

DAR marks grave in Gordonsville, TN  
by Kathryn Frye Dickens  
*Article from the Smith County Genealogical Society*  
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Members of the Caney Fork Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution and descendants of Joseph Allison, as well as local dignitaries, met Saturday afternoon, September 17, at the Gordonsville Nazarene churchyard to mark Allison's grave and pay tribute to the memory of his service in the American Revolutionary War.

The event was arranged under the auspices of Mrs. Sue W. Maggart.

Joseph Allison (1750 – 1826) was born in North Carolina, a son of John Allison. Joseph was a lieutenant in the Continental Army where he served with his brother, John.

After the war, sometime in the early 1800's, the two Allison brothers, Joseph and John, came to this general area, first settling on Cane Creek which is now a portion of Putnam County. Joseph ventured on to Smith County and purchased acreage along the Caney Fork River at the mouth of Hichman's Creek; his lush land possible extending as far as the present Gordonsville, Nazarene Church property.

It was Allison's son by Elizabeth, Robert Donaldson Allison, who at the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1846 recruited volunteers and engaged in several battles. Some fifteen years later, during the War Between the States, the valiant Robert D. Allison mustered three companies from the DeKalb County area, forming the renowned Allison's Squadron.

Robert Donaldson Allison's first wife, Martha (1810-1854), is also buried in the Nazarene Cemetery.

The ceremony at the peaceful little cemetery was opened by prayer offered by Mrs. W.T. Fisher. Regent Mrs. Wyatt Allen Jr. welcomed guests, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ray Leftwich.

Special recognition was given to Mr. Leftwich for his having secured the veteran's marker, to Fred Gordon Key for his purchase of Elizabeth Allison's stone, and to Danny Bass for the placement of the markers and insignia.

The national anthem was sung by Miss Angela Brooks.

Mrs. A.J. Sharenberger gave a very patriotic address, reminding those present of the hardships suffered by our ancestors and of their fighting for the freedom of individual rights and self-government. She admonished that as descendants of such brave men as the Revolutionary soldiers, we must defend, protect, respect, and support the rights won for us, and to always maintain unity.

She read Emerson's poem, "Concord Hymn". Her closing remarks were: "Revolutionary soldiers, you did not fight nor die in vain. Ever may freedom live in America; every may we remember!"

Kevin S. Key, a direct Joseph Allison descendant, gave a biographical sketch of the soldier.

The DAR ritual was then given by Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Fisher.

The marker was unveiled by Harold Maynard, an Allison descendant.

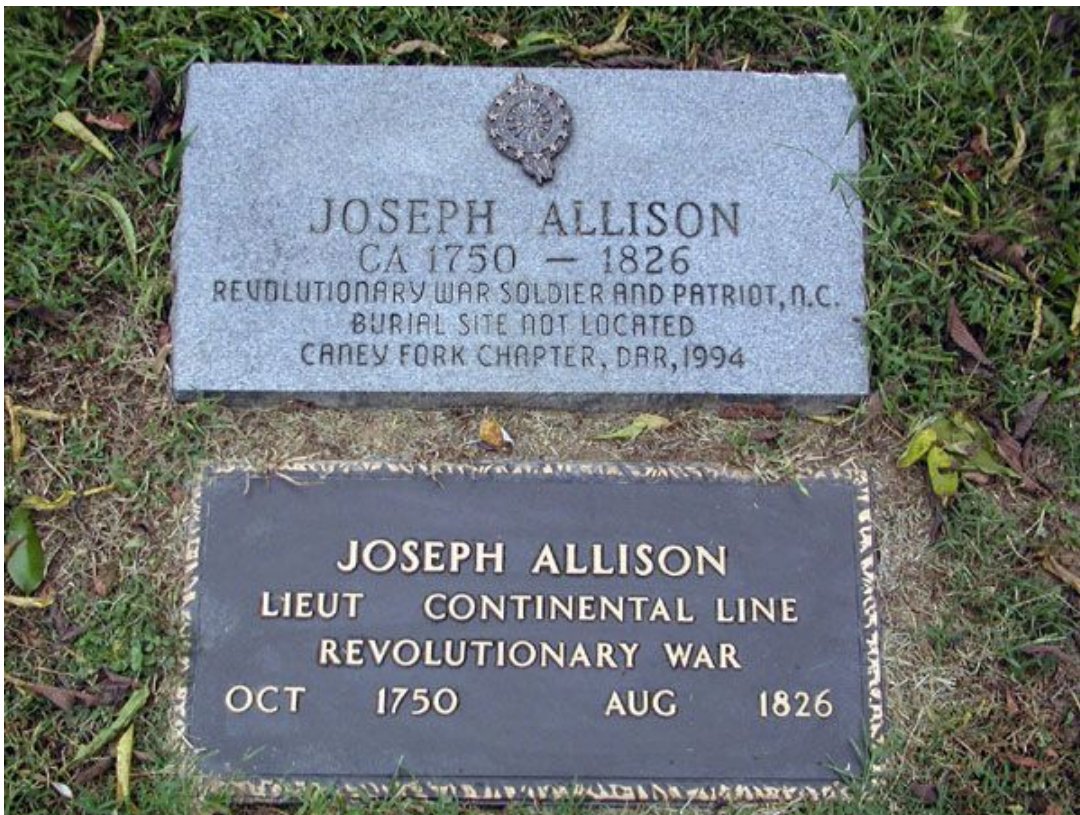
A wreath was placed on the soldier's grave by other descendants, little Miss Allison Key and her cousin, little Miss Catalyn Whitehead.

A tribute was given by Mrs. Allen followed by a moving rendition of "America the Beautiful" sung by Angela, Stephen, and Regina Brooks.



A group of descendants of Lt. Joseph Allison, Revolutionary War Soldier, attended the DAR grave marking ceremony on September 17, 1994, in Gordonsville. A biographical sketch of Lt. Allison was given by descendant Kevin S. Key, pictured second from left holding his son.





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**Lieutenant Joseph Allison** – *Rev'l War soldier- patriot service: NC*

b. October 1750, Lancaster Co., PA, Colonial America or Orange Co., NC

d. 1 August 1826, nr. Gordonsville, Smith Co, TN

s/o John Robert Allison Sr. & Martha "Granny Mattie" Hamilton

md 1<sup>st</sup> ca. 1775, Orange Co., NC, Elizabeth Jane Donelson/Donaldson

b. ca. 1754, Ireland – d. 11 November 1807, Orange Co., NC –

Elizabeth Jane, buried Eno Cemetery, near Hillsboro, NC

md 2<sup>nd</sup> 19 August 1809, Orange Co., NC, Elizabeth "Besty" Madden/Maddin

*Lieutenant Joseph Allison assisted in establishing American Independence having*

*entered service in Orange Co., NC in 1778: Served in Captain John*

*Whiteside's Company during the battle of Guilford Court house.*

ALLISON, JOSEPH - REV'L WAR - DAR

Service: NORTH CAROLINA

Rank(s): LIEUTENANT, PATRIOTIC SERVICE

Birth: (CIRCA) 1750 ORANGE CO NORTH CAROLINA

Death: (ANTE) 11- -1826 SMITH CO TENNESSEE

Service Description:

1) CAPT. JOHN WHITESIDE, GEN. BURNS;

2) PAID FOR SERVICES

**Source:** Allison Connections by Della P. Franklin, pg. 3:

**Joseph Allison**, born October 1750, Lancaster Co., PA, Colonial America or Orange Co., NC (son of John Allison, Sr.). He was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. He was first married to someone whose name is unknown. They had one daughter. He was married secondly to **Jane Donaldson** in 1775 in Orange Co., NC. They had nine children. Jane was born ca. 1754 in Ireland. She died 11 November 1807 in Orange County at age fifty-five, buried in Eno Cemetery near Hillsboro. He was remarried to **Betsy Maddin**, 19 August 1809 in Orange Co., NC. To them was born three children. Shortly after their marriage he moved to White County, Tennessee and first paid taxes there in 1816 on 497 acres of land and six blacks. In 1818 White Co., TN, Joseph paid taxes on 660 acres on Cane Creek. It was about this time that he moved to Smith Co., TN and lived near Gordonsville until he died there 1 August 1826 and was buried there.

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