

## WILLIAM AND ZEPHANIAH WOOLSEY

Because William Woolsey died intestate, the relationship between the two men is not certain. They may have been brothers, but based on birth years in D. A. R. records, it is more likely they were father and son. Both men are recognized by the D.A.R. as either Soldiers and/or Patriots.



1410 ANNALS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA		
Wilkerson, William	Dysart's Co.	Kings Mountain
Willoughby, William	Ensign Dysart's Co.	Kings Mountain
Willoughby, William	Beattie's Co.	Kings Mountain
Wiloy, Joseph	Gilmore's Co. Va. Militia	Botetourt County
Willoughby, William		
Willoughby, Matthew	Lieut. Kings Mtn.	Washington County
Wiley, Alexander		
Wood, John		Botetourt County
Wood, Johnathan		Botetourt County
Woods, Robert		Botetourt County
Woodward, Jacob		
Woolsey, Thomas	McFarland's Co.	Washington & Montgomery
Wolsey, Thomas		
Wolf, Henry Jr.		
Wolf, Henry Sr.	Killed in action	
Woolsey, Zephariah		
Woolsey, William		
Wright, John		Montgomery County
Wright, Edward	V I Reg 81	Botetourt County
Wright, Peter		
Wynn, William		
Wiloy, Peter	Proc. 1763	Botetourt County
Wiloy, John	Proc. 1763	Botetourt County
Wiss, James		Botetourt County
Wysong, Faitt		Botetourt County
Yeary, Henry		Kings Mountain
Yontz, George		
Young, William	Ensign	
Young, Edward		
Young, James		
Youell, William	Gilmore's Co. Va. Militia	Botetourt County
Young, Edward	Capt. Pryor's Co. Regulars	Botetourt County
Yeally, Christian		
Yeally, William		

MARLBOROUGH IN THE REVOLUTION. 143

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This is to certify that we have taken from William Woolsey seventeen bushels of corn and ten bushels of buckwheat for the use of the States, which you are to deliver to the Commissary of Forage when called for. As witness our hands this 28th day of Oct. 1778.

Corn at three dollars per bushel  
 Buckwheat two dollars per bushel

NATH'L KELSEY  
 RIGHT CARPENTER  
 Two of the Committee .

Cattle, grain and provision were taken up in this way quite frequently, especially when the army lay at Newburgh and at Valley Forge; and horses were pressed into the service to carry the goods. It was claimed that the horses about here and in the Precinct of Newburgh were all used in this service.

## **WILLIAM WOOLSEY**

Information from D.A.R. records cite William was born about 1717 in New York and died about 1794 in Tennessee. The records also state William served for Virginia and drew pension. Although, a man of this name did draw Pension, he filed under the Act of 1818 - long after William Woolsey of Greene County, TN, had died. The man who drew pension may have been William Senior's son, William Junior, who had remained in Virginia, and the brother of Zephaniah. A memorial has been placed for William at the Woolsey Graveyard in the Camp Creek area of Greene County:

Born June 6, 1717; Died 1794



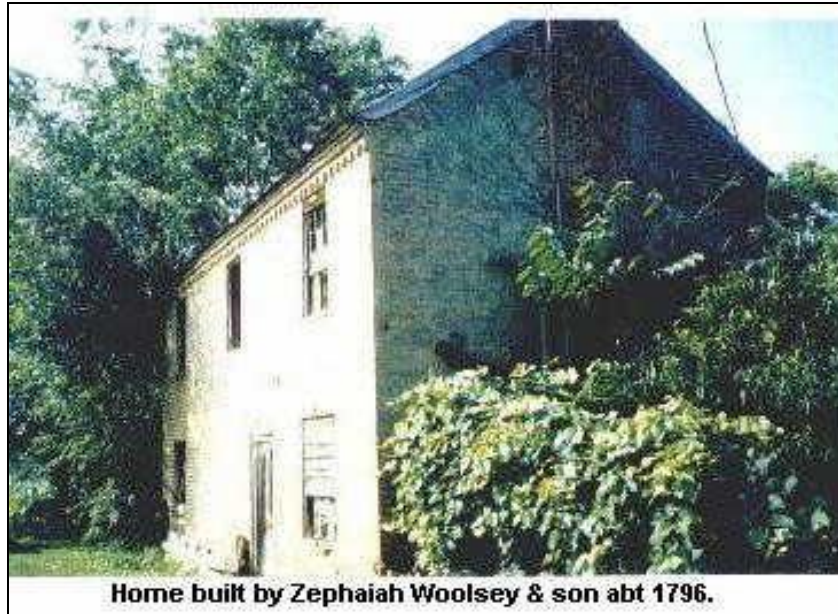
**Old Woolsey Graveyard. Fragments and/or partial tombstones are visible near the trees in the foreground.**

## **ZEPHANIAH WOOLSEY**

Information from D.A.R. records cite Zephaniah was born June 3, 1740 (place not stated) and died in Tennessee on May 14, 1807. The year seems to be in error because his Will was probated in the Greene County Court in 1803. An Estate Inventory and settlement was made in 1807. Zephaniah Woolsey was a Soldier in Virginia; but, unfortunately, no Fold3 enlistments are found for him.

William and Zephaniah Woolsey were very early arrivals to the area that would later become Greene County, Tennessee. These were the times when raids by the local Native Americans occurred, and Zephaniah's farm was attacked. Zephaniah, his wife and a daughter were shot and another daughter was scalped, dieing some years later. Although neglected for many years and in a state of disrepair, the old brick Woolsey home still stands. The ancient family graveyard lies in a field across the road from the family home.





Home built by Zephaiah Woolsey & son abt 1796.

## Documented account of the Sept 3, 1793 Indian attack on the home of Zephaniah Woolsey

**QUOTE** From:

*God, A Hundred Years and A Free Will Baptist Family* by Rev. Paul Woolsey which states:

"One Summer afternoon as he was returning from a 'grist mill' (run by old fashioned wooden wheel) some few miles away, Zedekiah (penciled in is Zephaniah) noticed the tracks of a band of Indian warriors in a field of standing corn not too far from his house. He prepared for the attack by carefully loading each of the three old "flintlock long muskets" that he owned. Just before twilight, while two of the daughters were milking at the nearby barn, the Indians attacked. Zedekiah, with a prayer for his women fold and aged father-in-law, who was past ninety yeares of age, made ready to defend his home with his life if necessary. One man and God against sixteen blood thirsty savages. he drew a "bead" on a warrior and it was fifteen to one. He reached for and fired the second musket which further reduced the band by one. However as he was ready to fire the thrid and last loaded gun, he was shot in the hand and his gun fell to the floor. One of his two daughters had made good her escape from the barn and now fired the last musket. The home was now defenseless except for the other and more powerful defender, the Lord himself. The warriors of this tribe carried their dead braves with them. Two having been slain and a long journey over the mountains with almost certain pursuit by the aroused settlers, caused the chief to give the signal for retreat little dreaming that the homse was entirely at their mercy. In the meanwhile, as most of the braves attacked the house, two made for the two girls who were milking. As had been stated the first made her escape. However Mary, or Polly as she was called, caught her strong homespun dress on the paling of the fence and was seized by a brave who proceeded to take her scalp but, as he finished and was about to complete the task with the death blow from his tomahawk, the chief gave the signal to leave. Polly was only nineteen at the time. She married a man by the name of Doan and lived until she was past fifty and had several grandchildren. However she finally died from the 'bealing' of her head which never healed.

To illustrate the hot passions of the time it may be well to relate the aftermath of the above incident. Some years after the Indian raid, Polly's brother was at a still owned by a man named Kelly - an ancestor of W.S. Kelly; Esq. of Greeneville, Tennessee and a deacon in the Free Will Baptist Church. In those days most pioneers had their distilleries - they were quite within the law and the good graces of public opinion. On this particular day, the Indian (the Indians were now "civilized") who had taken Polly's scalp was present and began boasting how years ago he had taken a fine red scalp in that very community. Quick as a wink, Polly's brother grabbed the Indian and threw him into the vat of 'boiling mash'. Instant death from scalding was the inevitable result. Needless to say the brother was never bothered by the law enforcing officers of those days.

The following is another account of the same story;

**QUOTE** From:

*Ready for the Grave* by William B. Woolsey

(submitted to the Greeneville, Tenn., Sun Newspaper in 1983 by Mrs. E.S. Smithson)

"On the third of September 1793, a party of some fifteen Indians attacked the house of Zephaniah Woolsey on the south side of Nolechecky River, about ten miles south of Greeneville, Tenn., they shot his wife slightly though the head, she recovered. They caught one of the girls and scalped her, shot another, grazing her thigh with a ball. Mr. Woolsey, though shot through the breast, recovered. I will say more about the fight. The night before, grandfather was at Cove Creek at the home of a neighbor and said he would go home, but the man insisted not, when he said he was going home to fight Indians, that he had seen some of their signs and had stayed to go after night came so they would not see him. And sure enough the next morning while the girls were milking they hollowed, "Indians". The old man took down his gun and ran out and shot one and ran back in the house and got another gun and shot another. Thus two Indians were killed. He got another gun and presented, but the third Indian was too fast for him and shot him through the hand and breast. Great-grandfather was sitting in the corner shaving, and being asked how he could shave at such a time, he said he could not do anything in the fight and if the Indians killed him he would be shaved ready for the grave....."

Excerpt from a book on Tennessee while it was "The Territory South of the Ohio" right before it became a state. The book is *Before Tennessee: the Southwest Territory 1790-1796* by Walter T. Durham (Overmountain Press, 1990) On p. 121 there is this paragraph:

"On September 3 [1793] about fifteen Indians beset the home of Zephaniah Woolsey on the south side of Nolichucky ten miles from Greene Court House. In the ensuing melee they shot Mrs. Woolsey through the head, shot a young woman through the thigh, scalped a small girl, and shot Woolsey through the breast and hand. All of the victims attained unlikely recoveries." There's a footnote to the Knoxville Gazette, September 14, 1793.

Zephaniah Woolsey's Will was probated in Greene County in the July 1803 session and documented in the Court Minutes:

July Sessions 1803.

Zepheniah Woolsey dec'd

Monday 27th.

The last Will and Testament of Zepheniah Woolsey late of this County decd. was produced to Court for probate, whereupon came William Mott, and James Williams, two of the subscribing witnesses thereto, and made oath, that they saw the said Zepheniah Woolsey, sign, seal, publish and declare the same to be his last Will and testament, and that he was at the signing and publishing of the same, of sound and perfect mind and memory to the best of their knowledge &c. Whereupon it was ordered that the same should be recorded, and is as follows towit. "In the name of God Amen

I Zepheniah Woolsey gentleman of the State of Tennessee and county of Green being sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory calling to mind the mortality of all flesh that it appointed for all to die doth make and ordain this my last will and Testament disallowing all wills or testaments before this time made but confirm all legaces by me bequeathed before this time. First I recommend my soul to God that gave it and my body to the dust to be buried in a christian like and decent manner nothing doubting but God will restore it at the resurrection of the just. And as to those worldly goods wherewith God hath blessed me I give and bequeath in the following manner that is to say first all just debts and funeral charges be paid and satisfied then I give and bequeath in the following manner to my beloved wife Sarah Woolsey my dwelling house and household furniture. One horse called Dick with saddle and bridle two Cows and calves and half the Peach Orchard and all the Apple and Cherry Orchard and the field next to the house above called the middle bottom One Sow and pigs for her use benefit and support so long as she shall live and remain my widdow and after her death or marriage all the personal part to be sold at a credit of twelve months, and the money to be equally devided amongst all my beloved daughters but Sarah Brashure and all the rest of my personal property (except my wearing apparel wih I give to my beloved sons to be deved equally) to be sold at my disease on a credit twelve months and the monies to be equally divided amongst all my beloved daughters excepting Sarah Brashure She first having five dollars for her portion and as to my real estate I give and bequath in the following manner that is to say to my beloved son Stephen Woolsey fifty acres on the north part of my land including the place where he used to live. and to my beloved Son William Woolsey I give and bequeath One hundred and seventy acres of land in the middle part of my land which will include the house and feald left to my beloved wife which he is to have after her death and to my beloved son Nehemiah Woolsey I give the remaining upper part of my

land which is One hundred and seventy acres being the south part of said land and I appoint & Ordain my beloved sons William Woolsey and Nehemiah Woolsey Executors of this my last Will and testament Sealed and signed May the ninth in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven in preasents of us.

Zeph Woolsey Seal

William Mott  
James Huston  
James Williams

Whereupon came William Woolsey and Nehemiah Woolsey the Executors in the said Will named and having taken an Oath well and truly to execute the same according to law and the best of their knowledge. It is thereupon ordered by the Court that letters Testamentary issue to them accordingly.



Zepheniah Woolsey Decd.

Wednesday 29th July 1807

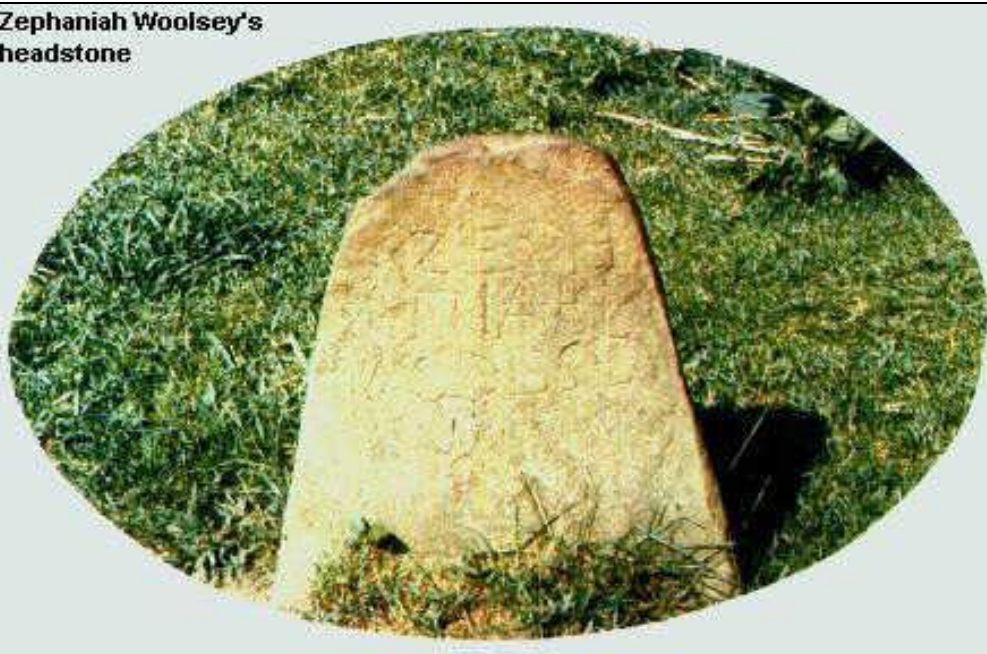
William Woolsey and Nehemiah Woolsey, executors of the last Will and Testament of Zepheniah Woolsey decd. Exhibited in Court, an attested inventory of <sup>the</sup> Testators estate, which was received and ordered to be recorded, and is as follows towit "July the 28th 1807 An Inventory of the property of Zephaniah Woolsey Deceased Dets Desparate

One note thirtee dolers. One note forty Bushels of corn, One Note One doler a Boock of accounts one hundred and twenty dolers and fifty five cent cash in stock thirty seven dolers and seventy five cents two horses and one mare one waging and Gears, fourteen head of cattle and fore head of Sheep and forty nine head of Hogs twenty one head of Gees Teen ducks one plow two axes, one Grubing hoe, two broad hoes and two Straw Knives, one Loom and fore slaes, one loog chane one grine stone one Iron wege One Sithe and cradle fore Beets haulter chane one mans saddle and saddle Bags Two hundred foot of plank three Bridles, two Beehives one case of Rasurs

one hone aquanty of flax One meet Tub one fat Tub. two Cags fore Sialles two Side Sadies a quanty of Leather. One pich fork one pad lock two cleveses and liik one White riddle aleven Bushels of Wheet, Twenty one Bushels of Rye Twenty one Bushels of Oats two Kittles One pot one Dutch Oven One fire Shovel two Iron Tramuls a pare of Dood Irons one Skilet one frying pan two smoothing Irons, one peprt Morter, three Beedstids and Beeds and Beeding two Tables, nine chers One chist two little Wheels one check Reel One Cotton Wheel, One seet of War ping Spools two Bibles two speling Books One Hime Book one Testament One pare of Shers One Looocking Glass two gugs fore crocks one urthan pan two pichers three Bools fore Delph plaits fore cups and sausers foretior cups, One Cofy pot One peper Box two Tumblers, two puter Dishes, One Bason, twelve puter plaits five spoons, six knives and six forks, one flax Heckle, two pare of cards One Honey pot, two Washin Tubs. One artha Dish

Wm Woolsey  
Nehemiah Woolsey Executors

Zephaniah Woolsey's  
headstone



Two of Zephaniah's sons fought in the War of 1812:

Nehemiah (1774-1834) served in Captain Joseph Hales Company. Nehemiah was in Carroll County, Missouri, by 1821. His death was caused by unspecified "mortal wounds".

William (1782-1846) served in Captain Penney's Company. He is believed to be buried in the Woolsey graveyard in Greene Co.