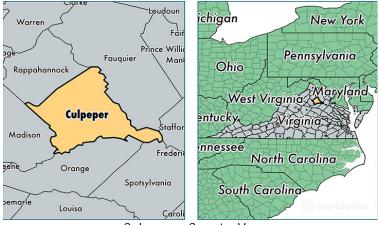
STEPHEN JETT (b. circa 1735) ("Granville Steve")

In the world of Jett's, first names such as "John", "James", and "Stephen" are very common. For that reason, tracing a group of Jetts with the same name can be very confusing. For purposes of this book I will often use presumed years of birth or use other nicknames. In this chapter, we will be looking at Stephen Jett who is born in Virginia, flees Virginia for North Carolina and ultimately makes his way to Kentucky.

Stephen-Virginia

Stephen was born in King George County Virginia to John Jett and Ann Elizabeth Wells Jett circa 1735. Apparently, John lived in New Brunswick Parish on Muddy Creek in King George County. In 1745 this land was sold and the Jett family moved to Culpepper County and lived at a plantation which they called "Waterloo" on the south side of the Rappahannock River.



Culpepper County, Va.

Waterloo is an unincorporated area of Culpepper County. The plantation would have been named due to the area where it was located as opposed to the Battle of Waterloo which did not occur until 1815. Stephen's father, John, died in 1771 in Culpepper County.

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Waterloo, Va.

Stephen married Elizabeth Read in Virginia in 1755. Elizabeth Read was the daughter of John Read and Winifred Favior Read. Elizabeth had a number of brothers and sisters. One of her sisters was named after her mother (Winifred) and she later married John Shackleford who would have been a brother-in-law to Stephen.

Stephen and Culpepper Sheriff James Pendleton

In 1759, Stephen was employed as an undersheriff (Assistant Sheriff) the Sheriff, James Pendleton, for the purpose of collecting taxes in St. Mark's Parish, Virginia which was an ecclesiastical area for the Virginia State Church. Stephen was responsible for collecting tobacco taxes as well as land and poll taxes for St. Mark's Parish in Culpepper County, Virginia. Apparently Stephen's obligations were guaranteed up to 3,058 pounds by his father, father-in-law and another relative and secured by them. Although we do not have the particular details, apparently Stephen either did not collect the money or collected only part of the money and left Virginia for Granville, NC. Sheriff Pendleton or his representatives made demand for the money which was supposed to have been collected by Stephen. Those being taxed either had to pay the amount of the tax or provide a receipt for payment of their taxes.

Ultimately, the House of Burgess passed a statute found in <u>Hennings Statutes at Large</u>, Vol 8, pp.139-141) holding Stephen and his guarantors liable in the amount of 304 pounds and thirteen shillings and four pence. Included in this amount was 174 pounds, seven shilling and nine pence for the Virginia land tax. The guarantors paid what was owed by their relative Stephen.

Some years later on October 30, 1766 Stephen's father, John Jett, his father-in-law John Read, and his brother-in-law, John Shackleford, brought suit against Stephen to recover money that they had put out in fulfilling the collection of the taxes by Stephen. (John Shakleford had married Winifred Read who was a sister of Elizabeth Read who was the wife of Stephen).

Although we do not know whether Stephen had acted dishonestly or had just refused to collect the hugely unpopular tobacco tax, we do know that the failure to carry out his tax responsibilities clearly left his family "holding the bag."

Another indication of his family's disfavor on the way he had handled matters shows up in wills made by both by Stephen's father and father-in-law. In 1763, Stephen's father, John Jett, wrote a will. In that will he left only 10 shillings to Stephen. Today, that would be about the same as dividing up your assets among your children and leaving only one dollar to one of the children. Elizabeth's father, John Read, did something similar in his will. He only left his daughter, Elizabeth, one gold ring. He went on in his will and said the following: "It is my desire that if in case any thing should be recovered of William Eastham & others at the General Court concerning a Debt of myself and Mr. Jett (John Jett, Stephen's father) paid for Stephen Jett I give my proportion of what shall be recovered to be equally divided between the children of Stephen Jett and my daughter Elizabeth." I believe it is safe to say that Stephen and Elizabeth had alienated their families by leaving them on the hook for taxes which either had not be collected or which had been collected and not paid over to the Sheriff. Stephen's father and father-in-law made good the amount of these taxes and the damages to them financially were substantial.

Stephen and Elizabeth in Granville, NC

Apparently, Stephen and Elizabeth and their family left Virginia in 1759 and by 1760 had relocated to Granville, North Carolina.



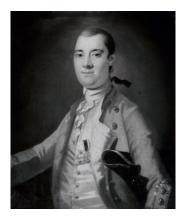
Prior to getting to Granville, one secondary source states that Stephen served as a bookkeeper for a well-known merchant at Halifax, North Carolina, John Hamilton & Co. Halifax was a center for revolutionary sentiment; however, the owners of John Hamilton were loyalists. Eventually, John Hamilton would be one of the loyalists staying faithful to the British and served on the British side during the Revolutionary War. Although I can not substantiate that Stephen worked for their store, he did not remain there long and by 1760 was in Granville, North Carolina.

While in Granville, Stephen quickly became well connected in civic affairs. In 1760 we learn that Stephen was witnessing a deed executed in Granville. On September 1, 1768, Stephen is listed as one of the privates on the Granville militia headed by Col. Robert Harris. In 1768 through 1772, Stephen was one of the justices of the County Court in Granville. In 1769, he was listed on the Census Records of Granville. He made various appearances on different documents in Granville County including on a deed in 1778. Likewise, we know that Stephen took an oath of allegiance to the United States on May 30, 1778.

Stephen as a Legal Regulator.

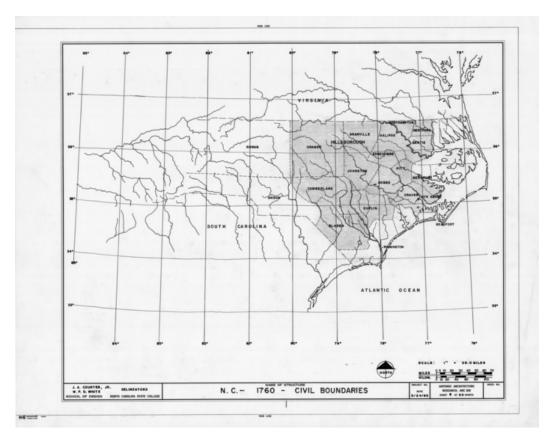
Stephen had transitioned to becoming part of the Granville Establishment. As mentioned previously, Stephen had served as one of the Granville judges during the period 1768-1772. During that period, there was disruption in North Carolina due to the conflict between those who were in authority and the Regulator Movement. The "Regulators" had begun as a movement to see that corruption was not being carried out in the judicial system and that local officials operated in integrity. As time passed, the Regulator movement became more of a class struggle whereby the uneducated farmers protested against the more educated lawyers and others who migrated to the frontier and quickly rose to political power by using their knowledge of the law to gain advantage over the poor. Apparently political power was centered around the "planter class" and the farmers felt that they was being "fleeced" to support the rich newcomers. Regulators began to meet and ultimately decided to take direct action to eliminate the unfair practices and to reduce taxation.

The Regulators in North Carolina also hated the Royal Governor of North Carolina, William Tryon. Granville County where Stephen lived was one of the significant counties in North Carolina where the Regulators had a presence.



William Tryon, Governor of North Carolina

In 1768, the Regulators took the law into their own hands. In Hillsborough, North Carolina, where the colonial court for North Carolina met, the Regulators attacked the court.



Hillsborough, North Carolina And Granville County, North Carolina

The presiding judge, Richard Henderson, had to dismiss the court and escaped. Edmund Fanning, a lawyer who was characterized as being "haughty, despotic and tyrannical" was caught and beaten and almost lost an eye.



Edmund Fanning

The courthouse was vandalized. Later the mob destroyed shops and other property in town. Fanning's house was also vandalized and all of the household furniture was destroyed. Also Judge Henderson's barn and stables were burned to the ground.

Various skirmishes occurred over the next several years between the Regulators and the Government. Finally on May 9, 1771, Governor Tryon and his soldiers arrived at Hillsborough, North Carolina. On May 11, 1771 the Governor and his forces came to Alamance with about 1200 men and met 2000 Regulators.



Alamance, North Carolina

A battle took place in Alamance killing around nine soldiers and about the same number of Regulators. The uprising by the Regulators collapsed. Ultimately about six Regulators were hanged and the rest were pardoned after giving allegiance to the crown.

As a general statement, many in North Carolina believed that the Regulators had gone too far. Some of the leaders of the Regulators later drifted west to the Watauga Association which was established in 1772 and the State of Franklin which was established in 1784.

The riot at Hillsborough N.C. was opposed by a group called "The Loyal Regulators Association" made up of a number of the civic leaders of North Carolina. At the end of 1770, they denounced in writing the actions taken by the lawless Regulators at the Hillsborough Riot taken on September 22, 1770. This proclamation was signed by about 60 civic leaders including Stephen Jett.

A few of the other names on the proclamation included Edmund Fanning who had been dragged out of court and assaulted by the mob. Another was that of Thomas Henderson who was the brother of the presiding judge, Richard Henderson who was also a victim of the mob.

The general populace at the time felt that the Regulators had gone too far by taking the law into their own hands. Stephen's name on the petition suggests that he was a person of authority in North Carolina and that he was well associated with many of the leaders of the State.

Stephen and the Searcy Family

The fates of the Jett family and the Searcy family became intertwined in Granville. Reuben Searcy was roughly the same age as Stephen being born around 1729. His first wife was Susannah Henderson who was a daughter of Samuel Henderson. Reuben apparently had about ten children with his first wife. One of those children was Asa Searcy who would later also marry one of Stephen's daughters meaning that both father and son in the Searcy line married into the Jett family. Samuel Henderson, the father of

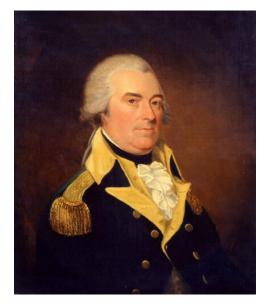
Reuben's first wife, had also been one of the early sheriffs of Granville. Susanna Henderson's brother, Richard, also at one point worked as a deputy sheriff in Granville and later became a lawyer. It was this same Richard Henderson who went on to become the presiding judge of the North Carolina Judicial Court meeting in Hillsborough, N.C. which wasattacked by the Regulators.

Elizabeth (Susannah Elizabeth?) Jett, the daughter of Stephen, married Reuben in 1779. Reuben had previously served as a tax collector in Granville and in that capacity had gotten into some difficulties (a matter which I am sure Stephen could be sympathetic with). Reuben also served as Sheriff of Granville in 1763-64. Elizabeth and Reuben would go on to have about eight children and Reuben and Elizabeth Jett Searcy would also relocate to Madison County Kentucky along with Asa Searcy and his wife Frances Jett Searcy.

Asa Searcy was a son of Reuben Searcy by his first wife Susanna Henderson. Asa was born in 1762 and at 16 or 17 he enlisted and fought in the Revolutionary War seeing service primarily in South Carolina and Georgia under the command of Captain T. Rhodes of the 10th Regiment under Col. Abraham Sheppard. He was severely wounded in the war and was transported back to his parents home in Granville. He was mustered out of the Army on May 24, 1782. In 1783, Asa married Frances ("Fanny Jett"). In 1788, Fanny and Asa had two kids the same year (perhaps fraternal twins) who were named Elizabeth and Archibald.

At some point shortly thereafter Stephen and his family along with the Searcy's migrate to the Headwaters of the Holston River Area in what is now known as Tennessee. After spending some years there the Jett's and Searcy's and others migrated to Madison County, KY.

In Kentucky, Asa served and was one of the few survivors of St. Clair's War. He operated as a "spy" (Indian Scout) and later served with the U.S. under "Mad" Anthony Wayne who defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794.



"Mad" Anthony Wayne

Finally, Asa and Fannie migrated to Greensville, Ms. About five miles from Coles Creek where he appeard on the census records of 1805, 1808 and 1810. He died at home in Greensville, Ms. In 1815 at 53 having served his country in so many different ways as a soldier and Indian scout.

Some of the Children of Stephen

In this section, I discuss some of the children of Stephen. Some of the children cannot be substantiated and some will be left for other sections of this chapter. Below is a brief synopsis of some of the children:

James Jett

James Jett was born in 1759 in Culpepper County, VA. James is located in Granville during 1784-1787. Sometime around 1787 he moves to the Pendleton District of S.C (Anderson County). James works as a miller and a land surveyor. He later relocates to DeKalb County Georgia and then later to Fulton County, Georgia. He has a large family of about nine children.

Elizabeth Jett

Elizabeth was born in 1757. She married Reuben Searcy. Reuben and Elizabeth had about eight children. Reuben stayed active in civic affairs in Granville County. Later Reuben and Elizabeth relocated to Tennessee along with the Jetts and ultimately migratede to Madison County near Boonesborough.

Isaac Israel Jett ?

We are uncertain as to whether Isaac Israel Jett was a son of Stephen Jett. Isaac and his family lived in Madison County and in 1782 Isaac was serving with the Kentucky Militia and was killed in an Indian fight just outside of Ft. St. Clair about a year after the St. Claire massacre and defeat.

Mary Jett

Mary was born in 1759. The adventures of Mary Jett is covered in a separate section of this chapter called "Mary Jett and the Bastardly Bonds."

John Jett

John Jett was born in 1760. Some believe that our line of the Jett family passes through John.

John had two wives. The first was by Ann Burns who he married on in Wilkes, North Carolina on October 21, 1778. Her father was Charles ("the Old Scottsman" Burns). Her first child was John Jett Jr. (NEED MORE INFO HERE). Ann Burns Jett died at age 23. Some have guessed that Ann Burns died in child birth and left a young child named Stephen Jett who will eventually appear in the Coles Creek area and be the progenitor of our line. At this point, I believe it is only a reasonable guess that the Coles Creek Stephen came from Ann Burns, but it is only a "guess."

On April 5, 1787, John married Naomy Webb in Wilkes County, North Carolina. John had a number of children with Naomy including Winifred, Judith, Mary Polly, Hugh and Milly (Amelia). Again, the conjecture is that Naomy was acting as the mother of the Coles Creek Stephen.

Eventually around 1797 John Jett and his family joined his father Stephen in Warren County, Kentucky.



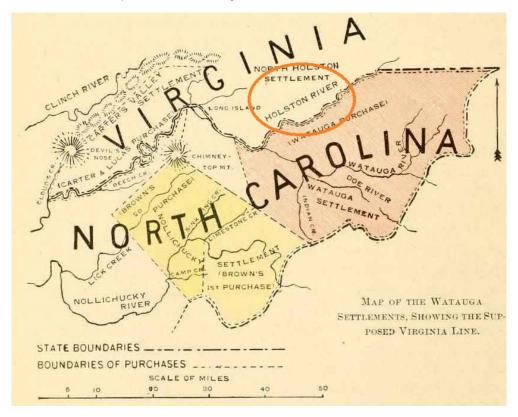
Later in 1810 John Jett moved from Warren County KY to Hardin County KY.



In 1816 John Jett died in Hardin County KY. Although he left a will, it is not particularly helpful for our purposes.

Frances ("Fanny Jett)

Frances Jett was born in 1765. Frances married Asa Searcy, the son of Reuben Searcy. Asa served in the Revolutionary War and was wounded and returned to Granville County, North Carolina. He served as a witness on many documents apparently working under his father, Reuben. Asa and Frances after several years moved with Stephen and his family into the Holston River Area in Tennessee.



Holston River Area

After living there several years, the Jetts, Searcy's and some other families migrated to Kentucky. Asa served in the Kentucky militia, was present at the disastrous defeat by the Indians at the St. Clair fort in Ohio and ultimately served again with Anthony Wayne at the defeat of the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Asa acted as a "scout and spy" seeking out the location of the Indians. After living in Madison, Kentucy for a few years, he and Frances move to Greenville, Ms. which was about five miles from Coles Creek.

Stephen Jett, Jr.

Stephen Jett Jr. was born in 1775. As a 16 year old he accompanied his uncle to St. Clair's War and survived the massacre at St. Clair. Stephen Jett, however, was too young to have been the one who fathered children with Phoebe Crawford. Further, Stephen lived and died in Breathitt Ky and could not

have been the Stephen of our line. Further, he was not the one who moved to Greenville, Ms. with Ava Searcy and Francis Jett Searcy.

Amanda Jett

Amanda Jett was born on April 16, 1777. In 1797 she married Captain William "One Hand" Smith. They are thought to have had around fifteen children. Amanda died on July 26, 1853 in Lawrence County, Ms.

Mary Jett and the Bastardly Bonds

We often think of Colonial times as being more moralistic than today. However, there is good reason to believe that such was not the case. The state did not want to be responsible for raising illegitimate children. One of the ways in which the Colonies dealt with this situation was to use midwives to interrogate the women who were unmarried and pregnant regarding the identity of the father. It was believed that the midwives would often get the correct information and the father could either marry the unmarried woman or provide a "bastardly bond." This bond would make sure that there were funds so that the illegitimate child could receive training in a trade or assistance in life without relying upon the state. North Carolina utilized bastardly bonds as did many of the other states.

Those bonds would identify the father of the child and provide help for the child to find a place and role in Colonial life.

Interestingly, I was able to turn up two bastardly bonds relating to Mary Jett one of the daughters of Stephen (b. 1735).

In 1783 Thomas Critcher gave bond for an illegitimate child by Mary Jett. Although one might wonder whether this child was the Stephen of Coles Creek, it is highly unlikely because the bond specifies that it relates to a "female bastard."

Mary had a second child out of wedlock with a different father, John Morton. The sex of the child is not specified. The child was born on March 11, 1788 and the bastardly bond was issued on August 16, 1788.



Stephen had many contacts with those associated with the Transylvania Company and to understand the time in which Stephen lived it is important to have some knowledge of the Transylvania Company. Reuben Searcy had married Elizabeth and Reuben's first wife had been one of the daughters of Samuel Henderson and her brother was Richard Henderson. Richard Henderson had been the Presiding Judge of the North Carolina Court and the object of the attack by the Regulators. His father Samuel Henderson had served as Sheriff of Granville as did Reuben and Reuben had married the sheriff's daughter as his first wife. In 1769, Henderson would send an expedition to explore the lands beyond the Appalacians by his good friend Daniel Boone. Boone brought back an enthusiastic report from his expedition.

In 1774, Henderson with some of his friends set up the Louisa Company with the goal of purchasing from the Indians a large track of land. The name of the Louisa Company was later changed to the Transylvania Company. In 1775, the investors signed a treaty with the Cherokee Indians gaining colorable title to most of Kentucky and much of Tennessee. Not surprisingly, the governments of Virginia and North Carolina denounced Henderson and the Transylvania Company and refused to recognize or support the Transylvania Company's agreement with the Indians. Representatives of the Company went to the Continental Congress and tried to get it to recognize Transylvania as the Fourteenth State. Congress sided with the States of Virginia and North Carolina and refused to recognize Transylvania ultimately dooming it to extinction. Eventually North Virginia and North Carolina awarded the Transylvania Company about 200,000 acres as a consolation prize for the efforts by this Company to bring civilization to the Western regions.

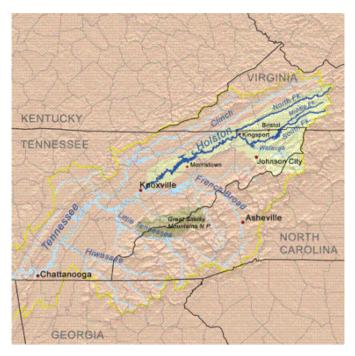
Among the actions taken by the Transylvania Company was supporting the expedition by Daniel Boone over the Allegheny Mountains and the efforts by Boone in clearing a path over the mountains and the eventual founding of a number of forts including Fort Boonesborough. Interestingly, there were a number of "ax-men" who have become famous due to clearing a path for settlers into Kentucky. One of the "ax-men" was a member of the Searcy family who we have discussed previously.

The existence of Transylvania as well as certain other areas in the far West of North Carolina illustrate the fact that the western frontier of North Carolina felt itself to be independent. This will be further illustrated when we discuss the State of Franklin later.

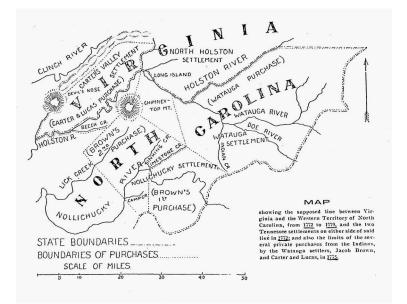
The Jetts were part of this move to the West and the various efforts to secure land in these new territories.

Stephen in the Holston River Area

Around 1780 Stephen moved to the Holston River Area. The North Holston River Settlement was one of four distinct settlements on the eastern boundaries of North Carolina and Virginia (and ultimately Tennessee). One of these distinct areas was Carter's Valley Settlement which was just south of the Clinch River. The area just North of the Holston River was the North Holston Settlement where the Jetts settled. South of the Holston were two other settlements known as the Watauga Association and the Nolachucky Settlement. The Holston River today extends from Eastern Tennessee to Western Virginia. Here are some photos showing the location. In the first map you can see the location of the North Fork of the Holston River.



The next image shows the four settlements found in the Holston River Area.



Stephen and the State of Franklin

The characteristic of being on the Western Fringes of the Colonies is that often it was uncertain exactly who was in charge and who had rights and jurisdiction. Previously we have discussed this ambiguity of authority in connection with Transylvania. We see it again in the rise of the State of Franklin. In the western part of North Carolina and the eastern part of Kentucky there was a contest of authority between a far away State of North Carolina and the settlers of the area who organized under the State of Franklin.

On August 23, 1784 Representatives from Washington County declared themselves to be sm independent State. John Sevier was elected as Governor of Franklin. On May 16, 1785 delegates from Franklin were sent to Congress. Seven states voted to allow Franklin to be the 14th State, but it was a vote which required a two-thirds majority. Franklin ultimately lost its efforts to become a state.



John Sevier

Franklin acted as an independent state. Franklin ran its own court system and taxed the people within its jurisdiction. In 1784 and in 1786, Franklin made peace treaties with the Cherokees. In 1787 North Carolina sent troops to Franklin under Col. John Tipton. In 1788, North Carolina soldiers arrested John Sevier Sevier later was released by his followers.

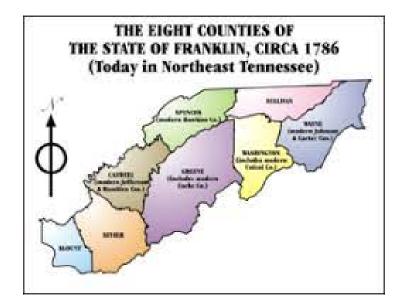
By 1788, a group of Indians (the Chickamauga and Chickasaw) began attacking settles in the State of Franklin. The fight against the Indians finally ended in 1791 where the Cherokee Indians made a treaty with the Southwest Territory represented by Governor William Blount.



William Bount, Governor of North Carolina

By 1789, the government of the State of Franklin effectively ended and the old Franklin territory returned to the hands of North Carolina. John Sevier, later would be voted to Congress to represent the Southwest Territory. When Tennessee became a state of the Union in 1796, John Sevier would be its first governor.





Stephen and the Cherokee Indians

Stephen had connections both with the State of Georgia and with various Indian tribes. In 1786, Stephen Jett was appointed a Commissioner by Governor Edward Telfair of Georgia.



Edward Telfair, Governor of Georgia

Stephen and Robert Dixon worked on coordinating defenses against the Creek Indians and in seeking to make peace with the Cherokees. Stephen Jett and Robert Dixon served as agents of Georgia working

with John Sevier who was Governor of Franklin. From 1780 on it is difficult to track Stephen because he was often on the road.

On September 16, 1786. Stephen Jett and John Dixon wrote an update on their efforts to Edward Telfair. Stephen and John Dixon wrote their letter from the Nolichucky River in Washington County in Franklin. The letter read as follows:

"After a very fatiguing journey, we have had the honor of delivering your dispatches to Governor Servier, having a very favorable disposition; he intends to call as soon as possible his Assembly, and expects to have it in his power to raise one thousand or fifteen one hundred men in case settlers can be reduced in a certainty and they should be wanting, but people we have had the honor of seeing in this country are all men inclined to favor the Georgians by assisting them against the Creek Indians, and certainly will be of infinite service in case there can be such a Communication had as it will to put into your power and to have them when most wanting, we intend in this day to not out in order to pursue our Journey and are under the disagreeable necessity by going by Kentucky and Cumberland as everyone says by going the other way could be very dangerous. We shall do everything by our power to cultivate the friendship of the people in this State as we pass through. We have every reason to believe that they are favorable inclined to assist Georgia as they can. We have the honor...."

Stephen and Phoebe Crawford

It is likely that Stephen (b. 1735) is the Stephen who got involved with Phoebe Crawford. We know that not too long after the end of the Revolutionary War Stephen's daughter along with her husband Asa Searcy moved to the headwaters of the Holston River. It is believed that Stephen and his family was also located there prior to their migration to Kentucky.

Apparently Stephen and Phoebe Crawford began living together in the Holston River area. Our records regarding this appear in the Natchez Court Records. Phoebe states in those records that she lived with Stephen in the Holston River Area and had one child by him and one on the way. She learned that Stephen was married to another woman and she and Stephen agreed to separate. Afterwards Phoebe Crawford married William Calvit. Calvit apparently had property and a plantation in the Holston River Area. Phoebe and William Calvit, who apparently married in 1783, relocated to the Natchez area where the Calvit family also had property. In Phoebe's petition dated February 17, 1784 in Natchez she claims that Stephen had taken her child by stealth and said that he would carry the child among the savages to be revenged upon her. The Court in Natchez demanded that Stephen return the child to Phoebe and stop troubling her in the future. Apparently Stephen did return the child.

The threat to remove the child to the savages is an interesting one. Apparently, this threat by Stephen was not an idle one in as much as Stephen was working on Indian matters at the time.

In an associated matter, Stephen had lodged some type of complaint with the Natchez authorities regarding a fight that Stephen and William Calvit had conducted . Apparently the fight was at the house of William Brocus in the Natchez area where there had been some drinking. William Calvit responded to Stephen's complaint by filing a complaint against Stephen regarding an incident which occurred on

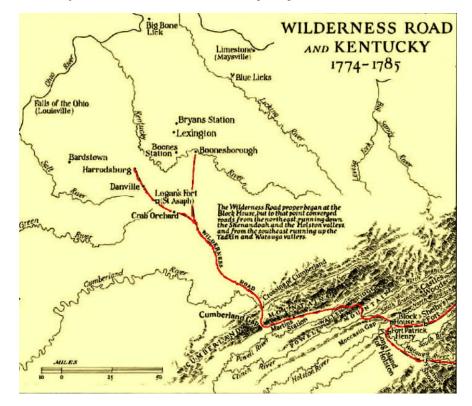
the previous October 7, 1782 whereby Stephen had concealed himself in the North Holston area and took a shot at William Calvit breaking his right hand.

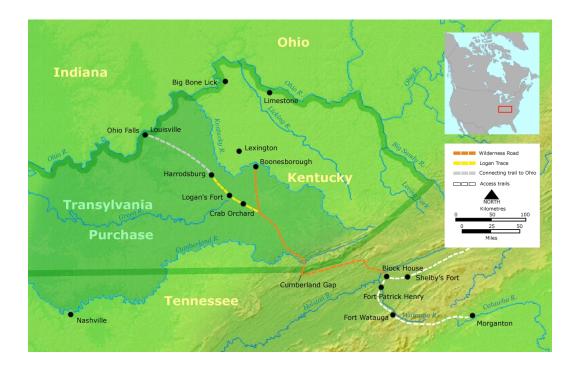
We are able to identify the two Jett sons of Phoebe Crawford from a suit by Phoebe against the Estate of Ann Guillard dated February 27, 1800 whereby Phoebe collected money set aside for Phoebe's two boys. One son was Hamilton Jett and the other John Martin Jett. Both of these Jetts are identified and are not the Stephen Jett of Coles Creek, In addition Stephen Jett (b. 1735) can be shown not to be the Stephen of Cole's Creek.

Stephen and the Migration to Kentucky

In 1782, Joseph Back, a long time friend of Stephen, sold Stephen Jett half of a Treasury Warrant (#13855) for land in Kentucky. Back and his family in 1789 moved to Franklin County, North Carolina which adjoined Granville County. In 1790, Stephen's family, Reuben Searcy's family and the Back's migrated to Kentucky. Some sources said that they left from the North Carolina area and moved over the mountains to Southern Virginia. From there they took a flat boat down the North Fork of the Kentucky River. They stayed at Carr's Fork for a couple of days. They came to Boonesborough, which is in Madison County. Stephen purchased some land just outside of Fort Boonesborough, and Reuben and his family lived on land inside the Fort. The Backs continued up North Fork and finally claimed land near "Round Bottom."

Asa Searcy and his family also lived in the Boonesborough region.





Death of Stephen in KY

Stephen died on his property sometime around 1793.