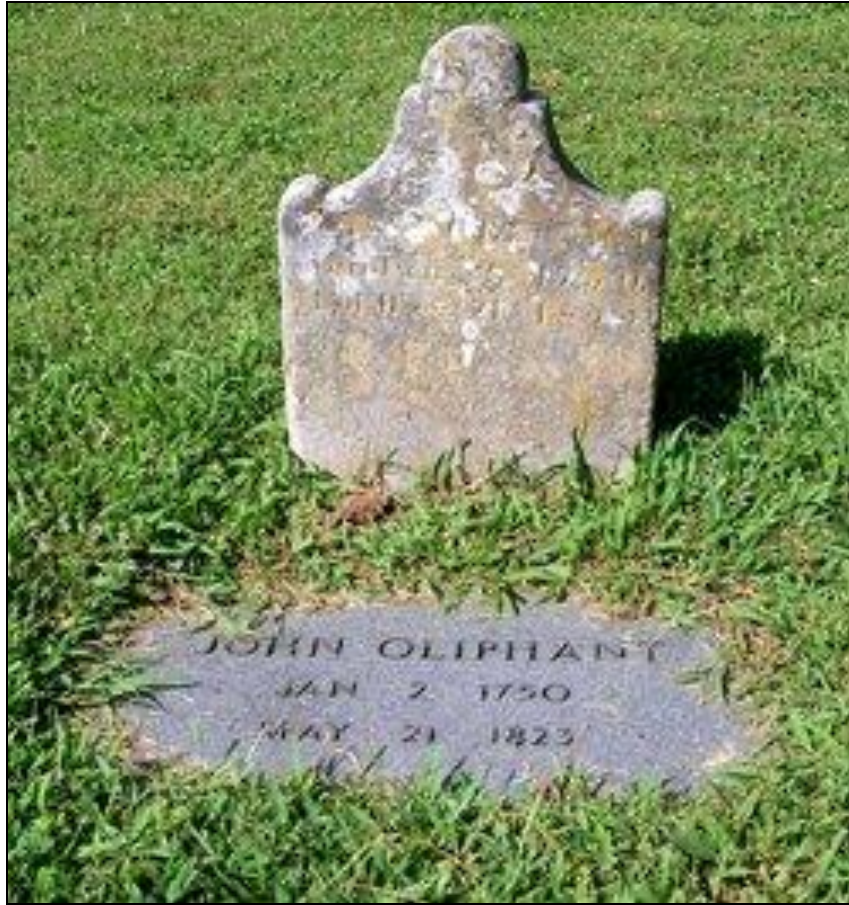


JOHN OLIPHANT



Ebenezer Methodist Church Cemetery

John Oliphant appears in the 1809 Greene County Tax List owning 140 acres of land located on Sinking Creek. Also in this tax List are sons, James owning 150 acres of land and Thomas owning 120 acres of land.

John Oliphant's Rev. War Service

from the Roster and Soldiers of the Tennessee Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

John Oliphant -- Born Jan 2, 1750, New Jersey; Died 1823, Greene County, Tenn; Married 1775, Hannah Amos, born Jan 14, 1756 died 1814.

John Oliphant is reported in the auditors account, page 107, of official records in New Jersey, State House, to have been paid for sundry services and for riding Express No. 19, Date 1777. During the year 1778 he moved to Washington District, N.C. The place where he settled was later Greene County, Tenn. He was a neighbor of John Sevier and being a Wagon Maker & Gun Smith, he assisted in fitting out troops for the expedition to King's Mountain. He then either accompanied them or helped protect the settlement during their absence. He was on the 1st tax list of Greene County, 1783. He was given a Land Grant for Revolutionary Service, recorded at Nashville, Tenn. For sundry claims and for Military Expedition with Wagons, for 10 days, by order of General Waddel, the Convention of North Carolina resolved that these claims be allowed. They were signed by Martin Armstrong. (Volume 9, page 485,487, N.C. records, Adj. Gen. Office N.J., Records of Land Commisioner, Nashville, Tenn.; and Family Bible National No. 126439)

From Greene County Pioneer, Vol. 25 No. 1, May 2009:

THREE GENERATIONS OF OLIPHANTS IN GREENE COUNTY: 1783-1866

The Oliphant name appears to have originated in Normandy (France). The name of Olifard appeared in England around the time of 1060 A.D. The Olifards moved to Scotland sometime in the next 100 years and the name later became Oliphant. Oliphants also migrated to England. The date of the arrival in America of the first Oliphants from Scotland or England is not known. The ancestors of the Greene County, Tennessee Oliphants are thought to have come from one of the Oliphants who arrived from Scotland in the 1680s and resided on Staten Island, New York. Duncan Oliphant, grandfather of John Oliphant of Greene County, and his family reportedly moved from Staten Island to Hunterdon County in Western New Jersey in the early 1720s. Duncan's son Ephraim Oliphant and their family then moved to Loudoun County, Northern Virginia in the late 1760s.

John Oliphant and his family, one of the "First Families of Tennessee," are known to have been living in Greene County by 1783. For his and two more generations, the Oliphants were a prominent family in the Tusculum and Afton areas of the county. Among the leading Oliphant heads of households were John Oliphant, his sons Thomas and James Oliphant, and his grandson David Rankin Oliphant. By 1870, all of the Oliphants in the Tusculum/Afton area had left the county although several related families, descended from Thomas Oliphant, continued to reside a few miles south of Greeneville. Summaries of the lives of three of these Greene County leaders of the Tusculum area appear below.

Submitted by David Ross Oliphant, 308 Elaine Ave., Taylors, SC (djoliphant@aol.com), great-great-great-great grandson of John Oliphant and great-great-great-grandson of James Oliphant, with assistance from Marie McDonald Harrell, Denton, TX, great-granddaughter of David R. and Margaret Robinson Oliphant

JOHN OLIPHANT

John Oliphant was born on January 2, 1750 in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. He was one of eight children of Ephraim Oliphant and Sarah Stout Oliphant. The Ephraim Oliphant family had moved to Loudoun County, Virginia (east of the Blue Ridge Mountains) by the late 1760s. John Oliphant, along with his father, is listed as taxpayers in Loudoun County from 1769 until at least 1774. In January 1775, he married Hannah Amos, and their first child, James, was born in nearby Fauquier County, Virginia in 1776. John's brother Benjamin Oliphant served with the American forces in the Revolutionary War and reportedly was captured by the British Army, dying as a prisoner of war aboard a British ship. His brother Samuel Oliphant is listed as a member of the Loudoun County militia in 1780.

John Oliphant served the Continental Army during the American Revolution but his exact roles and military service locations are not known. He is listed on the Greene County, Tennessee tax rolls of 1783. By the mid-1780s, the Oliphant family was residing along Sinking Creek in Greene County near modern-day Afton, where he established a farm and the family home

John and Hannah Amos Oliphant had 10 children: James, Thomas, Elizabeth (Betsy), Sarah (Sally), Hannah, Mary, Anna, Rachel, John, and Abey. James Oliphant (also known as James, Sr.) married Jane Rankin. Thomas married Hannah Morrow, and Elizabeth Oliphant married Gravenor Marsh, Jr. Daughter Sarah was wed to Felix Earnest, the son of Greene County pioneer Henry Earnest. Felix Earnest served under Colonel John Sevier at the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780 and later became a Methodist pastor, serving the congregation at Ebenezer Methodist Church located on the south side of the Nolichucky River. Earnest reportedly was a

good friend of Methodist Church Bishop Francis Asbury, who visited this area several times in the early 1800s.

Daughter Hannah Oliphant married William Barton, and Bartons later moved to Texas. The husbands of daughters Mary and Anna were John McAmis and Nathaniel Hayworth, respectively. Daughter Rachel Oliphant married Thomas West, and they later moved to a home in Grainger County, Tennessee. Most of John Oliphant's children after their marriages lived at least for a time on farms adjacent to the John Oliphant property in the Sinking Creek area before moving elsewhere.

John Oliphant served as a respectable citizen of Greene County. Court records indicate that he was a member of the jury for a number of Greene County Court of Common Pleas cases. In January 1798, he was appointed by Greene County as the overseer of the road from Greeneville to the South Bank of the Nolichucky River. He is recorded as a legal witness to a number of land purchases, several marriages, and other legal transactions from the 1780s until the early 1820s. He is also listed in Greene County historical records as a taxpayer from 1805 to 1816 for his property on Sinking Creek.

John Oliphant died on May 21, 1823. He is buried in the Ebenezer Methodist Church cemetery overlooking the Nolichucky River, next to his wife Hannah Amos Oliphant who predeceased him nine years earlier. Their daughter Sally Oliphant Earnest and son-in-law Felix Earnest are buried adjacent to them.