

## WILLIAM BEAN, REV'L WAR

★BEAN, William ([View Complete Record](#)) Birth: [VA](#) 9 Dec 1721 Service Location: [NC](#) Rank: [CS](#) Spouse: Lydia Russell

BEAN , William Birth: [VA](#) 9 Dec 1721 Rank: [CS](#) Service: [NC](#) Death: [NC](#)  
Before (ante) 5- -1782 Patriot Pensioned: No Widow Pensioned: No Children  
Pensioned: No Heirs Pensioned: No Spouse: (1) Lydia Russell

Source: Pg. 233 & Pg. 234, Sequatchie, A Story of the Southern Cumberlands  
by J. Leonard Raulston and James W. Livingood

### THE BEAN FAMILY

The name Bean is a prominent one in the history of Tennessee. Captain William Bean was among the first permanent settlers in what is now the state of Tennessee, and his son, Russell Bean, was the first white child born in the state.

The Beans' ancestry can be traced to Scotland, where they belonged to the Clan Chattan and were known as the MacBeans, a family of ancient origin. They apparently lived in the old province of Moray, the home of the MacBeths made famous by Shakespeare's play. The MacBean motto was; "Touch not the cat but a glove." The old Gaelic word Beathan, which means "living" or "lively one," is the origin of the MacBean name. When the MacBeans came to America, they altered their name to Bean.

Captain William Bean, born in Pennsylvania, came to Tennessee from Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Lydia Russell Bean, his wife a member of the Virginia Russells. In 1769 William Bean and his family migrated to Bean's Creek in the Watauga Settlement, where Russell bean was born that same year. In 1776, the Indians attacked the fort at Watauga. Mrs. Bean had not gone to the fort and was captured by the Indians as they retreated. She kept her composure, however, and through the intervention of the influential Cherokee woman, Nancy Ward, her life was spared and she rejoined her family.

One of Captain Bean's duties as commander of his company was to break up Tory resistance to the American cause. At the battle of King's Mountain, Captain Bean and his men, including his brother John bean, scattered a band of Tories and hanged nine of them. During one period of the Revolutionary War, the Watauga Settlement was the refuge of a small group of Whig families from Georgia and North Carolina that was fleeing from persecution at the hands of the British and Tories. After the Revolution, many made the area their permanent home.

Life on the frontier was hard, but the Beans and their neighbors persevered. Bean Station became an important crossroads for travelers going south and to the western frontier. Two famous roads intersected there: the southern section of the "Wilderness Trail" that is now U.S. Highway 25E and the "New Orleans to Baltimore Stage Coach Route," now

U.S. 11. Captain Bean recognized the opportunity and built a tavern at Bean Station in 1811 with the money he had accumulated through milling and farming. Bean Tavern was built in true southern antebellum style, with walls of handmade brick fifteen inches thick. Because of the tavern's excellent accommodations and strategic location, it became a meeting place for the leaders of the area.

Inn keeping was only one of the Beans' talents. They were also master gunsmiths. This skill helped them and their countrymen to defeat the British and settle the frontier. At least twelve Beans through at least four generations made guns in the same region for one hundred and fifty years. Captain Bean taught his sons the art of making guns and although he practiced it little himself, his sons William, Jr., Robert, John, Jesse, Edmund, George, and Russell made many rifles.

It was thorough Robert Bean that the Raulston and Bean families first became acquainted in the Sequatchie Valley. Robert Bean, son of Captain William Bean, moved in 1809 to Sweeten's Cove, then a part of Franklin County. He married Martha Womack, and they had ten children. One of these children, Obadiah Bean, born in 1785, married Barbara Heifner. Of their seventeen children, five married Raulstons: Owen Russell Bean married Martha Raulston, Samuel Raulston married Millie Bean, Evander McKeever Raulston married Barbara Bean, Matthew Raulstone married Polly Bean, and Sampson Raulston married Fannie Bean.

Robert Bean died in 1824 and was buried in the land he set aside for the Bean-Roulston cemetery in Sweeten's Cove.

*Five of Col. James J. Raulston & Jane "Jennie" Simmons children*

*married five of the children of **William Bean/Beene** of the Watauga settlement.*

- ...William O. Raulston – b. 20 October 1802 – d. ca. 1870, AL – md Priscilla Cross – b. 5 May 1805, TN – d. ca. 1895 – d/o Joel Cross & Susanna Moore
- ...Anna Raulston – b. 19 August 1804, Burke, NC – d. ca. 1880, Harrison, AR  
Buried: Hudgins Cemetery, Harrison, AR – md Abt 1822, Burke, NC,  
Brice Collins Byrne – b. 5 May 1797, NC – d. 1888 or d. 1869, Boone Co., AR  
s/o William & Rhoda (England) Byrne. *They went to north west, Arkansas to live.*  
(Children: Miriam, Elizabeth, Malinda, Martha, Dorcas, William, Lawrence, Frankie, Mary Ann, Ann Texas & Brice Raulston Byrne).
- ...Robert Simmons Raulston – b. 22 July 1806 – d. ca. 1867 – md 1<sup>st</sup> Betty Doughty – md 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Bryson
- ...Matthew Harvey Raulston – b. 2 May 1808 – d. 5 October 1875, AR – md Polly Bean/Beene – b. 11 November 1815 – d. 5 July 1893, AR
- ...Samuel Raulston – b. 22 January 1810, Doran's Cove, Marion, TN – d. 25 May 1866, Sweedens Cove, Marion, TN – md ca. 1834, Millie Bean b. 14 November 1818 – d. 28 June 1900, Marion Co., TN
- ...Sampson W. Raulston – b. 3 November 1811 – d. 6 December 1862 – md Fannie Bean/Beene – b. 22 December 1833 – d. ca. 1889
- ...Moses Raulston – b. 7 May 1813 – ca. 1827, IL
- ...Elizabeth Raulston – b. 20 December 1814 – d. 23 October 1876, Marion Co., TN – md James Robert Patton Jr. – b. 1816 Franklin Co., TN –

d. 21 February 1886, Marion Co., TN  
...Martha Raulston – b. 9 May 1816 – d. 30 December 1897 –  
md Owen Russell Bean/Beene – b. 10 December 1816 – d. 22 February 1895  
...Evander Raulston – b. 6 September 1818 – d. 1870 –  
md Barbara Bean – b. 28 March 1827  
...James Wallace Raulston – b. 5 May 1821 – d. ca. 1897  
md Laura Elizabeth Youngblood – b. 28 October 1837 – d. ca. 1911  
...Napoleon Bonapart Raulston – b. 20 November 1822 – d. ca. 1878 –  
md Eliza Ferguson  
...John Simmons Raulston – b. 15 August 1824 – d. 25 November 1906 –  
md Mary Wynne – b. 6 June 1828 – d. 11 October 1871  
...Brice Byrne Raulston – b. 6 January 1826 – d. 4 April 1913 –  
md Mildred Wynne – b. 7 December 1830 – d. 1 August 1894

\* See Chapter 14 for more family information: <http://www.ajlambert.com>