderson property was surveyed with Abraham's help. Presumably, in having his land surveyed before that November 23, 1809 act, Abraham was anticipating the day when he finally would be able to secure a valid title to this Knob Creek land.

In 1809, when this land grant was granted, **Abraham** would have been about age 54. His daughter **Elizabeth** would have been about age 23 and married to Thornbury Elledge. Son **Jacob** would have been about 18, son **Abraham (Jr.)** about age 14 and son **Isaac** about age 13. The age of likely son **Thomas** at this point cannot be determined. All four sons apparently were unmarried in 1809. And, quite possibly Abraham had additional children at that point.



Bing map of the Knoxville area

The red line marks the approximate location of Knob Creek
Marble Springs is the portion of Gov. Sevier's land, which is an historic site today.

Abraham Reed's 163.25 acres on Knob Creek was bordered by land owned by John Sevier Esq., Thomas Anderson and William Anderson, Isaac Brumley, and vacant lands.

John Sevier Esq. owned 355.50 acres on Stock Creek, which he lived on from 1801 until his death in 1815. However, Sevier's land adjacent to **Abraham Reed's** 163.25 acres on Knob Creek [as seen in Robert Reed's diagram on a previous page] apparently was a different plot of land Sevier owned. Among Sevier's many accomplishments, he was one of the founders of the state of Tennessee. He was the first governor of Tennessee, serving in 1796 to 1801 and again in 1803 to 1809. He had been a commander of militia groups and, like Abraham, Sevier had participated in the Kings Mountain battle in 1780.

Sevier's farm, which he called Marble Springs, is now maintained by the state of Tennessee as a 35 acre state historic site.



John Sevier - 1792
Charles Wilson Peale
Wikimedia Commons

I have found two likely connections between John Sevier and Abraham Reed's family.

1. In his diary, John Sevier noted the following on Tuesday, May 30, 1815:

"Memo. Abraham Reed lost one day going to town to see after his discharge."

I assume the above reference was to **Abraham Reed's** likely son, **Abram/Abraham (Jr.)**, who was b. abt 1795 in TN and discharged on April 27, 1815 from serving in a TN militia group during the War of 1812. The way Sevier's diary entry is written, it makes me wonder if what Abram/Abraham (Jr.) lost was a day of working on Sevier's estate, which was then adjacent to the 163.25 acres of land Abraham Reed (Sr.) was granted in 1809.

2. Robert Sevier was a bondsman for the 1812 marriage of Abraham Reed's son **Jacob**, when he married **Esther Hollis** [my ancestors] in Knox Co., TN. It seems likely that Robert Sevier was John Sevier's youngest son, whose mother was John's second wife, Catherine Sherrill (1754- 1836). Robert was the namesake of John's brother Robert who died at the battle of Kings Mountain in 1780. John's son Robert is thought to have been born about 1794 in Plum Grove, Washington Co., TN. He may have married a Pruett (Prewitt) and died after 1855 in Arkansas.

Sources: John Sevier - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sevier
Marble Springs State Historic Site - [http://www.marblesprings.net/Tennessee Historical Magazine, Vol. 6., No. 1, April 1920, p. 57 - https://archive.org/details/tennesseehistori06dewi](http://www.marblesprings.net/Tennessee_Historical_Magazine,_Vol._6.,_No._1,_April_1920,_p._57_-_https://archive.org/details/tennesseehistori06dewi)
Life of General John Sevier by Turner, 1910 - <https://archive.org/details/lifegenjohnsevier00turnrich>
Joe Payne's Genealogy Page [see 91] - <http://joepayne.org/geneybeney/sevier.htm#RobertJohn>

1810

1810 Knox Co. Tax List:

Abraham Reed - 163.25 acres, no Poll tax [Capt. Tipton]

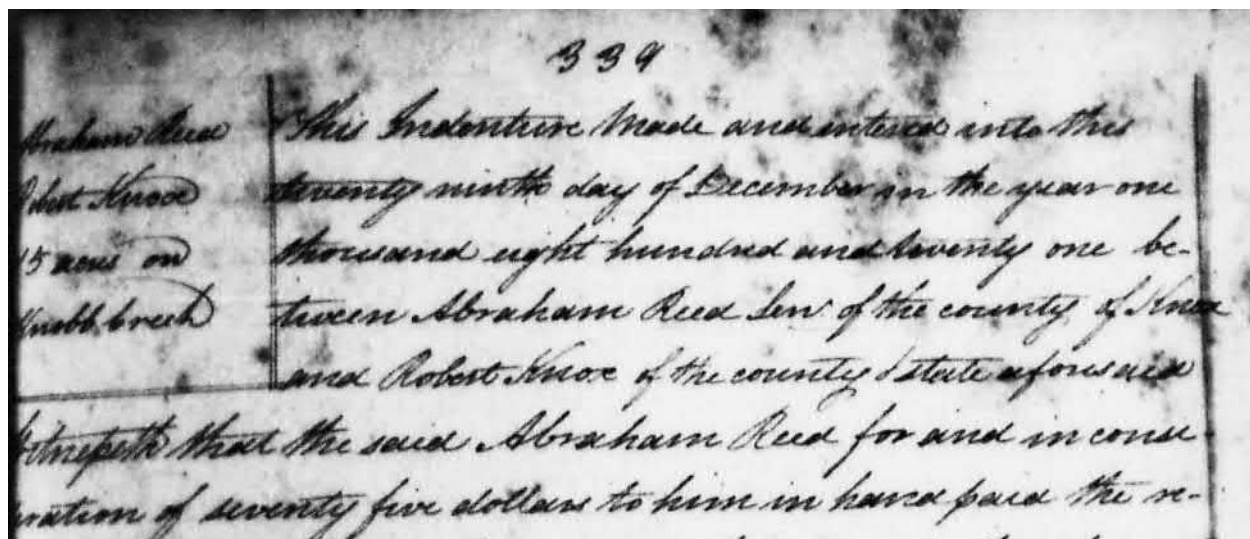
This year Abraham was taxed again on the land he received in the 1809 grant.

1821

On December 29, 1821, Abraham Reed Sen. sold about 15 acres of land on Knob Creek to Robert Knox for \$75 in hand. See a portion of that deed on the next page. The land being sold was described as follows in the deed:

"... Beginning at a post oak marked at a corner to sd. Reeds tract being near Reeds field on a ridge running thence north sixty one east twenty eight chains to a hickory

thence north eighty one east to a black oak marked in presence of Thornberry Ellidge thence (distance & courses not known) to an old fallen chestnut stump and sprout growing from it marked in presence of said Elledge thence to a chestnut oak a westwardly course marked formerly by Thomas Anderson and Abraham Reed thence to a large forked chestnut oak on said Reeds line thence to the Beginning with Reeds line be the same more or less . . .”



Abraham Reed's 1821 Sale of about 15 Acres to Robert Knox - Knob Creek, Knox Co., TN

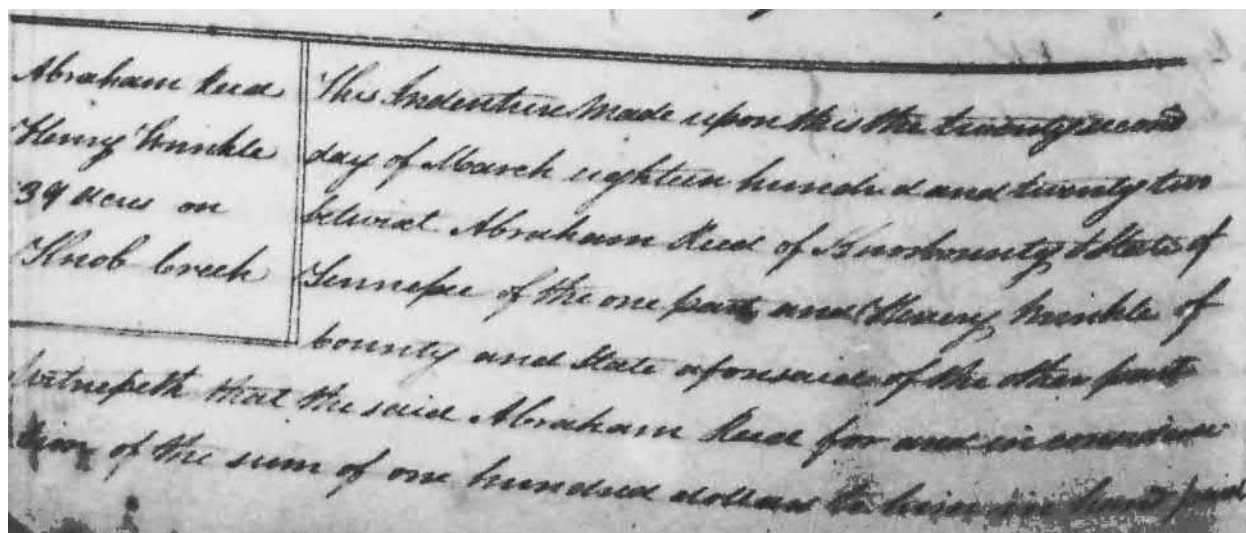
Source: Knox Co., TN - Deed Book S1, 339, Deed Date: Dec 29, 1821

Note that Abraham's son-in-law, Thornberry Elledge, is mentioned in this legal document. Also, note the reference to Abraham as "Sen." That is more evidence he likely had a son **Abraham**.

1822

On March 18 of this year, Abraham Reed divided his original 163.25 acres of land on Knob Creek by selling about 39 acres of it to Henry Wrinkle for \$100 in hand. See a portion of that deed on the next page. That deed indicates the following but does not specify the actual boundaries of those 39 acres within Abraham's 163.25 acre plot.

"... it being a part of tract of land containing one hundred sixty three acres and one rood lying on the waters of Knob Creek this part of the the original survey was formerly in the possession of Thornberry Ellege [Elledge, a son-in-law of Abraham] and to be divided according to a conditional line made between said Ellege & Reed that is the whole part formerly in the possession of Ellege to have and to hold the said thirty-nine acres of land be the same more or less unto the said Henry Wrinkle . . .



Abraham Reed's 1822 Sale of about 39 acres to Henry Wrinkle - Knob Creek, Knox Co., TN

Source: Knox Co., TN - Deed Book S1, 400, Deed Date: Mar 22, 1822

1824-1831

An early Tennessee land register account book, identified in a microfilmed record series as "Series 01, Account Books, 1824-1831," shows the following Academy land listing for Abraham Reed, image 27 of 41. I thank Robert Reed for finding it. This listing means the following:

Person: Abraham Reed | Acres of Land: 163 | Partial Acres: 1 rood = 1/4 acre |
| Installments Due = 4 | Principal = \$77.19 |

Reed Abraham	163	1.	4	77.19
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On that same page, it appears that the average number of installments due for the purchase of academy lands was a little more than five installments. So, Abraham was a bit ahead of the average. One person even had 11 installments due.

Source: http://interactive.ancestry.com/3658/41659_290542-00069?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fsearch%2fdb.aspx%3fdbid%3d3658%26path%3d&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnBrowsing?#?imageId=41659_290542-00095

1825

About this year, Abraham Reed Sr. left Knox Co. and moved to Monroe Co., TN. At this writing, I do not know what happened to the portion of Abraham's 163.25 acres on Knob Creek which remained in his possession after his 1822 sale to Henry Wrinkle. Nor do I know about any land purchases Abraham may have made during his time in Monroe Co., TN, where he died in 1839.

1832-1840

An early Tennessee land register identified in a microfilmed record series as "Series 09, South of the French Broad and Holston, 1832-1840" shows the following land listing for Abraham Reed, page 38, image 21 of 34. The list identifies purchasers of land in that south of the French Broad and Holston rivers area. I thank Robert Reed for finding this document. This listing means the following:

Person: Abraham Reed | Acres of Land: 163 | Partial Acres: 1 rood = 1/4 acre |
| Academy land | Knox County |

Reed, Abraham 163 | 1/4 | same | Knox ||

Source: http://interactive.ancestry.com/3658/41659_290536-00380?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fsearch%2fdb.aspx%3fdbid%3d3658%26path%3d&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnBrowsing#:imageId=41659_290536-00400

1829

At that time the Legislature of Tennessee passed the following act:

“An Act to Settle a Controversy Between the Colleges and Academies and the Citizens South of French Broad and Holston, and west of Big Pigeon rivers.

Whereas a controversy has existed for many years between the colleges and academies in this state, and the citizens residing south of French Broad and Holston, and west of Big Pigeon rivers, in regard to large sums of money claimed by said colleges and academies, to be due and owing from said citizens: And whereas the subject matter of said controversy has frequently been brought before the legislature of this state, to the great detriment of other business; and also, has been productive of much expense and perplexity in the examination thereof; and for the purpose of producing harmony and quiet between a respectable portion of the citizens of this state, and the literary institutions therein, and for the purpose of avoiding all future legislation respecting said subject . . .

[My summary: In exchange for a one-half township tract of land south of the Hiwassee River, to be chosen by the state’s Governor, and granted to the colleges of East Tennessee and Nashville, to be used by them for their benefit in any way they deem proper]

. . . the trustees of the aforesaid institutions, in their legal capacity, shall make, sign, seal and deliver unto the secretary of state, such a deed in writing as will forever acquit, discharge and release the citizens residing south of French Broad and Holston, and west of Big Pigeon rivers, from all judgments, debts, dues, demands, claims, rents, issues, profits or suits of any kind, character or description whatsoever, either in law or equity, also all rights that they may have acquired by, through or under the sale of any of the lands in said section of country . . .

Source: *The Story of the South of the French Broad Settlements, 1783-1829*, by Cherel Bolin Henderson, Tennessee Ancestors, December 2001

The Statute Laws of the State of Tennessee of a Public and General Nature, 1831, Chapter 47-1829, 138 -
https://books.google.com/books?id=jhhOAQAIAAJ&dq=discharge+and+release+the+citizens+residing+south+1829&source=gbs_navlinks_s

Abraham's Known Land in Monroe Co., TN

1836

1836 Monroe Co. Tax List:

Abraham Reed, Sr - 145 acres; 13th District. (Monroe County, TN, Tax List 493-11)

See earlier section of this paper, pages 24-25, for more information on Abraham's residence in Monroe Co., TN.

Abraham's Revolutionary War Pension Application: A Transcription by Will Graves

Courtesy of Will Graves and Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements
<http://revwarapps.org/index.htm> – <http://revwarapps.org/s4052.pdf>

Pension application of Abraham Reed
 Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 11/18/08

S4052 fn18NC [sic, VA]

State of Tennessee, Monroe County

On the 18th day of September 1832 personally appeared Abraham Reed in open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now setting, said Reed being a resident of said County of Monroe Tennessee & aged 77 years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That in the year 1777 he moved from Campbell County Virginia to Clinch River in Virginia. In 1778 (he thinks) he was drafted for one year by order of Colonel Arthur Campbell (he thinks) and marched with about 60 in Company under the command of Thomas Quirk (a Lieutenant if applicant remembers right) to the Main Army under the command of General George Washington stationed on Schuylkill [River] in Pennsylvania. The company he was in joined the 14th Virginia Regiment on its arrival at the Army. After remaining with the Army some time and being compelled to eat principally codfish and herrings, articles of food to which he was unaccustomed, and which he did not relish, he was taken with the Camp fever, and after being confined with it four or five weeks and greatly reduced, he was taken to the Yellow Spring hospital, where after being confined some time, his disease turned to the yellow jaundice; by which diseases he was not only greatly reduced, but, as he learned, he lost his reason for some time. He was confined at the hospital some months, but his memory was so much weakened by his sever illnesses which all thought would be fatal that he does not recollect what transpired as well as he should otherwise have been able to do. When he was able to march he and several others who had recovered from sickness, under ____ [blank in original] Reed marched to and joined the Army, which was stationed a considerable distance from the hospital at (as he thinks) White Plains, where he staid some length of time, and was then, if he recollects, marched to some place in New Jersey.

He went through several towns, but cannot recollect their names. He was then marched, with the Army up the North River and the Army were engaged some time (he thinks) in making batteries on the North River, and there were also floating batteries on the River. After being some time towards the last of the winter of 1778 on the North River (where he recollects seeing General Putnam once) and at some other places which he cannot recollect, there was some occasion for him to go into active service; but his knee was so affected as to render him unable to march and he was sent to a hospital where his knee leg was blistered and after some weeks he became able to walk. About this time, being in the spring of

1779, his term of service (12 months) expired, he obtained his discharge and returned home.

Applicant thinks, he was confined with sickness more than half the time for which he was drafted; which, all together with the circumstances of his mind being for some time deranged and his memory greatly weakened renders him unable to state facts as particularly as he otherwise might.

On the 24th day of May 1780 (in this date he is certain because he was planting corn and recollects asking if corn would do there so late) Applicant together with 60 or 70 other volunteered to go to the South to fight Colonel Ferguson's [sic, Major Patrick Ferguson's] Army. He was in no engagement till the battle of King's Mountain, where he fought in Captain Daisey's [Dysart?] Company (the one in which he volunteered) under the command of which of the Colonels he disremembers [sic], but he recollects that he marched up to the engagement in front between the two wings and fired either three or four rounds, and then he [illegible word, looks like "aholked" or "cholked"] his gun and went back to get another along the mountain from where the enemy had retreated. By the time he returned with a gun the enemy were stacking their arms and Ferguson was killed. His men then surrendered and we took them prisoners. After burying the killed, he marched with the Army having the prisoners under guard. Applicant drove a wagon containing the wounded for some distance, the balance of the way assisted in guarding the prisoners. To what place the prisoners were conveyed he disremembers. He then returned home. In this campaign he was engaged at least four months and three quarters.

About the last of February 1781 Applicant then living on the South fork of Holston [River] in Virginia, volunteered under what Captain he disremembers, under the command of Colonel William Campbell and was marched to General Greene's Army where he and those with him ~~joined. Before Colonel Campbell~~ expected to join. At Ramshour's Mill [see 1] Colonel Campbell with his men met with the British. Colonel Campbell having some hundred, and the British far more numerous. They met in an old field below the mill, and had a close engagement, in which applicant was engaged. In the morning of the day of this engagement Colonel Campbell came near marching his men into the line of the British, and applicant believes they were only saved by the intervention of a Company of Light Horse, belonging he supposes to General Greene's Army. When the Light horse intervened, Colonel Campbell's Army retreated, and as was said ran seven miles, and were much fatigued when the engagement in the evening came on. Applicant was not at the battle of Guilford. In this campaign applicant does not know how long he was engaged but it could not have been less than one month. (In all 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ months).

He has lost the discharge he received at the expiration of his 12 months service, and he has no documentary evidence of any of his Services and he knows of no person by whom he can prove any service by him performed.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Abraham Reed

S/ Wm. L. Callaway, Clk

[Enoch M. Moore, a clergyman, and James Mason gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of Tennessee, Monroe County

Personally appeared this 15th May 1833 before the Subscriber, an Acting Justice of the Peace for Monroe County, Tennessee, Abraham Reed, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he is the identical Abraham Reed who made the foregoing Declaration, before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions on September 18th, 1832, to which he makes the following:

Amendment

That he was born in Bedford County Virginia in August 1755. He has no record of his age, and never had one. The first time he went into service – being drafted – he lived on Clinch River in Virginia. The second time – when he volunteered he lived on Holston [River] in Virginia. He remained on Holston in Virginia one year after the battle of King's Mountain, when he moved to Knoxville, where he lived till eight years ago, when he moved to this County where he now resides. He received a discharge for the first term of service – he forgets by whom signed – which is lost. For the second term he received none.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his veracity and their belief in his services as a soldier of the Revolution – Enoch Moore – Jeremiah Jack – William Mason – James Mason & William Rogers.

Sworn to & subscribed before me the day and year above last written.

S/ Abraham Reed

S/ Preston Starrill, Justice of the Peace

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[1] Josh Howard points out that Reed's description of the events indicates that he is actually talking about the engagement at Weitzel's Mill (Wetzel's Mill, Whitsill's Mill etc.), an action between American forces led by Col. Otho Williams and British forces under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. <http://gaz.jrshelby.com/weitzell.htm>. [added 11/18/08]

1907³
East Tennessee

Abraham Reed

of Monroe in the State of Tennessee
who was a private in the company commanded
by Captain Casey of the reg^t commanded
by Col Campbell in the N. C.
line for 17 months and 23 days

Inscribed on the Roll of East Tennessee
at the rate of 59 Dollars 00 Cents per annum,
commence on the 4th day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 2 day of Aug^t
and sent to
Joseph Madisonville

Arrears to the 1st of March	118.40
Semi-ant. allowance ending 4 th Sept	29.60
	<u>\$148.00</u>

{ Revolutionary Claim, }
{ Act June 7, 1832. }

Recorded by *Dan Boyd* Clerk,
Book E. Vol. 7 Page 89

Pension Declaration
of Abraham Reed

Placed direct to
James A. Coffin
Madisonville

13.546 Monroe County
C. P. M.

v

Declaration to obtain a pension under Act of
Congress passed June 7, 1832.

State of Tennessee

Monroe County 3 On the 18th day of Septem-
ber 1832 personally appeared Abraham Reed in
open Court, before the Justices of the Court of Pleas
and Quarter Sessions now sitting, said Reed being
a resident of said County of Monroe Tennessee &
aged 77 years, who being first duly sworn ac-
cording to law, doth on his oath make the fol-
lowing declaration in order to obtain the benefit
of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

That in the year 1777 he moved from Campbell
County Va to Church view in Va. In 1778 (he
thinks) he was drafted ^{for one year} by order of Col. Arthur
Campbell, (he thinks) and marched with about 60
in company under the command of Thomas Quirk
(a Lieutenant of applicant in 1778) to
the main Army under the command of Genl. Geo.
Washington stationed on Schuylkill in Penn.
The company he was in joined the 14th Virginia
Regiment on its arrival at the Army. After
remaining with the Army some time and being
compelled to eat principally cod-fish and
herrings, articles of food to which he was un-
accustomed, and which he did not relish,
he was taken with the Camp fever, and
after being confined with it four or five weeks
and greatly reduced he was taken to the

yellow Spring hospital, where, after being confined
 sometimes his disease turned to the yellow jaundice;
 and by which disease he was not only
 greatly reduced, but, as he learned, he lost
 his reason for some time. He was confined
 at the hospital two or three ^{some} months, but his
 recovery was so much weakened by his severe illness,
 which all thought would be fatal, that he does
 not recollect what transpired as well as he
 should otherwise have been able to do. When
 he was able to march he and several others who
 had recovered from sickness, under — Reed
 marched to and joined the army, which was
 stationed a considerable distance from the hos-
 pital, at (as he thinks) White Plains, where
 he stayed some length of time, and was, then
 if he recollects, marched to ~~making~~ ^{some} place
 in New-Jersey. He went through several
 towns but cannot recollect their names. He was
 then marched, with the army up the North River
 and the army were engaged some time (he thinks)
 in making batteries on the North River, and
 there were also floating batteries on the River.
 After being some time towards the last of the
 winter of 1778 on the North River, (where he re-
 collect seeing Genl. Putnam once) and at
 some other place, ^{which} he cannot recollect, there
 was some occasion for him to go into active
 service; but his knee was so affected as to ren-
 der him unable to march, and he was sent

to a hospital where his ~~leg~~ ^{leg} was blasted and after some weeks he became able to walk. About this time, being in the spring of 1779, his term of service (12 months) expired, he obtained his discharge and returned home. Applicant thinks he was confined with sickness more than half the time for which he was drafted; which, together with the circumstance of his mind being for some time deranged, and ^{his manner} greatly ~~un~~ ^{rendered} him unable to state facts as particularly as he otherwise might.

On the 24th day of May 1780 (on this date he is certain because he was planting corn, and recollects asking if corn would do there so late) Applicant together with 60 or 70 other volunteers to go to the south to fight Col. Fergusons Army. He was in no engagement till the battle of Kings Mountain, where he fought in Capt. Saisons Company, (the one in which he volunteered) under the command of which of the Cols he does not remember, but he recollects that he marched up to the engagement in front between the two wings, and fired either three or four rounds, and then he choked his gun and went back to get another along the mountain from where the enemy had retreated. By the time he returned with a gun the enemy were stacking their arms, and Ferguson was killed.

His men then surrounded and we took them pris-
 oners. After burying the killed, he marched
 with the army, having the prisoners under guard.
 Applicant from a wagon containing the
 wounded, for some distance, the balance of
 the way assisted in guarding the prisoners.

To what place the prisoners were conveyed
 he disremembers. He then returned home.
 In this campaign he was engaged at
 least four months and three quarters -

About the last of February 1781 Applicant,
 then living on the south fork of Holston in Va.,
 volunteered, under what Captain he disremem-
 bers, under the Command of Col McCampbell,
 and was marched to Gen. Greaves Army which
 he and those with him joined. Before Col. Camp-
 bell's expected to join. At Rushover's Mill Col.
 Campbell with his men met with the British -
 Col. Campbell having some hundred, and the
 British far more numerous, they met in an
 old field below the mill, and had a close
 engagement, in which applicant was engaged.
 In the morning of the day of this engagement
 Col Campbell came near running his men
 into the hands of the British, and Applicant
 believes they were only saved by the interven-
 tion of a Company of light horse, belonging
 he supposes to Gen. Greaves Army. When the
 light horse intervened Col. Campbell's army

substituted, and as was said ran seven miles, and were much fatigued when the engagement in the morning came on. Applicant was not at the battle of Guilford. In this campaign applicant does not know how long he was engaged; but it could not have been less than one month, (in all 17th months) -

He has lost the discharge he received at the expiration of his twelve months service, and has no documentary evidence of any of his services, and he knows of no persons by whom he can prove any service by him performed. He has

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any state.

Sworn to and subscribed this day
 at New York. Abraham Reed
 M. S. Bellaway at

Oliver Brock M. Moore a Clergyman, residing in Monroe County, and James Mearns residing in Erie County hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Abraham Reed who has subscribed and sworn the above declaration; that we believe him to be be 77 years of age; that he is reputed and believed

in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been
a soldier of the Revolution, and that in answer
is that opinion.

Sworn to and subscribed this day and
year aforesaid. Enoch M. Moore

Wm. Gallaway att. J. W. Mead


And the said Court do hereby declare their
opinion, after the investigation of the matter,
and after putting the interrogatories prescribed
by the War Department, that the above ap-
plicant was a revolutionary soldier, and
sworn as he states, and the Court further
certifies, that it appears to them that Enoch
M. Moore who has signed the preceding cer-
tificate, is a clergyman, resident in the
County of Monroe Tenn. and that James Mason
who has also signed the same is a resident
in said County of Monroe, and is a credi-
ble person and that this is entitled to credit.

Thos. S. Caldwell

Wm. Bayles

William P. Patton

I, William S. Callaway, Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Monroe County do certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court, in the matter of the application of Abraham Reid for a pension.

 In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and private Seal having no seal of Office in Madisonville Sept. 18th 1832

Wm. Callaway *clerk*

State of Tennessee
Monroe County.

Personally appeared this 10th May 1833, before the undersigned, an acting Justice of the peace for Monroe County, Mr. Abraham Reid, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposed and said that he is the identical Abraham Reid who made the foregoing declaration before the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, on Sept 18th 1832, to which he makes the following

Statement.

That he was born in Bedford County Virginia in August 1757. He has no record of his age, and never had one.

When first time he went into service - being drafted - he lived on Clinch River in Va. The second time - when he volunteered he lived on Holston in Virginia. He remained on Holston in Va one year after the battle of Kings Mountain, when he moved over to Knoxville, where he lived till 8 years ago, when he moved to this county where he now resides.

He rec^d a discharge for the first term of service - he forgets by whom signed - which is lost. For the 2^d term he rec^d none.

The following persons are at present his neighbors and can testify as to his manly and their belief in his serving as a soldier of the Revolution - Enoch Moore - Simeon Jack - William Mason - James Mason & Mr. Rogers. Sworn to & subscribed before me the 10th day and year above last written.

Justus Standish Justice of the peace

Abraham Reid

I W. S. Callaway, Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Monroe County, Tennessee, do certify that Boston Harriott, before whom the foregoing amended declaration was made is now, and was, when he witnessed the same an acting Justice of the peace for said Monroe County, and that his name as subscribed is his genuine signature.



Witness my signature and private seal, (being mine official,) this 25th May 1833 *W. S. Callaway Clerk*

J. H. P. White, Senator in Congress from the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that W. S. Callaway, who has, officially, made a certificate to the foregoing declaration, and also to the foregoing amended declaration, is now, and was at the date of the said certificate, the Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Monroe County, and that his name as subscribed to the same is his genuine signature as aforesaid.

J. H. P. White
June 5th 1833.

*Passion Declaration
of Nathaniel Reed*

Placed direct to

James H. Hopkin

Nashville

13.546

*Monroe Co. Tenn.
E. P. W.*

No 13.546

Abraham Reed

from 1778 private
1/10. 5 pt. 22 den

\$59.20

~~to the~~

Jas. A. Coffin

Madisonville

E. Ten^o

BRIEF in the case of *Abraham Reed of the County*
of Monroe in the State of *Tenn.*
 (Act 7th June, 1832.)

1. Was the declaration made before a Court or a Judge? *Court*
2. If before a Judge, does it appear that the applicant is disabled by bodily infirmity?
3. How old is he? *77 years*
4. State his service, as directed in the form annexed.

Period.	Duration of Service.			Rank.	Names of General and Field Officers under whom he served.
	Years.	Months.	Days.		
In 1778	1	—	—	<i>drafted</i>	<i>Gen. 14 Va. Regt.</i> <i>Col. Campbell, Lieut. Dink</i>
<i>" 80 till 7/14</i>	—	4	23	<i>Volunt</i>	<i>Capt. D. Wisey, forgot the Col.</i>
<i>" 81 Feb'y</i>	—	1	—	<i>d.</i>	<i>Col. Campbell (Capt's name forgotten)</i>

5. In what battles was he engaged? *King's Mountain, Penshowe's Mill*
6. Where did he reside when he entered the service? *not stated*
7. Is his statement supported by living witnesses, by documentary proof, by traditionary evidence, by incidental evidence, or by the rolls? *tradition*
8. Are the papers defective as to form or authentication? and if so, in what respect?

Regular

I **Certify** that the foregoing statement and the answers agree with the evidence in the case above mentioned.

Sevin Bell
 Examining Clerk.

✓
Reed ✓ *4052*
INVALID.

File No. *4052*

Abraham Reed
Part, N. G. line

Act: *June 7th 32*

Index:—Vol. *A*, Page *311*

[Arrangement of 1870.]

No 13,546
Abraham Reese

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Jas. A. Loppin Esq.
Madisonville O. Tenn.

BRIEF objections to the admission of Pension Claims, of which those answered in the negative, in red ink, will apply to the claim of *Abraham Reed* which require further proof or explanation.

I. Does the declaration show where the applicant resides? *yes*

II. Did the declarant make the declaration in the county where he resides? *yes*

III. If the applicant did not make the declaration in the county where he resides, is there any reason assigned for his not doing so?

IV. Has the declarant mentioned the period or periods of the war when he served? *yes*

V. Has he mentioned with precision the length of his service, and the different grades in which he served, in language so definite as to enable the department to determine to what amount of pension he is entitled? *yes*

VI. Has he given the names of the officers under whom he served, in conformity with the regulations? *yes*

VII. Has he made a relinquishment of every claim to any other pension than the one under the Act of June 7, 1832? *yes*

VIII. Has the Court given their opinion? *yes*

IX. Has the Clerk given his certificate? *yes*

X. Is the Clerk's seal affixed? And if so, has it a device or inscription by which it can be distinguished from any other seal? *yes No*

2

- XI. Has the applicant obtained the evidence of a clergyman and another respectable citizen as to their belief respecting his age and the general belief in his neighborhood relative to his revolutionary service? *yes*
- XII. If the clergyman's affidavit has not been produced, is there any reason assigned for not obtaining it?
- XIII. If the applicant has no documentary evidence, and has not obtained the testimony of at least one living witness, has he stated in his declaration that such proof cannot be had? *yes*
- XIV. † If the applicant's name is not found on the rolls of military service, has he produced a witness or witnesses as to his service?
 If he has produced direct proof as to service, has the magistrate who administered the oath, certified to the credibility of the witness or witnesses?
 Has the proper officer certified to the official character and signature of the magistrate as the regulations direct?
- XV. Does it appear from any of the papers that the witness was in such a situation, or of such an age, as to have a personal knowledge of the applicant's service?
- XVI. ‡ Are the papers authenticated as the regulations direct? *yes No*
- XVII. Are the seven interrogatories prescribed by the War Department answered satisfactorily? And, if not, which of them is not so answered? *no*

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

- * QUERE V. In a case where the applicant cannot, by reason of the loss of memory, state precisely how long he served, he should amend his declaration by making an affidavit in the following words:
 "Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, a Justice of the Peace, &c. A. B. who, being duly sworn, deposed and saith, that, by reason of old age, and the consequent loss of memory, he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of his service, but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than the periods mentioned below, and in the following grades; For _____ year _____ months, and _____ days, I served as a _____ For _____ months and _____ days, I served as a _____; and for such service I claim a pension.

It is important in all cases to determine with precision the period for which each applicant served, and the particular rank he held, as the law directs the pension to be paid according to the grade of the pensioner and the length of his service. The use of the phrase *about three or four months* is too indefinite, and all such qualifying expressions are objectionable. Some persons who apply for pensions merely state they served two years in the militia, &c. without specifying the tours; the names of the officers, and other particulars respecting their service. This form of a declaration is highly objectionable. It must in every case be clearly shewn under what officers the applicant served; the duration of each term of engagement; the particular place or places where the service was performed; that the applicant served with an embodied corps called into service by competent authority; that he was either in the field or in garrison; and for the time during which the service was performed, he was not employed in any civil pursuit.

QUERE XIV. Proof of Service.

In a case where the name of the applicant is not found on the records of the Department, he must prove his service by two credible witnesses, who are required to set forth in their affidavits the time of the claimants entering the service, and the time and manner of his leaving the same, as well as the regiment, company, and line to which he belonged. The magistrate who may administer the oaths must certify to the credibility of the witnesses, and the official character and signature of the magistrate must be certified by the proper officer, under his seal of office.

QUERE XVI. Mode of authenticating papers.

In every instance where the certificate of the certifying officer who authenticates the papers is not written on the same sheet of paper which contains the affidavit, or other paper authenticated, the certificate must be attached thereto by a piece of tape or narrow ribbon, the ends of which must pass under the seal of office of the certifying officer, so as to prevent any paper from being improperly attached to the certificate.

In every case where the clerk of the court, or other certifying officer, has no public seal of office, the certificate of a member of congress, proving the official character and signature of the certifying officer, should accompany the papers.

Abraham Reed's Revolutionary War Pension Payments

Abraham Reed's Pension has been summarized as follows in the 1835 Tennessee Pension Roll:

Monroe Co., TN Private Virginia State Troops, \$59.20 Annual Allowance \$177.60 Amount Received August 2, 1833 Pension Started Age 79.

Source: Tennesseans in the Revolutionary War - <http://tngenweb.org/revwar/records/r.htm>

U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815, 1818-1872 for Abraham Reed
T718: 1818-1872 08: Revolutionary War, 1831-1848

264 *East Tennessee*

NAME	RANK	Monthly Allowance	COMMENCEMENT	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	
				March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March	September	March
<i>P. S. R.</i>		<i>6</i>																						

Abraham Reed *29.60*

As listed above, Abraham's 6. Monthly Allowance was listed as 29.60 per year. The last notation for Abraham here was made on March 1839.

*
NAME Reed, Abraham

AGENCY OF PAYMENT Knoxville, Tenn

DATE OF ACT 1832

DATE OF PAYMENT 3rd qr 1839

DATE OF DEATH _____

**1856 FINAL PAYMENT VOUCHER RECEIVED FROM
THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION GSA DC 78-7028 FORM 054 DEC 29 7088

Record of Last Revolutionary War Pension Payment to Abraham Reed

Sources: U.S., Revolutionary War Pensioners: 08 Revolutionary War, 1831-1848 - http://interactive.ancestry.com/1116/T718_8-0258?pid=29555&backurl=http://person.ancestry.com/tree/67149703/person/190000409757/gallery&usePUB=true&_phsrc=eWo1&usePUBJs=true
 Final Payment Voucher - http://mv.ancestry.com/viewer/b9c147f5-8604-48a3-aff5-a48dd849d48b/67149703/190000409757?_phsrc=eWo1&usePUBJs=true

Abraham Reed's Continental Army Muster Rolls by Robert Reed (shaboree@volcano.net)

Abraham Reed stated that he was drafted for one year by orders of Colonel Arthur Campbell¹. He stated he and about 60 others marched to Schuylkill River (Valley Forge where the company he was with joined the 14th Virginia Regiment).

Abraham Reed² first appears in the Rolls of the 14th Virginia Regiment in the May 1778 muster rolls under Brigadier General George Weedon, Colonel William Davies, and Captain Syrus L. Roberts. His enlistment date was 19 March 1778.

Revolutionary War Muster Rolls³ for the 14th Virginia Regiment:

Date	Image No.	Comments
April 1778	436	Abraham Reed not here. Perhaps in route.
May 1778	439	Abraham is entry 27. He is listed as on guard duty.
June 1778	442	Abraham is entry 40 and listed as sick at Valley Forge
June 1778	495/496	Abraham is 10 th name listed and shown as sick at Valley Forge
July 1778	445	Abraham is entry 44 and listed as sick at Valley Forge
July 1778	499/500	Abraham is the 8 th name under those sick at Valley Forge on image 500
Aug. 1778	448	Abraham is entry 43 and is listed as being at Valley Forge
Aug. 1778	502/503	Abraham is entry 48 on image 503. Comment is 'Joined'
Sept. 1778	451	Abraham is entry 37.
9 Sept. 1778	460	Abraham is entry 50. His enlistment date is shown as 19 March 1778
Sept. 1778	505/506	Abraham is the 15 th name on image 506
Oct. 1778	454	Abraham is entry 25. Bottom of roll says "Middle Brook Dec. 24, 1778"
Oct. 1778	508	Abraham is entry 25
Nov, 1778	510	Abraham is entry 25

The 14th was officially renumbered the 10th Virginia Regiment and Abraham Reed continued to serve, now with the 10th. The unit is still under Colonel William Davies. We know Abraham was sick at Valley Forge and, when well, went to rejoin his unit. Perhaps the August 1778 entry is when that

¹ Arthur Campbell lived in Washington County, Va. at the time and research into his life may lead to an understanding of where Abraham Reed lived in 1778.

² Abraham Reed is listed as Abraham or Abram. His Surname is Reed, Reid, or Read.

³ U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Ancestry.com; Virginia, 14th Regiment, 1777-1778 (Folders 316-326)

occurred.

Revolutionary War Muster Rolls⁴ for the 10th Virginia Regiment:

Date	Image	Comment
Dec. 1778	77	Abraham is the last entry, no. 50 and is at Middlebrook, N.J.
Jan. 1779	65	Abraham is entry 50 and listed as sick at Brunswick. Bottom of sheet has date as 5 Feb. 1779.
Feb. 1779	68	Abraham Reed is entry 50 and among a number who are discharged 16 Feb. 1779

Documents for the 14th Virginia Regiment state that Abraham Reed enlisted on 19 March 1778. Since he does not show up in the April 1778 muster roll, it is assumed that this date was when he enlisted near his home and not when he joined the 14th. However, his one year of service would have ended 19 March 1779. So, either his original enlistment date was 16 Feb. 1778 with the 19th March being when he arrived at Valley Forge, or he was discharged a month before his tour of duty was to end.

The time line for the 10th (and 14th) Virginia Regiment is laid out at the following web site:

<http://10virginia.tripod.com/history.html>

Many statements made by Abraham Reed in his pension application are consistent with events identified in the above timeline.

George Washington's army left Valley Forge 19 June 1778

(<http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/gemedia/amrev/revwar/vforge.htm>). It is likely that Abraham Reed was transferred to the Yellow Springs Hospital by this time, even though he is listed as sick at Valley Forge on the muster rolls.

It appears that it was in August of 1778 when Abraham had rejoined his unit, which was with Washington's army at White Plains, New York.

Abraham Reed was discharged on 16 February, 1779, apparently at the winter encampment for Washington's army at Middlebrook⁵, New Jersey. A description of the Middlebrook encampment of Washington's Army can be found at <http://www.doublegv.com/ggv/battles/midbrk.html>.

It would have been a long walk home as Middlebrook was about 500 miles from Southwest Virginia.

⁴ U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, Ancestry.com; Virginia, 10th Regiment, 1778-1779 (Folders 266-272)

⁵ According to the referenced website, Middlebrook was a small community and is now part of Bound Brook, N.J. It is about 75 miles northeast of Valley Forge.

Abraham Reed, Sr. and the Battle of Kings Mountain

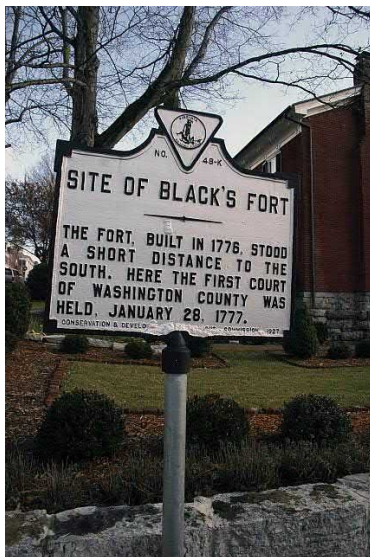
by Robert Reed (shaboree@volcano.net)

Abraham was drafted into the Revolutionary War at the age of 23 on 9 March 1778 for one year. This term was served with Washington's Continental Army. Abraham was discharged while at Washington's winter encampment at Middlebrook⁶, New Jersey on 16 February 1779 and returned to his home on the Clinch River. Abraham stated that he later moved to the South Fork of the Holston River.

Abraham was living on the South Fork of the Holston when, on 24 May 1780, he said he volunteered to join the Virginia Militia under Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Campbell and continue the fight for independence.

Abraham said he volunteered on 24 May 1780 to fight against Ferguson's Army (Battle of Kings Mountain) but the militia for this battle was not called out until the summer of 1780.

Abraham was in the Blacks Fort⁷ Regiment under the command of Arthur's cousin William Campbell⁸. In September of 1780, Abraham and others mustered at Black's Fort to seek out and fight Major Patrick Ferguson's army. Patrick Ferguson's army was comprised primarily of "Loyalists", American soldiers loyal to the British.



⁶ Today's Bound Brook, New Jersey

⁷ Blacks Fort is today's Abingdon, Virginia.

⁸ Some interesting tidbits: William Campbell was married to Patrick Henry's sister Elizabeth Henry. William Campbell was also the cousin (and brother-in-law) of Arthur Campbell under whom Abraham was drafted in 1778. Arthur Campbell resided at Royal Oak (one mile east of today's Marion, VA) and William Campbell lived seven miles downstream at Seven Mile Ford (where Isaac Reed settled).

Background:

In 1780, as General Lord Cornwallis moved north across South Carolina, Major Patrick Ferguson was assigned to protect his left flank. Ferguson was continually harassed by the North Carolina militia under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby and Colonel Charles McDowell. The patriots would attack "Indian Style" by attacking from ambush then rapidly retreat, causing Ferguson's men to chase after them. In Mid-August Ferguson pursued the rebels northward into North Carolina. Ferguson stopped his pursuit in Gilbert Town⁹, North Carolina as the rebels continued north to their homeland in the secluded Overmountain region in the valleys of the Watauga, Nolichucky, and Holston Rivers. This so aggravated Patrick Ferguson that he sent a message to the elusive men: "If you do not desist your opposition to the British Arms, I shall march this army over the mountains, hang your leaders, and lay waste your country with fire and sword."

Upon receiving Ferguson's threat, Isaac Shelby wasted no time. He saddled his horse and rode hurriedly forty miles to the home of John Sevier, another prominent militia leader in the Overmountain region. The militia leaders decided it would be best if they crossed the mountains on their own terms and defeated Ferguson on the east side of the mountains.

The two leaders called for a mustering of militia units from throughout the Overmountain region and beyond. They sent express riders north and east to assemble militia troops. The militiamen came from the hills and valleys of western North Carolina (including today's northeast Tennessee), and the Holston Valley of Southwest Virginia.

Arthur Campbell¹⁰ and his cousin William Campbell were called upon to muster Virginians from the Holston Valley. These men mustered at Blacks Fort. The Virginia contingent included those of Colonel Shelby with 240 militiamen, Colonel Sevier with a like amount, and Colonel William Campbell¹¹ with 400 Virginians, half of which were from his cousin's command. Abraham Reed was one of them. Abraham fought under Captain Dysart's company'.

Militiamen were to muster Sycamore Shoals, adjacent to Fort Watauga¹², on September 24, 1780. The Virginia contingent marched two days to get there and joined up with others from parts of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

On September 26, the Overmountain Men crossed the Appalachian Mountains¹³. On September

⁹ Gilbert Town was a town, now gone, near today's Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

¹⁰ Arthur Campbell was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Washington County, Virginia Militia in 1777, shortly after the formation of Washington County.

¹¹ Colonel William Campbell was in charge of the Blacks Fort Regiment.

¹²Fort Watauga was in today's Elizabethton, Tennessee.

¹³ Once on the east side of the mountain, two men deserted and headed off to warn Ferguson.

30th the Overmountain Men reached Quaker Meadows where they were joined by more Patriots that came from North Carolina and Georgia. The entire contingent now numbered some 1800 militiamen. On the afternoon of October 4th they arrived at Gilbert Town, expecting to find Ferguson, but he had left and perhaps had requested reinforcements, the Overmountain Men and other Patriots moved with haste. They departed Gilbert Town on the morning of October 5th. They arrived at Cow Pens, some 50 miles away, on October 6. Eager to catch Ferguson, some 900 of the best riflemen with the best horses rode off at 9 o'clock on that same night to track down Ferguson's Army. After an all-night ride through a cold, rainy October darkness, these Patriot militiamen surrounded their Loyalist prey atop a small rise near the North Carolina-South Carolina line. The battle began at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of October 7, 1780 and this determined group of volunteer militiamen won a decisive victory, killing Ferguson and capturing his troops. That battle changed the course of the Revolutionary War. That fierce confrontation became known as the Battle of King's Mountain.

The contingent of some 900 militiamen was about half of the militiamen at Cowpens. Was Abraham one of them or did he arrive with the others later? Abraham did participate in the battle.

Abraham stated that he fired several rounds during the battle but his gun malfunctioned. He went to get another and when he returned, Ferguson was dead and his army had surrendered.

On the morning of October 8th the Militia departed taking some 700 prisoners. Abraham stated that he sometimes drove a wagon and sometimes guarded the prisoners on their march. They reached Gilbert Town on October 11th, then Biggerstaff's Old Field on Oct. 14th. Colonel Isaac Shelby had the prisoners tried under North Carolina Law and 30 of the prisoners were tried for atrocities they committed. Nine were hanged¹⁴.

Hearing that the dreaded British Lieutenant Banastre Tarleton was headed their way, the Patriots left Biggerstaff. After a march of some 32 miles, they camped on the west bank of the Catawba River late on October 15th. It was here that the Overmountain men disbanded and returned to their homes. This is likely when Abraham headed home. Colonel Benjamin Cleveland and Major Joseph Winston and the Patriots under them continued on with the prisoners. Over the course of the march from Kings Mountain, some prisoners were killed and many escaped.

Abraham stated that he was back at his home on the South Fork of the Holston River in February of 1781. He was now about 26 years of age. He remained there for about a year following the Battle of Kings Mountain before relocating to Knoxville¹⁵ (ca 1782).

¹⁴ The British hung Patriots as traitors but this was not common practice of the Patriots. Word got out that 1) Patriots will hang traitor Loyalists and 2) they could beat the British. This caused Loyalists to think twice about joining up with the British.

¹⁵ The settlement was established by James White in 1786. It was chosen as the capital of the Southwest Territories in 1790 and a fort was built in 1791. Territorial Governor William Blount renamed it Knoxville after the Secretary of War Henry Knox.

Sources: There are many web sites, documents, and books on the subject of the Battle of Kings Mountain. These are some that were used to create this paper.

<http://sn1754.com/history/kings-mountain-07oct1780-campbells-regiment/>

<http://sn1754.com/history/kings-mountain-07oct1780-campbells-regiment/>

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_kings_mountain.html

<http://www.patriotresource.com/amerrev/battles/kingsmtn/page2.html>

<http://www.overmountainvictory.org/Gtown.htm>

<http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/kingsmountain/prisoners.html>

<http://www.historynet.com/american-revolutionary-war-battle-of-kings-mountain.htm>

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/Known_Patriots_at_Kings_Mountain.pdf

<http://npplan.com/national-historic-trails/overmountain-victory-national-historic-trail/the-overmountain-men-overmountain-victory-national-historic-trail/>

Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Wetzel's¹ Mill, Guilford Courthouse

by Robert Reed (shaboree@volcano.net)

In his pension application, Abraham Reed states ***“About the last of February 1781, Applicant then living on the South Fork of Holston in Virginia, volunteered under what Captain he disremembers, under the command of Col. William Campbell and was marched to General Greene’s army, where he and those with him ~~joined~~. At Ramshour’s Mill.....” “The applicant was not at the battle of Guilford.”***

It is believed the battle referred to here is not Ramsore’s Mill but instead Wetzel’s Mill. The battle of Ramsour’s Mill was fought on June 20, 1780 and the Patriot forces were led by General Rutherford, Colonel Locke, and Captain Galbraith Falls, not General Greene. The following passages leading to the March 1781 battle of Wetzel’s Mill shows a better fit to Abraham’s description².

From: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/06/the-service-of-colonel-william-campbell-of-virginia/>

In January 1781, after the American victory at Cowpens, Nathanael Greene was leading his small army north from the Carolinas toward the safety of Virginia, pursued every step of the way by the aggressive Lord Charles Cornwallis and his professional British army. Greene wanted desperately to turn and face Cornwallis in open combat, but he was far too weak to do so. He reached out in all directions for reinforcements, which included a series of urgent requests to William Campbell to bring 1,000 mountain riflemen to his aid.

While Greene was intensely focused on his hope for a large reinforcement of frontier rifle militia, William Campbell was beset by problems back home that undermined his recruiting efforts. Greene was understandably focused solely on the British troops that were pursuing him, but the frontiersmen had to defend the lead mines, keep one eye on the Cherokees, another on the local Loyalists, and be ready to defend against their attacks while considering what resources they could spare to support Greene and his Continental Army. Because of these conflicting priorities, Campbell was able to lead only sixty men to reinforce Greene, instead of Greene’s hoped-for 1,000 riflemen. Campbell and his small detachment arrived in Greene’s camp on March 4, 1781, and were involved in the skirmish at Weitzel’s Mill two days later where they fought with their accustomed skill.

After the affair at Weitzel’s Mill, Campbell was assigned to a “Corps of Observation” with Light Horse

¹ The location name for this battle has been incorrectly identified as Whitsell's Mill, Weitzall's Mill, Weitzell's Mill, Wetzall's Mill, and Wetzell's Mill, but the correct name is Whitesell's Mill - owned by Capt. Henry Whitesell of the Guilford County Regiment of Militia, and was fought in what was then and is present-day Guilford County, North Carolina. Capt. Whitesell was of German descent, therefore the corruption of the spelling of his name. (http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html)

² Movie “The Patriot” with Mel Gibson featured the battle of Cowpens and the British Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton. That battle took place on 17 January, 1781. Tarleton was also present at the battle of Wetzel’s mill here we believe Abraham Reed was in the battle.

Harry Lee, and they participated in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781.

Abraham stated ***“Colonel Campbell with his men met with the British. Colonel Campbell having some hundred, and the British far more numerous. They met in an old field below the mill, and had a close engagement, in which applicant was engaged. In the morning of the day of this engagement Colonel Campbell came near marching his men into the line of the British, and applicant believes they were only saved by the intervention of a Company of Light Horse, belonging he supposes to General Greene's Army. When the Light horse intervened, Colonel Campbell's Army retreated, and as was said ran seven miles, and were much fatigued when the engagement in the evening came on.”***

The following description of the of the events of that day fit with the following from <http://www.ncpedia.org/wetzells-mill-battle>

The Battle of Wetzell's (or Whitsall's) Mill was a Revolutionary War engagement that took place in northeastern Guilford County on 6 Mar. 1781. Lord Charles Cornwallis made an attempt to cut off advance elements of Gen. Nathanael Greene's army that were commanded by Col. Otho Williams. Williams's forces were well south of the rest of Greene's army and separated from it by the waters of Reedy Fork Creek. The British army, consisting of 1,000 infantry under Lt. Col. James Webster and Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's cavalry, moved out in the early morning, taking advantage of a thick fog to cover their movements. Before the British could cut off Williams's line of escape, the movement was discovered and the Continentals commenced a hasty retreat north up the road to reunite with the rest of the army. Riflemen and cavalry forces under Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee provided cover and delayed the British long enough for Williams to get his troops ten miles up the road across the ford over Reedy Fork Creek at Wetzell's Mill.

Believing that the crossing would be a good place to make a stand and check the progress of the British, Williams posted some Continental troops in line of battle covering the ford. The men under Lee and Cols. William Washington and William Campbell were to retire before being overwhelmed and follow the rest of Williams's force north to join Greene's army near the Haw River.

The Continentals put up a stiff resistance at the creek, initially turning back an effort by the British to cross. But Webster personally led a second attack in which his men made it across the creek and up the bank beyond. In the face of the fierce, aggressive move, the Continental lines broke and continued their retreat north.

Both sides are believed to have lost about 50 men in the encounter; Tarleton recorded British losses as "about thirty." More important from his perspective, however, was the opportunity the British lost in not exploiting the victory at Wetzell's Mill by vigorously moving north and either attacking Greene's main army or disrupting their resupply and reinforcement efforts. Instead, Cornwallis directed the British army to fall back to more friendly territory at Bell's Mill on Deep River.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_weitzells_mill.html

The above site describes the battle and references the forces of Colonel William Campbell and Captains Joseph Blank and James Dysart (the latter whom Abraham was attached to at the Battle of Kings Mountain that took place about 5 months earlier).

In the meantime, Major General Greene's constant change of position, sometimes seen on Troublesome Creek, and sometimes appearing near Guilford Court House, gave the impression that his force was larger than it really was, and Lord Cornwallis was much perplexed. Knowing well that the American army was being augmented by the arrival of various Militias, he resolved to bring Major General Greene to action at once. Under cover of a thick fog, he crossed the Alamance River on March 6th, hoping to beat up Col. Otho Williams's quarters, then between that stream and Reedy Fork to surprise Major General Nathanael Greene.

Col. Otho Williams's vigilant patrols discovered the approach of the enemy at about eight o'clock in the morning, on the road to Whitesell's Mill, an important pass on the Reedy Fork. Lt. Col. Henry Lee's Legion immediately maneuvered in front of the enemy, while Col. Williams withdrew his light troops and other corps of regulars and militia across the stream. A covering party, composed of one hundred and fifty Virginia militia, were attacked by Lt. Col. James Webster, with about a thousand British infantry and a good portion of Lt. Col. Tarleton's cavalry.

The Patriot Militia boldly returned fire, and then fled across the creek. The British infantry followed, and met with a severe attack from Col. William Campbell's riflemen (VA) and Lt. Col. Lee's infantry. Lt. Col. Webster was quickly reinforced by some Hessians and chasseurs, and the whole were supported by four field pieces planted by Lord Cornwallis upon an eminence near the banks of the stream. The artillery dismayed the North Carolina militia, which Col. Williams ordered to retire. He followed with Howard's battalion, flanked by Kirkwood's Delaware infantry and the infantry of Lt. Col. Lee's Legion, the whole covered by Lt. Col. William Washington's cavalry. The day was far spent, and Lord Cornwallis did not pursue.