



Story of Colonel James Roulston
The Raulstons – 1970
By Leonard Raulston
pgs. 13-15 & 18A

One of Matthew Roulston's sons, James, is the patriarch of the Sequachee Valley Raulstons. Colonel James Roulston, pioneer settler of Marion County, was born June 16, 1778 in Augusta County, Virginia, the son of Matthew Roulston 1742-1800 and Polly Moore 1742-1801 with whom he came to Tennessee in 1792 and settled in Jefferson County. (Dandridge)

On Jane Simmons' way from Charleston through East Tennessee in 1800 she met Colonel James Roulston. They were married in Knoxville and stood on the banks of the Tennessee River and watched her family leave by boat for Louisiana never to see them again. Her father, Lieut. Robert Simmons, a soldier of the Revolution, planned to travel by boat down the Tennessee to the Ohio, thence to the Mississippi and on to New Orleans. They were on their way to take up lands in Franklinton, Louisiana which had been granted to him for military service. Jane Simmons was the granddaughter of Andrew Pickens of the old Waxhaw settlement of South Carolina. It was in this settlement that Andrew Jackson was born and lived for a considerable part of his boyhood on the farm of Jane's grandfather.

After marrying Jane Simmons, James came to middle Tennessee, and opened up an inn in the Chestnut Mound area which was known as Raulston's Stand. He successfully operated with his brother-in-law, Mark young, (husband of Ruth Roulston), his inn, a powder mill, a distillery, and a very large farm.

In 1801 James Roulston was a delegate to Knoxville, then the Capitol of the Stage, and was instrumental in the enactment of the necessary legislation to create a new county. This was named in honor of Andrew Jackson. The next year, Jackson was appointed by Governor Blount as Judge Advocate of Davidson County. That county had been named for Brigadier General William Lee Davidson who fought at King's Mountain and lost his life there at Cowan's Ford, North Carolina in 1781.

James was the father of fourteen children, eleven boys and three girls. In 1808 he moved from the old Roulston Stand to Sequachee Valley and there entered, with three of his sons, twenty thousand acres of land. He was one of the first settler in the valley and soon became one of the leading men of the frontier area of this newly established state. He built his home on what was later found to be the state line between Tennessee and Alabama when the boundaries were surveyed in 1817. Colonel Roulston's log house was located only a short distance from the Indian villages of Long Island. Nickajack and Running Water.

There existed at this time much unrest among the Chickamaugas because they resented the loss of their land to the incoming white man.

James Roulston was called upon by Jackson to organize his countryside for an expedition against the Creek Indians in the great bend of the Tennessee River. In 1809 he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Eighteenth Regiment of Jackson County. Again he was called upon by General Jackson to serve under his command in the War of 1812. In November 1814 Colonel Roulston was commissioned Colonel in command of the Third Regiment of Tennessee, which was mustered in southern Tennessee and was a part of General William Carroll's Division. He was ordered to proceed to New Orleans as quickly as possible in order to defend that area against the British. Colonel Roulston and his Regiment bore the brunt of the British advance in the Battle of New Orleans and out of his Regiment over one hundred men were casualties.

Commissioned Officers of Tennessee in Service by Governor's Commission, Book No., 3, 1807-1815. Page 139. Upon their return to Tennessee, Colonel Roulston terminated his military service. He went back to the vast holdings of land located in what later became Jackson County, Alabama and Marion County, Tennessee.

James Roulston's interests in Jackson were many. One tie was the fact that Old Hickory had been born on the farm of Andrew Pickens of South Carolina. Andrew Jackson was a personal friend of Colonel Roulston. This was doubtless partly due to the close friendship that existed between the Pickens and Jackson families. In 1828 Colonel Roulston declared his domicile in Alabama, as his home was built on the state line. He was elected and served as representative of Jackson County to the legislature at Montgomery. However, much of his time was spent surveying and looking after his extensive land entries in this section. While he was Indian Commissioner Andrew Jackson spent much of his time during summers in Doran's Cove (much of which was owned by Roulston) settling land disputes with the Indians. Colonel Roulston and Major James Doran worked with and were of great assistance to Andrew in the formulation of the Indian Treaty of 1817-1819. Many times Roulston and his wife were invited to the Hermitage as President Jackson's guests.

During the period that land grants were issued Colonel James Roulston's family and the family of Captain Robert Bean entered over 57,000 acres of land, much of it located in Sequachee Valley.

There are many descendants of Colonel James Roulston living in this vicinity. The records reveal that five Roulstons married five of the Beans. The Beans of this area are descendants of William Bean of the Watauga settlement. Robert Bean, oldest son of William settled in this valley in 1806. The grave of Captain Robert Bean is the oldest marked grave in this section. He died in 1824 according to the beautiful marker erected by the DAR fifty years ago. Colonel Roulston died on August 7, 1844 and he was buried in the old graveyard. His

grave is marked by a bronze plaque erected by the Daughters of the War of 1812. Both Marion County and Jackson County, Alabama consider him one of their most eminent pioneer settlers.

Some land entries made by James Roulston and others who came into this area with him:

Roulston, James	State of Tennessee	1808	A 20 200
Roulston, James			A 20 200
Patton, John			P 373 170
Patton, John I.			

Colonel James Roulston
1778-1844

Colonel James Roulston, pioneer settler and landowner, was born June 16, 1778 near Richmond, Virginia and died August 7, 1844 in Marion County, Tennessee. He married Jane Simmons of Charleston, SC 1802 in Jefferson County, Tennessee. She was the granddaughter of Colonel Andrew Pickens of SC. In 1801 Colonel Roulston was elected to go to the legislature in Knoxville to present legislation which established Jackson County, TN. He was Colonel in command of the Third West Tennessee Regiment, United States Army. Colonel Roulston fought in the Battle of New Orleans, War of 1812, under General Andrew Jackson who was a life long friend. In 1826-28 Colonel Roulston was representative to the legislature from Jackson County, Alabama.

Colonel James Roulston
Book of Jared – pgs. 679-680

James Roulston was at one time State Senator of Alabama. He received the following interesting invitation in June 1828:

“The Pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited to a ball to be given at Captain Daffy’s in Hartsville on the 5th of July in honor of our distinguished fellow citizen General Andrew Jackson.

Z.G. Goodall	Thomas Barry	D.W. Mentle	
Robert Robison	John W. Hamilton	A.M. DeBow	
James Dunn	R.B. Alexander	Cyrus Hart	
John N. Turner	Spencer W. Scott		<i>Managers</i>

Hartsville, June 16, 1828

R.B. Alexander – *Reuben B. Alexander – md Elizabeth Johnson.*

**See Chapter 1 - *See Chapter 14, James Raulston
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Obt. of Leonard Raulston
Author of the book:
The Raulstons – 1970
Obts. of Marion Co., TN - Vol. 4

Leonard Raulston Dies:

Prominent Marion County businessman and attorney J. Leonard Raulston, who served as chairman of Untied States Stove Co., in South Pittsburg and a trustee of the University of Tennessee, died Sunday, November 8, in a Whitwell hospital. He was 82.

Mr. Raulston was co-owner of Raulston-Pryor Quarries and was president of Orme Coal Co. He was director emeritus of the First Bank of Marion County and served as vice chairman of the board of directors of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Tennessee.

Known to many by his nickname, "Ram," which was given to him by a sportswriter when he was a halfback at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, Mr. Raulston was an avid supporter of the University of Tennessee, his alma mater, and was active in Marion County politics at one time.

Mr. Raulston was a native of Marion County, the son of the late Jeanette Bible and William Polk Raulston. He was graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville in 1925 and entered the University of Tennessee the following year.

At the university, he served as president of his senior class and was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the Scarabbean Honor Society and Delta Kappa honorary fraternity. After receiving his bachelor of science degree, he went to UT Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1933. He also did graduate work at Harvard University prior to returning to UT as personnel director.

In 1937, Mr. Raulston and his uncle, the late S.L. Rogers, took over the United States Stove Corp., and he saw service with the firm as vice president and general manager and then secretary-treasurer and chairman of the board. Included in his business-related activities were 16 years as trustee of the American Institute of Appliance Manufacturers and two years as president. He was a member of the board of directors of the Gas Appliance Association.

Active in county politics, Mr. Raulston served as judge pro tem of the Marion County Quarterly Court and was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1948 and 1952. He was an elector for President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 after serving as 3rd District campaign chairman for the president in 1952.

Mr. Raulston was always a student of local history, service as Marion County historian and publishing books on the Raulston family and the history of Sequatchie Valley. His book "Sequatchie" was published by the University of Tennessee Press and has been issued in several printings.

During World War II, Mr. Raulston served with the National Guard. He was past international president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and a member of the Guild of Ancient Suppliers and the Newcomen Society in North America. He was a trustee of Montgomery Bell Academy.

Active in Chattanooga circles, Mr. Raulston was a member of the Mount City Club, Lookout Mountain Fairyland Club and Lookout Mountain Golf Club. In South Pittsburg, he belonged to the Rotary Club, South Pittsburg Marion Lodge No. 515 and then Scottish Rite.

He was a communicant of Christ Church, Episcopal, in South Pittsburg.

Surviving are his wife, Agnes Hicks Raulston of Lookout Mountain and South Pittsburg; two sons, Leonard Polk Raulston of South Pittsburg and Michael McKeevar Raulston of Chattanooga; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, November 10, at Christ Church, Episcopal, in South Pittsburg, with burial in Raulston Cemetery.

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