## WHO WAS HENRY M. KERR?

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On 20 Apr. 1808, **John Clemmons** entered 50 acres of land in Jackson County, TN on the waters of Indian Creek of Caney Fork (Buffalo Valley), and to include the improvement where **Henry Karr** now lives on.<sup>1</sup>

From this entry we know that Henry was one of the early settlers in the Buffalo Valley area. In land records and other record sources we find him mentioned several times. We know from the 1820 and 1830 census of Jackson County, that he had children, but no present day descendants claim him as an ancestor, Just who was Henry M. Kerr? To answer that question we need to determine the area where he lived, the other Carr's/Kerr's in the same area, and search all available records for references to him.

Until 1854 the area where Henry Carr/Kerr was first found, and where he LEFT all records of his existence, was in the Buffalo Valley area of Jackson/Smith Cog., TN. The major streams of the Buffalo Valley area are the Caney Fork River and Indian Creek. Other nearby streams are Rock Springs Creek and Wolf Creek. Buffalo Valley, until 1854, was located in both Jackson Co. and Smith Co., as the line ran in a southeast direction from the Cumberland River through Buffalo Valley to a place on Hurricane Creek. When Putnam County was established in 1854, Buffalo Valley became a part of it. Today, Interstate Highway 40 runs through Buffalo Valley, and the old Jackson Co./Smith Co. line intersects the present day Buffalo Valley Interstate 40 interchange just east of Caney Fork River.

Other Carrs/Kerrs found in the records of the area are James Karr<sup>2</sup> on Hurricane Creek; Andrew Carr<sup>3</sup> and; by 1820, John Carr. In the 1820 Census of Jackson Co there is listed William Car, James Car, John Car, Henry Car, and James Car. We believe the first James Car and William Car are the Cane Creek Carrs which were covered so well by Beverly Carr Stanley in the first issue of Carr-Kerr Clearing house and UCCA., Vol. 13, #1, p. 17. In the 1830 Jackson Co. Census was Henry Carr, Johnathan Carr, Elijah Carr and, Polley Carr, the latter three probably being on Cane Creek. In 1830, John Carr was in Schuyler Co., IL, with families such as Reno, Skiles, Smith and Wallace.

At this point we should mention William Harrison Carr, Sr., as he is sometimes confused as the ancestor for some of the Buffalo Valley Carrs. William Harrison Carr, Sr. was b. 1788, Bedford Co., VA, and d. 3 Nov. 1854, Jackson Co., TN. He married 1)Martha Rice; and 2)Hannah Harper. He lived in the Cane Creek area of Jackson (Putnam) Co., TN., served as the first Circuit Court

Clerk of Putnam Co., and was a veteran of the War of 1812. His children were: $^4$ 

- 1. Mary Carr, b. ca 1814/15, d. 1856/7, m. ca 1830 David Mansell.
- 2. Arrena K. Carr, b. ca 1815/20, d. bet 1854, a. bet 1835 William Mansell.
- 3. William Harrison Carr, Jr., b. ca 1816, d. ca 1861/62, m. ca 1842 Lucretia Conway.
- 4. Sally (Sarah) Carr, b. ca 1818, m. bef 1840 Joseph Stephens.
- S. Daniel W. Carr, b. ca. 182], d. 15 Oct. 1897, Hamilton Co., II., m. ca 1846 Elizabeth Harper.
- 6. **John R. Carr**, b. 20 Feb. 1824, d. 1 Sep. 1885/7, m. 17 Aug. 1848 **Mahala Dyer**.
- 7. Albert Fielding Carr, b. 21 Sep. 1825, d. 31 Oct. 1865, Hamilton Co., IL, m. 15 Jan. 1843, Frances Anna Harper.
- 8. Elijah J. Carr, b. ca 1825/6, m. Mathussey Dyer.
- 9. Nancy Ann Carr, b. ca 1828, m. William Wilson Stephens.
- 10. Martha Carr, b. 17 Mar. 1828, d. 14 Apr. 1871, Hamilton Co., IL, m. ca 1845, Riley Harrison.
- 11. Elizabeth Carr, b. ca 1830, d. after 1870, m. John Alcorn.

The only Carr found to any extent in the records, besides Henry Carr, is John Carr. John is likely the **John Carr** in the 1820 Census of Jackson Co. About 1828 he moved to Schuyler Co., IL, and 1832 he had moved back to Buffalo Valley. Also in Schuyler Co., IL were the following Buffalo Valley area people: William Skiles, Jr., William Skiles, Sr., George Skiles, Moses Skiles, Jonathan Smith, Nathaniel Glover, David Wallace, and A William Carr b. between 1790 and 1800.

John Carr, b. between 1790 and 1800, d. between 20 Jan. 1838 and 10 Jan. 1839, of Buffalo Valley, Jackson Co., m. Rebecca Jones (b. 1800/1810, TN, d 1840/1850), daughter of Prettyman Jones, Sr. Their children were:

- 1. **Ira Carr**6, b. 1827 TN, d. 19 Oct. 1871, Putnam Co., TN, m. 9 Mar. 1847, **Mary Jane Lack**, daughter of **Edward Lack**.
- 2. Alfred Carr b. 1828, IL.
- 3. Andrew Carr, b. 6 Apr. 1830, IL, d. 10 Mar. 1915, DeKalb Co., TN, m. Kiddy Smith, dau of Robert and Fanney Leake Smith.
- 4. John Wesley Carr7, b. ca. 1835, Jackson Co., TN, d. after 1900, White Co., IL, m. 1)Sarah \_\_\_; and 3)Margaret \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Catherine Carr, b. ca 1837, Jackson Co., TN, m. Jesse McGuffee.

Another Carr/Kerr listed in printed family histories, but not found in the record<sup>8</sup>, is **Joseph Henry Carr**.<sup>8</sup> He was also known as

William Henry Carr and William Joseph Henry Carr. We feel that these names all came about through an incorrect analysis of family traditions due to the numerous intermarriages in the Carr and Jared families. Researchers also may have confused this man with William Harrison Carr, Sr. We are listing the alleged children of Joseph Henry Carr to later prove our theory on Henry M. Carr.

Joseph H. Carr, b. 20 Feb. 1785, d. 21 Oct. 1841, Jackson Co.. TN, m. Naomi Jared, b. 17 Sep. 1791, Bedford Co., VA, d. 18 Apr. 1881, Putnam Co., TN, daughter of Joseph Jared and Martha Agnes Beard. Their children were:

- 1. James R. Carr, b. ca 1811, d. bef 1880, m. Caroline Allen.
- 2. Eliza Ann Carr, b. 14 1812, d. 18 Oct. 1900, m. John Jared.
- 3. Sarah Carr, b. ca 1815, d. ca 1865, m. Stephen Petty.
- 4. Andrew F. "Dick" Carr, b. Jul. 1818, m. 1) Caroline Stillman; and 2) Martha Mitchell.
- 5. Elizabeth Jared Carr, b. 22 Nov. 1820, d. 20 June 1903, m. Isaac Huddleston.
- 6. Joseph Carr, b. 2 Nov. 1823, d. 4 Nov. 1843, never married.
- 7. John Harvey Carr, b. 4 Mar. 1826, c. 20 July 1890 DeKalb Co., TN, m. 1) Hester McDonald and 2) Mary Foster New.
- 8. **Amanda Jane Carr**, b. 2 May 1828, d. 1? Dec 1919, m. 31 Oct. 1850, Brice Jared.
- Jesse S. Carr, b. 24 Sep. 1833, d. 15 Oct. 1901, m. 30 Nov. 1865, Martha A. Betty.

Our third point was to examine the records created by Henry M. Carr/Kerr. The earliest was the land entry mentioned earlier under a date of 1808. On 10 Jan. 1812, Henry Carr, assignee of Prettyman Jones, entered 30 A of land on Rock Spring Creek of Caney Fork. 10 on 24 Aug. 1812 **Henry** made two entries on Rock Spring Creek, Jackson Co., (TN) of 10A and 15A. A very important land record in the study of our problem is a survey dated 11 May 1816 for Joseph Jared for 20 A of land in Smith Co., on the east side of Caney Fork. Survey chain carriers were Henry Carr and Moses Jared. This survey was later transferred to James Carr. 12 Then, on 22 Mar. 1825 Henry M. Carr was granted 50 A of land In Jackson Co. on the waters of Indian Creek of the Caney Fork. and where said Carr now lives. 13 On 20 Oct. 1828 he received a grant as Henry N. Carr for 15 A in Smith Co. on the east side of Caney Fork, and the grant bordered Jarretts northwest corner and  ${f Jarretts}$  northeast corner,  $^{14}$   ${f Moses}$   ${f Raulston}$  had surveyed on 28 Mar. 1827 in Jackson Co., TN, 25 A on the waters of Indian Creek of the Caney Fork beginning in the north boundary line of William Jared, Jr.'s survey of 100 A. The survey chain carriers were Moses Jared and Samuel Jared. This survey was sold to Lewis R. Vance, and testors to the sale were Alfred Jones, Henry

M. Carr and James Sutton. Proving the sale at the February term

1828 Jackson Co. County Court were Henry N. Carr and James  ${f Sutton.}^{15}$  Then, on 4 June 1829  ${f Henry~M.}$  Carr was a survey chain carrier for James Vance, 37½ A in Smith Co. (This was Buffalo Valley.) Henry M. Carr received another 100 A grant in Smith Co., TN, 3 Feb. 1830. The land was located on the east side of Caney Fork beginning in Jackson County line. Then, 27 May 1831 Henry M. Carr had two tracts surveyed. Both of these tracts were in Buffalo Valley, waters of Indian Creek of Caney Fork and in Jackson Co., TN. The 50 A survey bordered land of Prettyman Jones, 18 and the survey was sold to John R. Jones, who was granted theland. 19 The other survey was for 25 A. and was sold to Alfred Jones, who was granted the land. The sale of the survey was on 31 May 1831. and Henry H. Carr's signature was witnessed by Richard F. Cooke and Charles Jared. The sale was presented to the August 1831 session of Jackson County Court, and proven by the oaths of Richard F. Cooke and Charles Jared. 20 6 Feb. 1832 Henry H. Carr purchased from Peter Huff, for \$230.00. 240 A of land in Smith Co., TN. The land crossed the mouths of Rock Spring and Indian Creek. The deed was signed in the presence of John Bransford and James Kerr. 21 6 Sep. 1834 Henry M. Kerr sold to:

H. R. & S. Marchbanks of Jackson Co. 50 A of land in Smith Co. on the south side of Rock Springs Creek and the east side of Caney Fork.22 Then on 1 Feb. 1839, James R. Carr sold to Willis Coggin 100 A of land in Smith Co., m.23 We will later see how this land was important to Henry M. Kerr. 7 Mar. 1839 Henry H. Kerr and James R. Kerr sold to Samuel Scniggs for \$5.00, one four-year old horse, a fifteen-year old mare, three cows & calves, one bride, 25 head hogs, one desk, one chest, three beds and furniture, three steds, 2 skillets, two pots, one oven, one mares saddle. "I am indebted to John Congo in sum of \$116.65." Witnesses to this transaction were Surides J. Wyatt and Andrew Kerr. 24 The land Willis Coggin purchased from James R. Carr was sold by Coggin on 30 Sep. 1840 to Wade H. Wallic for \$200.00, "and it being the land that **Henry H. Kerr** now lives. <sup>25</sup> On the 1838 Smith Co. Tax List we see Henry M. Carr with 150 A of land in District 22, and no white polls.

From the above we can see that **Henry M. Carr/Kerr** was active in the community, as he witnessed sales of property and served as a chain carrier for surveys of land. We believe there is evidence he was a Justice of the Peace of the county court of Jackson Co. or Smith Co., as he is listed as **Henry M. Kerr, Esq.** in an old store ledger for 1833 and 1836.<sup>26</sup>

To help solve the problem of who this man was we must remember one of the axioms of research. That axiom is that individuals had relatives or close friends to witness their important transactions. Keeping this in mind, we can see from the foregoing data that Henry M. Kerr was closely associated with: (1)Joseph Jared in 1816 as a chain carrier. This must have been Naomi Jared Carr's father, as the other Joseph Jared in the area was sixteen

years old in 1816.<sup>27</sup> The survey was later transferred to James Carr; (2)He was granted 50 A of land in 1825 bordered by Jareds; (3)He was witness to sale of a survey in 1827 by Moses Roulston, a brother to Elizabeth Raulston Jared, wife of William Jared, and chain carriers for the survey were Moses and Samuel Jared, <sup>29</sup> sons of William Jared, and nephews of Moses Roulston; (4)His survey sold to Alfred Jones in 1831 was witnessed by Charles Jared, and Charles was the brother of Naomi Jared Carr; (5)In 1832 James Kerr was a witness to the purchase of land by Henry N. Kerr: (6)In

1839 Henry M. and James R. Kerr sold their personal property, and witness to the sale was James' brother, Andrew Kerr; and (7)We then see in 1839 that James R. Carr sold land on which Henry N was living in 1840, and Henry H. was probably living there in 1839. We submit that based on the foregoing close relationships of Henry H. with the father, brothers, cousins and sons of Naomi Jared Carr, Henry H. was the husband of Naomi, and not Joseph H. Carr,

Another indication of family relationship is in the naming patterns of the family.

Naomi Jared Carr's daughter, Elizabeth Carr Huddleston, named one of her sons

Henry Carr Huddleston. 31

A search of the Census records found **Henry H**, in the 1820 and 1830 Census of Jackson Co., TN. We have searched the 1840 Census of Jackson and Smith Cog., but Henry N. is not listed. We also could not find **James** or **Andrew Carr** listed. The 1830 Census of Jackson Co. had the following listing:

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Henry Carr (1830 Census, Jackson Co., TN)
1 male 40-50(Henry)
1 female 30-40 (Naomi)
1 male 20-30 (James R.)
1 male 10-15 (Andrew F.)
1 female 10-15 (Elizabeth)
2 males under S (Joseph & John Harvey)
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Missing are **Eliza Ann** and **Sarah**. **Eliza Ann** could have been married and in a separate household in 1830, as her oldest child was born in 1832.

We feel major evidence to prove that **Henry N. Cart/Kerr** was the husband of **Naomi Jared Carr** is the following written by her son, **Andrew F. Kerr**, with a postscript by **Naomi's** granddaughter, **Tennie Kerr Boyd**.

"Henry M. Kerr was born February 20 1785 & died the 21 of October 1841

(Andrew's father; note same birth & death date as the alleged Joseph H. Carr)(Brother of Andrew). H. P. Kerr died May 28 1854 May the 11 1843 on Sunday night at St Mary Church was the time and place that Jesus for Christ sake set my captivated Soul at liberty. (Andrew's brother, John Harvey Kerr's wife, Hester Kerr. (Andrew's own personal experience)

## A. F. Kerr

my precious fathers name & writing. Tennie Kerr Boyd" $^{32}$ 

- 1. Tennessee State Library and Archives, Record Group 50, Series 2, Roll 6, Book 23, 1st Surveyor's District Enter Book, Book A, page 259.
- 2. Ibid, Roll 28, Book 19, 1st Surveyor's District Plats & Surveys, Book H, p. 362.
- 3. Revolutionary War Pension file, **John Holley** mentions being in neighborhood of **Andrew Kerr & Henry Kerr**.
- 4. Roll 55, Jackson Co., TN Court Transcripts 1839—1915, Suit Feb. 1855, Tennessee State Library & Archives.
- 5. Bible belonging to **Nina Moss**, Hendersonville, TN. Entries written by **Isaac** S. Jones, son-in-law and cousin of #3 **Andrew Carr**. Interviews with **James Epps Foster** & **Nina Jones Moss**, who both remember **John Wesley Carr** visiting his brother, **Andrew**. Old store ledger D, Tennessee State Library & Archives, p. 239, lists account for **John Kerr** 1832, 1833 and on 13 Feb. 1834, amount charged per **Lotty Jones**. Also listed **Ledter D**, page 99, 20 August 1833, **Andrew Kerr**; p. 238 **James Kerr**, 1832 & 1833. Old score ledger 1837-1838, p. 55, has account
- 10 Apr. 1837 for order per **Creed H. Tucker** (John's brother—in—law). Last entry is 20 Jan. 1838, and then the next entry is listed under **Rebecca Carr**, 10 Jan. 1839. This seems to be an indication that. **John** had died and **Rebecca** was his widow.
- 6. Information furnished by Doris, Gilbert, Smithville, TN.
- 7. Information furnished by **Beverly Carr Stanley**, p. Q, Box 321, Quinton, NJ 08072.
- 8. Hall, Eleanor M., The Book of Jared, 1963, page 420.
- 9. Ibid. pages 531, 532. Dates from family group sheet on Joseph
- H. Carr, Family History Library, Salt lake City, UT.
- 10. Record Group 50, Roll 7, Book 27, 1st Surveyors District Entry Book, Book
- E, Entry 7428, Tennessee State Library & Archives.
- 11. Ibid. page 396, Entry #8755 and Entry #9151.
- 12. Record Group 50, Roll29, Book 21, 1st Surveyor's District Plats 6 Surveys,
- Book K, page 217, Tennessee State Library & Archives.
- 13. Tennessee Mountain District Grants, 112085, Book 2, page 211, Tennessee
- State Library & Archives.
- 14. Middle Tennessee District Grants, #8708, Book 10, page 273,

Tennessee State

Library & Archives.

15. Tennessee District Grants,  $Book\,\text{C}$ , page 349, Grant 1523, as filed with lit.

Dist. Surveys, Tennessee State Library & Archives.

16. Middle Tennessee Grants, Book 15, page 555. Survey as filed with Middle

Tennessee Surveys, Tennessee State Library & Archives.

- 17. Ibid. Book 12, page 43.
- 18. Survey book of Richard F. Cooke, page 215.
- 19. Tennessee Mountain District Grants, Grant #2828, Book D, p.
- 22, Tennessee

State Library & Archives.

- 20. Ibid, page 12. Survey as filed with Mountain District Surveys.
- 21. Smith Co., TN Deed Book L, pp. 22-78.
- 22. Smith Co.. TN Deed Book M. p. 172.
- 23. Smith Co., TN Deed Book 1841-1845, p. 13.
- 24. Ibid, p. 8.
- 25. Smith Co., TN Deed Book T, p. 134.
- 26. Old Store Ledger D, p. 418, Tennessee State Library & Archives.
- 27. <u>Book of Jared, p. 350.</u> Joseph Jared, son of William Jared 6 **Elizabeth Raulston** was b. 11 Mar. 1800.
- 28. Raulston, J. Leonard, <u>The Raulstons</u>, 1970 J. Leonard Raulston, South Pitte-burg, TN, p. 13.
- 29. Book of Jared, p. 22.
- 30. Ibid, p. 420.
- 31. Ibid, p. 532.
- 32. The photocopy this was taken from: furnished by Miriam Shanks Gwaltney, 210 Brandywine Dr., Old Hickory, TN 37138. She is the granddaughter of Tennie Kerr Boyd and great—granddaughter of Andrew Kerr. Copy of Andrew Kerr's writing furnished by Maurine Patton, Cookeville, TN.

## HENRY M. KERR REVISITED

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In 1989 my article entitled "WHO WAS HENRY M. KERR" was published in UCGA, Vol. XIV. No. 3. pgs 132-137. In that article I felt that I had fully proved through the "Preponderance of the Evidence Principle" that **Henry M. Kerr** was the husband of **Naomi Jared**. The problem is I violated two of the five criteria of the "Preponderance of the Evidence Principle". The five criteria are: 1

- 1. all possible resources have been examined:
- direct evidence is lacking;
- 3. there is contemporary, primary evidence of a number of related matters, all pointing in the same direction;
- 4. the evidence so accumulated leaves no doubt that only one reasonable conclusion can be drawn; and
- 5. if one single contemporary document is found that points in a different direction, and it is not possible to show clearly that this document is in error the case is not made.

The first criteria that I violated was I failed to examine all possible resources. In May 1995 I corrected this when I examined the Chancery Court records of Smith County, Tennessee. Experts point out that our collateral relatives can create records long after an event that solves our research problem. This is true for Henry M. Kerr and Naomi Jared Kerr. Sarah, daughter of Naomi Jared Kerr, married Stephen Petty. Stephen Petty as the administrator of his father's estate created the records to resolve our problem when he filed suit on behalf of the estate against Margaret High<sup>2</sup>. In the suit a number of depositions were taken which included those of Andrew F. Kerr, James R Kerr. and Naomi Carr. The only items of interest to this discussion that Andrew and Naomi gave was their ages. A. F. Kerr testified on 6 Feb 1866 that he was aged 47 years, and Naomi Carr testified on 20 Dec 1866 that she was aged 75 years.

The deposition of James R. Kerr however gives testimony that completely solves our problem. In his deposition on 1 July 1869 he states that he is aged 58 years. He also testified that "Stephen Petty had note on him dated Sept 25. 1845 for \$1.50, and one for \$150.00 know of no other J.R Kerr". The other point he made was that "I was security on note of my father Henry M. Kerr my father died before Wm Petty". 'My father died 20 or 30 years ago".

The second criteria of the "Preponderance of the Evidence Principle" I violated was that there was direct evidence as to Henry M. Kerr. In his testimony James R Kerr proves my "Preponderance of the Evidence' argument with primary evidence that his father was James R Kerr. Now descendants of Henry M. Kerr can use their research time productive searching for the right ancestor.

**Henry M. Kerr** b 20 Feb. 1785 NC, SC or  $TN^3$  d 21 Oct. 1841 Jackson or Smith Co., TN, m

Naomi Jared b 17 Sep. 1791 Bedford Co.. VA d 18 Apr 1881 Putnam Co. TN daughter of

Joseph Jared and Martha Agnes Beard. Their children:4

- 1.(i) James R Carr/Kerr b ca 1811 Jackson/Smith Co., TN d bef 1880 m Caroline Allen.
- 2. (ii) **Eliza Ann Carr/Kerr** b 14 Sep. 1812 Jackson/Smith Co.. TN d 18 Oct. 1900 m **John**

Jared.

- 3. (iii) Sarah Carr/Kerr b ca 1815 Jackson/Smith Co.. TN d ca 1865 m Stephen Petty.
- 4. (iv) Andrew F. (Dick) Carr/Kerr b Jul. 1818 Jackson/Smith Co., TN, d 1873. m 1st

Caroline Stillman Jared , d/o Joseph Jared, m 2nd Mary Mitchell.

- 5. (v) Elizabeth Jared Carr/Kerr b 22 Nov. 1820 Jackson/Smith Co.. TN, d. 20 June 1903
  - m Isaac Huddleston.
- 6. (vi) **Joseph Carr/Kerr** b 2 Nov 1823 Jackson/ Smith Co., TN d 4 Nov 1843 never m.
- 7. (vii) **John Harvey Carr/Kerr** b 4 Mar. 1826 Jackson/Smith Co., TN d 20 July 1890 DeKalb
  - Co.. TN m 1st Hester McDonald, m 2nd Mary Foster New.
- 8. (vii) Amanda Jane Carr/Kerr b 2 May 1828 Jackson/Smith Co., TN d 17 Dec 1919 m 31
  - Oct 1850 Brice Byrne Jared.
- 9. (ix) **Jesse Smith Carr** b 24 Sep. 1833 Jackson/Smith Co.. TN d 15 Oct. 1901 m 30 Nov.
  - 1865 Martha A. Betty.
- 1. Christine Rose. "What is "Preponderance of the Evidence"? National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ) 83 March 1995: 8.
- 2. **Stephen Petty** Adm Vs **Mildred High**, Smith County (TN) Chancery Court Records, Folder 3523. Roll #316 Tennessee State Library 8s Archives, Nashville, TN, pgs 2794-2797, 2815, 3037 3040.
- 3. Amanda Jane Carr Jared in 1880 Putnam Co., TN census says her father born in NC, same census Elizabeth Jared Carr Huddleston says father born TN, and Eliza Ann Carr Jared says father born SC.
- 4. Hall, Eleanor M., "The Book of Jared, 1963, pgs 531/532. and Family Group sheet on Joseph H. Carr, Family History Library. Salt Lake City UT.

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