Hugh Wallace & Family Story
by Linda Garrison Willoughby
and Doris Garrison Gilbert

Wallace is a Scottish surname which means foreigner or stranger, or one who came from Wales. Hugh Wallace was born in Bedford County, Virginia, circa 1800. He married Nancy Jared, daughter of Joseph Jared and Aggie Beard.

When Hugh and Nancy Wallace entered the Buffalo Valley area of Middle Tennessee, it was virgin forest and essentially Indian territory. In 1827 and 1828 one hundred seventy five acres of land in Buffalo Valley were surveyed for Hugh Wallace, then in 1832, 400 more acres was surveyed for him and another fifty acres in 1835; this bought the total to six hundred twenty five acres in nine years.

Hugh and Nancy Jared Wallace had seven or eight children; four were sons; John, William, McDonald, and Joseph. Of these four, John fathered no children. William named a son Hugh and a son John namesakes of the same brother and himself. Joseph named three sons namesakes of his father, Hugh, his brother, William and himself. This propensity for repeating the same names made it extremely difficult to place these ancestors in their proper chronological order and relationship. (For exact data see the ancestor charts in the Putnam County Library.)

Although John Wallace produced no children, he raised one of his nephews, William M. Wallace. In his will, John bequeathed all his estate to William M., his nephew. John was also named the administrator of the estate of his brother, McDonald Wallace.

Evidently, McDonald and/or his wife, Julia Ann Henley, must have suffered from serious health problems. Although they produced three children, the family is never listed in a census as a separate family. In 1860 the three children are living in the household of Hugh and Nancy, their grandparents. In 1870 two of the children were living with their father, McDonald, and the other was still with Hugh and Nancy. Julia Ann Henley Wallace died in 1872 at age thirty four; McDonald died in 1876 at age fifty. William J. Wallace was appointed guardian of his brother’s minor children.

William J. Wallace was Hugh and Nancy’s eldest son, born in 1825. He married Elizabeth Ann “Betty Ann” Petty and their union produced nine children, six sons and three daughters. William J. and Elizabeth’s eldest son, Earl M., was a constable and was killed at a young age. He produced no issue. William J. Wallace died in 1895 and in his will left his estate to his wife, Elizabeth, with the exception of $10 to each of his children. At Elizabeth’s death the estate was to be sold and the money divided equally between the children. Elizabeth died in 1907.
William J. and Elizabeth Ann Wallace’s eighth child, Sarah Caroline “Sis Caroline” Wallace married William Carroll Garrison. James L. and Rebecca Garrison’s son, William Carroll Garrison, was born in 1855. Their son, Solon Garrison, testified that William was fifteen years old and Sarah Caroline was fourteen years old when they married. They lived with Sarah’s parents for one year. Their union produced thirteen children. Alton, Milton, and Wade died in infancy, as probably did the fifth child, who was unnamed. In the 1900 census Sarah Caroline stated she was the mother of thirteen children, nine of whom were still living.

Older family members and neighbors said that William Carroll Garrison had some American Indian ancestry. He wore his dark hair shoulder length. William Carroll’s daughter, Leona, testified that her father was a Methodist circuit rider. A circuit rider was a preacher who traveled on horseback from one rural church to another on successive Sundays. Since Leona remembered riding with her father, this probably took place between 1890 and 1900.

William Carroll Garrison died on July 4, 1990 at the age of forty five. He left his wife Sarah Caroline Wallace Garrison with nine children, the youngest, two years old. Life was difficult for a widow with nine children. Sarah Caroline washed for some neighbors and earned fifty cents a week.

There was a wide variety of fruit trees on her land and in the summer, she canned and dried fruit for the winter. Green beans and pumpkin were also strung to dry. Green beans were canned in salt water to preserve them, because the glass jars and lids were not very efficient. The salt water was drained off before the beans were prepared for a meal.

Pork, the most commonly preserved meat, was supplemented by chickens from Sarah Caroline’s flock. Cane was raised to make molasses which was used as sweetener; corn and wheat were raised to be ground into meal and flour.

In the fall the family gathered chestnuts, black walnuts, and hickory nuts to sell. Chestnut trees provided fence rails, as well as shingles for the house, but in 1920 a blight killed all the chestnut trees.

In 1904 a ‘contract’ was drawn between Sarah Caroline and her mother, Elizabeth Ann Wallace. Evidently this agreement was for Sarah Caroline to care for her mother and then to continue to live in the home after her mother’s death.

In that era toothbrushes were made by chewing on an Elm twig until the wood fibers split and softened. Then the twig was used to clean the teeth. Somehow, Ople, William Carroll and Sarah Caroline’s daughter, choked on part of an Elm twig and died about the age of twelve in 1907.
Life was not easy for Sarah Caroline, but she raised all the remaining children, except one, after her husband’s death.

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*From the book A History of Putnam County Tennessee by Walter S. McClain 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. 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.” It appears that Joshua moved to Buffalo Valley in the 1830’s with the Andersons and that Joseph moved to the area after 1840.

Hugh Wallace Cemetery & Wallace Homestead  
Near the Wallace Cemetery is a log cabin where Matilda Isabelle Wallace was born. Matilda married Lewis Monroe Anderson. The log cabin & cemetery are located on Tucker Ridge near Silver Point, Tennessee near the Expressway. A descendant, Grace Wallace, widow of Jig Wallace owns the property now. The log cabin was built approximately 1820 – McDonald Wallace & Family lived here.
The Wallaces were landowners in an area that stretched from Buffalo Valley to the waters of Indian Creek to land that later became the 13th Civil District of Putnam County. State records show that Hugh Wallace “in consideration of the sum of one cent per acre…on the 2nd day of January 1826 pursuant to the provisions of an act of the General assembly” was granted 50 acres of land. The grant was signed by Sam Houston. Four years later “by virtue of Entry No. 2172” Hugh Wallace was granted 400 acres of land “on the waters of the Buffalo Valley and waters of Indian Creek” area. This grant was signed by the Governor of Tennessee N. Cannon. Bordering this land was property owned by Robert Alcorn, Prettyman Jones, John Jones, and Robert Wallis (Wallace). Another tract of land that contained 100 acres “on the waters of Indian Creek of Caney Fork,” and still another grant of 75 acres “on the Ridge between the head of Buffalo Valley and Wolf Creek waters of Caney Fork” was made to Hugh Wallace. The surveys for the land tracts were done by Richard F. Cooke. The Insurrection Tax list of 1862 shows Hugh Wallace owned 790 acres of land.

Hugh Wallace married Nancy Jared about 1822. She was the daughter of Joseph Jared and Agnes Beard. Nancy was born in Virginia. (Both of these men signed the 1841 Petition for the Creation of a New County-Putnam.) The Census records show they were the parents of William J. Wallace, McDonald Wallace, Elizabeth Wallace, Joseph Wallace, Matilda Wallace, and John Wallace. By 1845 William J. was married to Elizabeth Ann Petty. They were the parents of Adelaid Wallace, Amanda Wallace, Hugh E. Wallace, John L. Wallace, Robert M. Wallace, James Wade Wallace, Earl M. Wallace, Sarah Caroline Wallace, and Joel L. Whitten Wallace. William J. Wallace was elected Justice of the Peace. A marriage between B.F. Whitefield and Mary Barr was performed by him on May 21, 1882. He was deeded land by his father, Hugh, who divided land holdings among his children, giving each more than 100 acres. William J. deeded some of the land to his daughter Adelaid, who married Mansfield Smith, Sr. She in turn deeded her land to her three sons – Mansfield Smith, Jr., Robert Smith, and James Smith. That land today is still in the hands of descendants of these families. The will of William J. Wallace was dated January 27, 1894. Court records show that Elizabeth Ann, his widow, was appointed Executrix as he stipulated on April 8, 1895.

*Courtesy Lois Ruth Smith Anderson*
Before 1850, there were at least five Whitefield families living in Jackson County, TN. The heads of those families were all born in North Carolina. They were William Whitefield (b. 1802), Carter Whitefield (b. 1804), John Whitefield (b. 1810), Josiah Whitefield (b. 1814), and Benjamin Whitefield (b. 1825). All five had married wives born in Tennessee except the oldest, William, whose wife was born in North Carolina. (Census Record 1850). Ten years later Benjamin, Josiah, and William were living in Putnam County. Putnam became a county in 1854, so it is possible that they lived in an area that was taken from Jackson County to help form Putnam. Benjamin moved to Kentucky and was listed in the Allen County Census Record of June 27, 1870 with his wife, Louisa Thomas (b. 1823), and these children: Tennessee L. Whitefield, Zoura (Missouri) Whitefield, Dicy E. Whitefield, Vienna L. Whitefield, Jasper C.G. Whitefield, and Payton V. Whitefield.

The family returned to Tennessee with Payton V. and Jasper C. G. settling in Silver Point. But then Payton was on the move again. He lived in Buffalo Valley for a time when he operated a blacksmith shop then later moved to the 8th District of Putnam County where he operated a country store. According to the Court Records in Putnam County, the County Court certified “that Dr. P.V. Whitefield has this day made satisfactory proof….. that he was regularly engaged in the practice of medicine in the County of Putnam ….Dr. P.V. Whitefield is entitled to all the privileges contemplated in Act to Regulate the practice of medicine and Surgery in the State of Tennessee; passed April 3, 1889.” Dr. Whitefield practiced medicine in Silver Point and the surrounding area until his death in 1927. One of his sons, V.M. Whitefield, settled in the Silver Point area where he owned and operated a general store for many years.

Courtesy Lois Ruth Smith Anderson

Mansfield “Babe” Smith Jr.–b. 28 December 1870, TN–d. 24 October 1932, TN
s/o Mansfield Smith Sr. & Adelaide Wallace
md 24 December 1889, Artie Jane Maynard -
b. 18 May 1872 – d. ca. 1954, TN
Both Buried: +Hugh Wallace Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

…Norman Collie Smith Sr. – b. 27 June 1891- d. 2 November 1948
md Vera/Vora Whitefield – b. 10 July 1898 – d. 26 February 1974
Vera md 2nd Mr. Gooch. Her marker: Vera Smith Gooch – nee Whitefield.
d/o Virgil M. Whitefield & Bess Mayes – Virgil M. Whitefield was the
s/o Dr. Payton V. Whitefield.
Both Buried: +Hugh Wallace Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

…Lois Ruth Smith – b. 6 December 1919 –
John Overall Anderson - b. 5 March 1906, Silver Point, TN
John O. Anderson line, see Chapter 3, Silas Frances Anderson.

…Norman Collie Smith Jr. – md Rene

Silas Francis Anderson – b. 21 November 1863, Jackson Co., TN –
d. 14 June 1949, TN – Merchant General Store - md 29 February 1888,
Maggie Lena Eastham - b. 16 May 1871, TN – d. 1 October 1913
Both Buried: Alexander Martin Cemetery, Dekalb Co., TN
Listed as living in the 1st Civil Dist. of Putnam Co., TN in the 1910 census.
Sheriff of Dekalb Co., TN for 2 terms in the 1892-1896, then he became a
Deputy U.S. Marshall from 1897 - 1903 and a U.S. Marshal in 1924 –
1930’s. - *See “Lend an Ear”, pg. 52. -*See Story of Silas E. Anderson.

…John Overall Anderson – b. 5 March 1906, Silver Point,
Putnam Co., TN – d. 5 December 1989, Dekalb Co., TN
Buried: Maynard Cemetery, Cherry Hill, Dekalb Co., TN
md Lois Ruth Smith – b. 6 December 1919 – Genealogists
d/o Norman Collie Smith & Vera Whitefield. Norman’s parents, Mansfield
Lois Smith Anderson was a teacher at Tennessee Tech University.
John Overall Anderson, was a farmer and a republican. He was a
candidate for Presidential Elector for TN, 1944; delegate to Republican
*Norman Collie Smith line, see Chapter 15, Adelaide Wallace.
*Silas Francis Anderson line, see Chapter 3, Thomas Shirley Anderson.

*See Wallace, Anderson & Smith families – Chapters: 3 & 15 at:

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