

Joseph Black

Joseph Black was born 22Feb1747 on Buffalo Marsh Run (or at Joseph Colville, his grandfather's house on Opequon Creek nearby). He was the first son of John and Elizabeth Colville Black. His father died later that year before the birth of his younger sister, Elizabeth.

Joseph inherited his father's farm which was deeded to him upon his age of majority. He grew up in the very Presbyterian community adjacent the plantation of David Logan. His mother's younger brothers Andrew and Samuel Colville served early fatherly capacities, then at age seven he acquired a step father, Samuel (1713) Newell, and big brother Thomas Newell. Boyhood next door neighbor, Benjamin Logan would later in 1771 move with him to the Holston. Younger brother Samuel Newell joined the family 04Nov1754 while his step father was detained by storms at sea returning from business in Scotland.

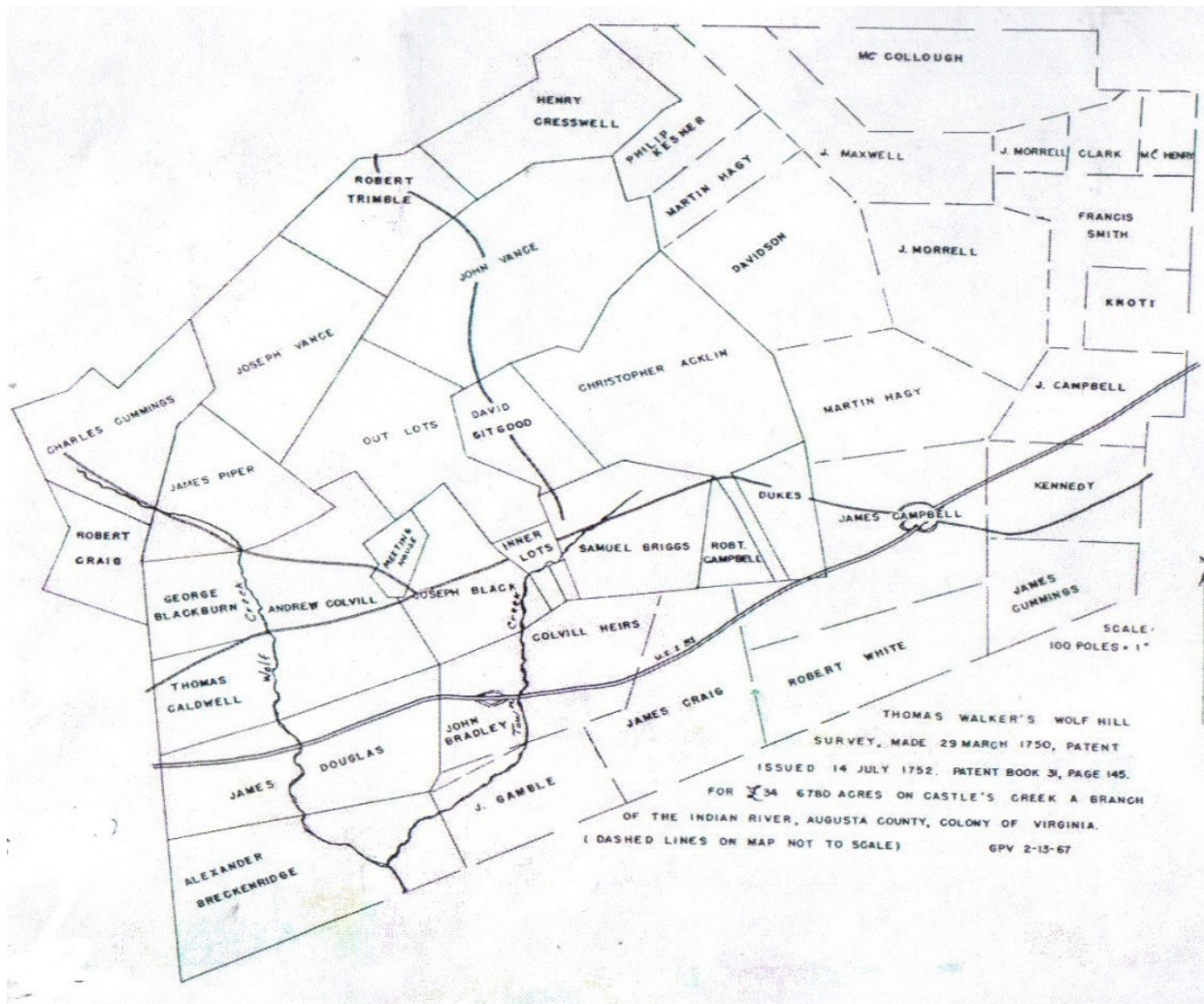
Horsemanship was a prominent activity among the Cedar Creek/Opequon Creek neighborhood. Captain (and sheriff) Lewis Stephens lived nearby. We can imagine Joseph with a 1757 stallion of pride similar to a shiny 1957 Chevy Impala. When the word of Cornwallis' surrender reached Abingdon in 1782, Black was one of those indicted for horseracing in the wild celebration. The Knoxville Gazette reported his loss of horses in 1794 to renegades from across the gap of Chilhowee ridge in Happy Valley. The Marlboro Virginia community had other boys "shining their Impalas": the Blackburn boys on the Shenandoah side of Cedar Creek, cousin Samuel Vance on the next plantation down Buffalo Marsh Run, John Vance of Opequon run, other Colville uncle and cousins on both sides of Opequon and Cedar Creeks, and several Newell boys among others.



In 1771, Daniel Smith was Dr. Joseph Walker's real estate agent in Augusta and Frederick counties selling subdivide tracts of his royal land grants in the Holston Valley (Smith also hawked land for Edmund Pendleton). Appearances are that Joseph Black, Andrew Colville, Samuel Colville, and perhaps some of Samuel Vance, James Vance, Joseph Vance, John Vance, George Blackburn, Arthur Blackburn, John Cusick, Christopher Acklin, Benjamin Logan,

Samuel Newell and William Blackburn scouted Dr. Walker's Wolf Hill Tract neighborhood. This is suggested by Augusta, Botetourt, and Fincastle County records among which was the early road commission from the head of the Holston to Eighteen Mile Creek (Town Creek and Wolf Creek upon which Black later built forts). Joseph Black, Samuel Colville, and Andrew Colville bought adjacent Wolf Hill tracts with the others. The 1771 caravan from Opequon to Wolf Hill began Joseph Black's residence at what would become Blacks Fort Virginia, county seat of the new Washington County, now Abingdon Virginia.

To correct some misconceptions, let's here inject some Newell facts. Thomas remained to shine his Impalas (with other Newells) around Cedar Creek and established a Shenandoah County record. A branch of Joseph Black's extended Newell family took their Impalas to the Monongahela and established a record with George Rogers Clark and William Henry Harrison sometimes attributed to Black's step father or Black's brother Samuel Newell. A Newell uncle had already gone to shine his Impalas on the James River near Fincastle. Presumably from this branch, Samuel Newell signed the Cumberland Compact, had trouble with his taxes on Sugg's Creek in current Wilson County TN, and had another Samuel Newell with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. Finally, the James Newell Branch had left Frederick County to shine their Impalas on New River years before the 1771 caravan. Joseph Black would be involved with them at Draper's Meadow, at Fort Chiswell, at the New River Ferry, and at the Chiswell lead mines from the Fincastle County days (1772-1776) through the Revolutionary War years. Samuel Newell, a son of James Newell of current Wythe County, was often confused with Black's step father or brother giving them credit for his service at the Battle of Point Pleasant, the garrison at Long Island, and as an emissary to the Cherokee Nation. His Samuel Newell's estate settlement was in the final chapter of Fincastle County records after the county was disbanded because he had been murdered by thieves at Toqua (on the Little Tennessee River) in December 1776.



Courtesy of "The Depot" Abingdon Virginia, SW VA Historical Society
 Dales Carter of Colonial Heights has more precise depiction overlay on USGS Topo quadrangle

From cause unknown, Samuel and Agnes Colville died before establishing their new plantation. Their purchase was recorded in a Fincastle County deed to the Colville orphans. Later records show them to be Samuel Colville junior, Joseph Colville, and George Colville. Joseph Black built a small fort on Wolf Creek north of the knobs on the plantation of Uncle Andrew Colville. It was referred to locally as "Black's little fort," "Newell's improvement," and "the Muster Ground." Later he built a larger fort to accommodate up to 600 which became the court house and from which timbers for further improvement were taken to build the second courthouse and jail at the site of the current Washington County court house.

Black's mother, Elizabeth Newell and Samuel Newell bought a tract now known as Wyndale Station on the railroad west of Abingdon at the head of Beaver Creek. It was partially surveyed and marginally improved before the change of plans for the Colville orphans. Black's mother instead occupied "Black's Little Fort" on her brother Andrew's farm to raise her nephews.

<http://www.markerhistory.com/site-of-blacks-fort-marker-k-48/>

Joseph Black was listed among Lewis Preston Summer's veterans of the Battle of Kings Mountain. In his Annals of SW Virginia, he also listed many veterans of Kings Mountain who were in the militia in 1780. Probably they mustered at Ebbing Spring or Sinking Spring, but they did not all go to Kings Mountain. Some stayed at home. Some went to Sycamore Shoals and returned to Washington County instead of proceeding across the mountains. Conspicuous among these is Samuel Colville. Obviously Black's Uncle Samuel Colville was long deceased. Joseph Black's cousin Samuel Colville was likely a militia man, but Washington County recorded his estate settlement in March 1780, half a year before the September muster at his teenage home.

<http://www.markerhistory.com/revolution-war-muster-ground-marker-k-60/>

The term Craig's Meadow came years later than Black's Little Fort and Newell's Improvement. The Andrew and Mary Craig Colville farm was later obtained by her brother Robert Craig to add to his farm across Wolf Creek to the west.

In August 1823 Joseph Black's brother wrote to Governor David Campbell. In the letter, he tried to recall the names of all the casualties and all the officers of Campbell's corps at the Battle of Kings Mountain. He referred to William Russell of Fayette County KY for corroboration. Conspicuously absent from the list of Campbell's officers was one Captain Joseph Black. Some

forty years later, would Samuel Newell have forgotten that his own brother was at the battle of Kings Mountain if in fact he had been there? Is it not more likely that Black would be the best commander for the home guard at his own fort where the women and children could take refuge from any Tory or Indian threats?

Among about 17,000 soldiers from the southern campaign of the Revolution, six mentioned specific service under Captain Joseph Black. None placed him at Kings Mountain.

<http://revwarapps.org/s1778.pdf>

Laton Smith: guarding at Black's Fort

<http://revwarapps.org/s3341.pdf>

Andrew Evans: Wetzel's Mills (one of three Andrew Evans in Washington County, one of two BKM vets but under Colville, not Black).

<http://revwarapps.org/s4840.pdf>

James Simms: Chasing Tories

<http://revwarapps.org/s2414.pdf>

Ensign Joseph Campbell: at Black's Fort and cutting the Kentucky Road

<http://revwarapps.org/S46059.pdf>

Ambrose Yancey: after BKM under Colville, transferred to Black's company for Boyds Creek expedition

<http://revwarapps.org/s2791.pdf>

William McFerrin: under Captain Black, three Tories from Blue Ridge back to Blacks Fort for trial

After the watershed battle of 07Oct1780, not only for the forming new nation of these United States, but so much more acutely at Blacks Fort, Joseph Black was a leader in helping the community to recover, from both the tragic consequences and the glorious result. Immediate needs were the estate settlement of his baby sister Elizabeth's deceased husband, Lt. William Blackburn, KIA at Kings Mountain for which Joseph was an administrator. Another was the matter of deceased neighbor William Lusk, presumed by some KIA at Kings Mountain, listed by Summers as a veteran of Kings Mountain. In the same court session with the treatment of the other Kings Mountain casualties, the Lusk orphans were split with Joseph Black adopting three and Andrew Colville taking in the other three.

Abingdon heard the news from Yorktown with complete joy. They overdid the celebration. In the next court session there was a sizable list of indictments. Joseph Black was one of the leaders charged with horse racing. There were several dignitaries who joined Black among the chastisement of the magistrates. Future Chief Justice of Tennessee David Campbell (one of several David Campbell's) is just one example. Friends and neighbors disturbed the peace, committed adultery, fornication, drank watered down liquor, and celebrated beyond the dignity of a dominantly Presbyterian community. Maybe predestination caused these expressions of relief from years of hardship and grief. Closer to home for Joseph Black, one sister was charged with adultery and a brother in law, Christopher Acklin, who operated the Old Abingdon Tavern was charged with overcharging for drinks.



The Tavern

03750

Settling back down to business, the Washington County tax commission assigned a precinct to Captain Joseph Black. His taxpayers are in a surviving record of the 1782-1783 tax list. Joseph Black assumed duties as magistrate of the court. His sessions are in the court journals into 1783.

Like several of the Kings Mountain veterans, Joseph Black agreed with the Cherokees at Christmas Dinner in Chotah that they would settle the Little River Watershed. As a buffer between the Shawnee raiders and the Tanasi River, the white settlers would be a defense for their friends to the south. Joseph and Janet were not in the first wave, but in a later caravan started their new Plantation near the Warriors' Path on Crooked Creek at the current Blount County Tennessee neighborhood know as Blockhouse after the structure he built there. In the area also known as Carpenter's Campground and Montvale, Black was between Fort Craig (Maryville) and the gap leading to the Cherokee town of Chilhowee.

Governor William Blount of the Territory South of the Ohio appointed Joseph Black as an officer in the Knox County militia when the county was established and the Blount County militia when it came into existence. US treasury records show his rosters when his company was called out for action or for drills. James Simms of Frederick County Virginia, then Washington County, then the Eusebia community was both an elder in the church and a militia man in Captain Black's company. The villages of Tuckaleechee and Ellejoy were abandoned and never again was the area threatened by Shawnee. Instead the Creeks and the transplanted Cherokee at

Chickamauga filtered through the Hiwassee and Tanasi more peaceful villages to pillage on the Little River. They were the focus of Joseph Black's militia company.

In the aborted state of Franklin, Black was among sundry citizens south of the French Broad who petitioned North Carolina at several times about several frontier issues. One of the petitions dated on a Sunday suggests that after a service at Eusebia, signatures of the parishioners were more convenient than those obtained from remote cabins. We know that Joseph and Janet Black attended Eusebia where the graves of both Joseph (with a Revolutionary War marker) and their son Joseph Black, Junior are located. The Warriors' Path passed Black's Blockhouse and crossed Little River at Ellejoy on the way toward Eusebia.

Being a horseman with knowledge of the terrain, it is most likely that Joseph Black helped in running the Hawkins line which overcame the Hopewell Treaty to restore the Little River watershed into Tennessee. The line from Southwest Point to Clingman's Dome crossed the Chilhowee Range near Black's Blockhouse. Joseph and Janet could be full citizens of Tennessee without the special provisions in the constitution.

DISTRICT SOUTH OF THE FRENCH BROAD & THE HOLSTON. BY MATTHEW RHEA. { UNDATED, CIRCA 1830 }



RHEA FAMILY PAPERS - BOX NO. 2. 14. MAPS - TENNESSEE - FRENCH BROAD & HOLSTON
TENNESSEE STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

The Tennessee 1796 Constitution gave residents south of French Broad certain second class citizen rights. Though they could not own property, they got promise of pre-emption rights on part of their property. By permitting them to hold office, Cocke, Sevier, and Blount counties

could function and be represented in the 16th of these United States. In 1796, Joseph Black was elected one of twenty two in the first General Assembly of Tennessee representing Blount County. He served another term after the 1798 election. The votes were counted at his half sister Sarah Newell (Mrs. Joseph) Vance's house near Eusebia for both Blount and Sevier Counties. In the neighborhood of Newell's Station, the final capital of Franklin, security was trusted for this purpose more than that of either Sevierville or Maryville.

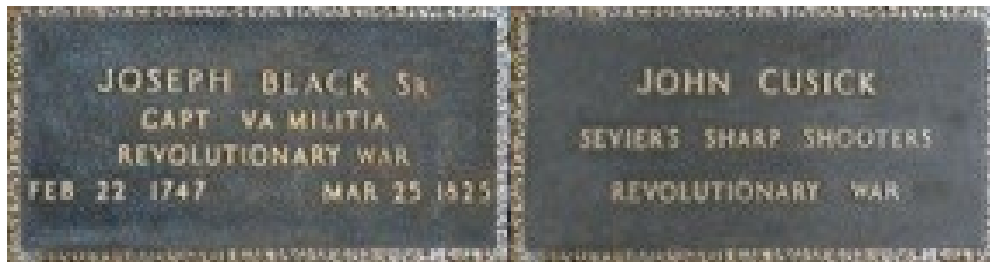
In 1806, Tennessee voted to let citizens south of French Broad own property if they would pay again. Over the next few years, they reduced the price, but still wanted to sell (to get funds for the children) land to folks who had lived on it for thirty years. Per oral history and without land records to prove otherwise, John Cusick refused to move and refused to pay again. Joseph Black's land records at Montvale are not researched herein.

<http://www.mapper.acme.com/>

Zoom in on N 35.85455 W 83.71033 to three notches from maximum and click to Topo map option. Aint that jist the berries? Betterun colorin on your homework papers and getting a knuckle rap from Ms. Trotter?

Now zoom to N 35.70331 W 83.93778 to see the Block House community where Joseph Black "shined his Impalas" after 1785 (until the Indians stole some).

On 25Mar1825, Joseph Black assumed his temporary place at Eusebia having departed this life. His son would later join him there with his wife, his sister Martha Black Cusick, and his brother in law John Cusick. Probably his mother is also in one of the unmarked graves.



Note that there was never an official unit named Sevier's Sharpshooters.

John Cusick served in the Virginia Militia in the Boyds Creek, Guilford Court House and probably Kings Mountain expeditions. The Cusick community is east of Newells Station on US441/US411 at Knob Creek.

G2 Elizabeth Colville Black Newell:

B ca 1725 d ca 1796

M1) John Black d 1747

M2) Samuel Newell

Jane Colville Black

B 4 Feb 1741 in Marlboro, Frederick Co., VA

10May1741 christened at the Old Stone church by Rev John Craig

D 14 MAR 1835 in Abingdon, Washington Co, VA,

M John Vance BKM

b 12 Feb 1735/36 in Opequon Run, Winchester, Frederick CO., VA

married 15 Nov 1759 in Opequon Presbyterian Church, Frederick CO, VA
Per Linda Newhouse.
Christian Black 04Nov1745(?) m Christopher Acklin
Martha Black 31Jan174_
(m. John Cusick (1744-1816) BKM and Newell's Station, Fort Craig area pioneer. Buried-
Eusebia Cemetery Blount Co).
Joseph Black 22Feb 1747 (built Black's Fort, the first county seat of Washington Co VA.) BKM
D 25Mar1825 Burial Eusebia as Joseph Black Sr
m Janet Vance (Janet, John, and Joseph among children of David Vance Sr.)
Elizabeth Black 12Dec1747
d: 29Dec1827 Paris, Edgar Co., IL
m William Blackburn 1769 BKM KIA
owned the Harrison Chilhowee Baptist Academy property
Samuel Newell 04Nov1754 BKM
m 30Sep1782 Raphine Va, New Providence Church.
Jane Montgomery d/o John and Esther Houston Montgomery.
Jane's cousin Samuel Houston built the first school at Rockford.
Sarah Newell __Jan1756 m Joseph Vance
Thomas Newell by Samuel Newell's first marriage m Margaret Colville,
Shenandoah Co side of Cedar Creek d 1803