

Loftis and Decendants of Laban Loftis by Jimmie R. Loftis & Bobbie Bryant
pgs. 10-32

Loftis in South Carolina

Job Loftis

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The first man by the name of Loftis to come into S.C. was **Job Loftis** who settled in Newberry County, Ninety-Six District, where he was living in 1790. He was born circa 1739 and died circa 1820 in SC. He married Elvira Goodlett, sister of Spartan Goodlett. He resided on Indian Creek between the Enoree and Tyger Rivers according to neighbors listed with him in the 1790 Census. Many of those neighbors were from Caswell and Rockingham Counties, N.C. such as: Warren Simpson, William Moon, Daniel Williams, Robert Johnston, William Gilreath and John Gates. Job apparently moved up the Tyger River from Newberry County to the Greenville/Spartanburg area circa 1794, since he had deed transactions in that year. He served as a petit juror in January session 1798 at Spartanburgh Courthouse. He is found in 1800 Census in Spartanburg County and in Censuses of 1810 and 1820 in Greenville County, SC with his wife (both over age of 45) and one female slave.

Job Loftis was likely the father of **Solomon**, **Lemuel** and **Laban Loftis** who settled in northeastern Greenville County, S.C. and **James** and **John Loftis** who settled in northwestern Spartanburg County, S.C. The Loftis family settled in S.C. along the three Tyger Rivers--the South, the Middle and the North. Martin Loftis of Abbeville County in 1803 and William Loftis of Greenville County in 1802 may also be related.

Most of Solomon's land was near Pax Mountain and was located on the South Tyger River, Beaverdam Creek and Pax Creek. Laban's land was between the South and Middle Tyger Rivers in Greenville County. Lemuel's land was mostly between the South and Middle Tyger Rivers on Beaverdam Creek in Greenville County and on the Middle and NorthTyger Rivers in Spartanburg County. James owned land on the North Fork of the Tyger River in Spartanburg County and John owned land between the Middle and North Tyger Rivers in Spartanburg County. No land records have been found for William Loftis.

A deed to Job Loftis for 94 acres in Greenville District from James Amos was recorded on 18 June 1794 and "said lands being on the branch waters of the Tyger Rivers" (Book D, p. 219-220). In 1812 Job Loftis sold this 94 acres (Book N, p. 122) to "James Loftis, my son"...there was no dower to this land which denotes that the wife of Job Loftis was deceased or else she did not sign a dower. Often in those days when a deed was made to a child, the wife did not bother to make a

dower. A deed dated 24 Oct 1794 shows Job Loftis bought 270 acres of land on Tyger River from Ephriam Reese and James Clark (Book D, p. 416-4 18). This land was located near the cross-roads where Few's Chapel Methodist Church stands today and was known as the old Ignatius Few home and later the Ben Jenkins farm. There is also record of a land grant to Job Loftis in Guilford County, NC (Book 2, p. 319). [Note: Other Guilford (later became part of Rockingham) County, NC records show a deed to William Loftis (Book 9, p. 239) and land grants to Joseph Dill (Book 2, p. 216) and Fredrick Dill (Book 2, p. 289 and 380)].

James Loftis was born 1770/80 and died circa March 1839. He received a land grant from S.C. for 61 acres as recorded on 2 Dec 1799 in Pinckney District [later Spartanburg County] (vol. 46, p. 134). A land plat for these 61 acres on the north fork of Tyger River was surveyed 20 Nov 1799 (vol. 37, p. 441) and "said lands being bounded by lands of Watkins, Wadsworth, Williams and Underwood." James Loftis bought 286 acres in 1799 (Book F, p. 454) from Young Griffin; 200 acres in 1812 from James Riding (Book N, p. 121); 94 acres in 1812 from Job Loftis (Book N, p. 122); 100 acres in 1818 from John Sloan (Book U, p. 440); 100 acres in 1818 from Samuel Fowler (Book U, p. 441) and 390 acres in 1828 from James Whitten (Book U, p. 439). These lands were on Motley's Creek and Holstein Creek of North Tyger River in Spartanburg County.

James Loftis on 24 January 1839 recorded a series of deeds for a total of 961 acres to his children (Book X, p. 123-125, 221, 236, 511). He apparently died after 15 Feb 1839 when **Katsey Loftis** as wife of James Loftis received all of his "notes and accounts" and it was witnessed by William Golightly, William Holcombe and Alexander Miller....On 21 March 1839 Catherine Loftis who as widow of the late James Loftis was appointed executrix of his estate and James P. Loftis and Morris Loftis signed her bond. Appraisers were Morris Loftis, James P. Loftis and James Caldwell....In 1842 H. J. Dean bought the lands of the late James Loftis from his heirs or children .

...James Loftis – b. ca. 1770/80 – d. March 1839, SC -
md Catherine (Katsey) Morris – b. ca. 1783, NC – d. 1848, SC
Moved as a widow in 1850-53 to Forsythe Co., GA).
...Jane (Jincey) Loftis – md 12 February 1843, Henry King
...John Loftis – b.ca. 1805 – md Jane – They lived in Spartanburg
Co., SC in 1850
...Morris D. Loftis – b. ca. 1810 – md Priscilla – They lived in Spartanburg
Co., SC & 1860 in Forsythe Co., GA
...Perry A. Loftis – md Mary – 1860 in Forsythe Co., GA
...James P. Loftis -
...Anna W. Loftis – md Andrew Henderson

...Candace W. Loftis – md William D. Holcombe

John Loftis was born circa 1770 and died circa 1848. He bought 200 acres in Spartanburg County, SC in 1799 (Book F, p. 455) from Young Griffin and “said tract being an original grant to Ephriam Reese and James Powell and by them sold to Young Griffin, or rather first sold to James Powell.” A state plat was recorded on 5 Jan 1824 (vol. 47, p. 272) for 41 acres on the east side of Middle Tyger River in Spartanburg District and bounded by lands of McDade and Smith. In 1838 he bought 70 acres from R. F. Loftis (Book W, p. 584). In 1845 he sold 76.5 acres on Middle Tyger River (Book Z, p. 87) to Joseph Walden who later married his second wife Malissa. He sold 135 acres on Motlow’s Creek to Jacob Rudisail, et. al. in 1847 (Book AA, p. 209). Spartanburg Census of 1800 shows he and wife (26-45), 2 males (under 10) and 1 female (under 10); 1810 shows he and wife (26-45) with 4 males (under 10), 1 male (10-16), 1 female (10-16) and 1 female (under 10). He is also listed in 1830 and 1840 Census of Spartanburg. In his will signed 22 May 1845 and approved 4 Aug

1848, his wife Malissa was appointed executrix. She filed with the probate this statement, “When I married John Loftis he gave each of the children by his first wife what he wanted them to have and promised me that all the rest would come to me and any children I had by him.” She also stated that “all of the children except one lived outside of S.C. and had moved away.” Perry Smith, on behalf of his wife Mary Loftis Smith, challenged the will in a lawsuit dated 21 February 1848 with some very interesting testimonials filed, but the suit was settled on 27 March 1848. Edward Clements, friend and neighbor, was next appointed executor. Malissa received 100 acres of land “on the west side of Middle Tyger River where old W. Powell used to live.” (Will Book D, p. 147, Box 11, pkg. 22).

Several Loftis names appear in 1850 Census of Henderson County, NC. They may not be directly related to this John Loftis of SC, but are reported here since they lived nearby:

- (1) Labin Loftis (b. 1789) and Elizabeth Loftis (b. 1789) are recorded on 28 July 1850 in the household of Hezekiah Drake (b. 1790 in NC).
- (2) Rhoda Loftis (b. 1800) and Catherine Loftis (b. 1839) are in the home of Wilmoth Mason (b. 1804) and Martin Mason (b. 1808).
- (3) Matthew Loftis (b. 1810) and wife Milly (b. 1815) w/children: George (b. 1830), Sarah (b. 1830), Bettie (b. 1832), Margaret (b. 1834), Catherine (b. 1836) & Vera (b. 1838).
- (4) Rubin Loftis (school-teacher b. 1818) and wife Mary E. (b. 1825) w/children: Sarah C. (b. 1845) Sussannah (b. 1848) and Rubin Loftis, Jr.
- (5) John H. Loftis (b. 1820) and wife Malissa (b. 1829) w/children: Elizabeth Surty (b. 1832), Sarah C. (b. 1841), Posey D. (male b. 1845), Orrie (b. 1846), Frederick (b. 1850). Also in the house were Robert Loftis (b. 1828) and Phillip Morgan (b. 1828).
- (6) William Loftis (b. 1823) and wife Deborah (b. 1823) with children: Ben (b. 1846), Sarah (b. 1848) and W. G. Loftis (male b. Nov 1849).
- (7) Jakob Loftis (b. 1825) and wife Adeline (b. 1827) with children: Sarah (b. 1840), Margaret (b. 1842), Emaline (b. 1844) and Susannah (b. 1845).
- (8) John L. Loftis (b. 1838) living in home of Etron Davis (b. 1801).

...John Loftis – b. ca. 1770 – d. 4 August 1848, SC
 md Powell - d/o – James & Lenna Powell -
 md Malissa Clement - She later married Joseph Walden.
 Children of John Loftis & ? Powell:
 ...Lemuel Loftis (Out of SC in 1845)
 ...David Loftis – b. ca. 1801, SC – md Sarah – Lived out of SC in 1845 &
 lived in Fayette Co., AL in 1860.
 ...Powell Loftis – b. before 1848 – md Catherine (Katsey) Loftis - Lived in
 Lowndes Co., AL in 1846 & in Lowndes Co., MS in 1860.
 ...Richard Loftis – b. before 1848 – md Catherine (Katsey) Loftis – Lived
 out of SC in 1845.
 ...Winefred Loftis – md Hiram Smith – Lived out of SC in 1845.
 ...Nancy Loftis – md before 1848, William Ponder - Lived out of SC in 1845
 ...Mary (Polly) Loftis – md Perry Smith –
 Lived in Spartanburg Co., SC in 1848
 Children of John & Malissa (Clement) Loftis:
 ...Elizabeth (Eliza) Loftis – b. ca. 1842
 ...Sarah Elizabeth (Laura) Loftis – b. ca. 1845
 ...Margaret Ellen Loftis – b. ca. 1846

Martin Loftis (b. < 1774) appears in Abbeville County, Abbeville District in 1800 Census with he and his wife (26-45) and 4 males under 10, 1 female under 10 and one slave. On 7 November 1803 Martin Loftis, Milton Paschall and William Kerr are bound to the court when Milton Paschall (see page 18) is made guardian of Mary Gill, a minor (Box 107, Pack 2830). Martin Loftis and others are appointed administrators of the estate of Lattice Kerr on 13 December 1805 (Box 108, Pack 2927). Martin Loftis and others are appointed administrators of estate of James Hubbard on 4 February 1811 (Box 45, Pack 1014).

Martin Loftis lived in Abbeville County, SC as recorded on a land plat for 34 acres on Carr's Creek and bounded east and north by lands of David Karr (Kerr/Carr)...west by lands of Martin Loftis...south by lands of Isabel Carr and dated 19 May 1814. This is recorded in Abbeville District as a land grant on 4 July 1814 (vol. 59, p. 163). See also State Plats for Abbeville District (vol. 43, p. 564), dated 14 June 1814. His wife was Mary Carr who died in 1829 in Greenville Co., SC. Her estate was administered by James J. McClung and reads "On the estate of Mary Loftis of Abbeville County, SC. The appraisers for her estate were John J. Joyce, Abner Cureton and Jesse Moon.. ..Margaret McClung was the only heir named and probably the wife of James J. McClung. Also three slaves were sold: Esther (24 yrs. old) for \$300 and Lewis (4 yrs. old) for \$145 both to Elizabeth McClung and Eliza (6 or 7 yrs. old) for \$185 to J. G. McClung. [These McClung names may be McClure.]

MARTIN LOFTIS

MARY CARR

b. < 1774

d. 18 14-1829 (Abbeville Co.,

Children: 1. Male (b. 1790-1800)

2. Male (b. 1790-1800)

3. Male (b. 1790-1800)

4. Male (b. 1790-1800)

5. Margaret Loftis (b. 1790-1800) m. James J. McClung

MARRIED

b.

d. 1829 (Greenville Co.,SC)

It appears that Martin Loftis lived in Abbeville County in 1800-18 14 near Job Loftis and his descendants. Abbeville County lies just to the west of Newberry County and southwest of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties. Since the estate of his widow was settled in Abbeville County, we can assume other descendants also resided in Abbeville County such as:

(1) John Loftis lived in Abbeville District according to the 1820 Census. He and his wife were both over age of 45 (b. < 1775). They are shown with 1 male (10-16), 1 male (16-18), 1 male (18-26) and 2 females (16-26). Living nearby was Martin Loftis and George Loftis.

(2) George Loftis was one of the buyers at the estate settlement of William Ward of Abbeville District on 22 June 1811 (Box 94, Pack 2335). He appears on 1820 Census of Abbeville District and on 1830 Census in Monroe Co., TN. indicating he was born 1750-60.

(3) Samuel Paschall of Abbeville District in his will dated 18 July 1805 named his wife Fereby; children: Mary Chadwick, Rachel Cole, Sarah Glover, Susan Lofties, Fereby Lofties, Nancy Bell, Mildred Cothran, Betty Balandingham, and sons William, John, Samuel and Milton Paschall; and six grandchildren. [Note: A Martin Loftis married Phereba Pascal on 19 October 1790 in Warren Co., NC with John Pascal as bondsman].

(4) John Lofton, Sr. of Indian Creek and County of Newberry in his will of 26 December 1799 named his children: sons--Ezekiel, Thomas, John and William Lofton and daughters--Rachel Barlow, Anna Johnston, Abigail Lofton and Catron Lofton and a grand-son, John Lofton. William Lofton bought lands on 17 Mar 1798 from David Lofton (Book R, p. 195-196) and John and William Lofton jointly bought lands on 6 Mar 1804 from David Lofton (Book J, p. 330). Probably related are:

(a) Ezekiel Lofton (b. 17 Aug 1750 Dobbs Co., NC) m. 1771 to Jennie Linder and served in the Revolution as a minuteman for one month under Capt. Jesse Cobb and in 1772 for 3 months as a mechanic under John Tillary, Quartermaster General, at Kingston, NC. Reportedly wounded in the leg and was lame for life. His pension was denied for not having serving 6 months in a military capacity. He lived 2 years in Dobbs Co., NC, in SC about 2 years, in GA about 17 years and remainder of his life in Monticello, Lawrence Co., MS (Application Claim No. R-6408).

(b) Thomas Lofton (b. 18 May 1761 Mecklenberg Co., NC and d. 28 May 1840 at Carroliton, Pickens Co., AL) was also a Revolutionary War soldier. His application gives his father as Samuel Lofton who died in KY, and a brother Andrew Lofton who was killed at the Battle of Cowpens during the Revolution. Thomas volunteered as a private in 1775 and later served as a 1LT and then as a Capt. He fought in battles at Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Kings Mtn., Cowans Fort and Guilford Courthouse. A detail report of his service is given in his pension application (Claim No. S-17114).

(5) William Lofton died about 1812, the date of his will being 6 May 1803 and was proved in court in Newberry District, SC on 3 Nov 1812 and the will listed his children: Eli, Daniel, Eleanor, Sarah, Elizabeth, William and Abigail.

(6) Hutson (Hut) Loftis (b. 23 Dec 1825 and d. 23 Jan 1910) lived most of his life in Lowndesville, Abbeville County, S.C. Newspaper accounts of the War with Mexico indicate that Hutson Loftis volunteered for service, but actual participation by him has not been verified. However, he did serve in Company I, 14th S.C. Volunteers which saw terrific action in the Civil War and reported with only seven men able for duty upon surrender at Appomattox Court House, Virginia with Hutson Loftis being one of those (see page 19). However, he may be descended from a Martin Loftis (b. 1803/05 VA) who married Tabitha (Tabby) Hutson (b. 1802/04 VA) on 29 January 1823 in Person (earlier called Caswell) County, NC and was in Surry County, NC in 1850 and in Rhea County, TN in 1860 and 1870.

Lemuel Loftis first appears in the 1800 Census of Greenville County, SC as born circa 1774 and place of birth unknown. He married Susannah Leech, also born circa 1774. She was the daughter of John and Sarah Leech. [John Leech was a Revolutionary War soldier and died in Spartanburg County, SC circa 1800 as his property was sold before June 1802. Widow Sarah Leech and some of her sons are later in Caldwell Co., KY.] The home of Lemuel Loftis was a two-room, log house with a dogtrot in the middle and located on the hilltop overlooking the South Tyger River. It burned in 1970 and was near where the Few's Chapel Methodist Church stands today. It was bought by his daughter Ashsah and Ignatius Few and later by Ben Jenkins. Lemuel Loftis once owned more than 1500 acres of land on the South and Middle Tyger Rivers in Spartanburg and Greenville Counties, to wit:

Lands Bought By Lemuel Loftis in Greenville County, SC:

1797 from Joseph Davis 125 acres on Beaverdam Creek of Tyger River (Book D, p. 532)

1816 from Jesse Allen of Overton Co., TN 170 acres on S. Tyger River (Book Q, p. 511)

[Lands being an original grant to George Allen]

1816 from Robert Nelson 30 acres on Wildcat Creek (Book O, p. 513)

1816 from Joseph Nelson 100 acres on waters of South Tyger River (Book Q, p. 514)

1817 from Benjamin West 100 acres on waters of South Tyger River (Book O, p. 512)

1826 from Sarah Clements 640 acres on Thompsons Beaverdam Creek (Book P, p. 283)

[Widow of John Clements of Charleston, SC and being original grant to Ann Smith in 1784]

1827 from Hugh Montgomery 52 acres on Thompsons Beaverdam Creek (Book P. p. 286)

Lands Sold By Lemuel Loftis in Greenville County. SC:

1799 to Edward Smith 50 acres on Tyger River (Book F, p. 16)

1802 to Richard Henson 125 acres on Middle Tyger River (Book G, p. 289)

1831 to Duke Harhin 150 acres on Thompsons Beaverdam Creek (Book R, p. 69)

1833 to William Crane 150 acres on Thompsons Beaverdam Creek (Book 5, p. 512)

1834 to J. H. Randolph a contract to buy a slave woman named Flora (Book U, p. 504)

1835 to Pennington Cunningham 143 acres on Beaverdam Creek (Book S, p. 390)

1836 to Andrew Loftis 124 acres on Wildcat Creek, South Tyger River (Book 5, p. 392)

Lands Bought By Lemuel Loftis in Spartanburg County. SC:

1802 from John Motley 200 acres (Book H, p. 189)

1804 from John Hampton 175 acres (Book L, p. 110-111)

1806 from John Carr 200 acres on Middle Tyger River (Book K, p. 244-245)

1809 from Alexander W. Thompson 12 acres on Beaverdam Creek (Book M, p. 124-125)

Lands Sold By Lemuel Loftis in Spartanburg County. SC:

1801 to Alexander Thompson 200 acres on Middle Tyger River (Book H, p. 101)

1801 to Thomas Booker several tracts (Book H, p. 171)

1801 to Samuel Underwood 117 acres on North Tyger River (Book H, p. 188)

1801 to Alexander Cunningham 340 acres on Oheds Creek (Book I, p. 411)

1807 to Alexander McCarter, Jr. 200 acres on Middle Tyger River (Book K, p. 483)

1818 to Bird Linthiam 200 acres on Beaverdam Creek (Book Q, p. 278)

...Lemuel Loftis – b. ca. 1774 -July 1838, SC

md ca. 1802, Susannah Leech – b. ca. 1783, NC – d. ca. 1848, SC

...Martha Loftis – b.ca. 1802, SC –

before December 1850, SC – md Thomas Green –

They lived in Winston Co., MS

...Sarah Leech Loftis – b. ca. 1804, SC – d. ca. 1873, AL-

md William Hargrove West –

They lived in Lamar Co., AL

...Charlotte Ann Loftis – b. ca. 1805, SC –d. ca. 1890, SC -

md Samuel Crain –

They remained in Greenville Co., SC

...Prudence Loftis – b. ca. 1807, SC – d. ca. 1873, SC – md George Dill –

They remained in Greenville Co., SC

...Madison David Loftis – b. 6 June 1808, SC –

d. 14 April 1875 – AL – md 20 July 1826, Hester Smith -

Left SC after 1836, had a child born in GA

In 1839, Lowndes Co., MS in 1840 & Lamar Co., AL in 1850 – md 2nd

Mariah Poe (a Widow)

...Achsah Loftis – b. 4 July 1810, SC –

d. 11 October 1875, SC – md Ignatius Few -

b. 2 October 1807 – d. 15 April 1890, SC – Both are Buried:

At Few's Chapel Methodist Church north of Greer, SC

...Spartan L. Loftis – b. ca. 1810, SC – AR – md Sarah – (Lived in Greenville

Co., SC until ca. 1831 as he is witness to two deeds and in Mountain Twp.
(NE corner of county), Polk Co., AR in 1860 Census)
...Pleasant Andrew Loftis – b. 28 June 1814, SC –
1 March 1883, AL – md 12
July 1835, Greenville Co., SC – Eliza Russell -b. 15 December 1817
d. 21 April 1853 –They had a child born in GA in 1848; at Millport, Fayette
Co., AL in 1860; at Big Pond, Fayette Co., AL in 1870;
and at Trulls, Lamar Co., AL, 1880. md 23 February 1871, Vina Reynolds.

Solomon Loftis made an application in 1848 for a U.S. pension for his service as a soldier in the American Revolution and in it he stated that he was born in S.C. in either 1763 or 1764, and that he entered the service as a volunteer in 1782 at Caswell (later called Person) County, NC. He served under Capt. Henry Cobb and Col. O’Neel in the area of Salisbury, NC marching and guarding the Tories...He stated that he married his wife Margaret in N.C. and then removed to Greenville Co., S.C. He gave his Post Office as Tyger, SC. Clergyman John M. Roberts and Charles P. Dill verified his pension application on 20 Jan 1848. No pension was allowed to him on account that his service was less than six months. After his death, his wife Margaret hired two lawyers to file an application for a pension which was also denied for the same reason. However, he was recognized as having served from 1 Oct 1814 to 12 Mar 1815 in the War of 1812 as a Private in Manley Ford’s Company, 3rd Regiment, S.C. Militia (Aiston’s) commanded by Major William Fields (File AA-1939-B & C).

Lands Bought By Solomon Loftis in Greenville County, SC--George Graham sold 214 acres on Beaverdam Creek of Tyger River in 1797 (Book E, p. 43)...Archable Dill sold 50 acres on South Tyger River in 1800 (Book E, p. 438)...William Yarbrough sold 50 acres on S. Tyger River in 1803 (Book G, p. 25)...Benjamin West sold 82 acres on S. Tyger River in 1803...Solomon Dill on 9 May 1811 sold **50** acres on Fax Creek of South Tyger River to Solomon Loftis and witnessed by Elizabeth Loft is (wife of Laban Loftis), Thomas Jackson, Reuben D. Jackson and H. A. Whitehead (Book U, p. 41)...1845 from Jessie Davis 4 acres on Pax Creek (Book V, p. 101). There is also record of a land grant to Solomon Loftis in Guilford (became Rockingham in 1785) County, NC, (Book 3, p. 128).

Lands Sold By Solomon Loftis in Greenville County, SC--On 16 Feb 1799 sold 111 acres on Beaverdam Creek of S. Tyger River to Archer Holcombe and said lands being an original grant to George Graham in 1797, and by him conveyed to Loftis, witnesses were Aaron Short and David Jackson....Solomon Loftis sold 200 acres for \$300 on 16 Mar 1843 lands on Pax Mountain and Pax Creek which runs into Tyger River and witnessed by his daughter Prudy Loftis and Joel Youngblood...20 Feb 1844 he sold this same 200 acres to (his son) Jordan Loftis and same witnesses... 1844 he sold 50 acres on Pax Creek of S. Tyger River to (his son) Jordan Loftis... 1844 he also sold 50 acres on Pax Creek of S. Tyger River to (his son) James Loft is... Solomon Loftis in none of his papers nor in his will does he name any children except three unmarried daughters (Phenia, Prudence and Lotty Ann); however, in his will dated 8 Jan 1847 it states, “a portion equal to that received by their sisters now married.” He presumably had 4-5 sons and 10-12 daughters

who were already married and had earlier received their portion of the estate prior to probate of his will. The proof is in the deeds to James and Jordan Loftis and the census records. [1800 Census shows Solomon Loftis household with 1 male (16-26) & 3 females (under 10); 1810 shows 1 male (under 10), 1 male (10-16), 3 females (under 10) & 3 females (10-16); 1820 shows 2 males (under 10), 1 male (10-16), 1 female (under 10), 3 females (10-16) & 1 female (16-26)].

...Solomon Loftis – b. ca. 1763/64, Greenville Dist., SC – d. 3 August 1849, SC
md Margaret B. Dill - b. ca. 1772, NC

Children: (*Probable Children)

- *1. William Loftis (circuit-riding Methodist minister)
- *2. Andrew Loftis
- *3. John Loftis
- *4. Susan (Sucky #1) Loftis (b. 1790) (Never married, but did have children). (Quite a character—may have been a Loftis widow who continued to use name).
Children: Thompson Loftis ; Selena A. Loftis; James M. Brock; Francis Asbury Loftis; Lou Loftis; Malissa Loftis; Solomon Loftis; & Maggie Loftis.
5. Eliabeth Loftis – md Solomon Pittman
Children: Reuben; Geroge Asbuty; Harris Emanuel; Hester Ann Pittman.
6. Sarah Loftis (b. 1798) md William Barton
Children: Elvira, William, Thomas & Solomon Barton
7. Phenia Loftis (b. 1804, SC) (Unmarried as of 8 January 1847)
8. Prudence Loftis (b. 1806, SC) (Unmarried as of 8 January 1847)
9. Charlotte Loftis (b. 1810, SC) (Unmarried as of 8 January 1847)
10. Solomon Jordan Loftis – (b. 5 January 1815, SC – d. 22 December 1863, SC) md Nancy Bailey (b. 15 January 1816 – d. 22 June 1897, SC) – Both Buried; Tyger Baptist Church Cemetery, Greenville Co., SC
Children: James David Loftis (b. ca. 1839) md Maiden Ann Poole; Elvira Loftis (b. ca. 1841) – md Mr. Forrester; Solomon Loftis (b. ca. 1842); Laban Loftis (b. ca. 1844); John Loftis (b. ca. 1848); William Lemuel Loftis (b. ca. 1851) md Lydia Pauline Roberts; Andrew Loftis (b. ca. 1854); Spartin Loftis (b. ca. 1856); & Miles Loftis (b. ca. 1859).
11. James Loftis (b. ca. 1824) md 27 September 1844, Margaret Brock (b. ca. 1824)
Children: Elizabeth Loftis (b. ca. 1845); Angeline Loftis (b. ca. 1864); Joseph Loftis (b. ca. 1848)
12. Amanda Loftis – md Ephriam Few
Children: Laurence (b. ca. 1859); Thomas (b. ca. 1864) & Ignatinus (b. ca. 1866)

William Loftis (b. < 1765) and his wife (b. < 1765) lived in Greenville District, SC from 22 August 1802 to 21 April 1810 according to Minutes of Tyger Baptist Church of Christ. He is also shown in the 1810 Census of Greenville District where he and his wife are both over 45 years of age and with 3 males under 10, 2 males 10-16, one female under 10 and one female 10-16. No other census records clearly identify this William Loftis. No deed records have been found either. However, he is probably a brother to Solomon since they went to church together and lived near each other according to the census.

Children:	Male	(b. 1794-1800)
	Male	(b. 1794-1800)
	Female	(b. 1794-1800)
	Male	(b. 1800-1810)
	Male	(b. 1800-1810)
	Male	(b. 1800-1810)
	Female	(b. 1800-1810)

Laban Loftis was likely the eldest son of Job Loftis. He and his wife Elizabeth were born in MD circa. 1760 and 1769, respectively, according to 1850 Census of Jackson County, TN. She was probably Elizabeth Holcombe according to old estate records of Spartanbury (see below) showing property coming to “Laban Loftis and his wife Elizabeth from Jordan Holcombe of Prince George County, VA on lands owned by Jordan Holcombe in Tyger River area of SC.” They were married circa 1790 and lived in Greenville County, SC from August 1790 to November 1816 when they left by wagon train for Jackson County, TN.

Lands Bought By Laban Loftis – On 17 August 1790 a deed (Book D, pg. 322-323) was recorded for 150 acres situated in the District of Ninety-Six, north side of Saluda on the east branches of South Tyger River (SC State Plats, Vol. 3, pg. 327) and from Shadrack Murray with dower by his wife, Hannah, of Washington Co., NC to Laban Loftess of Greenville County, SC and said lands being bounded by Archer Holcombe...Deed for 50 acres from Jesse Baker was recorded in 1800 (Book F, pg. 390) which was part of an original land grant to William Lynch...On 9 March 1802 another 100 acres on Tyger River in Spartanburg County from William Easley and said lands of Henry Bates and Kinchen Holcombe and witnessed by Wood to Laban Loftis was deed for 125 acres (Book I, pg. 542-543) and said land was an original land grant to John Gowen in 1794 and bounded by lands of John Gowen, James Neill and William Davis and witnessed by Jesse Allen and James Gilreath. (Note: Gilreath was neighbor to Job Loftis in Newberry).

Lands Sold by Laban Loftis – In 1803 a tract of 100 acres on South Tyger River in Greenville County, SC and being an original grant to Shadrack Murray of Washington County, NC (became Greene Co., TN in 1796) and by him sold to Laban Loftis who sold same lands (50 acres was retained) to Archer Holcombe and witnessed by Joseph Dill, Joseph Barrett and William Chutee (Book G, pg. 277-278)...Laban Loftis sold 325 acres on 20 November 1816 to Joseph and William Barton (Book L, pg. 18-19). Note: Joseph and William Barton apparently divided this 325 acres with Joseph recording 225 acres on the S. & SW side of Gap Creek Road and William recording 115 acres on the N. & NE side of Gap Creek Road. William Barton had bought 15 acres from John Gowen on 7 December 1816 (Book K, pg. 89-90). William Barton sold in 1856 to James Barton 300 acres on Tyger River with reference made to “the Labin Loftis corner” (Book Y, 317). The Bartons both owned considerably more acreage. Therefore, Laban Loftis owned a total of 425 acres in Greenville County, SC from August 1790 to November 1816.

The first settlers in upper SC were engaged in the culture of tobacco, corn and wheat as their principal agricultural pursuits. Wheat and corn mills where the grain was converted into flour and meal were built at the falls of water courses. Wheat and tobacco constituted the “money crop.” But there was little need for money. Cattle, hogs, and poultry were grown for meat, sheep were kept for wool and flax grown for linen from which the thrifty housewife manufactured cloth for the family clothing. Tools, farm implements, and wagons were made at the plantation forge. Horses for plantation use, and some for sale, were raised. Only such things as sugar, coffee and spices were necessary to buy. Standards of living were not complex and wants were few. Living meant hard work, but these farm people had been accustomed to that for several generations back and did not complain.

These early settlers of Greenville County, SC knew nothing about the modern methods of cultivating the soil, and only a few years served to “wear out” the hill plantations which had been so eagerly sought. The older residents, who had witnessed this deterioration in the productivity of their lands, sold out to the newcomers at any price obtainable and moved on in search of something better. Being of the typical pioneer stock, always in search of new fields to conquer, they no doubt welcomed this opportunity to escape the few bonds of civilization which were beginning to tie them about.

In the aftermath of the War of 1812 and agreements with the Cherokee Indians in 1817, a flood of emigrants from the Carolinas moved westward into the new state of Tennessee. Thus, Laban Loftis and his wife Elizabeth with nine children moved by wagon train in late 1816 or early 1817 to Jackson County, TN. They probably headed north to Tryon, NC and then westward over the Smoky Mountains to East Tennessee and crossed the Holston River.

From there they probably continued westward over wagon roads which generally followed the old North Carolina Military Trace of 1788 (also called the “North Carolina Road” and the “Cumberland Trace”) which began at the western terminus of Avery’s Trace near the southern end of Clinch Mountain, located in what is now Grainger County. From there the original route lay in a southwesterly direction to the upper crossing of the Peleson (Clinch) River, later known as Glasgow’s Ferry; thence westwardly, by way of Poplar Creek, Crooked Fork, Emory River, Obed River, Flat Rock, Northwest Foot of the Mountain (near the present site of Algood), Flynns Creek, the upper crossing of Cumberland River, and Dixon Springs and finally on to Nashville. Household goods often had to be sent by boat by way of the Clinch, Tennessee, Ohio and Cumberland Rivers from near Knoxville to Chattanooga to Nashville. However, as slightly alternative routes opened and ever-increasing numbers of emigrants flooded into the territory, many people undertook the wilderness journey without waiting for the periodical convoys escorted by the military. The military trace was gradually replaced by wagon roads such as the “Walton” and “Emory” Roads of 1795 and the “Cumberland Turnpike of 1802.” The latter was a toll road of 12-15 feet in breadth which ran from the ford across the Clinch River below the mouth of the Emory and across the Cumberland Mountain to the forks of the road leading to Fort Blount and Walton’s ferry.

A territorial military post had been erected in 1792 at Fort Blount on the old North Carolina Military Trace about two miles east of the Cumberland River crossing and near the big salt lick in Jackson County. After it ceased to be a military post in 1796. Capt. Sampson Williams converted the large, log blockhouse into a residence and operated an ordinary (hostelry or inn) there for several years. When Jackson County was established in 1801, the post village was renamed "Williamsburg" and designated as the first county seat on 8 July 1806. Abner Chaffin and Thomas Dill were two of the 193 petitioners which also reduced the size of the county to its Constitutional limit of 625 square miles. Gainesborough was established in 1815 to replace Williamsburg as the county seat and incorporated in 1820.

Laban Loftis and his family settled in Jackson County, TN about 10 miles southeast and upstream of present-day Gainesboro on Morrison's Creek which is a tributary to Roaring River which runs in to Cumberland River. Laban owned several tracts of land of approximately 275 acres on Morrison's Creek. The homestead stood until the late 1980's and was home to Gainesboro and Jeff Fox for many years. The Old Loftis Sugar Camp and grist mill stood behind the home in the bend of the creek. Laban's sons owned additional land adjoining him on Morrison's Creek and also on Blackburn's Fork River and Spring Creek which is near the Putnam and Overton County line.

Land was surveyed by "poles" which measures 16.5 feet to each pole. Also, a chain was used to measure the number of feet in a "pole" and those who carried the chain were called "chain carriers." William, Laban's son acted as his father's chain carrier when the land was surveyed.

Laban Loftis died 8 November 1850 at age 90 and his wife Elizabeth died 29 December 1859 at age 89. Both are buried in the Loftis Cemetery located approximately 200 yards up the creek from the Morrison's Creek Church of Christ in Jackson County, TN. Adjacent to the church building is another cemetery with more recent Loftis descendants buried there. The old church building, which also served as the school, once stood almost between the two and nearer the creek. Laban Loftis reportedly donated one acre for the "Christian Church" about one mile upstream and across the creek from the present church building.

In 1854-55 a wagon train was formed at Gainesboro, TN of approximately 40 wagons headed westward. Lemuel Loftis (b. 1806 SC and son of Laban Loftis) ; Barton Loftis, (son of John Loftis); and William Loftis (son of John Loftis) were on this wagon train. Lemuel stopped about 4 miles from Maynard, AR; while Barton and William settled near Gainesville, Ozark County, MO. About two years later, Laborn Loftis, Jr. and John Loftis joined another wagon train headed westward. Laborn, Jr. stopped off with Lemuel and was living there in 1862, but later moved into MO and still later returned to TN. Lemuel left at the same time probably going further west. John Loftis was in Fulton Co., IL in 1839 but settled near War Eagle, AR where some of Laborn Jr.'s children lived also.

The remainder of the children of Laborn Loftis Sr. settled in Jackson County, TN. John L. "Jack" Loftis (b. 1791, SC) married Millie Dill and settled in the Spring Creek area. William Loftis (b. 1801, SC) married Betsey Loveall. He and Thomas Jefferson Loftis settled along the lower end of Morrisons Creek and Blackburns Fork, while James Madison Loftis settled on the upper end of Morrisons Creek.

Laban Loftis	Married	Elizabeth Holcombe
b. ca. 1760 (MD)	ca. 1790 (SC)	b. ca. 1769 (MD)
d. 8 November 1850 (TN)		d. 29 December 1859 (TN)

Children:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. John L. Loftis | married | Ermilla Dill |
| b. 7 October 1791 (SC) | | b. 1800/1805 (SC) |
| d. April 1842/44 (TN) | | d. 1880 (TN) |
| | | (Dau. of Archibald Dill –
a Revolutionary War Soldier) |
| 2. Female (b. 1791-1800 in SC) | | |
| 3. Polly Loftis | married | Thomas H. Smith |
| b. ca. 1798 (SC) | | |
| 4. William Loftis | married | Betsy Loveall |
| b. 1/7 May 1801 (SC) | | |
| 5. Lemuel Loftis | married | Martha Teel |
| 6. Thomas Jefferson Loftis | | Parlitha Gallion |
| 7. Elizabeth Loftis | married | Jesse Mansell |
| 8. James Madison Loftis | married | Sarah Elvira Dowell |
| b. 13 February 1811 (SC) | 22 March 1832 | b. 13 February 1811 |
| d. 1902 (TN) | | d. 15 February 1897 (TN) |
| 9. Laborn Loftis Jr. | married | Sally Bean |
| b. 25 December 1813 (SC) | | |

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