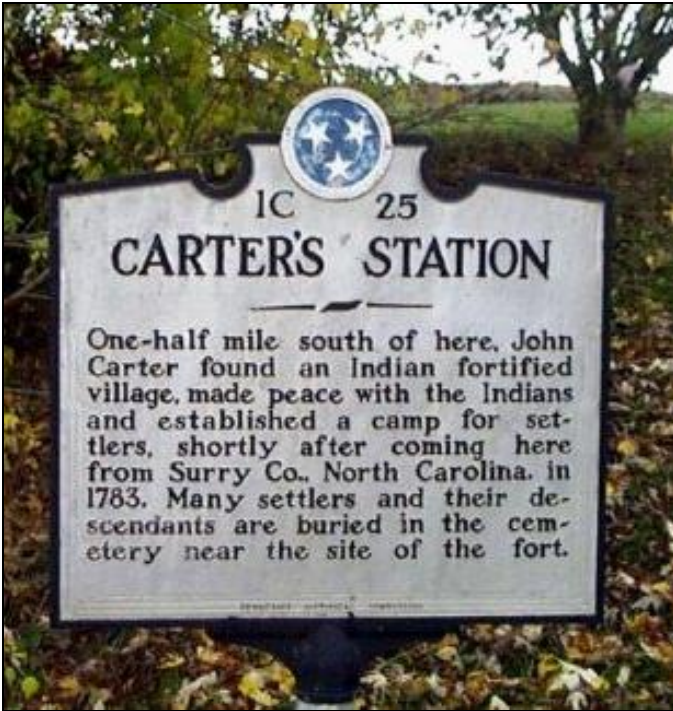


ABRAHAM CARTER



In July 1893, a paper entitled *'The Carter Family of Greene County, Tennessee'* was published by Rev. T. S. Walker of Tusculum, Greene County, Tennessee.

In part, Rev. Walker stated "about one hundred and fifty years ago John Carter emigrated from New Jersey and settled four and a half miles north of Greeneville, on the waters of Roaring Fork of Lick Creek. It is probable that some of his brothers came with him, as there are a large number of persons in the county with whom impression exists that they are related to the Carter family.

The said John Carter reared a family of five sons - John [Junior]; Abraham; Daniel; Jacob; and James, and two daughters, Rebecca and Penelope."

Almost 100 years after Rev. Walker published his work, the following article was published in *The Greene County Pioneer* by Ms. Sue C. Thompson. Sue was an early member and past Officer of the Genealogical Society. Several of early settler John Carter's sons, participated in the American Revolution:

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John Carter I was born in the 1730s in New Jersey. He died in 1811. An inventory of his estate, dated 28 Jan 1812, is in the Greene County Court records (Minute Book, p. 325).

John Carter, Sr., Levi Carter, Sr., and possibly Joseph Carter, Sr., and their families, made the trip from New Jersey to Tennessee. Accompanying them were David and Ephraim Carter, whose parents are unknown. The relationship between these Carters is also unknown. The Carters began their long journey from New Jersey to Tennessee with lengthy stop overs in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina in the 1760s.

The Carters arrived in Greene County (then Washington Co., NC) in 1780-81, during the Cherokee War, and many of the Carter young men were drawn into it. The military power of the whites prevailed, and the Cherokees were driven out of their home lands in the Tennessee valley. For nearly a decade, the Carters were bothered by the Cherokees. Soon after their arrival in Greene Co., they built a fort or stockade on the site of the present Carters Station church and cemetery. They were deeply religious men of Quaker and later Methodist background and sought to establish friendly relations with the Indians.

When the Carters arrived in Greene County, they laid claim to adjoining tracts of land along Lick Creek and its tributaries. When they first occupied these tracts of land, they possessed little more than squatter's rights. The passage of the 1783 Land Act by the North Carolina Legislature made it possible for them to buy their improved tracts at the price of ten pounds for every hundred acres. The claims of the Carters were surveyed and entered in the North Carolina land books during 1783 and 1784. They had to wait four to ten years after the Land Act was passed before receiving full title to their claims.

The name of the wife of John Carter is unknown. They had five sons and three daughters. All of his sons are believed to have been born in New Jersey. His children were Abraham; John II; Jacob; Daniel; Penelope (Eleanor); Dorothy and Rebecca. The descendants of John Carter are scattered over much of the United States.

Abraham Carter was the oldest son of John Carter I. He was born in the early 1750s in New Jersey and came to Tennessee with his father. The name of his wife and mother of his children is unknown. His second wife was Rebecca Edmonds whom he married 12 Mar 1821. Abraham had nine children: Ezekiel; Elizabeth; Nancy; Mashak; Robert Enoch; John A.; Temperance; Eleanor and Sarah. Abraham was a Methodist. In later years, Carter's Memorial Methodist Church at Ottway was named for a grandson, Abraham Carter, son of Ezekiel. According to records, Abraham was paid on several occasions for military service during the Revolutionary War. In the Bute file of 1778, he was described as being 5'8" tall, light complexion and blue eyes. He died in 1832, the year the Pension Law was passed, and never applied for a pension. There were four Abraham Carters in the War. Our Abraham's record has never been found.

John Carter II was born in 1756 and died 10 Sept 1845. He fought in the Revolutionary War and received a pension. He was married 27 Aug 1783 in Surrey Co., NC to Elizabeth _____. At that time, no marriage licenses were issued but the marriage was announced from the pulpit and was solemnized according to the custom of the county at that time. John had twelve children: Isaac; Jacob; Benjamin; Sarah; Albert; Rebeccah; John III; Bersheba; Matilda; Caty; Elam and Ezekiel.

Jacob Carter was born in 1757 and died in 1835. He fought in the Revolutionary War. In his pension application he stated that at the Battle of King's Mountain he was injured, Paroled and returned home. He later entered the service as a substitute for one Peter Sally. He was nearly 80 years old when he applied for a pension in Marion County, Mississippi.

Daniel Carter was born in 1758 and died in 1832. He married Ann Jones in February 1795. They had five children: Elisha; Ellis; Polly; Sophia and Jemima. His second wife was Sarah J. Weems.

Penelope (Eleanor) Carter was born in the 1750s and married Hugh Cain. They moved to Hamblen County.

James Carter was born in 1768 and died in 1849. On 2 May 1791 he married Phoebe Bullard. He went to Texas, and has descendants living there near Bonham.

Dorothy Carter was born in 1760. She married Benjamin Gooden of Greene County.

Rebecca Carter was born in 1770. She died ca 1836. She married John Hardin in 1783. They had one son, John. She married John Ross in 1794. They had nine children: Jane; Nancy; William; Rebecca; Eleanor; Allen; Hilah; John R. and Elizabeth.

Reconstruction of The Carter Stockade

A few weeks ago, a series of meetings was called by Carter descendants to discuss the erection of a replica of the 1780s Carter fort. Considerable interest was expressed in the project. One member of the planning group offered to donate the large timbers for the stockade. Others pledged their assistance and offered financial contributions.

After lengthy consideration, it became obvious that it was impractical to erect the fort on the original site. The principal objection was that the site was inaccessible. An attractive alternative was to accept a site in the "wilderness" area on the campus of Tusculum College across the creek from the Doak House. Tusculum College was very generous in providing the site and in offering help in construction. The site is adjacent to the location of the outdoor drama "The Lost State of Franklin" which is in the developmental stage. The site is easy to find and is maintained.



CARTER'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Editor's End Note

Dorothy Carter's husband, Benjamin Gooden and Rebecca Carter's husband, John Hardin, both served in the Revolutionary War.