

THOMAS A. LANCASTER
By Mary Lancaster Leftwich
Carthage, TN

Among the early Lancaster emigrants to America were Henry of Dover in 1634, who settled in Rhode Island. The Lancaster family of Smith County, TN descended from John Lancaster (or Lankester) who was born in England about 1710. One source says that John was a factor (agent) for the merchant firm of Hyndman and Lancaster of London. John and at least three sons, and probably John's wife, immigrated to Henrico County, VA about 1745.

Thomas A. Lancaster's parents both died when he was very young. Thomas (thought to be the son of William Allen Lancaster Sr. and Judith Williamson) married first his first cousin, Frances Lancaster, daughter of Nathaniel and Hope Walker Lancaster, on 8-20-1804 in Prince Edward County, VA. Thomas A. Lancaster and his family moved to Lincoln Co., KY about 1809. They probably went there with Thomas' brother William Allen Lancaster. In about 1813 Thomas A. moved to Smith Co., TN about the same time. Pension applications he made in 1850 and 1855 show that Thomas served in the War of 1812 from Tennessee. Thomas bought land from his Lancaster cousins in Smith Co. and opened a store in Lancaster, TN. He was an astute and successful business man. A ledger kept by him and now in possession of his descendants show carefully kept records entered with meticulous penmanship.

This is one line of the descendants of Thomas A. Lancaster one of the early settlers of Lancaster, TN. Thomas A. Lancaster (b. about 1785, d. 7-1-1855) married Frances Lancaster (b. about 1784, d. ?) in Prince Edward County, VA on 8-20-1804. They had eight children, the eldest son William (twin of Robert) (b. 6-12-1805, d. 2-21-1867) married Elizabeth Pryor (about 67 yrs. old, d. 3-30-1879) on 10-27-1837. William and Elizabeth had three children: Robert (b. 5-10-1840, d. 4-6-1889) married Matilda Cowan; Amanda (b. 10-3-1844, d. 5-8-1859); Malissa (b. 2-25-1848, d. 6-21-1921) married James C. Prichard of Lancaster, TN.

Robert and Matilda had six children: William md Henrietta Kelly; Robert, Jr. md Malissa Cockrun; John died at 16 yrs.; Amanda md John Wyatt of Chestnut Mound, TN; Henry Clay md Effie Bellar two children: Dorothy Murdock and Virginia Tubb of Lancaster, TN; and my father James Peyton (b. 1-22-1877, d. 12-15-1964) married Alta Jared of Buffalo Valley, TN (b. 11-27-1879, d. 2-1-1973) on October 27, 1898. Alta Jared was the daughter of Christopher Columbus Jared and Montecello Lamiza "Sis" Braswell Jared and great-granddaughter of William Jared of Putnam Co., TN. James and Alta had nine children and sixty-six years together. Their children: Vera (b. 7-6-1900, d. 9-14-1971) md Mack Reynolds two children: Jared S. Reynolds md Dorothy Shearin and James L. Reynolds md Daisy A. Nixon; Leslie (b. 9-22-1902, d. 7-21-1875) md Alva Terry, one son C. Donald md Pet Meador; Edward (b. 7-24-1904) md Dimple Knight twin boys: Jim Knight Lancaster md Vondell Green and Joe Edward Lancaster md Betty Inman; Edith (b. 2-3-1906) md Toy R. Rose two children: Jerry L. Rose md Betty Williams and Frances Rose md James N. Driver; Carl Lancaster (b. 5-17-1909) md Almeda Paschal three children: David Lancaster md June Oakley, Alta Sue Lancaster md Robby Richardson, Anita Lancaster md Kenneth Apple; Madge (b. 4-4-1911) md Walter H. Moss four children: Walter Larry Moss md Rebecca Weakley; Monte Elva md Bobby Dawson, Carl Thomas Moss md Jeanette Langford; Vicki Lynn md Randy Dillehay; Wirt Lancaster (6-23-1913) md Doris Gwaltney two children: William Bart Lancaster md Linda Watson, Jane md Larry Hall; Bobbye Lancaster (10-29-1915) md Howell Cooksey of Oklahoma three children: Barbara md Ted Medley of Lancaster, Betty unmarried; Toni Cooksey md David Cook; Mary Lancaster (4-28-1918) great, great-grandchild of William Jared, Putnam County md Ray Leftwich (b. 2-24-1915) of Buffalo Valley great, great, great-grandchild of William Jared, Putnam Co. Mary and Ray have two children: John W. Leftwich (b. 6-22-1944) md Teresa Turner one son: John W. Jr. (b. 2-3-1981) and Mary Ruth (b. 11-09-1947) first marriage Charles B. Formosa two children: Abby Catherine (b. 8-19-1969) and Mary Elizabeth "Besty" (b. 7-03-1972). Mary Ruth's second marriage to H. Rogers Lewis Jr. on 10-12-1979.

Most of the descendants of Thomas A. Lancaster still reside in Middle Tennessee.

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