



Buffalo Valley – Putnam County, TN

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The published literature that mentions the early settlers of Buffalo Valley can be very misleading to the family researcher. Walter S. McClain in “A History of Putnam County Tennessee” seems to be one generation late in recognizing the early settlers. He states that, “Hugh Wallace of North Carolina, the progenitor of the large Wallace family settled not far from Silver Point about 1820, and died about 1860.” Hugh was probably the son of Robert Wallace who is discussed later in this article, McClain also states that, “Joshua Bartlett, another early settler in Buffalo valley, located just below the Jones,” and that “Joseph McKee settled on the Young prong of Indian Creek at a very early date.”² It appears that Joshua moved to Buffalo Valley in the 1830’s with the Andersons and that Joseph moved to the area after 1840.³

Mary Jean Delozier in her – Putnam County, Tennessee, 1850-1970 presents a more professional work, but shows a lack of knowledge of the Bufflao Valley area when she states, “In the 1850s, farms of the Coggins, Exums, Garners, Johnsons, Merritts, and Stephens crowded along its creek bottoms, once filled with can and trod by woods buffalo and elk. These names seem to have been selected at random from District 9 and 13 of the 1855 Putnam County Tax list, and which leads to error because present day Wolf Creek (Center Hill Dam) area was included in Putnam County for one year. In 1850 and 1860, the Coggins, Exums, Johnsons, Merritts, and Stephens were not Buffalo Valley families, but were Wolf Creek area families.

To correct the errors in the published literature and to recognize the true early settlers; we will attempt in this article to achieve four points. First, we will locate the Buffalo Valley area, and its early history in the records available. Second, we will try to identify from the records available as many of the early settlers as possible. Third, we would like to cover some of the migrations into and out the Buffalo Valley. Fourth, we would like to clear up some of the misconceptions about Buffalo Valley.

Buffalo Valley is located in Southwest Putnam County, Tennessee. The Caney Fork River is the Valley’s western border, and Indian Creek flows through the Valley and empties in the Caney Fork River. To the Northwest of the Valley is Rock Spring Creek, and on the South is Wolf Creek. On the North is the Chestnut Mound area. Prior to the formation of Putnam County in 1854, the Valley was located in Jackson and Smith Counties as the Jackson-Smith County line ran in a straight line Southeast from the Cumberland River at the present day line between Jackson and Smith County line to a point on Little Hurricane Creek.

The line crossed through the Valley at about the present day Buffalo Valley Interchange of Interstate 40. In the early land entries and surveys the area called "Buffalo Valley" included only the area through which Interstate 40 and the railroad now run. Entries and surveys for the area show two distinct divisions such as "20 acres of land in said county in the Buffalow Valley waters of Indian Creek of Caneyfork"⁷ or "14 acres in Jackson County on the Southfork of Indian creek of Caney Fork."⁸ This distinction continued to be used by surveyors into the 1830's.

We have been unable to determine the first settler in the Buffalo Valley area, but some of the first were William Skiles, James Vance and David Young. On 24 October 1803, James Vance of Smith County sold to Armstead Stubblefield of Sumner County 10 acres of land in Smith County on South fork of Indian Creek running into Caney Fork...including said Vances Grist Mill.⁹ Then on 11 November 1803 Robert King of Roane County, TN sold to David Young of Smith County 222 acres of land on South fork of Indian Creek that runs into Caney Fork and lying around James Vances Mill.¹⁰ Witnesses to this deed were James Vance and William Skiles. By 15 March 1805 David Wallis (Wallace) was in the area, as James Gealey of Smith County sold to David Wallis of Smith County 100 acres of land near the head of the east fork of Indian Creek on Caney Fork River. Witnesses to this deed was Samuel Norwood and Jacob Fanning.

The land entries and surveys are very informative about the early settlers of the Buffalo Valley area. Not only do they tell who is entering or having the land surveyed, but also tells who is living on and has lived on the land. Also the surveys give the names of two other individuals who were in the area, and they were the survey chain carriers.

It is interesting that in 1808, we start seeing land activity in Jackson County part of Buffalo Valley. On 20 April 1808 there were four entries for which James Vance was the locator. Prittyman (Prettyman) Jones had two of these entries. The first was for 70 acres and began about 5 poles below and improvement made by Zachariah Jones where Samuel Brady now lives.¹² This land was surveyed on 19 May 1808 with George Skiles and Edward Reynolds as chain carriers.¹³ The second entry was for 50 acres in the Little Bear Valley (of Buffalo Valley) so to include his improvement where he now lives.¹⁴ This land was surveyed on 17 February 1809 with George Smith of Wolf Creek) and Alex Reynolds as chain carriers.¹⁵ The third entry was by John Clemmons for 60 acres to include the improvement where Henry Karr (Kerr) now lives on which first was made by James Gealey.¹⁶ This land and the next entry was surveyed also on 19 May 1808 with George Skiles and Edward Reynolds as chain carriers.¹⁷ The fourth entry was by William Skiles for 100 acres whereon said Skiles now lives.¹⁸

The period 1810-1814 saw further activity in acquiring of land. On 2 July 1810 Benjamin Blackburn had an entry for 30 acres in the Buffaloe Valley on Caney

Fork including the place where Robert Wallace lives.¹⁹ On 16 December 1811 there were four entries. Jiles Lee entered 20 acres in the Buffalo Valley to include the improvement whereon the said Lee now lives.²⁰ Three of four entries were by Prettyman Jones. He had a 30 acre entry in Jackson County in the Buffalo Valley standing in the road running up said valley about 275 yards above James Vance's 100 acre survey.²¹ He had another 30 acre in the Valley about 80 poles westwardly from John Caseys dwelling house.²² He also had a 5 acre entry in the Valley which included an improvement made by William Hitchcock and a spring.²³ One all of his entries Prettyman was the locator. One of the 30 acre entries was surveyed on 19 September 1812 by James Roulston with John Dowell and John McKinney as chain carriers.²⁴ The other 30 acre entry was surveyed on 25 October 1814, and the 5 acre entry was surveyed on 24 October 1814.²⁵ Both were surveyed by A. Harvey with Thomas McGarratt (?McGarrah) and Robert Wallace as chain carriers.²⁵ On 10 January 1812 Robert Wallace made three entries in the Valley. One was for 40 acres and included part of improvement of Wm. Skiles.²⁶ He also entered 18 acres to include the balance of Skiles improvement.²⁶ His other entry was for 10 acres to include the house and spring whereon Wm. Cotton and Zachariah Kirkland now lives.²⁶ The survey chain carriers for all three tracts of land were David Wallace and John Tombolin on 13 March 1812.²⁷ On 8 August 1812 John Casey entered 20 acres of land in Buffalo Valley at the head of Casey's Spring including the improvement whereon said Casey now lives.²⁸ James Roulston surveyed this land on 1 June 1814 with James McKinney and Hezekiah Lizenben (?Hezekiah Lizenby) as chain carriers.²⁸ On 12 September 1812 Prettyman Jones made a 10 acre entry in the Buffalo Valley at Giles Lea's (?Jiles Lee) North line to include the spring and cabin where John McKinney now lives.²⁹ John McKenney on 5 October 1812 entered 10 acres in Buffalo Valley beginning on East line of Prettyman Jones 50 acre survey on which he (Prettyman) now lives due East from said Jones Dwelling House to include all said Jones's cleared land lying East of said 50 acre survey.³⁰ This entry was made void on 13 October 1812.³⁰ John Garvin on 13 October 1812 entered 10 acres on the ridge between John Casey's and Prettyman Jones' including a spring on the road leading from Prettyman Jones' to John Caseys.³¹

Major land activity started on Indian Creek in 1807. On 31 August 1807 William Jared made a 45 acre entry³² and a 100 acre entry.³³ Both of these tracts were surveyed on 11 May 1808, and grant issued on 10 and 11 December 1822. On 23 February 1809 William Jarred (Jared) made two entries of 17 ½ acres each on the North fork of Indian Creek.³⁴ A. Harvey was the surveyor, and Moses Webb and Moses Jarret the chain carriers for both tracts on 10 November 1814.³⁴ William Young entered 100 acres on one of the south branches of Indian Creek.³⁵ This land was surveyed by James Roulston on 30 March 1810 with chain carriers Tyre Gentry and Samuel Young, but survey was made void on 14 October 1810.³⁵ David Young had an entry for 30 acres on the South Fork of Indian Creek on 15 October 1810, and this tract was surveyed on 24 July 1813 by James Roulston with Mark and John Young as chain carriers.³⁶ On 22

October 1810 Thomas Green entered 15 acres on waters of Indian Creek beginning on a corner marked by Daniel Welboun for Hugh Stewart.³⁷ This tract was surveyed by A. Harvey on 4 November 1814 with Jeremiah Bush and James Harvel as chain carriers.³⁷

On 10 January 1812 Reuben Harries assignee of Prettyman Jones made entries for two 15 acre tracts of the dry valley on the waters of Indian Creek.³⁸ On 1 April 1812 James Vance made an interesting entry as it "begin on a hillside between his sawmill and the top of the hill in nearly a southwest course from said mill and on the upper line of a 640 acre tract of land that he the said Vance sold to John Lancaster running North and East in square so as to include said Vances house and mill."³⁹ This entry was made void on 16 July 1813, and probably because the land was entered on that date under a different entry. As on 16 July 1813 he entered 72 ½ acres and 10 acres. The 72 ½ probably included his sawmill and house as it begin on North side of Indian Creek at the North East corner of the 640 acre survey of the said Vance.⁴⁰ The 10 acre entry was also on North side of Indian Creek and included a spring and an old still house.⁴⁰ Both tracts were surveyed on 5 April 1814, chain carriers were Jacob Cloer and Austin Coker.⁴⁰

On 2 June 1812 David Young made two entries on the South fork of Indian Creek. One was for 14 acres beginning 5 poles North of the mouth of a cave near the head of said Youngs mill pond, and had one corner on the East line of his 30 acre survey.⁴¹ It seems obvious that if David Young had a mill pond then he had to have some type of mill. The other entry made by David Young was for 31 acres near Jesse and John Wammacks spring branches including the place whereon Jesse Wammack now lives.⁴² The chain carrier on this tract were Mark and John Young and on prior tract the chain carriers were James and Mark Young. Both tracts were surveyed on 24 July 1813 by James Roulston.

Also on 2 June 1812 John Jones entered 15 acres of land.⁴³ Jonathan Reno was the locator on 11 August 1812 when James Vance entered ½ acre on a drain the South Fork of Indian Creek, and included a salt petre cave about ¾ of a mile above David Youngs big spring.⁴⁴ Duke Skelton entered two tracts of two acres each on 17 August 1812.⁴⁵ One tract was on Indian Creek and included John Christians house and spring.⁴⁵ The other tract was on the road from Waltons Ferry to Southwest Point, and the tract included part of a field he occupied.⁴⁵ On 14 October 1812 Jonathan Reneau (Reno) entered 5 acres in the dry valley of Indian Creek above Reuben Harris's.⁴⁵ This land was never surveyed. James Vance had another 10 acres surveyed on 4 October 1814 with George Collom and John Wilds as chain carriers.⁴⁷ This tract of 10 acres began on Vance's South East corner of his 10 acres survey and ran South 34 poles on the North line on his 640 acre survey.⁴⁷

We are including information from the land records for Rock Springs area as we see some of the individuals mentioned previously with other individuals which may indicate family relationships. Samuel Roulston entered 1,000 acres on 25

February 1801 and was surveyed on 22 September 1814. The entry begins on the point of a ridge above the spring wherein Shadrack Bridges now lives. It crossed Rock Spring Creek and also included the Southside of the dividing ridge between Rock Spring and Indian Creek and the spring known by the name of rock spring.⁴⁸ On 18 February 1808 Richard Reynolds had 137 ½ acres on Rock Springs Fork surveyed with John and Firney Reynolds as chain carriers.⁴⁹ James Roulston had a 50 acre entry on Rock Springs in Jackson County on 22 February 1809 which began on North side of the Lancaster Road on a point of a ridge where David Parker now lives.⁵⁰

There were several entries made by individuals in the Rock Springs area on 10 January 1812, who apparently purchased part of a land warrant from Prettyman Jones as they entered land as assignees of Prettyman Jones. Two of these entries were made by David Wallace for 30 acres each. One tract was on the Southside of Rock Spring Creek including the improvement made by Richard Reynolds.⁵¹ This 30 acres was surveyed on 13 March 1812 with Thomas McGarrah and Robert Wallace.⁵² The other 30 acre entry by David included the improvement and spring whereon the said Wallace now lives.⁵³ Henry Carr had one entry for 30 acres which included a cabin built by Thomas Smith.⁵³ Thomas McGarrah had a entry for 20 acres to include the improvement where he now lives.⁵³ On all of these entries Prettyman Jones was the locator. George Collum also as assignee of Prettyman Jones entered 70 acres of land in Smith County on Rock Spring Creek to include said Collum's improvement.⁵³ On 22 February 1812 John Boyd made two entries for 15 acres each at the head of Rock Spring Valley and one of the entries begin south of McCager Browns Spring.⁵⁴ Then on 1 April 1812 Shadrack Bridges entered 22 acres on a branch of Rock Spring in Jackson and begin SouthWest corner of his tract of 50 acres where he now lives.⁵⁵

George Skiles entered 25 acres in Jackson County on Rock Spring creek on 2 June 1812.⁵⁶ Joseph Jared under entry number 8754 made a 5 acre entry on 24 August 1812 in Jackson County in Rock Spring Valley to begin on East line of his survey of 20 acres and including a small field cleared by Reuben Smith.⁵⁷ Also, on 24 August 1812, Henry Carr made three entries on Rock Spring Creek. Entry \$8755 for 15 acres included the "cabbin" built by Thomas Smith about ¼ mile below Jacob Fainnings.⁵⁷ Henry's Entry \$8756 was for 10 acres joining the East line of David Wallace upper 30 acre survey up the creek so as to include the old school house place where Allen Harvey formerly kept school it being his upper school house.⁵⁸ Henry's third entry was #8757 for 5 acres beginning at David Wallaces Southeast corner of his upper 30 acre tract.⁵⁸ Another interesting entry was made by Joseph Jared for 20 acres in Smith County on Eastside of the Caney Fork River, and it is reasonable to believe this was in Rock Spring area. It began on the River bank about 60 poles above Spryas Kirklands improvement.⁵⁹ The tract was surveyed on 11 May 1816 with Henry Carr and Moses Justice as chain carriers.⁵⁹ A note on the survey says it was transferred to James Carr, and taken out on 25 August 1818 by Shadrack Bridges.⁵⁹

Three other entries of interest were just outside our area of discussion. The first entry was for 7 acres on 14 October 1812 by Hezekiah Lizenby in Jackson County on the ridge between Buffalo Valley and Hurricane Creek.⁶⁰ The other two entries were made by Nathaniel Glover on 26 January 1813. One entry was for 15 acres in Jackson County on water of Hurricane Creek including the improvement whereon James Karr now lives.⁶¹ This tract was surveyed on 31 May 1814 by James Roulston, and the chain carriers were John Gawan (Garvin?) and Hazekian Lazenby.⁶¹ Glover's other entry was for 10 acres in Jackson County on the ridge that divides the waters of Woolfe and Indian Creek including the place whereon Mrs. Pattey now lives. James Roulston surveyed this tract on 1 June 1814 with Hazakiah Lazenby and John Garven as chain carriers.⁶²

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Studying the migrations into and out of an area can give the researcher important clues to family relationships. Normally families moved together or followed other family members or friends to a new area. From the families that we will discuss later; we can see that the prior statement is true for individuals in the Buffalo Valley area.

James Vance⁶³, born 3 September 1764 Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and died 7 October 1835 in McDonough County, Illinois, and was the son of Samuel Vance and Agnes Penguite. He married 28 January 1782 Margaret Reno (Reneau) daughter of John Reno (Reneau). He owned a grist mill and sawmill in Buffalo Valley. He may have been a member of the County Court as 1811 Voters List of Jackson County lists him as James Vance, Esquire. In 1818 he was one of the commissioners appointed to lay out the new town of Gainesboro, Tennessee. His son, John, said he was born in 1794 in Cocke County area as Cocke was formed in 1797. In 1796 James moved to Davidson County, Tennessee where he had a brother, Thomas Vance. In 1800 or 1801 he moved to Buffalo Valley area. Children: 1. Mary (Polly), b. 31 December 1782; 2. Elizabeth, b. 17 October 1784, d. 26 January 1847, md David Young; 3. Nancy, b. 5 October 1786, d. 30 Oct/Dec 1851, Illinois; 4. Sarah, b. 9 October 1788, d. 12 May 1791; 5. Sarah, b. 17 August 1791, d. 1 December 1875, Illinois; 6. Lewis Reno, b. 29 January 1793, d. 28 June 1852 en route to Salt lake City, Utah, md 12 February 1815, Elizabeth Roulston. 7. John Alma, b. 8 march 1794, TN, md 11 February 1817 Sarah Lavina Perkins daughter of Ute Perkins and Sarah Grant, Ute and Sarah lived in White Co., TN, John lived in Jackson Co., until about 1824 when he moved to Morgan Co., Ind. Then about 1829 he moved to McDonough Co., IL where his wife died in 1836; 8. Agnes P., b. 25 June 1796 Smith Cp., TN, d. 19 August 1836, md John Rogers; 9. William, b. 25 June 1796 d. 25 November 1800; 10. Margaret, b. 14 1800, d. 23 January 1892, md John Bridges; 11. William Reno, b. 18 July 1802, Jackson Co., TN, d. 11 November

1880, md 15 October 1828 Elizabeth Boyd; 12. Martha Ramsey, b. 16 May 1804 Jackson Co., TN d. 26 April/May 1881, md 30 October 1828, McDonough Co., Illinois, John Wilson; 13. James R. b. 30 July 1807, Jackson Co., TN, d. 27 September 1872, md 25 August 1830 Ellen Miller.

Matthew Roulston had six children who may have had some association with Buffalo Valley. Children:⁶⁴ 1. Moses, b. 1766, md 20 October 1803, Polly Denny. He was a teacher, and lived most of his life in Chestnut Mound area. Moved to Blount Co., TN and then to Hamilton Co., TN; 2. William, b. 1768, md 6 September 1799 Ann Moore. He moved to Williamson Co., TN; 3. Elizabeth, b. 1770, md 6 December 1792 (Book of Jared says in Bedford Co., VA), William Jared, b. 3 June 1758. He moved from Loudon Co., VA in 1785 with his father to Bedford Co., VA. He was in the Revolutionary War; 4. Samuel, b. 1775, md Betsy Lowry. He moved to Sumner Co., TN. 5. James, b. 16 June 1778 August Co., VA, md 1801 Knoxville, TN, Jane Simmons, daughter of Robert Simmons. He moved with his father in 1792 to Jefferson Co., TN. He moved after his marriage to the Chestnut Mound area, and operated, with his brother-in-law, Mark Young, an inn, powder mill, a distillery and a large farm. He was also a land surveyor. In the War of 1812, he was a colonel in command of the Third regiment of Tennessee which was part of General William Carroll's Division in the Battle of New Orleans. He moved from the area to Marion Co., TN. 6. Ruth, b. 1781, md Mark Young. They lived in Buffalo Valley, TN.

Starting in 1803 several families moved from Blount County in East Tennessee to the Buffalo Valley area. Those known to be from Blount included: John Clemons, James Gealey, William Hitchcock, Prettyman and Zachariah Jones, Moses Justice, George and William Skile, and David Wallace. Others who may have come from Blount County may have been James Carr, James McKinley, John Null, and James and Robert Wallace.

There is only one reference to Moses Justice in the records of Buffalo Valley, but his family had other connections with the Valley. Moses Justice born ca. 1755 in Maryland. In Cheran District South Carolina in 1790. Removed from Indian lands Blount County Tennessee in 1797 along with James Gealey, Prettyman and Zachariah Jones. In Crawford County, Indians in 1820 and then moved to McDonough county, Illinois. He then moved to Schuyler County, Illinois where he died ca. 1847. His children:⁶⁵ 1. James; 2. Sarah, md 23 April 1798, Blount Co., TN, David Campbell Wallace, b. between 1770/80, probably brother of James and Robert Wallace. He had a license to operate a tavern in Smith County in 1818. While in Smith County he served on various juries, and was the Smith County Representative to the Tennessee General Assembly, 1819-1821. He moved to Schuyler County, Illinois. 3. Mary, b. ca. 1783 in TN, md by Matthew Wallace on 7 January 1802 in Blount Co., TN, George Skiles; 4. Thomas Jefferson, md Mary Carr. In 1820 they were in Greene Co., MO, and in Schuyler Co., Illinois 1830-50. After 1850 they were in St. Clair Co., MO. 5.

George Washington, md Susan bates; 6. Rebecca, md Samuel Monk; 7. Hannah md Drurey Trusty; 8. John, b. 1797, lived Schuyler Co., IL.

One of the unique migration patterns was that of George Skiles. George Skiles was born c. 1780 in Maryland, died 4 August 1863 in Schuyler Co., Illinois and married 7 January 1802 in Blount County, Tennessee Mary Justice, b. ca. 1783 in Tennessee and died 1874 in Schuyler County, Illinois. By 1808 he was in Buffalo Valley where his brother was present as early as 1803. He was an ensign in Mathew Cowan's Company of Colonel Rouston's Regiment during the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. In 1816 he moved to Indiana, then to Kentucky, then to Wayne County, Missouri and by 1826 was in Schuyler County, Illinois.⁶⁶ In the 1830 census of Schuyler County Illinois, he is found with his brother, William Skiles, John and William Carr, Nathaniel Glover, Abraham and Hugh Lancaster, Abel and John Linsenby, Charles and Jacob Reno, Jonathan Smith, Peter Vance and David Wallace. Of George and Mary's thirteen children we have identified the following: 1. Moses J., b. 1803, TN, md 1st Mrs. Swazey, md 2nd Mary Luttrell, daughter of Shelton Luttrell and Sarah (Sallie) Bryant, md 3rd Malinda Lynch; 2. Mary, b. ca. 1815, Jackson Co., TN md Hiram Scott; 3. James, lived Alma, Nebraska; 4. John, trained as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church; 5. William C., b. ca. 1820, Wayne Co., MO, d. 12 April 1907 Schuyler Co., IL. Convert to Union Baptist faith and was a circuit rider minister with his brother, John in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, md Sarah Luttrell, daughter of Shelton Luttrell, b. 12 May 1794 in VA, d. 6 April 1883, Schuyler Co., IL and Sarah (Sallie) Bryant, b. 25 June 1792 in Patrick Co., VA, d. 29 may 1894 in Schuyler Co., IL. Two of the people who witnessed the pension application of Mary Skiles were Joseph Reno and Alfred C. and Samuel F. Wallace.⁶⁶

Another Buffalo Valley area family in Schuyler Co., IL was Felix Thornton and his wife Mary Celetha Holly. They moved to Schuyler County in 1829. One of their sons was Felix H. Thornton, b. 10 September 1819 in Jackson Co., TN, md 23 June 1844 in Schuyler Co., IL, md Ollie Luttrell, b. 8 June 1826, daughter of Shelton Luttrell and Sarah (Sallie) Bryant.⁶⁸

Jonathan Reno with his wife and children were in Schuyler Co., IL by 1825. Later he moved to McDonough Co., IL by 1825. Later he moved to McDonough Co., IL and then to Springfield, MO. After his death his wife returned to Schuyler Co. In 1811 Jonathan was a Captain, 18th Regiment, Jackson Co., TN Militia.⁶⁹ His children we have identified are: 1. Joseph, b. 1808, TN, md Sarah ___ b. ca. 1915, TN; 2. Jonathan, b. 1811, Jackson Co., TN, d. 1884, Schuyler County, md abot 1834 Louisa Thornton, b. 1822. They had a son, William C. Reno, b. 9 September 1838 Schuyler County, me 18 October 1861 Schuyler County. Rebecca A. Wallace thought to be a daughter of Alfred C. Wallace. 3. Andrew J. Reno, b. 1816? Jackson Co., TN, md Mary P _____ b. 1817, MO.

We have mainly mentioned families that moved from Blount County to Buffalo Valley and then on to Schuyler Co., IL. These families show that people moved together and that they married within those families for several generations.

In most of the published literature that mentions Buffalo Valley it is referred to as nothing really existed prior to 1860. We have seen from the early land entries and surveys that there was much activity in the area at an early date. James Vance had a grist mill prior to 24 October 1803, and a sawmill by 1 April 1812. By 2 June 1812, David young had some type of mill. From the old store ledgers we know there must have been a church in the area by 1832, as there was a "Parson" Lee. The earliest store ledger is Ledger D with first date in 1832, and there must have been an A,B, and C. Since Ledger D covered about ten years; it would seem reasonable that the store was probably started no later than 1826. It is my best guess that the store was on Indian Creek and owned by Vance & Young. In two of the ledgers a firm of Vance and Young is mentioned, and the account for Vance & Young shows only cash entries. Initially it was though the store was in Chestnut Mount area, but it had to be more centrally located as the town of Lancaster was formed in 1818. Lancaster would have been much easier to reach than Chestnut Mound. In the Rock Springs area, Allen Harvey had two schools prior to 24 August 1812.

McClain on how Buffalo Valley got its name stated, "Tradition tells us that long before settlement had been made here that a rank growth of can covered many square miles and that hers of buffalo would come down from the mountains to graze through the winter, when other pasturage was dead or scarce. An old tradition current among early settlers is that a huge buffalo was killed in the valley near the old Alcorn place, and from this circumstance the valley gained its name.⁷¹

This statement would seem to agree with the early land records as the place where the buffalo was killed was the Robert Alcorn place (Edward Anderson) 50 acres, west of Capt. Prettyman Jones's home. It was owned by the Alcorn family into the 1950's and until recently was owned by Houston Hayes. Several families have the tradition that their ancestor killed the last buffalo in the valley on the Alcorn place. The valley probably go it's name because the last Buffalo killed in the area was killed there, but it is also obvious that it was not killed by men who arrived in the area after 1830 or 1840.

Anyone interested in the early settlers of Buffalo Valley should also consult the 1812 voters list by James Vance on page 7, Volume V, No. 2 of the UCGA Bulletin. We also await with interest the every name index to land Entries of First Surveyor's District by Norman McGee. This nearly completed work which will cover several Middle Tennessee counties from 1807 to 1823. This monumental work will be indispensable for family research in early Tennessee. There follows some plats from the early land records. Platting the early land records is very difficult as many land entries were never granted. Also some later surveys and

grants encircled earlier entries and surveys. At this time we have not been able to place David Young's land in relationship to the land of other individuals.

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I would welcome correspondence on this article. D. Mitchell Jones, 3025 Kline Road, Jacksonville, FL 32216

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7. Tennessee General Grants, TN State Library & Archives, Nashville, TN, Book F, p. 146.
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10. Ibid, P. 204-05
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15. Op. cit Book C, p. 24
16. Op. cit
17. Survey Book A, p.614
18. Entry Book B, p. 169
19. Entry Book D, p. 97
20. Entry Book 1809-1814, p. 12
21. Op. cit p. 13
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25. Survey Book J, p. 398
26. Entry Book D, p. 14
27. Survey Book E, p. 531 & 533
28. Survey Book H, p.362
29. Entry Book E, p. 430
30. Ibid, p.480
31. Entry Book 1809-1814, p. 493
32. Mountain District Grants, Book 9, p.677
33. Ibid. p.679
34. Survey Book J, p. 396
35. Survey Book D, P. 201
36. Survey Book F, p. 411
37. Survey Book J, p. 396
38. Entry Book E, Entry 7430 & 7431
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40. Surveys Roll 28, Book 6, p. 111
41. Survey Book F, p. 409
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45. Ibid, p. 379
46. Entry Book 1809-1814, p. 493
47. Survey Book M, p. 39
48. Mountain District Grants, Book 6, p. 179
49. Survey Book B, p. 170
50. Entry Book B, p. 233
51. Entry Book E, Entry 7426-7429
52. Survey Book E, p. 531
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54. Entry Book E, p. 104
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57. Ibid, p. 396
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59. Survey Book K, p. 217
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EARLY LAND OWNERS IN BUFFALO VALLEY

The following list/numbers correspond with the plats on the following page.

1. James Vance 640A
2. John R. Huff to Peter Huff who sold part to Henry M. Carr
3. James Wallace 200A
4. S. Pattershall for his brother conveyed a land warrant to Stephen Montgomery for 1000 A in Smith County. Land later transferred to Samuel Roulston in 1801, and he conveyed 800 acres of the tract to Thomas Draper in 1824. Henry Blanton and Joseph Jarrod live on the remainder of the tract in Jackson County, Tennessee. Jarred states he came to this country circa 1810. From Smith County, Tennessee Court Minutes, January Term 1832; Montgomery, etal vs. Draper etal, Published Vol I No. 2, Smith County Historical & Genealogical Society.
5. James Wallace 200A
6. Brice Byrne 150A
7. Mark Young 90A
8. John W. Simpson 100A - 1826
9. John W. Simpson 74A
10. John W. Simpson 200A - 1828
11. John Clemons 60A - 1808
12. Jacob Young 160A - 1827
13. Lewis R. Vance 600A - 1827
14. R. Wallace 50A - 1825
- 14a. Robert Wallace 300A - 1828
15. Prettyman Jones 70A - 1808
- 15a. Prettyman Jones 30A - 1812
16. Prettyman Jones 50A - 1809
17. Prettyman Jones 30A - 1814
18. James Vance 50A - 1835
19. Edward Anderson 150A, later owned by Robert Alcorn
20. Prettyman Jones heirs 134A - 1836
21. Prettyman Jones heirs 130A - 1836
22. Sarah Jones 200A - 1828
Part later owned by Widow Tucker
23. Mark Young 50A - 1826
24. Mark Young 200A - 1830
25. John Carr 25A - 1836
26. Hugh Wallace 275A - 1835
27. John R. Jones 25A - 1831
28. Alfred Jones 25A
29. Alfred Jones 100A - 1831 survey of Henry M. Carr
30. Alfred Jones 50A - 1833 where he lived
31. Alfred Jones 25A where John Carr lived - 1827

32. John R. Jones 98 ¼ A – 1838
33. Byrd S. Jones 75A - 1833
34. Hugh Wallace 50A - 1835
35. Robert Alcorn 250A - 1831
36. Robert Alcorn 75A - 1835 sold to F.N. Patterson
37. F.N. Patterson & Elijah Crowell 100A - 1856
38. Mark Young 70A - 1837
39. John Young 50A - 1830
40. Jacob Young 50A - 1825
41. John Young 150A - 1825 owned 1857 by Allen Young
42. Mark Young 75A
43. John Young 100A - 1828
44. William Jared 100A - 1808
45. Joseph Jared 62 ½ A - 1830
46. William Jared 17 ½ A - 1814
47. William Jared 16½ - 1814
48. Joseph & William Jared 640A - 1838
49. James Vance 72 ½ A - 1814
50. William Jared 100A - 1826
51. William Jones 50A - 1828
52. Prettyman Jones 10A - 1814
53. Prettyman Jones 3A - 1814
54. Robert Wallace 18A - 1812
55. Robert Wallace 20A - 1825
56. Robert Wallace 40A - 1812
57. Robert Wallace 14A - 1825
58. Robert Wallace 10A - 1812
59. Wm. Jared 45A - 1808
60. John Yong 50A - 1826
61. Mark Young 50A
62. John W. Simpson
63. John Huff
64. James Vance 10A & 10A
65. John Garner
66. Isbell
67. Byrd & James R. Jones
68. John Johnson 20A sold Martha Smith 1851
69. John Johnson 50A sold Martha Smith 1851
70. Claiborn Vaughn 138A sold John M. Foster - 1828
71. Lot Hazzard 125A
72. Henry Holly 25A - 1826
73. Henry Holly 50A - 1826
74. Henry Holly 50A - 1826
75. Charles & Jonathan Smith 30A 1826 sold H. Love