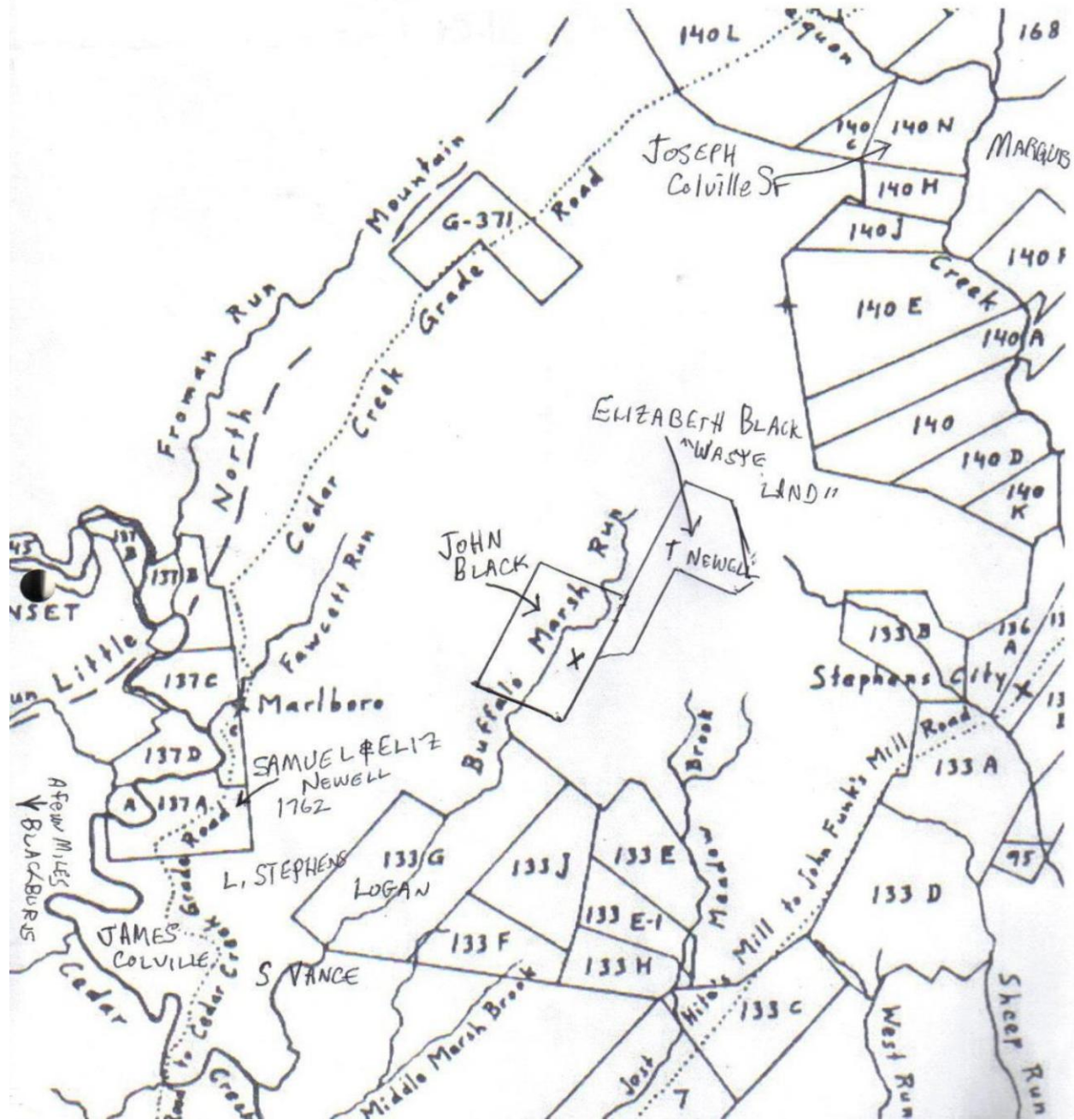


## Colville, Joseph

The biography of Joseph Colville (JC) illustrates some of the difficulties of frontier settlers. JC dealt with the deaths of his father, his older brother, and his first wife. JC lived in four young communities. JC started a business, but left it because of clear title lost in the Hopewell Treaty. JC was a leader in establishing two Tennessee counties. His cousin and neighbor served with Daniel Smith in the constitutional convention. Daniel Smith sold land to his father. The county where JC died was named for Daniel Smith when he moved there.

Joseph Colville (JC) was born 18Jun1764 in Opequon, Frederick County, Virginia. His father was Samuel Colville, youngest son of Joseph Colville, who named him for his grandfather. His mother was Elizabeth Young. Their marriage was probably at Opequon Presbyterian, but the Anglican parish had exclusive franchise to perform and record births christenings, marriages, and funerals, so Presbyterian records are sparse. Joseph was the middle son of Samuel and Elizabeth with older brother Samuel and younger brother George.



After the Proclamation of 1763 was withdrawn, Daniel Smith (Rockcastle, Hendersonville TN) began selling Holston Valley land to people in Frederick and Augusta counties as an agent of Loyal Land Company (Dr Thomas Walker). Samuel Colville, his brother Andrew Colville, his sister Sarah Colville Vance, his sister Elizabeth Colville Black Newell, and his sister Nancy Colville Evans were also purchasers of land in and around the Wolf Hills subdivision. Samuel's nephews Joseph Black, Elizabeth Black (William) Blackburn, Christian Black (Christopher) Acklin, Janet Black (James) Vance, and Martha Black (John) Cusick also bought land to join a caravan to settle around Wolf Hills. Before the caravan moved, Joseph's father Samuel Colville died (details unknown). Uncle Andrew Colville recorded Samuel's deed



It is probable that 16 year old JC answered the muster call on 24Sep1780 to the Washington County VA militia. His uncle Andrew Colville was captain of one of the companies in the Sinking Spring Presbyterian precinct. The land he inherited was adjacent. His cousin Andrew Evans was of the same age and is known (S33411) to have answered the call which led to Kings Mountain. His cousins William Blackburn and Samuel Newell were militia officers. His cousins James, John, and Samuel Vance were documented participants in the chase to capture Patrick Ferguson. There are no surviving rosters for all the militia companies who met at Fort Watauga, Sycamore Shoals, to prepare the expedition to Kings Mountain. Some would say that JC was not there because he did not apply for the pension in 1832. But the pension required a minimum of six months service and the round trip of the Overmountain Victory Trail was only six weeks.

When Governor Nelson ordered Captain Samuel Newell to raise a company of militia and bring them to Yorktown, Joseph Coleville might have been one of them. Before deploying, news of Lord Cornwallis' surrender arrived. The company was dismissed.

"Colville orphan" JC married "Lusk orphan" Sarah Lusk. Sarah's mother was Margaret Vance (daughter of aunt Sarah Colville Vance). After Sarah's father, William Lusk, died, their children were divided to live among family so that widow Margaret could remarry unencumbered to James Piper.

16Oct1782, Washington County court acknowledged the sale of property by Daniel Smith in behalf of Thomas Walker, to the surviving sons, JC and George Colville. Washington County Deed Book 1 shows two tracts sold by Daniel Smith to Joseph Colville and one to Thomas Colville. All are dated 1778. I did not research the reasons for those entries nor the physical locations of the three tracts. 03Apr1789, the sale by JC and brother George Colville of their father's tract purchased from Loyal Land Company 280 acres in Wolf Hill to James Bradley is recorded in Washington County. The transfer of Joseph Black's fort property to Robert Craig was in 1787.

At this point, I interrupt to remind us of the challenges of life for frontier settlers. People were people, both red and white. Some were honest, industrious, friendly, and generous. Some were lazy. Some were greedy and thieving. Just to have a place to sleep, clothes to wear, and food to eat required work. There was no Home Depot, no Macy's, no Kroger., no GMC, no phone, running water or electricity, no pavement, no refrigerator, no microwave, no matches or Zippos, no Stihl or Stanley tools, no sewing machines. The majority of daily life was spent obtaining and preparing food. Hunting for roots and berries and game was both difficult and unreliable and the results were less satisfying. Planting and growing fruit and vegetables took a big slice of time. Flocks and herds required care for dairy, eggs, and meat. Tools and skills made the efforts more fruitful and less consuming. Expertise yielded more than one could use, but the excess of one commodity could be traded for the excess of the expert in a different skill. Horses made travel easier than walking, but needed a saddle maker and blacksmith and farrier to be more effective. Red men became expert horsemen without the extra tools. They could teach equine skills to folks who did not know horses well. White men could trade their leather and metal skills. A wagon was far better than carrying a load on your back. Uncle Samuel Newell spent time making wagons while Aunt Elizabeth Colville Newell spent time sewing clothes and Cousin Christian Acklin spent time cooking big venison meals from Cousin John Cusick's hunting returns.

Settlers dealt with nature. Snakes and coons would eat unprotected flocks. Bears would take a share of the beef and the pork when they could. Cousin Joseph Black and Cousin Samuel Newell became expert loggers and erectors of stockades which offered refuge from predators of the wild and the human

varieties. Almost every settler became a builder and most became community participants in cabin raising. They made cedar shakes to deal with rain, supplemented logs with mud to deal with wind, and built fireplaces to deal with cold. Coopers made barrels and buckets to keep water in dry times. Women dried peas and peaches for the winter. They learned to make vinegar to preserve food from rot and spices to make beef jerky last without Frigidaire.

Most people wanted to be fair and honest. They valued community interactions. They would drop the plow to help a neighbor. They would go to a neighbor for a loan when the cornmeal ran short at hushpuppy time. To be fair, they kept records. Promissory notes and vouchers (IOU) were common. For larger and more serious items, journals and ledger books held collections of individual transactions. The more serious (by size or by longevity) items were recorded in public records. Most people wanted to be fair and honest. Sometimes disagreements used community to determine and analyze detailed facts. Localities had record keepers, juries, judges, and sheriffs to settle disagreements. For those in disagreement with the majority, they had jailers. For big bad disagreements, they had executioners. For disagreements from outside local communities, they formed militias. For far away disagreements, they went to war such as happened when Patrick Ferguson threatened settlers in communities over the mountains, thus the Battle of Kings Mountain.

The settlers clung to their freedom and were irritated by interruptions to life, both day to day and long term. Local county law and order was obnoxious, but for quarterly sessions, folks participated. For the common good, they sent their most trusted and capable to state or commonwealth assemblies far away. For those rules coming from far far away, they chose to fret with them until they became so oppressive that they chose war.

Before moving to JC's second pair of residences, let's review his first pair to see the events and influences which shaped his future.

A generation prior to JC's father, Samuel Colville and far far away from JC's birthplace in Opequon, the king of England declared the colony of Virginia and sent his governor to organize and establish orders of business. Before settling west of the Blue Ridge, huge counties were carved out with Spotsylvania and Orange counties centered farther from the ocean and nearer to the mountains. Augusta County became everything beyond the Blue Ridge. The governor desired a buffer from the "western savages" so he made grants of swaths of land and authorized the grantee to sell them on the condition that they would be inhabited to a minimum density. Joist (Heydt) Hite was one of developers. He sold the tract to Joseph Colville on Opequon Creek where Samuel Colville was born, raised, married Elizabeth Young, and their three boys were born. The middle of the three was Joseph (JC) Colville, named for Grandpa. Far far away, ignorant of distant business, the king granted the same land (Northern Neck) to Thomas Lord Fairfax. Frederick County was severed from Augusta County with offices in Winchester to deal with dual entry deed records. Far far away, the Archbishop of Canterbury granted exclusive franchise to Anglican clergy for parish records and activities, primarily to exclude the pope and Catholic priests. Being Presbyterians, the Colville records of birth, marriage, and death were not kept in the Anglican parish. Thus an accumulation of private records is the source of family history, but also of error and confusion.

Loyal Land Company (Thomas Walker) of far away Charlottesville Virginia was the recipient of the far far away king's official land grants. One such was their Wolf Hill grant on the Holston River in Augusta County. Neither the king nor Dr. Walker knew the hills and creeks. It might be a strain for Dr. Walker to even remember its location. Daniel Smith to the rescue. He surveyed, put monuments on corners, and

put ink on paper to record the subdivision of Wolf Hill tracts. Time out. With the proclamation of 1763 King George declared it illegal to settle beyond the Atlantic watershed and Wolf Creek of the Holston drained to the Gulf of Mexico. Opequon Creek flowed to the Shenandoah and Potomac, so it was legal. But around Winchester, soldiers had grants in payment for their services which were out of bounds. They elected George Washington to represent them in far away Williamsburg against farther away London. When the proclamation was rescinded, Daniel Smith went to Staunton and Winchester to find buyers for the Wolf Hill subdivision. With families multiplying, space was becoming cramped, so the Colville's were willing buyers. They could sell their developed property at a profit and begin again with more space. The going price for prime frontier land was a shilling per acre.

Andrew and Samuel Colville made the 300 mile trip to explore. They chose locations for themselves, three sisters,, four nieces, a nephew, Andrew's brother in Law, Robert Craig, Robert's brother James, Craig, neighbor Benjamin Logan, and perhaps others in or near Wolf Hill. Then they made the deals with Daniel Smith and began planning the caravan. Things began happening. Samuel Colville died. They needed county approval for a road. Augusta County split off Botetourt County which now contained their land. Before the road could be completed, Botetourt split off Fincastle County. Andrew Colville had his bother's purchase recorded in Fincastle County. Then Fincastle County went out of business to be divided into Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky counties with Wolf Hill now in Washington County with Blacks Fort becoming its county seat

In 1786, a caravan from Abingdon moved to Boyds Creek south of the French Broad to settle in the current Seymour Tennessee community. Friends and family were in that expedition, but JC and George Colville were not. Cousins Joseph Black, JC, and George Colville left Abingdon a year later. They settled in current Blount County on Crooked Creek farther southwest from Newells Station and Boyds Creek along the warriors path. 14Apr1788 in Hillsborough NC, Alexander Martin wrote a deed to Joseph Colville for 400 acres of land in Greene County NC. Blount County TN deed book 1 page 137 states that the property "where he now lives" was surveyed 31Apr1790. The Joseph Colville property in the Greene County North Carolina deed book was recorded in 1790 as 400 acres "where he now lives" bought from Alexander Martin. JC's 400 acres was just south of Little River in the current Hubbard community of Blount County near Heritage High School.

In 1794, the Knoxville Gazette reported that Cherokee warriors stole horses from Joseph Black's Blockhouse and murdered the Campbell family near McTeers Fort. Benjamin Logan was a boyhood friend of JC and JB at Opequon. In 1794, Logan was general of Kentucky militia. He offered to William Blount to bring an army from Kentucky in support of citizens south of the French Broad. With that offer on the table, negotiations between Cherokee Chief Watts and Governor Blount yielded a peaceful settlement in 1795.

JC and Sarah Lusk Colville had eight children. After she died, widower JC remarried widow Martha Cheek Smartt. And they had two children.

JC was licensed to operate a mill on Crooked Creek. In the treaty of Dumplin Creek, the boundary with Cherokee land was established as the "Hawkins Line" from Southwest Point (Kingston) to Clingman's Dome. The Hopewell Treat was done far away in South Carolina. It reset the boundary to be the French Broad River. Joseph Colville and a large number of the extended Colville clan were among about 3000 settlers in Cocke, Jefferson, Sevier, and Blount counties who were thus declared to live outside the United States. JC's cousin Joseph Black lived near the Hawkins Line. Being a delegate to the 1796

constitutional convention in Knoxville, Joseph Black voted for provisions in the 1796 constitution granting rights to those south of French Broad to hold office. In the first election after Tennessee became a state in 1796, JC was elected sheriff of Blount County. Cousins Samuel Newell and Joseph Black were elected to the General Assembly. Ballots for both Sevier and Blount County 1800 election were counted at the home of JC's cousin Sarah Newell Vance.

Being residents of Cherokee territory, about half of the settlers south of the French Broad left before the 1819 Hiwassee Treaty. JC was one of those who moved away. Annotation on his 400 acre Blount County Deed indicates that he left in April 1707.

In 1807, newly formed Warren County TN acquired 40 acres from Joseph Colville and two neighbors in McMinnville to build its county offices.

In 1833 quarterly sessions court of Warren County, JC was clerk and his son Lusk Colville was deputy clerk. Pension applications W44 James Barkley S3407 Alexander Grant x W53 John Nielson S3677 Moses Perkins x W1492 Reuben Roberts x W10 Samuel Hand S3059 Thomas Brown x W25580 John Fisher S45878 William Boyd x W384 John Lockhart x S4448 Barnabas Johnson x S4643 Charles Payne x W8128 Enoch Berry S2719 Elias Mairs x S3027 William Bond S1663 James Forrest (x -signed name by X beside where Colville wrote it. Less than 50% literacy.)

<https://revwarapps.org/s4448.pdf>

<https://revwarapps.org/w8128.pdf> Kings Mountain

<https://revwarapps.org/w25580.pdf> signature, act of 1835

<https://revwarapps.org/s3207.pdf> Robert Carson, Kings Mtn foot soldier, Evans Ferry x

Joseph Colville died 07Jan1834. He was buried in Old McMinnville Cemetery which was located on a portion of his land. The monument reads Major Joseph Colville which indicates that he was a county militia officer. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27385632/joseph-colville>