

ELLIOTT RUTHERFORD AND HIS DESCENDENTS

Revolutionary War Soldier
Ensign, Virginia Militia

[From *Rutherfords of Arkansas in the 19th Century* compiled by Marian Ledgerwood]

Elliott Rutherford was born about 1753 In Rockingham County, Virginia. He was the son of Joseph Rutherford and Elizabeth Elliott of Rockingham County, Virginia. Elliott Rutherford married Ruth Hayes/Hays on 17 June 1787 in Frederick Co, Virginia. They moved to Greene County, Tennessee where they raised a large family of eight boys and four girls. Elliott owned 297 acres of land on Gap Creek at the foot of Bays Mountain.

Elliott Rutherford died shortly before the Pension Act was passed. He died intestate in Greene County, Tennessee on 9 April 1826 at age seventy-three. After the widow's dower was set off, Elliott's land was divided among his children. His son, Samuel Rutherford and daughter Ruth Rutherford Nugent sold their share of the land to their brother, Benjamin Rutherford. Elliott Rutherford, Jr. was entitled to six shares of the land when it was partitioned. He may have bought the shares of some of the other brothers or sisters.

Elliott's Widow, Ruth, moved to Washington County, Arkansas, where she died in April 1850. The 1850 Mortality Schedule of Arkansas carries the following entry:

“Rutherford, Ruth; age 90; female, widow, born in Virginia,
died April of old age, length of illness – sudden, Washington County”

Some of the children and grandchildren of Elliott Rutherford moved to Washington county, Arkansas in 1830. Many of these moved on to California in 1850.

William B. Rutherford was a grandson of Elliott Rutherford. He was living in Fayetteville in 1909 when he wrote in a letter to a nephew, George E. Rutherford of Truckee, California, who was writing letters in an effort to learn more about his family's background:

"...I have always understood that my grandfather and grandmother were from Virginia to Tennessee. They raised a large family in Greene County, East Tennessee – eight boys, four girls; Benjamin, Elliott, Joseph, Samuel, James, Robert, William, Archibald, girls; Polly, who married Moses Stout, Ruth who married Dick Neuger, Sarah who married William Dodd in Cane Hill, Arkansas, and Louisa who never married.

My father (Robert), Samuel, James and [Moses] Stout left Tennessee sometime in May 1830 with their families, came by water to Van Buren, Arkansas and from there to Cane Hill [Arkansas] the third day of June the same year. As to Uncle Jack Rutherford, he came to Arkansas in 1827 or 1829; had a large family one of whom was Big John of White River, also Noel Rutherford was a son of Uncle Jack, so was Calvin."

NARCISSUS RUTHERFORD JONES [WIDOW OF JOHN JONES]

Civil War Pension Deposition

“I was living on my own farm in Sebastian County, Arkansas, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres. About forty acres of which was in cultivation, the remainder was woodland, from the 1st of April 1861 till about the spring of 1864 when I moved to Fort Smith, Ark at the federal post. While at Fort Smith we kept house. My husband was sick and not able to carry on business. I remained at Fort Smith till about the 1st of December 1864, when it was thought the post would be evacuated and we then moved to Illinois, where we farmed the year of 1865.

I returned to my farm in Sebastian County, Ark from Illinois in the fall of 1865. Neither I nor my husband was arrested by the rebels or federals. The rebels took about seven head of horses, about forty head of cattle and some sheep and hogs. I do not know what rebel command took the property. I never got pay for any of the property so taken. Rebel bushwhackers frequently threatened to kill my late husband and also threatened my life on one occasion and burned our house. The rebels burned our house with all the household goods, shot one of my sons and hung my brother and my husband was compelled to layout to prevent being killed, by which cause he was exposed and I am satisfied that it caused his death. My husband was a scout for the federal army and I always gave them any and all information I could in regard the whereabouts of the rebels and often furnished Union Soldiers with food.

My brother, C. R. Rutherford was conscripted in the rebel army but deserted them and enlisted in the federal army. He is now living in Williamson County, Texas. Two of my sons George W. and William C. Jones was conscripted in the rebel army but deserted in two or three months and on their way to the federal army, one (George) was killed and the other made his way through to Springfield, Missouri, a distance of about two hundred miles and enlisted in Co E, 1st Ark Inf.

William C. is now living in Williamson C, TX. We did not furnish either of them with any money, clothing or supplies of any kind while they was with the rebels. My sympathies was with the Union cause from the commencement of the war to the close thereof. I always advocated the Union cause when I dared to do so. My husband, John Jones always advocated the Union and he always spoke freely to those he knew to be Union people and after the state seceded he still adhered to the Union cause.

I was born and have ever since remained a citizen of the United States. I have never passed through bankruptcy.

I am widow of John Jones, he died the 5 of June 1864. I have eight children, the names are Pheba J. Carden, thirty four years of age, Eliza H. East, aged thirty two years of age, William C. Jones, thirty years of age, Mary E. Alstatt, aged twenty seven years of age, Robert Jones, aged twenty three years, John Jones, twenty one years of age, Nancy E. Owenby, age nineteen years, Sarah E. Jones, aged seventeen years. None of my sons was in the rebel army that is now living except as before stated.

The property here claimed was my husband's property. There has been no administration on the estate. The property was left as mine without any orders. My husband was never in the rebel

service and he has loyal to the United State government through out the war. He left the children, above stated. I have had the charge, maintenance, and education of the children and there was but little personal property left and I have used it for the use of the family. I have always used and collected the funds and appropriated them for the use of the family.

Narcissa Jones

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of April 1874
J. M. Doubleday, Special Commissioner

Narcissa Rutherford Jones (Feb 16, 1817 – Feb 13, 1894). Born in Greene Co, TN, she married 18 Aug 1835 John Jones. She is buried in Center Valley cemetery, Sebastian Co, AR. in the old section (row 8, grave 16)
[Transcribed from Find-a-Grave, Sherry Britton]

JOHN JONES

Born Feb 27, 1813 Greene Co, TN
Died June 5, 1864 Sebastian Co, AR

John Jones died while in service during the Civil War. It is said he is buried next to his son George in the Fort Smith National Cemetery, Sebastian Co., AR., 4th row back fence. Another granddaughter, Luna Hester Jones, says he is in # 210 in the ‘older’ section.

The following provided by Char Carroll:

For the Civil War personal that are buried here they were buried chronologically by dates. Here is what the person who researched the cemetery and its records sent me:

‘He is in one of the oldest parts of the cemetery, Section 5, which is all Civil War Soldiers. He is in space 2367. John Jones died on 6-5-1864. The soldier buried next to him in space 2368 is Henry Pooler who died 6-6-1864. I could not find grave 210 as described as being 40 rows from a road.’

Excerpt from a 1980 letter by Jones granddaughter Lona B. Thornton:

‘My grandfather is buried here in the National Cemetery as an unknown soldier and my Uncle George is buried in the Jones cemetery on the home place. An uncle (Gus Rutherford) is also buried there who was hung by the carpetbaggers.’

The following provided by Jane J. Hinkle who provided the stone photos: By process of elimination, deduced this was John Jones grave #2367, he died June 5, 1864. The grave next to him is Henry Pooler, #2368, died June 6, 1864. In grave #2366 is Isaac Dorson.’

[Transcribed from Find-a-Grave, Sherry Britton]