

The Documented Life of Nancy Callicott Vaughan

Her Story, by Helen Vaughan Michael,
Great-great-great Granddaughter
For my cousin, Mabel Harp

Four Pages from the life of Nancy Callicott Vaughan—from her 200 year old Daybook.

James
Was Born on
the 15 day 1795
Annaly Callicott
Beverly Vaughan
Was Born January
the 4 day 1798
Stoly Vaughan
Was Born April
the 12 day 1800
Relukah gwen
Was Born June
the 24 day 1802

George in Vaughan
was Born on
the 4 day 1804
Nancy Vaughan
was Born January
the 17 day 1807
Mary Callicott Vaughan was
born the 10th day of
the year of our Lord 1808
John Vaughan was
Born in the year of our
Lord September the 25 day
Samuel Vaughan was
born February the 11 day
in the year of our Lord 1814

Abantha Vaughan
was born in the year
of our Lord July the 2
day 1815
George W. Vaughan
was born in the
year of our Lord June
the 15th day 1820
James Jones was born
in the year of our Lord
January the 27 day 1822
at present

William James Vaughan
Was Born in the
year of our Lord May
the 18 day 1848
John Franklin Vaughan
was Born April
the 11 day 1848
Mary Eliza Jane Vaughan
Was Born on the 14 day
1847
Tennessee Vaughan
Was Born Dec 27
1843

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(See original documents @: <http://www.childresscousins.org>)

Thanks to Tim Childress for researching the papers of Nancy Callicott Vaughan, our ancestor, and for making them available for this story—her story—in order that it can now be told, and told in part, in her own words.

Helen Vaughan, great-great-great-granddaughter.

Nancy Callicott Vaughan, Family Scribe

I. Birth, 1777, Virginia

In 1848 the U.S. Congress passed an Act providing the widows of U.S. Army soldiers with a pension. Ten years later eighty-one year old Nancy Callicott Vaughan, widow of John Vaughan, a soldier of the American Revolution, applied for the pension. Beginning in February of 1858, when Nancy Vaughan gave Hawkins County lawyer Wm. M. Strickland the power of attorney to make her claim, the first of several documents was filed. The story of Nancy and her family is recorded in these documents, and their words, like illuminating brushstrokes, paint a colorful map and timeline to a woman's life.

These and other handwritten records list the names and dates of birth of John and Nancy Vaughan's children, stating unequivocally that there are eleven sons and daughters of their marriage. Known residences of their living offspring are given. Places where the family lived are described. Personal circumstances are mentioned. Poignant recollections are called up by old friends and neighbors.

Transcriptions of handwritten records are particularly valuable because they are handwritten, with original spellings of names—and, original thoughts. Beginning in 1795, with the birth of her first child, Nancy Vaughan kept a record of the names and birthdays of her children. We know from her baby book recordings that the John Vaughan family started out as *Vaughan*, because that is how a mother spelled the names of her eleven children. The *Vaughn* spelling in future documents is often the choice of a lawyer or scribe, or census taker. Where possible, in the records that tell her story, alternative spellings, unique and quaint markers of the times, are left in the text.

These documents are official, but bureaucratic terms cannot conceal the human story contained in their legal language as they describe the history of one American woman and her family. Taken altogether they make up a family album about our ancestor, Nancy Callicott Vaughan. Many of them are in her own words; some are in her own handwriting.

Nancy's parents were Beverley Callicott and perhaps a woman named Priscilla. Nancy, along with several of her relatives, does not use the Americanized spelling of "Callicott," preferring instead "Calicote." Her sister Dicey even pronounces their family name as "Calico." This would be an Old World pronunciation from a part of the old world that was French. Accordingly, it would be reasonable to assume that not far back down the line the Callicott girls were of French ancestry. Nancy claimed that she ". . . was born and raised in Prince Edward and Sharlotte Counties in Virginia." **(Excerpt from 1858 Pension Application)** Her actual month of birth can be calculated as happening in January, or one of the first three days in February, 1777 from the following:

*State of Tennessee
County of Hawkins*

On this 3rd day of February AD One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight personally appeared before Me, Wm. Hutchinsson a justice of the Peace within And for the county and state aforesaid, Nancy Vaughan a Resident of Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee aged About 81 Eighty one years. . . .

(Excerpt from 1858 Pension Application)

II. Meeting John Vaughan, 1788-1789

An additional excerpt concerning Nancy's age at her introduction to John provides an opening window on her residence as well as on her social life:

The first time she ever knew John Vaughan was in Charlotte County in VA and that at that time she states that she was about eleven years of age. . . .

(Excerpt from 1858 Pension Application)

To be the age of 81 by early February 1858, her birth in 1777 would allow their first meeting to have taken place late in 1788 while she was still eleven. It happens that January 1789 brought forth a Vaughan-Callicott social event which possibly involved both Nancy and John and could have provided the opportunity for them to be introduced to one another.

In that year, Ligon Vaughan applied for a marriage license January 5th, and he then married Dicey Callicott ten days later. Dicey is Nancy's older sister, and Ligon has been mentioned as possible kin—even a younger brother--to John. As a matter of fact Ligon and John could have been the sons of a Virginian named Thomas Vaughan; a latter day DNA link between descendants of Marylander John Vaughan and Thomas Vaughan of Charlotte, Virginia has been established. **(VPG Files)** Additionally, an association between a Thomas Vaughan and the Ligon family of Charlotte is documented early on in the commonwealth. Perhaps John arrived at the Charlotte, Virginia home of the Callicotts in late December to attend a brother's wedding, and to visit his father. While there he met the little girl who eloped with him and became his bride five years later.

In 1792 John, who had property and friends in Maryland, returned to Virginia once again, and while there, on October 6th he and Nancy applied for a marriage license. At least, Nancy applied for one...

As for John, he may have returned to Virginia for a reason that had less to do with young Nancy than with Ligon; Ligon, married for three years, died in September of 1792. If they truly were brothers, and Ligon was ailing, John's return to Virginia may have been to visit a dying brother, or to attend his funeral.

*VAUGHANS IN DB 1 & 2 BY BEL WISE: WB 2:37: Liggan Vaughan
Inv. & appraisal of est of **Liggan Vaughan, decd, taken Sep 1792**; rec. 7 Oct 1793. [Note: he was m. 15 Jan 1789-abt 3 years, to . . . Dicea who remarried William Ford 26 Dec. 1793/4 Jan. 1794. Adapted from Vaughan Notes, "Old Charlotte Stuff." December 16, 1990. VPG Files*

III. Marriage: Life and Times in Virginia, 1792-1798

During this visit young Nancy seems to have taken a liking to the dashing war hero. She may have been a mite precocious. At fifteen, she liked him enough to try to get him for a husband by perjuring herself. In her own handwriting, and using legal phrasing that was surely beyond the common fifteen year old vocabulary, she fibbed about her age when applying for a marriage bond, and, what's more, she talked two friends into lying about it.

All original entries from John Vaughan and Nancy Callicott Marriage Bond Oct. 5 1792 Marriage Book 1, Page 179, may be seen @: <http://www.childresscousins.org>

John was a Revolutionary War veteran. His successful exploits as a sergeant who served as an artillery gunner for the victorious Americans not

*John Vaughan and Nancy Callicott
Marriage Bond, four pages. Page 1*

The image shows a handwritten document, likely a marriage bond, written in cursive. The text is as follows:

John Vaughan
to } Bond
Nancy Callicott
Albana Lee
5 Oct 1792

only made him look heroic, they made him a man with money in his pocket and the owner of hundreds of acres of land in Maryland and Virginia. He was a war hero and a man of substance. But no matter how attractive a catch he was, Nancy's fraudulent document failed to haul him in. Some people have guessed that Mr. Callicott found a problem with Nancy's age, plus the discrepancy in their ages, but records show that this was not a problem for a lot of other newlyweds back in those days. In addition, not many fathers objected to a daughter marrying a man of property—no matter how young, and John did own property. Since the Callicotts appear to be people of wealth, another aspect of the case might be their own social standing. For one thing, having two strong-willed, well-educated daughters makes the family appear to stand a cut above. If so, since wealthy colonists had often remained loyal to old King George, if Nancy's father had been a Tory in the recent war, he would not have been impressed with John Vaughan's valiant and successful struggle for equality and justice. No matter how much wealth the soldier boy had gained in the fight, no Tory would want a Rebel for a son-in-law.

Another explanation could be that as a gentleman John himself objected to the young girl's deception. As a boy soldier his courage, obedience to officers, dedication to duty, and loyalty to a cause hint at the character of a future man of honor whose values surely included truthfulness. In spite of such lofty virtues, John was illiterate and could not read the false words his under aged sweetheart wrote about being of age.

Page 2 False Affidavit Made by Nancy Calicote

Charlotte County - October 6th 1792.
 This is to certify the Clarke of said
 County that I haveing no Guardian
 nor Controller Consent for being
 of age for my self that there may
 be a law full Licence in Marriage
 to John Vaughan of said County
 as witness my hand.
 Test
 Nancy Calicote
 Henry Hughes
 Wm Burchet

Transcription of False Affidavit Made by Nancy Calicote

Charlotte County - October 6th 1792 - this is to certify the clark of said County, that haveing no guardian nor controller, consent for being of age for my self that there may be a law full Licence in Marriage to John Vaughan of said County as witness my hand.

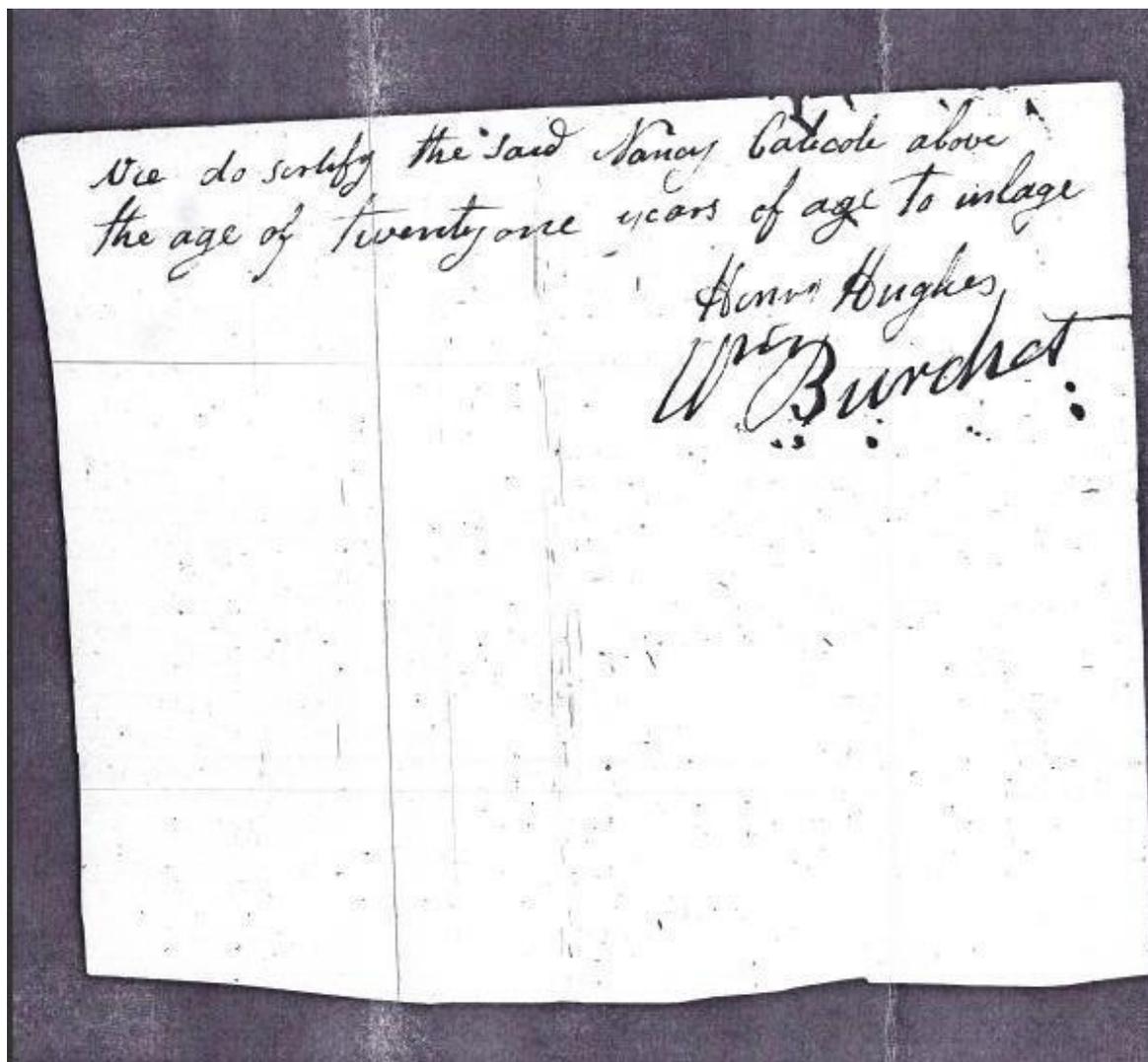
Nancy Calicote.

Test

Henry Hughes

Wm Burchet

Page 3 False Affidavit of Henry Hughes and Wm. Burchet



We do certify the said Nancy Calicote above
the age of twenty one years of age to inlage
Henry Hughes
Wm Burchet

Transcription of False Affidavit of Henry Hughes and Wm. Burchet

We do certify the said Nancy Calicote above the age of twenty one years of age to inlage.

Henry Hughes
Wm. Burchet

Page 4 John Vaughan and Nancy Callicott Marriage Bond Oct. 5 1792

Know all above by these presents that said John Vaughan & Henry Hughes
 are held and firmly unto Henry Sir Esquire Governor of the common-
 wealth of Virginia in the sum of fifty pounds current money
 to which payment will and truly to be made unto our said Governor
 and his Successors for the use of the common wealth, we bind
 ourselves, our heirs do firmly lay these presents sealed with
 our seal and dated this 5th day of October 1792

The Condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there
 is a marriage suddenly intended to be solemnized between
 John Vaughan & Nancy Callicott ----- If therefore
 there be no lawful cause to obstruct the same, then this
 obligation to be void, also to remain in full force & Vouched
 Sealed & Delivered in presence of

Wm. Morton Lunn }
 Jno. X his mark Vaughan }
 Henry Hughes }

Transcription of John Vaughan and Nancy Callicott Marriage Bond Oct. 5 1792

Know all above by these presents that said John Vaughan & Henry Hughes are held and firmly unto Henry Sir Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the sum of fifty Pounds current money to which payment will and truly to be made unto our said Governor and his _____ pose for the use of the common wealth, we bind ourselves, our heirs do firmly lay these presents sealed with our seal and dated this 5th day of October 1792. -----
 -----The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas this is a marriage suddenly intended to be solemnized between John Vaughan & Nancy Callicott -----If therefore there be no lawful cause to obstruct the same, then this obligation to be void also to remain in full force and Vouched. Sealed and delivered in presence of Wm. Morton Lunn.}
 Jno. X his mark Vaughan
 Henry Hughes



*William Crump Callicott, Texas Ranger:
Cousin of Texan, James L. Vaughan*

For whatever reason, Nancy's wedding plans had to wait. John returned to Maryland, and it would be two years before he was known to be back in Virginia. That trip could have coincided with Widow Dicey's marriage to William Ford. It could also have been a trip to check on some of his land. After all, the first home he provided for his family was in Virginia. Their elopement to Halifax took place in 1794. (Read the history of John Vaughan's property in:

Sergeant John Vaughan, Soldier of the American Revolution, @: <http://www.childresscousins.org>)

Nancy did manage to get her new family off to an interesting start. And, whatever reservations the Callicotts had, they got over it. In the future several of her relatives practically moved in with the Vaughans of Clinch Mountain, Tennessee. Furthermore, a Callicott can be found, here and there, settling with Nancy's children as far away as Texas—with James L. Vaughan in the Brazos River Valley, where one of her brother's boys served as a Texas Ranger.

By 1794 Nancy still felt it was necessary to perjure herself about her age, an indication that John was the one from whom she was hiding something. Born in 1777, the same year young John Vaughan enlisted in the Continental Army, she was fifteen years younger than her fiancée, but her second application claims she was born in 1772. The record also says, truthfully, John Vaughan was born in 1762 and that he was born in Ireland. Years later, when age and sickness had taken a toll on her mind, not only had she seemingly forgotten most of Sergeant Vaughan's distinguished military career and that her husband came to Virginia out of Maryland, she appeared to be unable to recall that John Vaughan gave his place of birth as Ireland. Still, Ireland had at least been mentioned in the home around the children as the story and mementos of the Irish birth of both John Vaughan and his mother persisted and exist to this day among their descendants.

Perhaps societal conditions of 1858 concerning the Irish dictated her memory loss as much as age. The Irish, like Native Americans and Jews—shop signs frequently declared--did not need to apply for any job. A catastrophic potato famine ten years earlier had dictated the social changes. In 1794, John, who could not read and write, reported to a Halifax record keeper that he was born in Eire, the Irish name for Ireland, and a clerk wrote it down as he heard it. Or, perhaps his well-educated fiancé filled out the form.

U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 about Nancy Callicot

Name: *Nancy Callicot*

Gender: *Female*

Birth Place: *VA*

Birth Year: *1772*

Spouse Name: *John Vaughan*

Spouse Birth Place: *Ir*

Spouse Birth Year: *1762*

Marriage Year: *1794*

Tennessee

Source Information:

Yates Publishing. U.S. and International Marriage Records,

1560-1900 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

The couple ran off to Halifax County, Virginia where they were married on October 16, 1794. Nancy describes their elopement in her war pension application:

State of Tennessee

County of Hawkins

On the 2nd day of June AD One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight ... Mrs. Nancy Vaughan, ... says she ran away with her Husband John Vaughan from Sharlotte County, Virginia and went into Halifax County, Virginia and were married by one Parson Hayze, a clergyman, and that she was married at the house of the said Parson Hayze's, ... that she cannot from her recollection give the precise day and year of her said marriage but she states to the best of her recollection that it was on or about the 16th day of October 1794.

(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)

Several years passed as the Virginia family got its start, and both public and private records of Vaughan relationships stack up to build a Halifax, Virginia "Family and Friends" album. A number of Vaughans were already in Halifax. John had passed through there himself during the war. Members of the Ligon family were there, and more importantly, other Marylanders had settled in Halifax. One was the Reverend Alexander Hay, who is documented, December 21, 1802, as a minister of Antrim Parish of Halifax, who performed marriages there during the previous decade. Many years later, Nancy's claim that she ran away with John from Charlotte County to Halifax County and was married, "by Parson Hayze, at the house of the said Parson Hayze," she could be referring to Alexander Hay.

Reverend Alexander Hay's house is most likely the same house as that of Parson Hayze. It's easy to see how, over time, the possessive noun could become confused as it was spoken and then written. The Hay name appeared in early New York and Maryland neighborhoods alongside the Revolutionary army buddies of John Vaughan. Families from Antrim County, Ireland settled in Frederick, Maryland and in Albany, New York during the colonial period. Daniel and Nicholas Hay are listed in

Frederick County, Maryland in 1790 amongst the Carmacks and Livingstons, John Vaughan's lifelong friends. An Alexander Hay is living in Albany, New York in 1790 where Robert Livingston, who served in John's artillery regiment, settled at war's end. Reverend Alexander Hay, minister of Antrim Parish,

Virginia, and Sgt. John Vaughan seemed to have kept the same company as they traveled the same roads.

After their wedding the couple lived together in, or near, Antrim Parish on what could have been substantial acreage for the next few years. Two little Virginian sons were born to them—James L. in 1795 and Beverley in 1798. In knowing folks thereabouts, plus owning some Halifax acreage, these events and associations indicate that John and Nancy did not elope from Charlotte to some random spot on the map. Nancy's new family quite possibly started life with a roof overhead and a fire in the hearth in a friendly Virginian neighborhood of friends and kin. The impish teenager had perjured herself well.

IV. Tennessee, 1800

In 1800 Thomas Jefferson was President and his Louisiana Purchase opened up the continent. The Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 led the way to the Pacific Ocean. By 1800 the western movement of United States citizens included the Virginian Vaughans. Nancy was twenty-three years old.

Shortly after the Halifax marriage of John and Nancy, Virginia's neighboring lands became organized enough to become the State of Tennessee. Immediately the tribal lands of the Cherokee entered the real estate market of the white man. The history of the Revolutionary War suggests that the Vaughan children grew up and came to adulthood on the former stomping grounds of a Chicamauga band of natives. The celebrated beauty of the Clinch Mountain area which was the exact spot of some the tribal lands of some of these Cherokee began to bless Hawkins County, Tennessee.

There is some recorded evidence that a relationship between the Vaughans and the area Cherokee lingered on after the Vaughans moved in. Abram Helton, Cherokee Veteran of the American Revolution, entered the service of the United States in 1778. In 1804, a young John Helton--whose Cherokee kin had fought and bled for the American cause--made Tennessee his home after the war, and he sold a scenic piece of the former tribal lands on Clinch Mountain to John Vaughan. They had lost their tribal lands because no matter which side they fought on, the Cherokee were doomed. Perhaps portentously, it didn't matter that the Heltons had fought on the side of the rebels; when they applied for their war bounty, their claims were denied by the U.S. War Department. They were denied because the Heltons were Cherokee. In Hawkins County, and later, Hancock County the Helton family remained friends and neighbors of the Vaughans for the next century.

Because Sgt. Vaughan did receive the lands and monetary rewards due him for his military service, Mr. Callicott's daughter was able to spend her life with a man of substance; she had landed herself a husband who could afford the lovely Hawkins County farm he purchased for her and her children.



LEFT: View of the original John Vaughan homestead from the Vaughan Cemetery on Copper Ridge. (Mabel Harp photo, 1997)

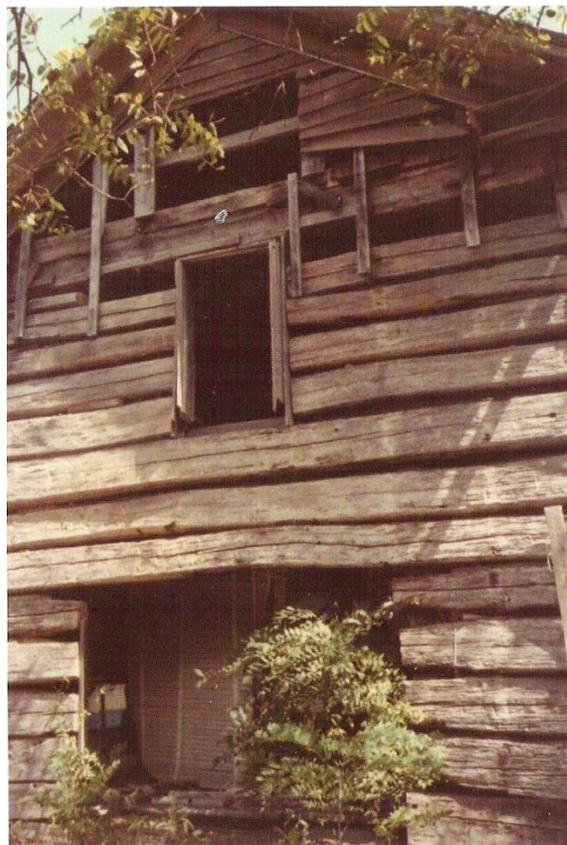
Helton's land deal came about after William Vaughan, who was related in some way to Nancy's husband, bought some land from William McClean in the new state of Tennessee. It was two hundred and fifty acres on the north side of the Clinch Mountains, nestled down in the beauty of the Clinch River Valley in Hawkins County. Three years later William and Fereby Looney Vaughan--with her own Cherokee legacy--sold

one hundred acres of the same tract to John Helton. Shortly thereafter, Helton sold this farm to John Vaughan, already in Tennessee with Nancy and their growing brood; John then moved his family to this north side region of Clinch Mountain. In 1815 William Vaughan sold his remaining acreage to William Ford, husband of Dicey Callicott, Nancy's sister. This real estate deal allowed the girls to enjoy the neighborhood together for the next twenty years. **(VPG Files; Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)**

By 1806, James and Beverley had another brother, Benjamin--possibly named Benjamin Franklin. Two sisters, Poley and Rebekah Greaser, perhaps provided their brothers with the amusement and aggravation that little girls bring to a home full of boys. Nancy, Mahala, John, Jr., Samuel N., Martha, and a boy named George Washington—presumably after their father's great General--were born during the next fifteen years, all in the same house. The two story structure for thirty years was home to John and Nancy, their children, and later on, to some of their grandchildren.

The property, including a barn and family burial ground, stayed in the John Vaughan family for the next century.

According to Nancy, and the testimony of her longtime neighbors, she and her family resided in the original home until about the year 1832 at which time, she said, her husband bought another house on the south side of Clinch mountain--in neighboring Poor Valley--making for themselves a virtual Vaughan family mountain compound, and so, after being in one place for thirty years, they moved.



Above: Original Home of John and Nancy Vaughan (Photographer Unknown; photo provided by Mabel Harp)

BELOW: In later years the barn on the original property has been used for drying tobacco which is grown and harvested on the acreage.

Barn (Mabel Harp 1997 photo)



Barn (Opal Frances Vaughan 1985 photo)



Nancy's House, thru the Years

Carter Vaughan was one of Nancy's grandsons who was born in her old home. He was the youngest son of Samuel and Malvina Church Vaughan. He took over the care of the home around 1880, and being a Mason and a skilled carpenter, he put in enough improvements to save the structure. By putting a new roof over the timbers of his grandparent's old home place, he saved the edifice for another century and another generation of Vaughan's. While Carter Vaughan was renovating the house he left his Masonic symbol emblazoned on the fireplace stones. **(Pictured, below, 1985 AJ and Frances Vaughan photo)** The symbol also adorns his headstone. Carter died in 1911 and is buried in the Copper Ridge, Vaughan Cemetery.



Nancy's renovated kitchen, 1997. Mabel Harp photograph.



Above: Early renovation and restoration, before 1985. Photographer unknown. From the collection of AJ and Frances Vaughan

Below: Early renovation and restoration, before 1985. Photographer unknown. From the collection of AJ and Frances Vaughan



Nancy's renovated house, 1997. Mabel Harp photograph.



V. Daybook and Children, 1795-1820

James
 Was Born at
 the 13 day 1795
 Beverly Vaughan
 Was Born January
 the 4 day 1798
 Polly Vaughan
 Was Born April
 the 12 day 1800
 Belulah Green
 Was Born June
 the 24 day 1802

Wife in Vaughan
 Was Born in Vaughan
 the 1 day 1804
 Mary Vaughan
 was Born January
 the 19 day 1807
 M. M. Vaughan was
 born the 10th day of
 the year of our Lord 1809
 John Vaughan was
 Born in the year of our
 Lord September the 25 day
 1811
 Samuel Vaughan was
 born February the 11 day
 in the year of our Lord 1814

Margaret Vaughan
 was born in the year
 of our Lord July the 2
 day 1815
 George W. Vaughan
 was born in the
 year of our Lord June
 the 15th day 1820
 James Jones was born
 in the year of our Lord
 January the 27 day 1822
 at present

William Jones Vaughan
 Was Born in the
 year of our Lord May
 the 18 day 1818
 John Franklin Vaughan
 was Born April
 the 11 day 1819
 Mary Eliza Vaughan
 Was Born on the 11 day
 1821
 Tennessee Vaughan
 Was Born the 27
 day 1823

At age eighteen, Nancy Vaughan began to keep a baby book; eventually recorded were the birthdays of her eleven children, plus James Jones—her neighbor's child, and Mary Jane Brown—her daughter-in-law, and also three of her grandchildren—the children of Mary Jane Brown and George Washington Vaughan. Only the first six names of her own babies are recorded in Nancy's hand.

Transcribed Daybook of Nancy Callicott Vaughan

By Helen Vaughan Michael

Page 1

James Vaughan was Born october the 15 day 1795
 Beverley Vaughan Was Born January the 4 day 1798
 Poley Vaughan Was Born April the 12 day 1800
 Rebekah Greaser Was Born June the 24 day 1801

Page 2

Benjamin Vaughan Was Born November the 4 day 1804
 Nancy Vaughan was Born January the 19 day 1807
 Mahaly Vaughan was bornd the 10th day of March in the year of our Lord 1809
 John Vaughan was Bornd in the year of our Lord september the 28 day 1811
 Samuel Vaughan was bornd february the 11 day in the year of Lord 1814

Page 3

Martha Vaughan was bornd in the year of our Lord July the 2 day _____ 1815
 George W. Vaughan was bornd in the year of our Lord June the 15th day 1820

this above is the Record

James Jones was bornd in the year of our Lord January the 27 day 1822

No more at preazent

Page 4

Mary Jane Vaughan Was Bornd in the Year of our lord May 22, 1818
 John Franklin Vaughan WAS Bornd April the 4th day 1841
 Mary Ulda Jane Vaughan Waz Bornd August the 14 day 1842
 Tennessee Vaughan Was Bornd Dec the 27, 1843

Analysis and Comment

Page 1

James Vaughan was Born october the 15 day 1795

NOTE: On her second entry, Beverley Callicott (Nancy's father) is entered by mistake and marked out.

Beverley Vaughan Was Born January the 4 day 1798

NOTE: Year dates are marked out and changed.

Poley Vaughan Was Born April the 12 day 1800

NOTE: Spelling with one "l" may be considered as another hint toward a French lineage.

Rebekah Greaser Was Born June the 24 day 1801

Note: No Vaughan. Spelled Rebecca on grave stone and father's will. "Greaser" may be Nancy's spelling of "Greer", a possible clue for the maiden name of John Vaughan's Irish-born mother. Nancy and son used the Initial, G.. in 1858. affidavit.

Page 2

Benjamin Vaughan Was Born November the 4 day 1804

Nancy Vaughan was Born January the 19 day 1807

Mahaly Vaughan was bornd the 10th day of March in the year of our Lord 1809

NOTE: Later records say Mahala. Handwriting changes.

John Vaughan was Bornd in the year of our Lord september the 28 day 1811

Samuel Vaughan was bornd february the 11 day in the year of our Lord 1814

Page 3

Martha Vaughan was bornd in the year of our Lord July the 2 day _____ 1815

George W. Vaughan was bornd in the year of our Lord June the 15th day 1820

this above is the Record

James Jones was bornd in the year of our Lord January the 27 day 1822

NOTE: James Jones is a neighbor on the 1840 census. A later Lt Gov of TN is named James Jones.

No more at preazent

NOTE: Next entries are wife and children of George Washington Vaughan. Since his wife and children are enrolled in his mother's book, it can be assumed George lived with his mother until at least December, 1843. In 1858 Nancy makes it clear that he moved away in 1844.

Page 4

Mary Jane (Brown) Vaughan Was Bornd in the Year of our lord May 22 1818

John Franklin Vaughan WAS Bornd April the 4th day 1841

May Uldah Jane Vaughan Was Bornd on the 14 day 1842?

Tennessee Vaughan Was Bornd Dec the day 1843

NOTE: Handwriting changes at least three times, indicating more than one scribe; Spelling, twice; Wording, three times. Entries reflect education.

NOTE: Book and his father's papers were in Benjamin's possession in 1858.

The Daybook was used in her pension application as evidence to prove the names and dates of birth for her eleven children:

State of Tennessee, County of Hawkins} On this 3rd day of February AD One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight , . . . Nancy Vaughan a Resident of Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee aged About 81 Eighty one years , . . . doth on her oath make the following Declaration . . . that her and her said husband . . . raised eleven children, the eldest is James born Oct 15 day 1795; Beverley was born January 4th 1798; Polly was born April 12 day 1800; Rebekah G. was born June the 24 day 1801; Benjamin was born November 4th Day 1804; Nancy was born January 19th day 1807; Mahaly was Born the 10th day March 1809; John was born September 28th day 1811; Samuel Vaughan was born February the 11th 1814; Martha Was born July 24, 1815; George W. Vaughan was born June 15th day 1820; from my hand and seal.

Nancy her X mark Vaughan

(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858.)

Photo Album of Nancy's Descendants

On June 15, 1820 George Washington Vaughan was born. He was the last of John and Nancy's eleven children. At the time James L., the first-born, was twenty-five years old. There were five girls and six boys. The Daybook and Pension Application trail Nancy's offspring from birth to adulthood:

-- **James L.**, born 1795, was gone by 1820. He married Martha Patty Vaughan and started a family of his own about 1815 in Tennessee. He left his first Martha and married Martha A., with whom he fathered two more sons in Indiana. He ended up with a lot of land in Texas after serving in the Texas Army.

Grandsons, Elija C. and Benjamin Franklin Vaughan, sons of James L. (Right)



--**Beverley** was born January 4, 1798, and he left his Hawkins County home, with James L., and after the two brothers left Tennessee for Indiana, Beverley's travels took him up and down roads, rivers, and trails from Arkansas to Illinois for the next quarter century.

Descendants of Beverley. (Pictured Right)

-- **Mary Poley** was born April 12, 1800, married John Gilliam, and lived out her life near the old home place. Nancy stayed with Mary Poley after her son, George Washington, moved to Mississippi.

(No Picture)



--**Rebekah** was born June 24, 1801. She married John Roller in Virginia, and they ended up in Missouri.

Great-granddaughter, Rebeckah Ann Roller, granddaughter of Rebekah. (Top)



-- **Benjamin** was born November 4, 1804. Though there is no record of it, he was probably named Benjamin Franklin. His numerous nephews with the Franklin name are more likely to have been named after him than a beloved Revolutionary hero remembered by his father. He married Eve Everheart, and in 1860—following a visit from James L. out of Texas-- they also went to Texas. **(No picture)**

--**Nancy** was born January 19, 1807. She married David Hickman, stayed in the neighborhood, and, tragically, many of their descendants ended up as outlaws.

Great-grandson, Wilborn Flanary, grandson of daughter Nancy . (Right)



--**Mahala, or Mahaly**, was born March 10, 1809 and died young—at least before her father wrote his will in 1841. She married William Deckard, and they lived next door to her parents in 1830. **(No picture)**

--**John Vaughan, Jr.** was born September 28, 1811. He married Susan Mauk and lived out his life within the Vaughan compound. Two of his children are buried in the Copper Ridge, Vaughan Cemetery.



Grandson, Robert Thomas Jefferson Vaughan, son of John, Jr. (Pictured, Left)

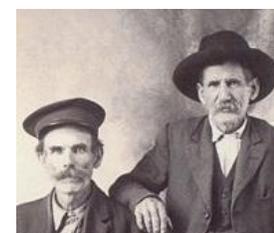
--**Samuel N.**, born February 11, 1814, also died young. He married Malvina Church and they were the parents of William, John, George Washington (b.1846), Julienne, Carter, Matilda, Evan, and Hiram. Their children were all born in Nancy Vaughan's original Tennessee home. Samuel N. died in the old house in 1863, and he and Malvina are buried together up on Copper Ridge. At Malvina's death in 1887, son Carter took over and tended to their house, and it still stands today.

Grandson, George Washington Vaughan, son of Samuel N. (Right, 3rd photo)



--**Martha** was born July 2, 1815, and she married Wilson N. Davis. Her family, like Rebekah's, moved to Missouri.

Grandsons, Wesley and Campbell Davis, sons of Martha. (Right)

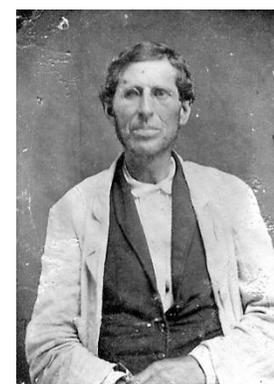


--**George Washington Vaughan**, Nancy's last baby. When George was about twelve, his parents bought a second farm, not far away, and they moved to the other side of the mountain. George inherited the second family home.

Son, in spectacles, George Washington Vaughan, (Only known photograph of Nancy's children. Right)

In 1841, when his father willed him this south side home, George W. and his family were living there with his elderly parents. Three of George's children, along with his wife, are listed in Nancy's book. The names of his wife, Mary Jane Brown, born May 22, 1818, and three of their children almost fill the last page. Their oldest, John Franklin, was born April 4, 1841. Perhaps the old man made out his will in December with a nine month old grandson on his lap. John Vaughan died in 1842. His will left Nancy and her home in the keep and care of John Franklin's father, her youngest son, George Washington.

In 1858 Benjamin entered his mother's Daybook into evidence for her pension application:

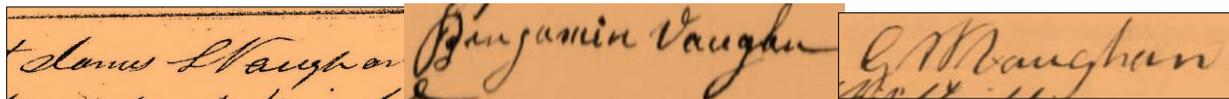




State of Tennessee
County of Hancock,
Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858
formally appeared . . . Benjamin Vaughan aged about 54
years . . . , who further certifies that. . . "the enclosed record
of my father John & Nancy Vaughan is the record which was
found among my father's old papers and it has ever since
remained to my possession."
**(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War
Pension, 1858)**

What a lost treasure the old papers of Ben's father might be, if found today.... Nancy's journal certainly claims a place of distinction in the literary history of her family. As unique as the woman herself it is her deoxyribonucleic acid in pulp and ink. Besides leaving a trail of family genealogy, it says that for at least twenty-five years paper and pen were a priority in the Vaughan household she ran. In 1843 the book was still in use, and pen and ink were still available in Nancy's home when her granddaughter Tennessee was born, December 27th the daughter of George Washington. (Pictured, above left) At the very least, these tools of literacy are proof of Nancy's priorities during her motherhood era.

An overlooked but touching aspect of the data found in Nancy's baby book is that it also proves that Nancy was a good, strong, intelligent mother. She gave birth to eleven children and at a time when almost every family knew the heartbreak of the loss of a newborn--and often a mother—she lived, and she saw to it that all eleven of her babies lived and made it to adulthood. Most of them lived to a ripe old age, and like their mother, some could read and write. In the loneliness on the frontier of the Appalachian foothills, there can be no doubt that Nancy was their teacher and that her home was their school.



Signatures of Three Sons

Mary Poley and Rebekah, being Nancy's older girls, would have spent a lot of time in the kitchen with their mother. It was a busy place. In latter day images of the old Vaughan home of hewn logs, and according to visitors who have seen it, the kitchen seems to have been attached to the house at some later time. Because of kitchen fires, and in part to contend with summer heat, many frontier families built their homes with separate summer kitchens. Pictured, BOTTOM, RIGHT: Back side of the Kitchen—before restoration (1985).

Not only would the family's meals be prepared and eaten in the kitchen, the food itself was processed in the kitchen. Milk had to be strained and separated before it was turned into buttermilk, yogurt, and cheese, and the cream churned into butter, and then it all had to be stored. Meat had to be cured, sliced, chopped, or ground—after it was skinned or plucked, before it was baked, boiled, roasted, smothered, stewed, or fried. On a kitchen doorstep the feathers of many a goose got plucked by the nimble fingers of farm girls like Mary Poley and Rebekah, who then saved the precious fluff to stuff them into soft beds and pillows. In the wills of husbands and fathers of the time, it was not unusual for beds to be handed out as if they were treasures.

The daughters may have picked peppers, herbs, and spices from a kitchen garden growing just outside the back door. And after meals, when they were through helping their mother clean up, perhaps there was time to chase fireflies outside in the yard and play games with the other sisters and brothers in the evening twilight.

Even in the South with its slave labor, the sons of farmers were counted on to do the work. Since



Nancy's family did not deal in slaves, in the fields family workers produced tobacco, sugar cane, corn, and vegetables—leaving the cotton patch to the enslaved field hands on the big plantations in the lowlands. Farm boys helped their fathers raise their crops; earning their keep, they were valuable assets to pioneer families. Perhaps the



Vaughan boys helped their father in a tobacco field--there is a small tobacco patch growing today on the old Vaughan property, just off the refurbished kitchen. (Pictured, UPPER RIGHT) Snuff, tobacco in powdered form—and very addictive, was as commonly used as chewing gum is today; children and adults, alike, dipped, so growing a patch of the plants would have made good sense. Most assuredly everyone helped out in a corn field, because then, as now, corn meant a living.

Even while small children were taught how to do simple but vital chores—especially that of hoeing weeds out of corn rows and picking the ears when they grew fat and yellow. They filled up corn cribs from which they fed their hogs--hogs which farm families raised by the millions in order to put bacon on the breakfast table. Milking the cow—and life on every farm depended on a good milk cow—was a chore even the smallest of hands could accomplish. A child just needed to be tall enough to carry a bucket of milk without sloshing it. Children that big could slop hogs and pick and husk the corn that fed them.

Appalachian Fields and Farms: Bottom photo is mowed hillside behind Vaughan barn, 1997—Mabel Harp Photo Before the Civil War these types of farms caused the area to be referred to as the Switzerland of America.



Mulberry Gap Valley
Submitted by Janet Zengel Messer



Sons grew up as field hands and hirelings, and in the Vaughan family, farm land was parceled out as tenements or sharecropped acreage to sons and as nuptial dowry to daughters. In following census records which show the population growth of Hawkins, later called Hancock, such parceling of a father's "lands and tenements" is so prevalent it may have been an Appalachian, or even Irish, tradition. These hard-working stewards of the land drew on a family-based agricultural system that Vaughan descendants carried on wherever they settled, and it lasted into the mid-twentieth century, up until the time huge agri-businesses took over the growing of things.

From 1807, the births of Nancy, Mahaly, John Jr., Samuel N., Martha and George Washington, filled up the home by 1820.

Then, just as it filled up, the nest began to empty. The two oldest brothers, James L. and Beverley, moved westward toward the lands Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Lewis and Clark opened up for them. James L., a Captain in the Texas Revolution of 1836, kept up the winning of the west, while the sons of Beverley fought and died in winning the 1848 War with Mexico, growing the nation ever nearer to its Pacific horizon. Mary Polly married in the early twenties, and Rebecca was eighteen when she and John Roller got married. So close were their marriage dates, she and Mary Polly could have had a double wedding. Rebecca may have beaten her older sister to the altar. While Mary Polly stayed put in Hawkins County, Rebecca's wedding in Scott County, Virginia was a first step on her way to Missouri.



Hancock County View
Submitted by Janet Zengel Messer

Once referred to as the Switzerland of America

VI. Residence, 1830

After settling in Tennessee Nancy's family saw all the lands around them annexed into the United States. Further on, after 1820, Missouri, Arkansas, and Texas followed. While three of her children moved out into these areas during her lifetime, plenty of her kinfolk hung around. Members of her father's family, as well as her own, flowered around her Hawkins County homes, some still calling themselves, "Calicoe."

By 1830, fellow Tennessean, Andrew Jackson, was in the White House. Jackson too lived in East Tennessee, and as a boy during the Revolution he had witnessed the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill in which John Vaughan had fought. Elected president in 1828, he served from 1829–1837. His Indian Removal Act, the forced relocation of thousands of Native American tribes to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), opened up more land for white settlement. Nine states to the west continued to offer cheap land. In territories such as Texas, James L. could buy land for twenty-five cents an acre--if he didn't mind fighting the Mexicans and Comanche for it.

Tennessee Gentleman, portrait of Jackson, ca. 1831, from The Hermitage collection



The 1830 census shows Nancy at age fifty-three at the original Hawkins County home site with her four youngest children still with her. Mahala lived next door, and all but her two wanderers—James L. and Beverley, were still living in the neighborhood. The family of Mahala and the future families of John Jr. and Samuel N. are also listed, as are the families of William Ford, husband of Dicey, Nancy's older sister and that of their son, Beverley. In 1808 the children's Virginian aunt, Dicey Callicott Vaughan Ford, had moved into their Hawkins neighborhood. Perhaps it was Aunt Dicey who helped with the birth of her new nieces and nephews, for after 1808 the handwriting changed as the name and day of birth were entered in Nancy's baby book. Nancy's big sister was no doubt a welcome help with her growing brood of Vaughans.

Testimony from Nancy's 1858 Pension application describes her whereabouts at the age of fifty-five as dwelling in the original homestead:

Hawkins County, Tennessee,

... we settled on or near Clinch river some 5 or 6 miles from here where I now live. and that we lived there all the while until about the year 1832 at which time my husband bought land on this side of Clinch mountain, and we moved over here in this valley, called then and now, Poor Valley.

(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)

When the family purchased the south side acreage on Clinch Mountain, George, Martha, Samuel N., and John Jr. were teenagers and still living with their parents, but only George moved to Poor Valley with them. Although tax and voting records of 1836 show John Vaughan still living in the district with his now adult sons, Nancy and he had moved out of the original homestead by 1840. Only their sons, Samuel N., John Jr., and Benjamin, along with daughter Nancy Vaughan Hickman, were there in 1840. Nancy lost her first child when their sister Mahala passed away sometime before the 1840 census was taken. Mahala, whose home with her husband William Deckard and their little boy, was next door to her mother and father, situated on land that could have been a dowry gift from them. Listings on future census forms seem to indicate Mahala's sister Nancy—wife of David Hickman—inherited the Deckard home. An epidemic of river fever had taken its toll on Hawkins County in the early thirties that may have claimed Mahala.

The families of future in-laws lived down the 1830 census road. Samuel and John Jr. would choose marriage partners from the Mauk and Church households listed in the neighborhood. Five years later John Jr. married Susan Mauk, the daughter of John Mauk, a local blacksmith. Samuel N. would marry Henry Church's daughter, Malvina, in 1837. Most of the involved families appear on the 1836 Hawkins County Voters and Tax List, with the two Mauks taxed side by side. David Hickman is also listed, and the Church family lives just east of District 4. The election that year was for a Democratic President who could take over for the aging Andrew Jackson who had served two terms; Martin van Buren won the election.

Hawkins County Voters and Tax List for the 1836 Election

Civil District 4: Beginning at the top of Clinch mountain at Little War Gap thence with the road leading to Lee county line to the ford of the creek below James Collier's, down the creek to the river, up the river to Kyle's ford, across the river and with the road by John Wallen's to a **small schoolhouse** thence a due course north to the VA state line thence east with said line to the top of Clinch mountain. Election to be held at George Anderson's.

List of taxpayers (condensed down to persons of interest)

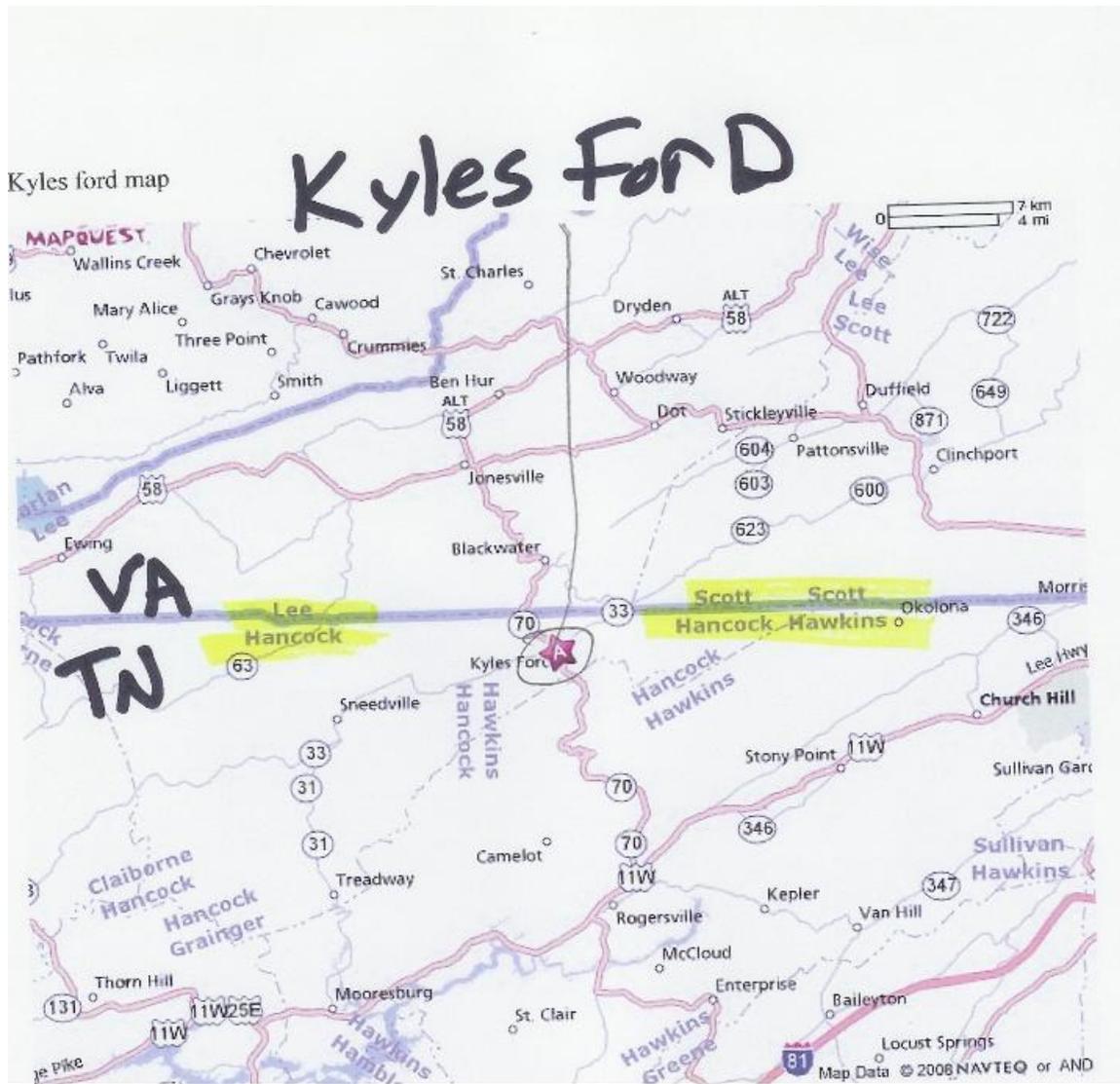
George Anderson; Daniel Bloomer; James Bloomer; Frederick Baiinstiter; John **Burton**; Issac Bledsoe; Thomas **Brown**; James **Collins**; Peter **Field**; Henry Fisher; **Wm Ford**; Joseph Fisher; Reuben Ford; **Beverly Ford**; **James Ford**; Herd Sr; **David Hickman**; Heirs Of Huyson Horton; Cleman Herd; Elijah Johnson; John Johnson Sr; John Johnson Jr; Andrew Johnson; James Johnson; George Jones; Ambrose **Lawson**; David **Lawson**; **John Monk**; **Shadrick Monk**; **Dauswell Monk**; Johnson Medlock; George Medlock; **Pheoby Muncyham**; Susannah **Minor**; **Thomas Moneyhun**; Enoch **Payne**; Reubein Payne; **Hiram Payne**; **John Rolar**; Claibourn Roberts; **Dauswell Rogers**; **Edward Sizemore**; **Owen Sizemore Sr**; **Owen Sizemore Jr**; **Soloman Sizemore**; **Ben P. Templeton**; **Benjamin Vaughn**; **John Vaughn Sr**; **Samuel Vaughn**; **John Vaughn Jr**; John Vaughn; Stopel Yonds.

According to the pension affidavit testimony of George Anderson, John M. Charles, John Templeton, and James Harrison the Vaughns moved "down the mountain" after thirty years of dwelling in the original house. Wiley M. Davis and Uriah B. Still placed the move precisely at "six years previous to his death" which was "the 14th day of July 1842."

See Maps, next page, for the Kyles Ford area in 1836-1837 Hawkins County—now in Hancock County.



This map is from an 1836/1837 map of Tennessee by T.G. Bradford. This image ©1999 by Charles A. Reeves, Jr.



VI. Residence, 1840

By 1840, when his mother was sixty-three, only twenty year old George Washington was still at the new home in Poor Valley. Nancy's other living children, except for James and Beverley—who had answered the call to go west—had grown up but had not gone away. Rebekah's family lived in Virginia, but that was just across the fence from Hawkins. The Benjamin Walker Vaughan listed on her 1840 census is a distant relative of her husband. Nancy's Benjamin was still residing on or near the original north side home place. Brown, Gilliam, and Davis are family names borne by eventual in-laws.

1840 Census

(No. 4.) SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.																				Total								
	MALES										FEMALES																		
	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 and up	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50		50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 and up			
brought forward	227	153	162	129	175	86	94	37	27	16	2			226	161	128	138	207	121	63	37	38	11	6			9		
Joseph Steinberg	1													1															
Guthrie Smith		2	1																										
William J. Johnson	1	1																											
Manning Whistler														1	2														
Stephen Johnson		1	1	1																									
Mary Schans			1	1															2	1									
Lebedee Wesley	2	1													2	1	1												
James Brown																													
John Vaughan			1	1																									
Thomas Watson																													
Mark Kofi		2	1																										
Szavink D. Hittler																													
John Gilliam	1	1	2	2																									
William Lane	1																												
Caleb S. Mantey																													
William Houtchison														2	1	1													
Benjamin Houtchison																													
Benjamin Vaughan	1	1																											
Katharine Davis																													
Lewis Davis	1																												
Andrew L. Galbreath	4	5	1																										
Thomas Caldwell					2																								
Elizabeth Hincheloe																													
William H. Spey	1				2																								
Hardy Reddick	1	1	1																										
David Chambers															2	1													
Nancy Hazard																													
Willie B. Hoarce	2	2	1																										
James M. Hoarce																													
James M. Johnson	2	2																											
	247	176	172	135	174	92	75	40	32	17	2	1		252	178	146	146	221	133	67	42	38	11	6			9		

This 1840 neighborhood is important to Nancy's future. Mary Poley Vaughan Gilliam is nearby, and it is her home that Nancy will share after son George sells this south side property and moves to Nashville. Sometimes afterwards, Nancy moved in with the John Gilliam family and lived with them till the end of her life, but, she is not listed with them on their 1850 census. It's possible that, after selling her house, her son took her to Nashville with his family.

George is still at home in 1840, and will marry Mary Jane Brown, and carry her across the threshold of the Poor Valley residence in June. As usual with the Vaughans, there are unknown children in the home, but they could be Mahala's orphans: Mahala died before 1841, the year her father remembered her *heirs* in his will.

An interesting neighbor is James Brown. Since the children of this clan usually chose their mates from the neighborhood, more than likely this fifty year old man is Mary Jane's father. Mary Jane registers herself and her first three children—from 1841 to 1843--in Nancy's Daybook, so probably less than three years after Nancy's husband's death, Nancy was moved out of her home in Poor Valley. Concerning George moving on, in 1858 Nancy claimed,

the last account I had of him he lived near Nashville, Tennessee and he has been gone from here about 14 years.

This leaves the unanswered question: *Where was Nancy in 1850?* Since she was not with the Gilliam's in 1850, perhaps George started out with his mother in tow. Being Nancy, she may not have wanted to go but didn't get back to Hawkins until after the census of 1850. Around the time of her death, George moved to Mississippi where several names from Hawkins County appear on Mississippi's census with his family. One such name is Carmack. There is a picture of one of the Carmacks in his possession. Another picture of interest in her son's photo album is that of an unidentified old woman. It is easy to imagine that the little lady in the picture is his mother, and it would be interesting to know the age of the photograph.



From the Pixie Album of Dick Hefton.
[016-Little old un-ID woman?](#)

The Pixie Album

Thanks to Richard R. Hefton, descendant of George Washington Vaughan, for sharing the pictures within the worn pages of this marvelous little book. Thanks to James T. Vaughan, the son of George Washington Vaughan, for seeing to it that these images of history got saved.

VIII. Will and Death of John Vaughan, 1841--1842

In December of 1841 Nancy's seventy-nine year old husband made out his will, and he died the following summer. She was sixty-four. She never remarried and died a widow. Instead of leaving their home to Nancy, John left it, the land it was on, and all their personal property to their son, George Washington. In less than three years after John's death, George sold the farm and was living near Nashville. Nancy eventually had to move in with her daughter, Mary Poley Gilliam, who also lived in Poor Valley.

WILL OF JOHN VAUGHAN

Dated: Dec. 27, 1841

Proven: Aug. Term 1842

I, John Vaughan of the County of Hawkins and State of Tennessee, do make this my last Will & Testament hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me heretofore made.

First. My will and desire is that all my just debts be paid out of any money that I may die possessed of, or that may first come into the hands of my Executors.

Second. My will and desire is that my son George Washington, for and in consideration of the bequests hereinafter made to him, do keep and support my wife Nancy Vaughan during her natural life.

Third. I do give and bequeath unto my sons Samuel N. Vaughan and Benjamin Vaughan during their natural lives and then to their lawful heirs forever all my lands on the north side of Clinch Mountain, it being about 110 acres and 10 acres on the south side to copper ridge whereon the said Samuel N. Vaughan now lives, to be equally divided between them according to quality.

Fourth. I do will and direct that the above named Samuel N. and Benjamin Vaughan for and in consideration of the above bequest shall within 12 months after my death jointly pay unto my son John Vaughan \$100.00.

Fifth. I give and bequeath unto my son George Washington Vaughan all my land whereon I now live and joining it being about 170 acres, together with all my personal estate that I may die possessed of or entitled to, and all money and debts due me except so much as may be necessary to supply the bequests made in this will in money.

Sixth. Whereas my sons Beverley Vaughan and James L. Vaughan has gone to parts unknown, if they should return within two years after my death, I do give and bequeath to them one dollar each.

Seventh. I do give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Mahala Dickerd one dollar.

Eighth. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Gilliam one dollar.

Ninth. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Rebecca Roller \$1.00.

Tenth. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy Hickman \$1.00.

Eleventh. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha Davis \$1.00.

And for the performance and execution of this my last will, I do appoint Robert W. Kinkead my Executor. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal. This 27th day of December, 1841.

John his x mark Vaughan (seal)

In presence of: William Carmack, James T. Brice, William E. Carmack

The Carmacks were John's lifelong friends from Maryland who also had Irish ties. They may have come to Tennessee together, they lived in the neighborhood, they were war buddies with war stories to tell, and all of them hailed from Maryland where they had families from Ireland.

When their aged father died in 1842, James L. and Beverley were long gone and evidently had not kept in touch. Though Nancy's eldest sons had been gone for more than twenty years and were far away, in December of 1841 when her husband wrote out his will he mentioned their long absence. His remembrance of the two boys may sound harsh, or even mocking, to the modern ear, but in his 1841 will John Vaughan was simply following an old-fashioned practice of properly handing down his lands to his sons.

Abiding by an ancient primogenitor tradition familiar to old men--back then, John Vaughan left his absent sons something--not to slight them, but to make legal the inheritance of their younger brothers--sons who had NOT been gone for twenty years. The fact that the two eldest boys stayed together may have eased the hurt, but there abides a certain sadness to the sound of "gone to parts unknown" when a parent is speaking of missing children. While there is evidence that James L. returned to visit his boyhood home, in addition to naming a son John in 1828, there is no sign that Beverley ever looked back. However, when three sons of Beverley fought in the War with Mexico, two of Nancy's grandsons died in Mexico City. One, James H. Vaughan, survived the war, was born in 1829, and his Mexican War record mysteriously claimed, "nativity Hawkins, Tennessee." James L., just as inexplicably, had a son named John who is sometimes listed as born in 1828, Hawkins.

The last hometown mention of Beverley is made by his brother Benjamin in 1858, and evidently this was news he heard from the lips of James L.:

State of Tennessee, county of Hancock

Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858 formally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid, Benjamin Vaughan. . . .on his oath depose and say that.

. . . I certify that the last account I had of Beverley he was in the State of Arkansas. In

witness I do here unto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid, Benjamin Vaughan

Affidavit, Nancy Vaughan's Pension Application

On White County, Tennessee's 1820 census, James L., and Beverley were neighbors. For more than a decade the future records of these two Vaughan siblings indicate that they stayed near one another as they continued on their lifelong odyssey down parallel paths. James L. who is easily traced, nowadays, had "gone to Texas," like so many other Tennesseans of his time. His contribution to the war between Texas and Mexico was significant. It seems unfair that Nancy's aging husband, a war hero himself, did not hear the name of their son honored as did the kin of General Sam Houston and Colonel Davy Crockett--two fellow Tennesseans.

However, Nancy was more fortunate, and, happily, got a visit from her warrior son shortly before she died. Several of the men who testified for her on her pension application mentioned James L.'s return home, stating, "that the said John and Nancy lived together all the time during the 20 years I knew them as man and wife on Clinch River then Hawkins county, now Hancock County, in the state of Tennessee and that they raised several children that was acknowledged to be legitimate that James was always said to be the eldest and *from my acquaintance with him he must from his appearance now be the rise of 60 years of age....*" Italics added.

IX. Pension Application and Death, 1858

When the U.S. Congress approved a widow's pension Act in 1848, Nancy began trying, but failed, to get someone to help her make her claim. Not until 1858 when William M. Strickland, a lawyer from Sneedville, filed for her did she receive any assistance. After her husband's death, her life was filled with disappointment. Her pension application describes the last fourteen years of her life:

And that at his death aforesaid he left a will in which he divided his lands and tenements among his children, generally that he left the place we settled when we first came to Tennessee to his sons to wit: Benjamin, Samuel and John Vaughan and that he left the place where he died to his youngest son George W. Vaughan with a provision in it that he was to take care of me my lifetime and he not withstanding has sold the land and moved from here, the last account I had of him he lived near Nashville, Tennessee and that he has been gone from here about 14 years.

She tells how after his death she remained unmarried and a widow of John Vaughan. She tells how her son sold her house. She tells how she lived at her daughter's house instead of her own. She

tells of how--when she first knew there was a pension allowed to the widows of Revolutionary soldiers--she appealed for help to one agent after another. Some agents were her kin. William C. Baldwin of Hancock County, one Hicks of Abingdon, Virginia, one Hiram Rodgers who then lived in Hancock County, Tennessee, and finally one Granville Rodgers, plus "several others not named," falsely promised their help. She tells how she had been ". . . so much confined from old age and bodily infirmity that I could not go to have my claim fixed out and authenticated." She tells of being disappointed and held in suspense from time to time until the attorney Wm. M. Strickland of Sneedville, Tennessee came along. Still, being Nancy, in the midst of seemingly devastating disappointment, her spirit rose up in one last hope that this time she was going to get her money. June 2nd, the indomitable optimist sent her instructions to the War Department of the United States—

. . . in order to obtain a pension certificate for the amount which may be due me under act approved July 29th 1848 which certificate I wish made payable at Knoxville Tennessee agency as it is most convenient. . . .

A fleeting wish, as it turned out—by September, Nancy Callicott Vaughan was dead.

The application of eighty-one year old Nancy Callicott Vaughan, widow of John Vaughan, a soldier of the American Revolution, filed February 3, 1858, was ten years too late. Her hand which at fifteen wrote out an illegal declaration in legal language—the same hand that faithfully recorded the births of children in her Daybook—was too infirm to sign her name. She ended her final words with an X. On September 28, 1858, her attorney wrote the last page to her application ordeal:

Hawkins County Tennessee

Sept 28, 1858, Sir, In the case of Nancy Vaughan, widow of John, a Revolutionary Soldier, she deceased a few days ago. Wm C Strickland

(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)

Nancy lived as a widow for more than fifteen years. By 1858 she did not have anything, and the pension for which she applied, Congress had appropriated for war widows ten years earlier. In her application she clearly claims that she began trying to get compensation early on. She complained in her final affidavit that in all her previous efforts she could find no one to help her—this in spite of five of her eleven children still living close by. Sadly, the application she finally got through was denied. One objection was that she couldn't prove her legal marriage to a war veteran; the other objection was that she did not prove her husband's war record. John's war record speaks volumes, but for some reason, some folks didn't hear.

Since it should have been heard, because the sworn testimony of her neighbors and Hawkins County officials clearly provided sufficient evidence, the times in which she lived suggest a more sinister element was at work here. Her trouble with the pension folks may have been caused by a social element--the Great Migration from Ireland that started in 1848. Running from the Irish potato famine, hordes of starving people made themselves *not welcome* in America. The year 1858 was not a good time to be applying for anything when signs were posted everywhere saying--Irish need not. Especially troubling is a bureaucracy that aided and abetted this prejudice.

Under such circumstances, if they existed early on, even changing John's place of birth to Virginia makes sense. Dealing with people who make up their minds by forming their opinions out of the fetid pool of prejudice can alert a person to take such precautions. For whatever reason, regrettably, Nancy didn't send the search for her marriage record to Maryland; if she had, that is where it was. John was a true war hero whose friends and neighbors, at least, remembered his service:

John Vaughan was by the neighbors generally believed to have been a soldier of the Revolutionary war and especially at the time of his death it was said that another one of the old revolutionary soldiers was dead and frequently spoke of there being so few of them living. . . .

(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)

It remains a mystery why Nancy and her children knew so little, or spoke so little, of John Vaughan of Maryland, a soldier of the American Revolution.

Maryland Revolutionary Records
Part IV. Marriages proved through Maryland Pension Applications

MARRIAGE RECORDS

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Abraham Van Buskirk	Jane Burdette	Nov. 29, 1778	New Jersey
John Van Horn	Eve Finley		
John de Vaubrun	Anne Howard	Sept. 1781	A.A. Co., Md.
John Vaughan	Nancy Callicott	Oct. 16, 1794	Halifax Co., Va.
Adam Vigal	Ann Barnes	circa 1790	Mont. Co., Md.
Aaron Vincent	Rebecca Smith	Aug. 30, 1792	Dorch. Co., Md.
Edward Wailes	Sarah Oden	Mar. 21, 1781	Pr. Geo. Co., Md.
John Walker	Mary Shultz	Oct. 18, 1811	Fred. Co., Md.
John Wall	Elizabeth Scarberry	1771	Rowan Co., N.C.
William Wall	Kitturah Wright, wid.	Sept. 27, 1831	Caroline Co., Md.
Benjamin Walls	Elizabeth Harry	July 30, 1835	Maryland
George Walls	Martha Naylor	Mar. 28, 1784	Pr. Geo. Co., Md.
George Walls	Sarah Club	Jan. 20, 1824	Maryland
Albert Walrath	Catherine Yule	post 1810	Herk. Co., N.Y.
William Wanton	Mary Elizabeth Hughes		Virginia*
Edward Ward	Lucy Wilson	Aug. 6, 1779	Maryland
Joseph Ward	Elizabeth Patterson	ante 1828	Maryland
Joseph Warfield	Elizabeth Dorsey	Aug. 6, 1778	Maryland
George Washburn	Eleanor Rankins	post 1834	Ohio
James Waters	Dradin King		
Richard Waters	Elizabeth Boyle	Dec. 20, 1818	Tal. Co., Md.
Gassaway Watkins	Eleanor Clagett	Apr. 22, 1803	Balto. Co., Md.
Leonard Watkins	Mary Higdon	Dec. 1781	Maryland
Stephen Watkins	Sarah Miller	June 26, 1804	Virginia
Christian Waetherman	Martha Runegan	ante 1793	North Carolina*
John Webb	Susannah Duval	June 15, 1775	Fred. Co., Md.
Isaac Webster	Clemency Gilbert	post 1800	Maryland
Michael Weirick	Elizabeth Rimby	Nov. 16, 1784	Pennsylvania
Adam Weise	Catherine Patton	Dec. 10, 1820	Pennsylvania
Benjamin Wells	Mary Altz	Aug. 2, 1805	Kanawaha Co., Va.
Charles Wells	Mary Williamson		
Cornelius Wells	Sarah Hiller	Nov. 8, 1839	D.C.
Duckett Wells	Sarah Leakin	Jan. 20, 1774	Maryland*
Enos West	Jane Robinson		Harf. Co., Md.
William Wheatley	Rhoda Tull	1782/3	Dorch. Co., Md.
Birdsey W. Wheeler	Machel Fulton	Dec. 23, 1805	York Dist., S.C.
William Whitacre	Sarah Carman	ante 1786	Q.A. Co., Md.
John White	Eleanor Williams	May 13, 1788	Westmoreland, Pa.
John Whittingham	Sarah Patterson	ante 1828	Maryland
Jacob Wilcox	Catherine Sellman	post 1810	Georgia*
George Wilcoxon	Anne Hoskinson		Ohio*
James Wilkinson	Celestine Crudeau	Mar. 5, 1810	New Orleans
Simon Willard	Sarah Patterson	ante 1828	Maryland
Elisha Williams	Harriet Beale	May 6, 1784	Mont. Co., Md.
Gabriel Williams	Margaret Lytton	June 22, 1784	Wash. Co., Md.
Gerard Williams	Ruth Clemens	Feb. 2, 1792	Pittsburg, Pa.
James Williams	Elizabeth Miller	May 26, 1805	Adams Co., O.
Jeremiah Williams	Mary Gaither	Dec. 15, 1784	A.A. Co., Md.

In spite of her husband's glorious military career that formally began at Valley Forge with General George Washington, Nancy could not recall much of it. She could not name the famous place where her husband entered the service with Washington and his troops, and she could only recollect hearing John speak of two places where he served--the High Hills of the Mt. Santee and Fort Schuyler.

She further states that she does not know the name of the place where her said husband entered the service at, that her first acquaintance she ever had with her said husband was some years after the service aforesaid and that she recollects of hearing her said husband speaking of several places that he was at during his service some of which she recollects as follows, to wit: The High Hills of the Mt. Santee & Fort Schuyler and several other places which I cannot at this time call to mind but at what particular place he entered service at I cannot now recollect which he said that he entered at. (Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)

By war's end John's military service was memorable; by the time his service ended he had been promoted to Gunnery Sergeant in the Continental Artillery and fought in battles that should have been easy to recall. As for Nancy's state of mind, in the end she was a tired, sick old woman, already disappointed by one child and needing help which she got so little of from the others. On her deathbed, the youthful hand that had written up a bogus, yet clever, legal document in 1792 had become so crippled she could not so much as sign her name.

When she died no one put up a headstone in remembrance—at least not one that lasted, thus, no one tended her grave. It has been speculated that she and John are buried at the Copper Ridge site, but the sad truth may be that they are not even buried together. The earliest recorded burial on Copper Ridge is of their son, Samuel N., who died in 1863. Her husband had died twenty years earlier—after the purchase of their second home—and he is probably buried at this second site, the property that George Washington inherited and sold. Since Nancy's home and land “down the mountain” were sold, and in the hands of someone else when she died, she may have been buried with the Gilliams with whom she was living in 1858. The Gilliam graves are lost as well.

Nancy Callicott became a woman in a man's world, a world in which women were dependent upon their husbands—and even their adult sons—for their livelihood. It was not unusual for a husband's will to make a wife the beneficiary of a kitchen in which she had cooked forever, a spinning wheel on which she had brought forth the family's clothing, and the very bed on which she had slept, and conceived and borne children—a bed she probably brought to the marriage as part of her dowry. When they married, wives gave up their own name and even their identity. Men kept their women from owning property, from voting, from educational pursuits. The best standing a woman could hope for in her family was that of a cherished pet or a prized farm animal. That Nancy aimed to stand above that status is clear, but she ran out of time. Though she had been doing for herself since childhood—by hook or by crook—she could not defraud time.

In any case, she could not have known any man who could tend to her business as well as she could tend to it herself. One man who came close was John Vaughan. The old soldier always seemed to have the wherewithal to tend to his own. “I have *anuff* to do me in this life,” he used to say, and gave that as a reason for not applying for his veteran's war pension.

However, when Nancy died she didn't have anything. Her final documents say her last days became lost in nineteenth century bureaucracy where she tried to obtain a small widow's pension that was due her. Gone was the youthful sprite who had forged legal documents. Gone was the educated hand that could write out the correct spellings for *January* and *February*. Gone was the teacher who had passed on literary skills to her children. Gone was the memory of the famous battles in which her husband had fought in famous places in the company of famous men. Finally, gone were children who were supposed to do unto her in her old age as she had done unto them in their youth. The second of her affidavits, with its guarded language and her selective memory, tell how the end for the once spritely Nancy Callicott was, undeniably, quite sad.

But the troubles that cloud Nancy's story have a silver lining. Her youngest son, George Washington, perhaps bookish himself, eventually became the father of a houseful of children who could read and write. They were grandchildren his mother could be proud of. He put them all in school, and as a result the long arm of their educated grandmother's legacy reached into the twenty-first century. Two boys grew up to be educators—spending their time in a one room schoolhouse teaching children to read and write. Their students could study by the light of an electric lamp, chug along down a rough road in an automobile, and enjoy the luxury of indoor plumbing.

I Artillery.		Continental Troops.
<i>Jno. Vaughan</i>		
(Capt. William Brown's Company of Colonel Harrison's Regiment of Artillery.)		
(Revolutionary War.)		
Appears on		
Company Muster Roll		
of the organization named above for the month		
of	<i>May</i> , 1778.	
Roll dated	<i>Valley Forge June 3, 1778</i>	
Appointed	, 17	
Commissioned	, 17	
Enlisted	, 17	
Term of enlistment	<i>3 Yrs.</i>	
Time since last muster or enlistment		
Alterations since last muster		
Casualties		
Remarks:		
<small>*This company was designated at various times as Captain William Brown's and 1st Company. This company of Maryland Artillery was assigned to Harrison's Regiment by order of General Washington of May 30, 1778. The regiment was subsequently assigned to the State of Virginia, under Act of Congress of October 3, 1790, which provided that the regiments of artillery be considered as belonging to the States to which allotted, which States shall complete them to the full complement and in every respect treat them as if originally raised therein.—R. & P., 418, 663.</small>		
<i>Howell</i>		Coyt.
(447)		

Valley Forge Muster Sheet, 1778

A certain symmetry grows up through George Washington's branch of her family tree as he and his children showed a lifelong interest in community and government affairs. He fathered sons who were political activists who ran for office, while his daughters—who couldn't run—showed their patriotism by at least naming their sons after famous politicians who could. His children in turn brought forth more educators, politicians, and even a newspaper editor.

The legal acumen of the fifteen year old girl who fearlessly wrote out false documents in 1792 and again in 1794—even if manifested in unlawful acts—lived on in the hearts and minds of each new generation of George Washington's progeny, culminating in the birth of Roland Carlisle Vaughan, May 18, 1915. Living into the twenty-first century, he died in 2010, a distinguished and powerful District Judge in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas—descendant of Nancy Callicott Vaughan.

The End

X. Affidavits of Widow's Application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858

Transcriptions of original documents:

Hawkins County, Tennessee, USA, Maryland Revolutionary War Records about John Vaughan

Name: John Vaughan (The Widow Applied For Pension)

Rank: Gunner Establishment: Continental Line

(See handwritten original documents @: <http://www.childresscousins.org>)

State of Tennessee County of Hawkins

On this 3rd day of February AD One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight personally appeared before Me Wm. Hutchinsson a justice of the Peace within And for the county and state aforesaid, Nancy Vaughan a Resident of Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee aged About 81 Eighty one years who being first duly sworn According to law doth on her oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Provision made by the act of congress passed July the 29th 1848 And that she is the widow of John Vaughan who was a Gunner in or about the year 1780 and was a sergeant in or About the year 1781 in the company commanded by Capt. William Brown of Col. Charles Harrison's regiment of Artillery that he was an enlisted soldier in the aforesaid Maryland artillery and served three years till he was formally discharged From the aforesaid army of the Revolutionary war of the United States and that his discharge is lost or mislaid it and it Cannot now be had and in order to establish the service and Length of service she refers to the evidence in the department of the Said company of artillery and State line. And she further certifies that she was married to John Vaughan on or about the 16th day of October AD 1794 by one Parson Hayse a clergyman in Halifax County In the state of Virginia and that her and her said husband Moved from the state of Virginia about the year 1800 And settled in the county and state aforesaid and in the settlement Where I have and since and now reside and that her husband Died at home in the county of Hawkins and state of Tennessee on The 14th day of July AD 1842 and that she has remained a Widow ever since that time and is now a widow and that Her name before her said marriage was Nancy Callicott That her nor her said husband never kept any record or other Writing of the dates of their said marriage nor does she know of Anyone or believe that any person is now alive who was At their marriage as aforesaid nor does she believe that the same is on record unless it should appear of record in the county of Halifax in the state of Virginia where they were married as aforesaid And she further states that her and her said husband lived together from the date of their marriage aforesaid to the date of His death aforesaid and raised eleven children, the eldest is James born Oct 15 day 1795 Beverley was born January 4th 1798 Polly was born April 12 day 1800 Rebekah G. was born June the 24 day 1801 Benjamin was born November 4th Day 1804 Nancy was born January 19th day 1807. Mahaly was Born the 10th day March 1809 John was born September 28th day 1811 Samuel Vaughan was born February the 11th 1814: Martha Was born July 24, 1815 George W Vaughan was born June 15th day 1820 And that she has never heretofore applied for or received A pension she alleges it has been through neglect and an _____ and attending to prosecute her claim and that she cannot From afflictions of old age and loss of memory more supply or Correctly state the facts from her recollection but for the Further proof of her said marriage cohabitation and (reproduction) she refers to the proof hereto amassed and that she makes This declaration in order to obtain her claim for pension under The act approved July the 29th 1848 and she further declares That she is not able in consequence of bodily affliction and Old age to attend the court: therefore Know all men by these presents that I Nancy Vaughan Aforesaid do hereby constitute and appoint William W Strickland of Sneedville Tennessee my true and lawful attorney for me and for my name to demand And *present* My said claim and to do all and every legal act that He could _____ to _____ personally present the Doing _____ and that I will not revoke this power hereafter as it is from my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid written.

Nancy her X mark Vaughan

Attest. Thomas his X mark Davis , Lilborn his X mark Davis

We, Thomas Davis and Lilborn Davis *residence* of Hawkins County in the state of Tennessee upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration announced the power of attorney was signed and acknowledged by Nancy Vaughan by making her mark to her name and we further declare that we knew John Vaughan in his lifetime and know that he was always understood and believed to be a soldier in the Revolutionary War by his neighbors generally, and since our first acquaintance with him and we know that the said John Vaughan died on or about the 14th day of July 1842, and that he died in this settlement but that we know nothing of the marriage of the two parties but know that the said John Vaughan and the said Nancy, this declarant lived about 35 years from our first acquaintance with them to the date of his death aforementioned in the county of Hawkins, state of Tennessee and in the neighborhood where they lived as man and wife. They _____ and behaved ever as re_____ and respected by their neighbors, generally up to the date of the said John's death aforementioned. And we further state that the said John Vaughan with the said Nancy his wife had raised several children the most of which we are presently acquainted with and that from the appearance they are about the ages which said Nancy states in her declaration and we further state that the first as well as the last was always acknowledged by them both to be legitimate and that at the death of the said John that his (friend) together with Nancy his wife was all in his statement that we have known by acquainted with the declarant and since the will of her said husband John Vaughan aforementioned and that she has not again remarried but has remained, and is now, the reputed and respected widow of John Vaughan aforementioned. That _____ from acquaintance _____ from her appearance and statement _____ and circumstance that she is the identical person she therein represents herself to be and that she is not able in consequence of old age and bodily infirmity to attend the court and that we have no interest in this claim but believe that she is entitled to the same _____.

Our hand and seal this 3rd day of February AD 1858

Thomas his X mark Davis, Lilborn his X mark Davis

State of Tennessee County of Hawkins

Be it known that the foregoing declaration _____ power of attorney, an affidavit made, sworn to, signed, and acknowledged before me Wm. Hutchinsson, a Justice of the Peace on the day and year it bears date and testify that I know the affiant to be creditable in person and residence of my county that they are men of truth and veracity and that they are of sufficient age to know the facts about which they state and that I further certify that I have known this claimant and about 20 years previous to the death of her husband and have known her ever since and she is a widow and that this affidavit foregoing is true and it is generally believed that she is the identical person she therein represents herself to be and that _____ the applicant from bodily infirmity and old age (is unable to) attend the event and that I have no further interest in this claim whatsoever.

Witness my hand and official seal the 3rd day of February AD 1858

Wm. Hutchinsson, J.P.

State of Tennessee, County of Hawkins} I, James Vance, clerk of the County Court of Hawkins County in the state aforesaid, by my deputy Willie B. Mitchell do hereby certify that William Hutchisson wherein named subscriber to the above certificate is an acting Justice of the Peace for said county and state duly commissioned and qualified and that his signature therein is genuine.
 Given under my hand and seal of office
 At office in Rogersville the 3rd day of March AD 1858,
 James Vance, Clerk;
 By W. B. Mitchell, Deputy

State of Virginia, County of Halifax} ss I, William S. Holt, Clerk of the County Court in the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that I have carefully examined the records and files of my office for the marriage of John Vaughan and Nancy Callicott and find no record of said marriage—I further certify that the records of marriages in my office are not so complete as to raise a presumption against the alleged marriage. In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed the seal of said County and subscribe my name this 30th day of March 1858.
 Wm. S. Holt, Clerk

Sneedville Aprile 14th 1858; Sir, enclosed, Please find the declarations and certificates of Nancy Vaughan, widow of John and *Sergent* in the Revolutionary War. You will please to consider the claim of the old lady as soon as the opportunity will admit of it. Her claim has been held up for a certificate from the clerk of the County Court of Halifax County State of Virginia where they were married. We could not find a record or get a certificate of marriage as you will see by the enclosed certificate but we are satisfied that we have sufficient proof of cohabitation and general reputation to suffice in this case of the roles of the Va state line, and Companies mentioned will afford record proof of service. So we depend on the records of the department and for the proof of service. So we hope to hear from you soon.
 I am sir, your Humble Servant, Wm Strickland, Sneedville, Tennessee
 Honorable George C Whiting, Commissioner of Pensions, Washington City, DC

State of Tennessee county of Hancock, Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858 formally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the county aforesaid Benjamin Vaughan aged about 54 years, after being by me duly-sworn according to law both on his oath depose and say that he will be fifty four years of age on the 4th day of November AD 1858 to the best of his knowledge information and belief and that he further certifies that the enclosed record of my father John & Nancy Vaughan is the record which was found among my father's old papers and it has ever since remained to my possession and as to the correctness of which I certify that I can recollect the birth of Samuel, Martha & George W. Vaughan which part of the record I certify from my resolution and from circumstances is correct and that I certify that James, Polly, Beverley, Rebecky Vaughan are all four elder than me, and that the last account I had of James he was in the State of Texas and that the last account I had of Beverley he was in the State of Arkansas and that Polly lives in Hawkins County in the State of Tennessee. Rebecky lives in the State of MO the last account, and that Nancy, Mahaly & John are all three younger than me but I cannot recollect the dates of their births and that Nancy & John lives in this county and that Mahaly is dead and that Samuel resides in the county and that the last account of George is he lived near Nashville Tennessee and that Martha lives in Knox County in the State of Tennessee; and that my father John Vaughan died on the 14 day of July AD 1842 and that at his death he left a will in which I certify he willed to me John & Samuel Vaughan the tract of land whereon I now live and where on Samuel now lives, that they paid him after the death of their said father \$100. for his part of said tract of land and that his other lands and Tenements was divided amongst the other heirs and that I further certify that I know of no other record of the dates and births of said heirs or any other dates or record of the marriage; if any such record exists private or public he does not know anything of them, and I further certify that after the Act of 1832 I heard my father frequently speak of his claim, that he said that he would not trouble himself about it, that he did not kneed it, and that on several occasions I have heard him in conversation with one Samuel Dollison who is no more and who was a vain, drinking character and who applied for pension, that if he, Dollison, could obtain his pension and could get what was due to him, John Vaughan, that he, Dollison, would have money enough to pay for his drinking and that Dollison never received a pension as I know of.

In witness I do here unto set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid: Benjamin Vaughan

Attest 1. Unreadable signature;

2. W. N. Berry

State of Tennessee, County of Hancock, I, James Forde, a justice of Peace do hereby certify that the foregoing affidavit was sworn to, signed and acknowledged by Benjamin Vaughan and witnessed in my preasence and that I further certify that the said affiant is a man of truth and veracity and that I have known him for many years and know that he is the ___ person he therein represents himself to be, and that his statements are true, and the witnesses forgoing are each credible persons and that I have no interest in this claim in any manner whatever.

Witness my hand and official seal this 28 day of May AD 1858;
 James Forde

State of Tennessee, County of Hancock, (ss.) on this 28 day of May AD 1858 personally appeared before me the undersigned as Justice of the peace George Anderson, said aged about 78 years who am well known to me to be a man of truth and veracity and who is a reliable witness and who being by the law duly sworn, depose, and say that he is well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Vaughan the respected mother of Benjamin Vaughan the fore going affiant, and who I understand has applied for a pension that he has known her for about 58 years past that he was acquainted with John Vaughan, her late husband, having known him for about 42 years previous to his death; that they, the said John and Nancy lived together as husband and wife all the while he knew them as

aforsaid and were reported so to be that defformant never heard the fact of their marriage disputed or questioned; that the said John Vaughan died on or about 14 day of July AD 1842 and that he further states that the said John and Nancy lived together all the while he knew them from about the year 1800, AD to the day of his death, first at the place where the above affiant and Samuel Vaughan now lives till about 10 years before his death, at which time he moved down Clinch mountain and settled in the valley called then and now Poor valley near where the reputed widow now lives in Hawkins County that they raised several children about eleven which was all acknowledged by them both to be legitimate that James was always said to be the eldest, and that from his acquaintance and from his, the same James', appearance he must now be about 63 years of age and that the several children went by his name and at the death of the said John Vaughan he has understood and believes that his children heird a part in his estate and that during my acquaintance with the said John Vaughan I always understood that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and that I never heard the fact questioned, but that it was to the best of my knowledge and belief, generally understood and believed by his neighbors that he was a soldier as aforesaid and that the said James moved to the west some years ago and that George W Vaughan the youngest moved from here toward middle Tennessee and never came back, and that the following children lives in this vicinity to wit Benjamin, John, Samuel, Polly, Nancy, Martha in Knox County, Tennessee, and the others have moved from here, I don't know where they are and since the said John Vaughan's death the said Nancy has never again married but has remained and is now the reputed widow aforesaid and that I am no ways related to the said Nancy, the claimant, and that I have no interest in her claim whatever.

Witness my hand and seal, George his X mark Anderson

Attest M. (Panner)

The affiant is a resident of my county and (that he) sworn to, signed, witnessed, and acknowledged ____, on this 28 day of May 1858.

James Ford, Justice of the Peace.

State of Tennessee, Hancock County} I, Richard Mitchell, clerk of the county court for said county do hereby certify that James Ford is an acting Justice of the Peace for said county and State legally commissioned and sworn into office and that his signature to this above is genuine.

Given under my hand in office, Sneedville this 5th day of June 1858,

Richard Mitchell, Clerk

State of Tennessee, County of Hawkins} ss On the 2nd day of June AD1858 personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the *pease* in and for said county, John M. Charles – aged about 47 years who am well known to me to be a man of truth and veracity and who is a credible witness and who being by me duly sworn, depose, and say that he is well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Vaughan the foregoing applicant for a pension that he has known her for about 30 years past that he was acquainted with John Vaughan her late husband having known him for about 20 years previous to his death that they, the said John and Nancy, Lived together as husband and wife and was reputed so to be that defformant never heard the fact of their marriage disputed or questioned that the said John Vaughan died on or about the 14th day of July 1842 and that he further states that the said John and Nancy lived together all the time during the 20 years I knew them as man and wife on Clinch River then Hawkins county, now Hancock County, in the state of Tennessee and that they raised several children that was acknowledged to be legitimate that James was always said to be the eldest and from my acquaintance with him he must from his appearance now be the rise of 60 years of age and that about 10 years before his death aforesaid they moved down the Clinch Mountains in a valley, called then and now, Poor Valley, Hawkins County, Tennessee and died in about one mile of where his widow Nancy now lives and that their several children all went by his name and at his death they all heird a part in his estate and that the said JohnVaughan was by the neighbors generally believed to have been a soldier of the Revolutionary war and especially at the time of his death it was said that another one of the old revolutionary soldiers was dead and frequently spoke of there being so few of them living and I further certify that James Vaughan aforesaid moved from here to Texas and that the youngest son moved near Nashville Tennessee and that the rest of them lives in this county that I am personally acquainted with to wit—Benjamin, John, Samuel, Polly, Nancy, Martha in Knox County Tennessee the others have move off-- I don't know where, and that the said Nancy has been since the day of said John's death and still is reputed to be his widow which deponent believes to be the fact, that she has never married since her said husband's death, and still is his widow and that he the deponent do reside in the county aforesaid and that I Believe she is the identical person she represents herself to be and that I am in no way related to the applicant and that I have no interest in the *prosicution* of her claim or otherwise whatever.

John M. Charles

John Templeton

James Harrison

Sworn to, Subscribed, and witnessed before me this 2 day of June AD 1858,

Wm Hutchisson JP, For Hawkins County, State of Tennessee, Hawkins County} ss I, James H Vance, clerk of the county court of said county, do certify that William Hutchisson Esq. before whom the foregoing declarations and affidavits were made is now and was at the date thereof was acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County legally commissioned and qualified and that his several Signatures foregoing are genuine.

Given under my hand and Official Seal at office in Rogersville the **sixth day of June 1858**, J.H. Vance, Clerk

State of Tennessee, County of Hawkins; On the 2nd day of June AD One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight personally appeared before me the subsender, a justice of the peace, in and for said county, Mrs. Nancy Vaughan, who is to me known to be the person mentioned as Claimant in a previous declaration in the pension office at Washington City. And who being by me first duly sworn doth on her oath state that there is no public nor private record of her marriage to the best of her knowledge, information, and belief, she further state that she ran away with her Husband John Vaughan from Sharlotte County Virginia and went into Halifax County Virginia and was married by one Parson Hayze, a clergyman, and that she was married at the house of the said Parson Hayze's and that she knows of no one that is now living who was present at her marriage aforesaid. She further states that she cannot from her recollection give the precise day and year of her said marriage but she states to the best of her recollection that it

was on or about the ___ day of October 1794. *There* is one thing she states she does know, that it was something over one year after the said marriage that James Vaughan, her eldest son, was born on the 15 day of October 1795 and that since her previous declaration we have found in the possession of her son Benjamin Vaughan of Hancock County, Tennessee a part of an old day book containing the records of my children's ages to wit the day and year of each birth which she certifies is true to the best of her recollection and which is here with enclosed, and that she was born and raised in Prince Edward and *Sharlotte* Counties in Virginia and to the best of her information her said husband John Vaughan was born in the state of Virginia at least the first time she ever knew him was in *Sharlotte County* in Virginia and at that time she states that she was about eleven years of age. She further states that she does not know the name of the place where her said husband entered the service at, that her first acquaintance she ever had with her said husband was some years after the service aforesaid and that she recollects of hearing her said husband speaking of several places that he was at during his service some of which she recollects as follows, to wit: The High Hills of the Mt. Santee* & Fort Schuyler** and several other places which I cannot at this time call to mind but at what particular place he entered service at I cannot now recollect which he said that he entered at. And that she further states that after her marriage aforesaid she and her said husband resided in the state of Virginia some six years and that they moved from the state of Virginia about the year 1800 and came to Hawkins County, Tennessee, that they settled on or near Clinch river some 5 or 6 miles from here where I now live. then Hawkins County now Hancock County, Tennessee where her sons Benjamin and Samuel Vaughan now lives and that we lived there all the while until about 10 years before his death which was in the year 1832 at which time (1832) her said husband bought land on this side of Clinch mountain, and we moved over here in this valley, called then and now, Poor Valley in Hawkins County, Tennessee, where he lived till the day of his death which took place on the 14th day of July 1842 and in about one mile of where I now live with her daughter Polly. She further states that if her husband ever made any application for a pension she never knew anything of it but that she does not believe that he ever did from the fact that she has heard him oftimes speak of his service and of his claim and say that he would not trouble himself about his claim that he had *anuff* to do him his lifetime without it. And that at his death aforesaid he left a will in which he divided his lands and tenements among his children generally that he left the place we settled when we first came to Tennessee to his sons to wit: Benjamin, Samuel and John Vaughan and that he left the place where he died to his youngest son George W. Vaughan with a provision in it that he was to take care of me my lifetime and he not withstanding has sold the land and moved from here, the last account I had of him he lived near Nashville, Tennessee and that he has been gone from here about 14 years and that since the death of her said husband she states that she has remained unmarried and is now the widow of John Vaughan aforesaid and that ever since she first understood that there was a pension allowed to the widows of the Revolutionary Soldiers which was several years ago she certifies that at the first opportunity which was some 6 or 7 years ago I *applied* to one William C. Baldwin of Hancock County Tennessee to file my declaration and to prosecute my said claim and he said he would at some other time that he had not time then and went off and never came back and again about 3 or 4 years ago one Hicks of Abingdon, VA sent word me time and again that he would come and fix my papers and that he never came and again about two years ago one Hiram Rodgers who then lived in Hancock County aforesaid came to see me and said he would fix out my declaration for me and prosecute my claim and that he run off and was to be back at a certain time but never came and that about one year ago one Granville Rodgers sent me word that he would come and fix out my application but never came all of the foregoing named with several others not named has promised me to fix and some promised to have my claim fixed out and never done anything and I have been so much confined from old age and bodily infirmity that I could not go to have my claim fixed out and authenticated and that she had been thus disappointed and held in suspense from time to time until the time of filing her declaration by her attorney Wm. M. Strickland of Sneedville Tennessee which is on file in the pension office at Washington City which is the first declaration that I ever made my claim, and this next additional, in order to obtain a pension certificate for the amount which may be due me under act approved July 29th 1848 which certificate I wish made payable at Knoxville Tennessee agency as it is most convenient and that she further certifies that she cannot from bodily infirmity, old age, and loss of memory from her recollection more correctly or safely State the facts and she refers to the evidences in the department on file and the evidence herewith enclosed in support of my claim aforesaid and that I am not able in consequence of bodily infirmity and old age to attend the court.

Nancy (her X mark) Vaughan

1. Wiley M. Davis,
2. Uriah B. Still

State of Tennessee, County of Hawkins} On the second day of June AD 1858 personally appeared before me, the undersigned Justice of the Peace in and for said county Wiley M. Davis and Uriah B. Still who are to me well known and who are each credible persons and who living by me duly swore and depose and say that they are each well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Vaughan the above applicant for a pension, that they have known her for 22 years, past that they were acquainted with John Vaughan her late husband , having known him for 6 years previous to his death that they, the said John and the said Nancy this declarant, that they lived together as husband and wife and so reputed to be that deponents never heard the fact of their marriage disputed or questioned that the said JohnVaughan died on or about the 14th day of July 1842 , and the said Nancy Vaughan has remained since that day a widow and is still the reputed widow of John Vaughan aforesaid which the deponents believes to be the fact and that her said husband is and was the identical man mentioned as a soldier in the foregoing affidavit and that was and is generally believed to be by his neighbors a soldier of the Revolutionary War and that they were present and saw the affiant sign her name to the foregoing affidavit by making her mark to her name and further that the deponents do reside in the County aforesaid, and that ___ and neither any was Related to the claimant and that we have no interest in the claim aforesaid in no manner whatever. Witness our hand and seals, Wiley M. Davis , Uriah B. Still.

The foregoing affidavits were sworn to, signed, and acknowledged before me on the day and year it bears date and I certify that they are credible persons and that I am the Justice of the Peace before whom the previous declarations was made an acknowledged and ratify my certificate ___ to ___ witness and that I have no interest in the claim in no manner whatever and that I further certify that the affiants is of sufficient age to know the facts about which they state. Witness my hand and official seal, W. Hutchisson, JP, for Hawkins County

Sneedville, June 7th 1858

Sir, in reply to yours of May the 11th I understand you to intimate that the name of the Sergeant John Vaughan appears on the roles of Capt Wm Brown's Company and Col. Chas. _____ * and Company, if so in *connexion* with that and, in *obediants* to the requirements of the 11th May, we enclose *our* evidence to clearly identify her marriage and identity with the service claimed which is

sufficient *Primaphasia* evidence herewith enclosed beyond a reasonable doubt the claimant is clearly entitled to her claim and I plead that her claim should issue. I am your most obedient Servant

Wm. M. Strickland
Sneedville, Tennessee

Hon.

Commissioner of Pensions, Washington City, DC

*should be Harrison, but it is not; may be word or words that mean "unreadable"

Department of the Interior; August 12th 1858

Sir,

I have examined the claim of Nancy Vaughan widow of John Vaughan for a pension under Act July 29th 1848, upon which an appeal has been taken from your decision.

I am of the opinion that the evidence is insufficient to show in a satisfactory manner, that the widow's husband was the identical John Vaughan who served as a gunner and Sergeant under Col. Charles Harrison and Capt. William Brown, in the Virginia Continental line. Your decision is therefore affirmed, and the papers which accompanied your report are herewith returned to your office.

I am, very respectfully, Your obdt. Servt., J. (unreadable signature), Secretary.

Hon. G.C. Whiting, Commissioner, of Pensions

Sneedville, September 28th 1858

Sir, Having just received yours of the 11th of August 1858, in the case of Nancy Vaughan widow of John a Revolutionary Soldier, claim to pension under Act of July 29 1848, and will now inform you that the claimant Nancy Vaughan deceased a few days ago and we wish to know if we will not have a right to complete the adjustment of her claim in the name of her kin owing to former decisions we have the right and we claim that we ought to have the right yet. So I hope to *heare* from you. I am and remain yours truly, Wm C Strickland, Sneedville, Tennessee

Honorable George C. Whiting, Commissioner of Pensions

Timeline and Sources

1777

Jan

Prince Edward CO , VA. . . .enclosed, and that she was born and raised in Prince Edward and Sharlotte Counties in VA . . . (Excerpt from 1858 Pension Application)

Introduction to Nancy Callicott's Papers

1777

Feb

Her life, on paper, w/signature. Original materials can be viewed @ <http://www.childresscousins.org>

First Meeting

1789 Jan

Age: 12

Charlotte CO , VA , "The first time she ever knew John Vaughan was in Charlotte CO in VA and that at that time she states that she was about eleven years of age." Affidavit, Pension Application

Charlotte VATranscription, False Affidavit Made by Nancy Calicote, Charlotte CO , October 6th 1792, this is to certify the clerk of said CO that haveing no guardian nor controller, consent for being of age for my self that there may be a law full Licence

Marriage to John Vaughan

1794 16 Oct

Age: 17

Halifax Co., VA.Eloped and married by Parson Hay.Name: Nancy Callicot, Gender: Female, Birth Place: VA, Birth Year: 1772, Spouse Name: John Vaughan, Spouse, Birth Place: Ir, Spouse Birth Year: 1762, Marriage, Year: 1794

Residence

1794

Age: 17

Halifax, Halifax, VA , of record in the CO of Halifax in the state of VA where they were married... 1858 Pension affidavit.

Birth of James L. Vaughan

1795 15 Oct

Age: 18

VA , 1.Daybook entry. 2.they raised several children that was acknowledged to be legitimate that James was always said to be the eldest and from my acquaintance with him he must from his appearance now be the rise of 60 years of age

Birth of Beverley Vaughan

1798 4 Jan

Age: 21

Halifax, Halifax, VA , Daybook Entry

Birth of Poley Vaughan

1800 12 Apr

Age: 23

Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry

Residence

1800 Age: 23

Hawkins/Hancock, TNA History of the First John Vaughan Hawkins, TN Homestead. Hancock Co was later formed out of this Northern part of Hawkins Co. **VPG File**

Birth of Rebekah Vaughan

1802 24 Jun

Age: 25

Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry

Birth of Benjamin Vaughan
 1804 4 Nov
 Age: 27
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry

Birth of Nancy Vaughan
 1807 19 Jan
 Age: 30
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry.

Arrival
 1808 Age: 31
 Hawkins CO , TN , Sister, DiceyCallicott Vaughan Ford arrives w/husband. Son, Beverley C. is born aft 15 yrs of marriage. No records have been found of earlier births..

Birth of Mahaly Vaughan
 1809 10 Mar
 Age: 32
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry

Birth of John Vaughan, Jr.
 1811 28 Sep
 Age: 34
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry

Birth of Samuel N. Vaughan
 1814 11 Feb
 Age: 37
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry.

Birth of Martha Vaughan
 1815 24 Jul
 Age: 38
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry.

Birth of last child
 1820 15 Jun
 Age: 43
 Hawkins CO , TN , raised eleven: Jmes Oct 15 1795; Beverly Jan 4 1798; Polly Apr 12 1800; Rebechah Jun 24 1802; Benjamin Nov 4 1804; Nancy Jan 19 1807; Mahaly 10 Mar 1809; Jhn Sep 28 1811; Samuel Feb 11, 1814; Martha Jul 24,1815; George W Vaughan Jun 15 1820: Pension claim

Birth of George Washington Vaughan
 1820 15 Jun
 Age: 43
 Hawkins CO , TN , Daybook Entry.

Census
 1830
 Age: 53
 Hawkins CO , TN , 5 thru 9=1 – George Washington Vaughan, b 1820; 15 thru 19=2 -- John, Jr. b 1811 and Samuel N b1814 Vaughan; 60 thru 69=1 – John Vaughan Sr., b1762; 10 thru 14=2 – Martha Vaughan, b1817 and UNKNOWN; 50 thru 59=1 – Nancy

Residence
 1830
 Age: 53
 Hawkins, TN , United StatesCensus page 119 lists family of James Jones, w/u-15 male, which matches info in Nancy's Daybook for a baby James Jones..

Residence

1830

Age: 53

Hawkins, TN , United States.

Death of Daughter, Mahala

1831, aft

Age: 54

Hawkins Co TN, John Vaughan's 1841 Will: Seventh. I do give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Mahala Dickerd one dollar. Mahala is alive w/one male U/5 heir, 1830 Census.

Property

1832

Age: 55

Hawkins CO, TN, Family moves to south side of Clinch Mt. George, still at home.

Census

1840

Age: 63

Hawkins CO , TN , that we settled on or near Clinch river some 5 or 6 miles from here where I now live. and that we lived there all the while until about the year 1832 at which time my husband bought land on this side of Clinch mountain, and we moved over here in this valley

Residence

1840

Age: 63

Hawkins, TN , United States Home in 1840 Hawkins, TN, New home, Southside Clinch; Males-10 thru 14: 1 = Unknown Visitor; Males-20 thru 29: 1 = George Washington, son; Males-70 thru 79: 1 = John Sr; Females-10 thru 14: 2=Martha & Unknown Visitor; Females-60 thru 69:

Will

1841 Dec

Age: 64

Hawkins CO , TN , Will of Husband, John Vaughan

Departure

1845

Age: 68

Son, Geo., sells Nancy's home and moves his family to Nashville.

Pension Application

1858 2 Feb

Hawkins CO , TN , . In 1858, eighty-one year old Nancy Callicott Vaughan, widow of John Vaughan, a soldier of the American Revolution, applied for a widow's pension.

Death Sept 1858