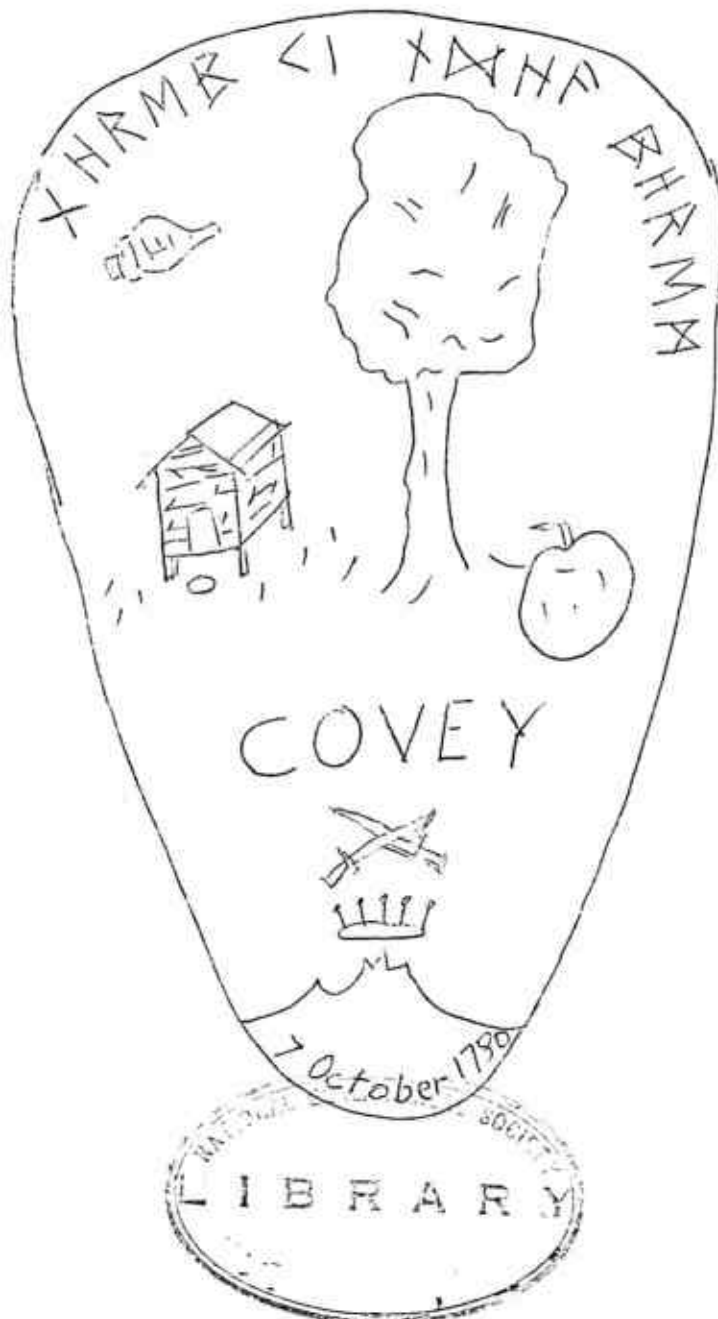


to Nettie Schreiner - Yantis,  
in admiration of an effort!

WDCG.

Some early Coveys but branches off to  
southern line with Samuel. No Lubber, Benj. Jr., or Winton.

Revised Notes on the Family of  
SAMUEL COVEY (1761-1840) and ELIZABETH  
of present Pulaski County, Virginia.



by Winton Guy Covey, Jr.  
Drawer A  
Athens, W. Va. 24712

31 July 1977

REVISED NOTES on the Family of Samuel Covey, Sr., (1761-1840) and his wife, Elizabeth Nap Covey, of Montgomery (now Pulaski) County, Virginia by Winton Guy Covey, Jr./Drawer A/Athens, W. Va. 24712

Since my "Notes on the Families Covey and Trail" of 1973, I have learned of the family of Daniel Bullard Covey, Jr., of Jackson County, W. Va.; of the family of William Covey, son of Samuel, who moved to Missouri in 1830; and of the origins of the first Samuel of Virginia. There have also been numerous additions and corrections to those first notes. For this revision, I omit the material on the Trails who are not also Coveys, which came almost entirely from cousin Anise Trail Collins of Lester, W. Va.

Acknowledgements. As in the previous (1973) version, I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Anise Trail Collins, Piney Covey Shaffer, Millard Dennis Covey (dec), Macie Covey Brooks, Charlene Nichols Canaday, and Millard Elmore Worley (dec). To this list I add: Mrs. Wm. R. Quist, Vern O. Whitman, India Covey, Paul Covey, Cyclone Covey, Mrs. John Allen Covey, Jr., Paul Edgar Lanham, Jerry Covey of Dublin, Va., and Ruth Cord. And I'm sure there are many others who contributed information and encouragement.

As before, I have aimed at being accurate and informative. But this is clearly not a scholarly work, replete with footnotes, and is subject to correction. Please send complaints, corrections, and additions to Winton Covey/Drawer A/Athens, W. Va. 24712.

I will consider the possibility of publishing a book, if new material and expressions of interest warrant it, with target date of October the 7th, 1980. That is the bicentennial of the Battle of Kings Mountain, and we may take that also as the founding date of the family of Samuel and Elizabeth. From what I've heard, such books usually cost too much per copy, and lose money for their authors or sponsors. But I am willing to consider it.

These records are very incomplete. Most of our kin moved west. I have made contact with some of the branch of William, and occasionally get information and inquiries from others in the south and west. Sometimes I think I can see how they are related, and sometimes not. I am definitely interested in them, and appreciate the information and inquiries. Ours has been a prolific kindred, and I suspect that most of the Coveys to the south and west come from Samuel and Elizabeth.

I have definitely established that our Samuel Covey the First is the younger brother of Walter Covey (1750-1834), whose family has been reported in the two excellent volumes by his descendant, Mary Lancaster Quist. ("The Ancestors and Descendants of Walter Covey (1750-1834) of Dutchess County, New York." 2 volumes for \$35, postpaid. Make checks out to Mrs. William R. Quist. Address: 4912 Lori Ann Lane/Irvine City, California 92714.) Therefore, we can use Mrs. Quist's information for the ancestors of Samuel Covey. Samuel was the son of double first cousins, and had only four great-grandparents, instead of the usual eight. These were Hope and Mary \_\_\_\_\_ Covey and George and Jane Hulet Lanphere, who were Seventh-Day Baptists of Westerly, Rhode Island.

James Covey married Sarah Lanphere on 21 March 1708, and Theodosius Lanphere married Rachel Covey on 22 January 1708. In the next generation, James Covey (born 24 June 1715) married on 21 January 1739 his double first cousin, Mary Lanphere (born 14 December 1721). Their son Samuel was born before September in 1761, in Dutchess County, N. Y. (now Kent Township of Putnam County).

Samuel's Revolutionary War pension papers are attached. He was a Minuteman from the time he turned 16, in 1777, until he moved to Virginia in 1780. As a Minuteman, Sam was called up twice, once to serve in the militia base at Peekskill, and once to pursue Indians for some 50 miles to the west of the Hudson River. He was in no major battle either time. In 1780, Sam and his bride, Elizabeth Nap, moved to the southwest part of present-day Virginia, then all a part of Washington County. He immediately signed on as a substitute for a man drafted to go south. This expedition culminated in the great victory at Kings Mountain on 7 October 1780, in which Capt. William Edmundson, commander of Sam's company, was among those killed. In that army of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, Samuel Covey must have been one of very few who were English and Baptist. Shortly after his return to Virginia, Samuel volunteered for an expedition against the Cherokees.

The known ancestral family names of Samuel Covey are, besides Covey, only Lanphere and Hulet. These are all rare names, and there is something to be learned by looking at the surviving census records of 1790. These were partly destroyed when the British burned Washington in the War of 1812, so that we lack records from the present states of New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. Surviving state census records for Virginia fill the gap for about half the settled counties of Virginia and West Virginia, but are missing for Montgomery and Washington Counties in the southwest. For Montgomery County, there is a published list of taxpayers about 1790 which is a good substitute. ("Montgomery County, Virginia -- circa 1790" is available for \$7.50 hardbound, \$5.00 softbound from :  
Netti Schreiner-Yantis/6818 Lois Drive/Springfield, Va. 22150. It has an excellent map of Montgomery Co., which then included all or most of the present Virginia counties Montgomery, Pulaski, Floyd, Carroll, Grayson, Wythe, Tazewell, Bland, and Giles, and of the West Virginia counties Mercer, McDowell, Wyoming, and Raleigh.)\*\*\* (A very readable colonial history of "Covey Country" in Virginia is Conway Smith's "Colonial Days in the Land that Became Pulaski County". This is \$3.75 postpaid from Pulaski County Library/60 third St. NW/Pulaski, Va24301.)

So to consider where families of Covey, Lanphere, and Hulet lived in 1790. Rhode Island had no Covey (but plenty of Corey) or Hulet families. But Westerly, in the SW corner of the state, still had eight families of Lamphere: Abraham, Champlin, Daniel, Daniel, Jr., Elias, Nathan, and Nathan, Jr. The state also had families of Ebenezer and Pardon Lamphere, Elizabeth Lamphier, and Ebenezer and Joshua Lamphere.

Connecticut had neighboring families of Hulet, Lamphere, and Hovey but not Covey in Windham Co. Hulet families were those of Allim, David, Mehitabel, Nehemiah, and Oliver. Lamphere families for the entire state were Benjamin, Elizah, Elisha, George, Jedeh., John,

\*and David.

another John, Roswell, Ruth, Shebael, and James. The Coveys of Conn. were Mr. & Mrs. Kinyon Covey in New London Co., and five families in Hartford Co.: David, Elijah, Elisha, Jared, and Silus. The last four were close neighbors.

Massachusetts had only the family of Benjamin Covey, in westmost Berkshire Co., Mount Washington Township. But Hovey families were very numerous. Different townships in Berkshire had six Hulet families: Asa, John, Josiah, Samuel, Seth, and Sylvanus. They had no Lamphere.

The "flavor" of men's names for these Covey, Hulet, and Lamphere is the same, and it is not "what you would find then in any family anywhere". We will find it, however, for families of Nap, Napp, Knap, and Knapp. Rhode Island had Nehemiah Knap and David, Elijah, and Jonathan Knapp. Connecticut had Daniel, David, another David, Jonathan, and Rebecca Napp.; many Knap, including Abraham and Moses; and Knapp, including Caleb and Moses.

But on to Fredericktown, Dutchess Co., New York, and paydirt. In 1790, we find the names of the militia colonel and the two captains that Samuel Covey said he served under: Henry Ludenton, Comfort Ludenton, and John Mead. The families of Joseph and Walter Covey are near each other. (The listing is door-to-door, not having been put into alphabetical order.) Not far away is a cluster of four families of Knap: Israel, Moses Jr., William, and Benjamin the 2nd. But even closer is the one I have recognized as Grandfather: Joseph Knap, with 4 boys under 16, and 4 females numbered in the household. Samuel and Elizabeth Nap Covey named their first son Joseph, probably Joseph Nap Covey, and the name Nap survives as a boy's name among descendants of that Joseph Covey.

DIGRESSION ON FAMILY NAMES. Before calling the roll of all known Covey families of 1790, I need to get something straight. I have taken Nap, Napp, Knap, and Knapp as "the same name", but I do not consider Covey, Corey, and Hovey, or any two of them, to be the same name. Other near-Covey names, some much more common than Covey, include Bovee, Govey, Cove, Curry, Coffee, Cavey, Calfe, Cuffy, McCovey, McGuffy, and more, so that I come across more "near-Coveys" than true Coveys by far. I have come across only two "wrong" spellings of our Covey name: Covy and Covvy. The "wrong" sounding: COVE-ee, is sometimes met with, and used in some families that I am sure are related to us on this side of the water. I suspect that Cavey, found in Maryland, pronounced CAVE-ee, may also be related. But, beyond these, I feel sure that no other name has ever changed to Covey, pronounced as in "a bunch of birds", and Covey has never changed into any other name, during the past 300 years.

But where and when did someone first decide that he wanted "a bunch of birds" for his family name? There are just two possibilities. A speaker of English, having no family name, or wanting a new one, chose "Covey". Or some other name became Covey. My guess is that Covey has no ancient lineage in England. Some name similar to Covey was brought in from Belgium or Holland, where such names are still to be found. The name had to be reshaped into English sounds, so it took the sound and spelling of the English word "covey" at least once. The name Covey was never common in any part of England, and was borne by no historic notables. It was carried to Ireland and America, and seems to have disappeared from England. (Mrs. Quist hopes to come up with facts on this, to replace my - or your - guesses.)

"Knapp" and "Hulet" are easier. Knapp means hilltop, and is as understandable a family name as the much more common "Hill". It is also a German name. Hulet and Hewlett come from the given name Hugh or Hugo. Both Knapp and Hulet are names of Englishmen in England recorded in the Dictionary of National Biography from the colonial period.

"Lamphere" is more of a puzzle. The Dictionary of National Biography records an early "Lamphire". Is this from Lamp-fire? Land-fear? Lamb-fur? It's a strange name. But still around in the U. S., and presumably in England, too. We Coveys are double-Lamphere and double-Hulet, as well as double-Covey.

The Covey families listed in the surviving Census records of 1790 are tabulated below. The numbers are for white people in the household, in three groups: men 16 and over, boys under 16, and all females. None owned slaves, but John Covey of Maryland had 4 free non-whites in the household.

Maine	David Covy	1 1 2	Lincoln Co., Cushing Town
Mass.	Benjamin	2 4 3	Berkshire Co., Mount Washington Town
Vermont	Nathan	2 2 2	Andover Co., Bristol Town
	Samuel	3 2 3	Chittenden Co., Alburgh Town
Conn.	David	1 3 2	Hartford County
	Elijah	1 0 1	Hartford Co.
	Elisha	1 1 3	Hartford Co.
	Jared	1 2 4	Hartford Co.
	Silus	1 0 1	Hartford Co.
	Kinyon	1 0 1	New London Co.
New York	Samuel	1 2 3	Clinton Co., Champlain Town
	Walter	3 3 5	Dutchess Co., Frederickstown
	Joseph	1 0 1	Dutchess Co., Frederickstown
	Hope	1 1 2	Albany Co., Cambridge Town
	James	2 2 2	Albany Co., Cambridge Town
	Willm	1 0 4	Albany Co., Cambridge Town
	John	1 3 4	Albany Co., Hoosick Town
Maryland	John	4 4 4 4 0	Caroline Co.
	Allen	1 1 2	Talbot Co.
	Henry	1 0 4	Talbot Co.
N. Car.	John Sr.	3 1 4	Lincoln Co., Fourth Company
	John	2 0 5	Lincoln Co., Fourth Company
	George	1 1 3	Guilford Co.
	William	2 4 5	Guilford Co.
	Noble	1 2 4	Rowan Co.
S. Car.	William	1 0 3	Cheraw District
	John Covy	1 2 2	York County

Only New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania are known to have been without Coveys in 1790. There are no Coveys listed in the half of Virginia for which records survive. On page 5 is given a Covey locator map, showing, among other things, all locations of families in 1790, according to the surviving Census records.

# Samuel Covey Family History

Locations of important places, mostly  
1688-1790.

WJCG  
1977

## Legend.

C - home of one Covey family or more,  
Census of 1790.

Wash. - Washington Co., Va., in 1780

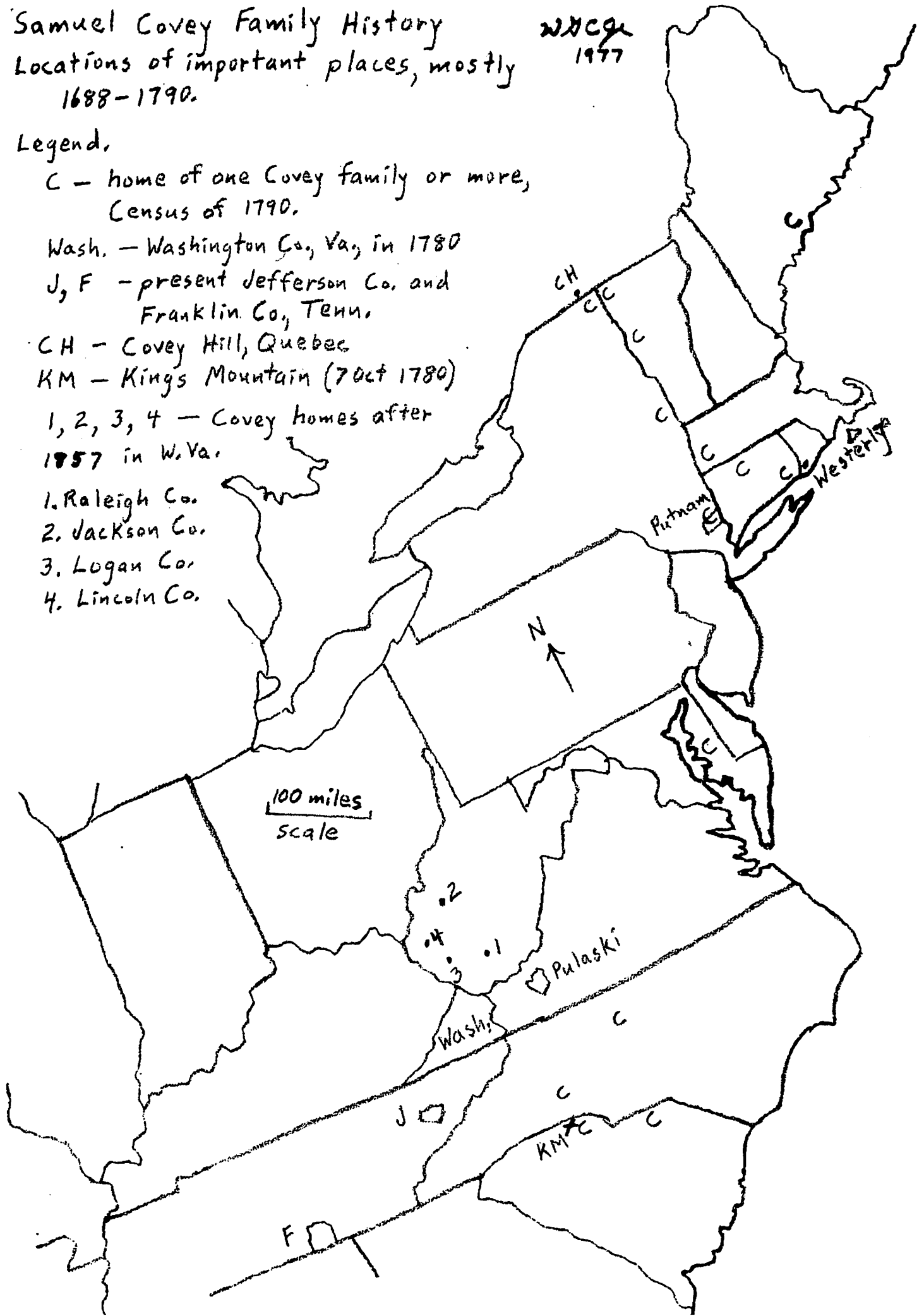
J, F - present Jefferson Co. and  
Franklin Co., Tenn.

CH - Covey Hill, Quebec

KM - Kings Mountain (7 Oct 1780)

1, 2, 3, 4 - Covey homes after  
1857 in W. Va.

1. Raleigh Co.
2. Jackson Co.
3. Logan Co.
4. Lincoln Co.



Some of these Covey lines have left traces on the maps and history books. Covey Hill is a New York-Quebec port-of-entry, and the hill itself is the northern end of the high ground sloping down from the Adirondacks to the St. Lawrence lowland. In 1969, my family and I read mailboxes and tombstones on the Canadian side, but found no Covey. There is a Coveytown Corners in the next (Franklin) county to the west in New York. And there is a Coveyville not far from Albany, that gave its name to a type of soil, in the soil survey of New York.

The Maryland line eventually gave us Mr. Edward Covey, the "hero" of Chapter 15 of Frederick Douglass's autobiography, which has the title: Mr. Covey -- the Slave Breaker.

Mrs. Quist has given us two volumes on the descendants of Walter Covey of Dutchess County. Noble Covey of Rowan Co., N. Car., moved to Lee Co., Va., near Cumberland Gap, and is reported in the censuses as Covy. His son Luke also raised his family in Lee County.

Our Samuel Covey is not yet accounted for in 1790. He was not on the tax lists in Montgomery Co., where seven of his children would wed during 1797-1811. Presumably, he was further west in Virginia, where he had originally settled in 1780, or even in eastern Tennessee.

The seven Coveys, known or presumed to be children of Samuel and Elizabeth, who married in Montgomery County, are:

- 17 Jan 1797 Rachel m Gilgert Bates
- 13 Jan 1802 Joseph m Rosanah Barringer (28 Mar 1785-7 Dec 1875)
- 19 Nov 1804 Samuel m Mary Magdalene Sperry, daughter of Thomas Alvah
- 4 Feb 1806 John m Sarah Cook, dau of John
- 4 Oct 1810 James m Sally Kelsey, dau of Thomas
- 24 Jul 1811 Elizabeth m Eliphalet Kelsey
- 11 Dec 1811 William m Susanah Godby, dau of William.

For estimates of years of birth, I take 20 for marrying age for sons of Samuel and Elizabeth, and 16 for the daughters. But, from other evidence, I conclude that daughter Elizabeth did not wed until the age of 18. Thus, for years of birth, I have:

Rachel	1781
Joseph	1782
Samuel	1784
John	1786
James	1790
William	1791
Elizabeth	1793 (m at 18).

But, assuming that all the youngsters in the household in 1810 are children of Sam and Elizabeth, and their ages right, then daughter Elizabeth was born before 1795, and there were three other children:

Girl-3 or Boy-6	born about 1796
Boy-6 or Girl-3	1799
Boy-7	1801.

And no more, because Grandma Elizabeth was at least 45 in 1810, with only one child under ten years. Presumably, the two youngest boys, and perhaps the youngest girl, were still at home when Sam and Elizabeth moved to Tennessee about 1815. The new family of Eliphalet and Elizabeth Covey Kelsey probably moved with them. Eliphalet Kelsey was a neighbor of Samuel Covey in Jefferson Co., Tenn., and a character reference for his pension application in 1832.

Of the known families married into in the second generation, I know something of the origins of only two. Thomas Kelsey (12 Mar 1734-30 Apr 1835) was from Ulster Co., N. Y., west of the Hudson River from Dutchess Co. He was a soldier in the Revolution, and settled in Montgomery Co. in the 1780's. He was still there in September, 1832, when he applied for his pension.

My request for a Revolutionary War record of Thomas Alvah Sperry drew a blank. The Sperrys were early and numerous in the lower Shenandoah Valley. They were German. Thomas Sperry was on Stroubles Creek, present Montgomery County, by 1786. It should be possible to trace them back, since we know where to look. Montgomery Co. about 1790 also had: Isaac Bates, Gasper and Philip Bariger (maybe not the same as Barringer), John Cook, and William Godby.

Of the family of Samuel and Elizabeth, all except perhaps Rachel and her husband Gilbert Bates are recorded in the Montgomery Co. Census of 1810. Among the households are:

	m0-10	16	24	45	45+/f10	16	24	45	45+	free col	slaves
Samuel Covey Sr	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Samuel Covey Jr	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Joseph Covey	2	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	1	0	0
Thomas Sperry	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
John Cook	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	8
William Godby	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	10
Thomas Kelsey	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0
Adam Baringer	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0.

Gilbert and Rachel Bates Covey have disappeared from the scene. Apparently, Joseph, John, James, and their families all moved to Franklin Co., Tenn., near Sewanee, about 1814. My information on the family of Joseph, the eldest son, has recently increased immensely. Ruth Cord of Radford, Va., has shown me the letters she received from the late John Nap Covey II of Bolivar, Missouri, during the years 57-59.

JOSEPH COVEY (1782-1814) married Rosanah Barringer -- a blue-eyed blonde who spoke better German than English. Apparently, she was the daughter of Adam Barringer, and they came from Maryland to Montgomery County. She brought an inheritance for tough and for tall into that Covey line. They had four daughters:

- Nancy m Jack Adkins
- Elizabeth m James Reagor
- Polly m John Kerby
- Katherine m \_\_\_\_\_ Walsh.

Then they had a son, and called him

Welcome Boy Covey (m Martha Proby. died 24 June 1880.

(The Census report of 1810 seems to list Mr. and Mrs. John Covey and their children in the household of Joseph.)

In 1814, Joseph Covey moved to Mannsford, Franklin Co., Tenn., apparently following his brothers John and James. He was seeking a healthful climate, but died in December. Two months later, his last child was born:

John Nap Covey I (20 Feb 1815 - 3 June 1897), m Martha Farrar on 1 June 1837.



Simon Jonah (26 Nov 67 - 4 Dec 1947) m Ada Baldrige  
Martha Jane b 1868, D Oklahoma  
Jacob B. (5 Mar 71 - 11 Jan 1887), Texas  
John Allen (2 Feb 73 - 29 July 1947) Texas  
Joseph E. b 1 Feb 1875, d Oklahoma  
Lucy Ann b 1879, d Oklahoma.

Joshua and his wife are buried in Collins Co., Texas.

Simon Jonah Covey and Ada Baldrige raised their large family at Morgan, Texas. Children were:

Eunice, of Graham  
Fidge (Fort Worth)  
Hershel (Fort Worth)  
Ester (Fort Worth)  
Irwin  
Martha (Houston)  
Homer  
Bob  
Bertha Ruby

Cyclone Davis Covey, Sr. b 18 May 1894. Named after James Harvey Davis, called Cyclone (1853-1940), a lawyer and politician of Texas. Cyclone Davis was one of the organizers of the Populist Party in Texas, and was its candidate for attorney general in 1892. He was elected to Congress for one term as a Democrat, 1915-17.

Cyclone Davis Covey, Sr., a master of trucks (90th Division, WW I) took his skill to the developing oil fields, and became also a master of the oil industry. He married Lola Best (b Beeville, Texas), and they made their home at Bristow, Oklahoma. Mrs. Covey was, before retirement, a history professor. Their children are three:

Cyclone Jr b 21 May 1922, is professor of history at Wake Forest. He married Bonnie Mae Bagby Hansen of Fresno, and they have five children:

Christopher Cyclone b Stillwater, Okla. 20 Sep 50 m Janet Little  
Mark Nicholas b E. St. Louis 27 Dec 51  
Julie Kristiana b Boston 8 Feb 54  
Jonathan Baldrige b 23 Jun 57  
Timothy Nathaniel b 12 Nov 62.

George James b 14 Aug 23 m Juanda \_\_\_\_\_. Children:

Tony m Cheryl \_\_\_\_\_, have son Jeffrey

Carolyn m Jon Matthews, have son Brandon Douglas b Feb 1975.

Edward Mood b 7 Oct 29 m Lu \_\_\_\_\_. They have a son Brent.

John Allen Covey, son of Joshua H., married Mary Susan Mayfield, daughter of Jacob, in 1902 at Whitesboro, Texas. They had children: Jacob Ben (b 1904), Hazel (1906-09), Michael Robert (1911-65), Jack Patrick (1913-17), John Allen Jr (b 18 Apr 1917), Lucy Ellen (b 1919), and Joseph Edwin (b 1921).

John Allen Covey Jr of Sherman, Texas, married on 24 May 1948 Elizabeth Jean Shade, daughter of Raymond, of Philadelphia, Pa. They have three children: Patricia Jean (b 23 July 49), John Patrick (b 11 Aug 53), and Susan Elizabeth (b 28 Aug 54).

And that about exhausts my knowledge of the families of Samuel's children who moved west. Clearly, I still have much to learn about them.