

## William Jeffreys – War of 1812 Soldier

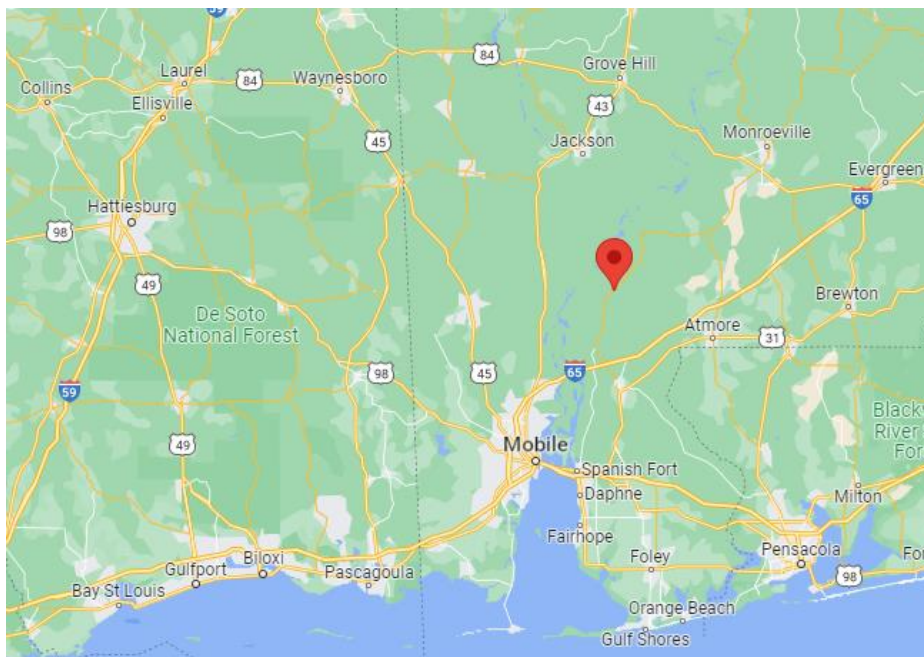
Ok, long time, no Facebook posts on Sharp/Wilson Genealogy! I have been working on our Family Tree, but sometimes you just hit a point where you are finding information, but you aren't sure how it all fits together. As I was working through the Jeffreys lineage, that's what was happening. However, as a result of this, I now have a ton of information on them – and on other Jeffreys families who do not seem to be a part of our direct lineage.

Let's start with William Jeffreys, the last family veteran I posted about on Veterans Day. William was born in Buncombe County, NC in 1796 to John Jackson Jeffreys, Sr. and Jincey (or Jensey – not sure which as I see two official documents with these two spellings) Eddings. Let's just remember what Mark Twain said about spelling – "It's a damn poor mind that can only think of one way to spell a word." We get to William from Lewis Sharp's/Mary Lillis'/Jeri Kirkland's side: Lewis/Mary/Jeri to Alma Lewis to James Houston Lewis to Marilda Caroline Jeffreys to Jacob Jeffreys to William Jeffreys.

John Jackson Jeffreys' family at sometime between 1800 and 1810 moved to White County, TN (which today is just to the east of Nashville and much smaller than when William's family moved there). There is some confusion here, as the 1800 US Federal Census shows them in Buncombe County, NC, the 1810 US Federal Census shows them in Caswell County, NC, and the 1820 US Federal Census shows them in Caswell County, NC. BUT US Federal Census documents for siblings of William (Abner, b. about 1809, Simon, b. about 1810, and Melvina, b. about 1814) all consistently say they were all born in Tennessee! I have reviewed some books in Ancestry.com's Card Catalog on early White County, Tennessee pioneer families and there are no mentions of any Jeffreys in the county. I have no idea how to resolve this.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> of 1814, when he was 18 years old, William enlisted in the Separate Battalion (Battalion 3, commanded by Major Woodfolk) of Tennessee Militia, in Captain Abner Pearce's Infantry Company. He made \$8 per day and made a total of \$53.60 for the 6 months and 12 days he served.

Captain Pearce's company was stationed at Fort Montgomery (near current day Tensaw, AL – see map to the right). He was discharged on April 10, 1815. Fort Montgomery was used as a staging area and supply point for General Andrew Jackson's attack on the British in Pensacola, FL.



At the time of the 1820 US Federal Census, it appears that William has returned to his family's home and the John Jackson Jeffreys family home is listed as being in Caswell County, NC.

William married Melinda Borden on May 26, 1820 in Morgan County, AL. Melinda's mother (Sarah Lucinda Blizzard) is said to be a full-blooded Cherokee (according to family legend as posted on [FindaGrave](#) – but then, whose family doesn't include a legend of *somebody* being a full-blooded Native American?). Lewis Sharp's DNA results does show some Native American DNA and if Sarah Lucinda Blizzard was his only source of Native American DNA, the amount of Lewis Sharp's Native American DNA would match. So it's a possibility.

William and Melinda had a slew of children: James Martin – b. 1823, Mollie – b. 1825, Elizabeth – b. 1827, Thomas Issac – b. 1830, Jacob (our ancestor) – b. 1832, Sarah Ann – b. 1834, Malinda – b. 1837, Nancy Ann – b. 1844, and Francis Marion – b. 1846. According to US Federal Census documents, the family lived in Lawrence County, AL in 1830, Walker County, AL in 1840, Marion County, AL in 1850, 1860, and 1870. According to some other documents, it appears that William and Melinda moved to Marion County in 1846. William died in 1879 and is buried in Cooper Cemetery in Marion County, AL. We have several ancestors buried in this cemetery!

Melinda lived on until her death in 1893 in Marion County, AL. I can't find Melinda in the 1880 US Federal Census and the 1890 US Federal Census documents were all burned (except for a small selection) in a fire in the National Archives. In May 1881, she applied for a Widow's Pension based on William's War of 1812 service. She was living in Pikesville, AL at the time.

And that is the end of the story for William and Melinda Jeffreys!