

**THE CATHEY'S
FROM SCOTLAND TO CALIFORNIA
1685-1999
by Betty J. McRee**

The Origins of the Cathey Family

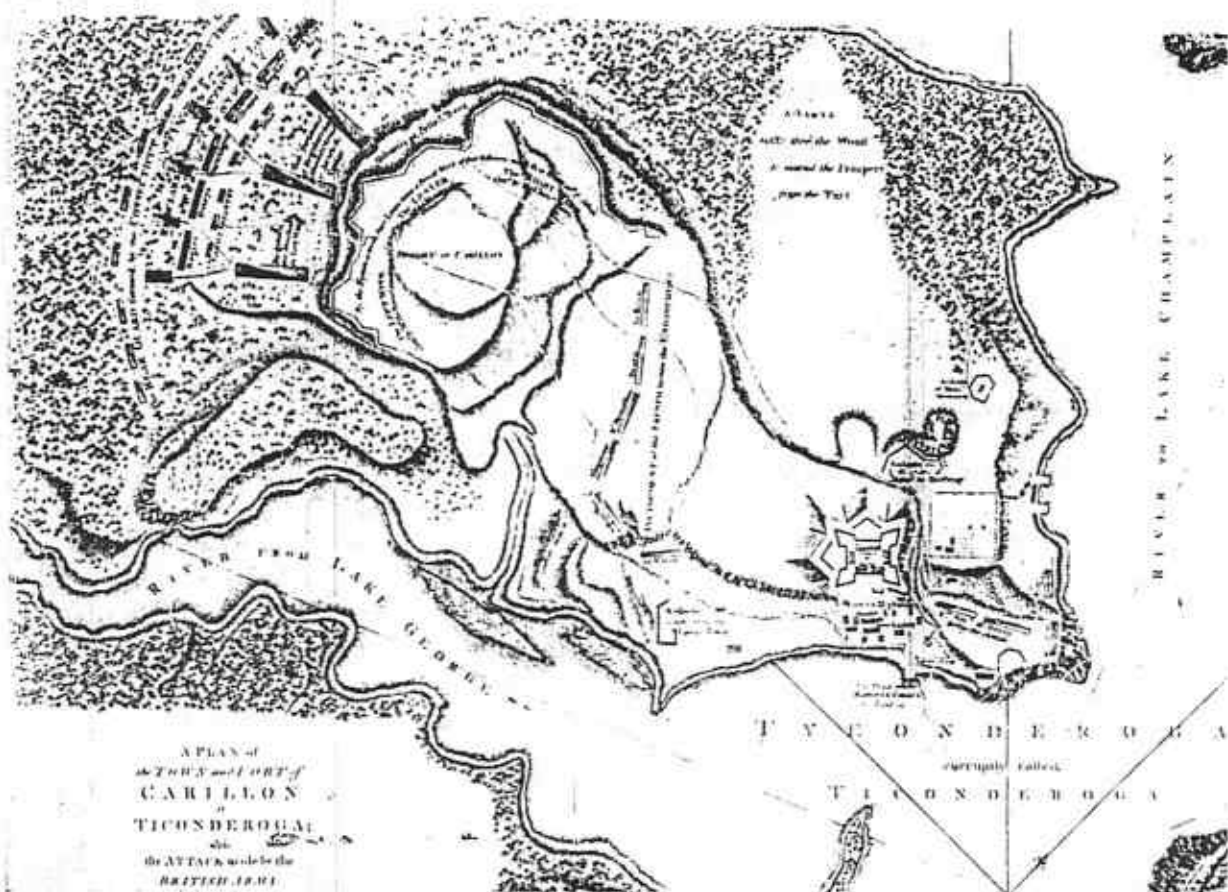
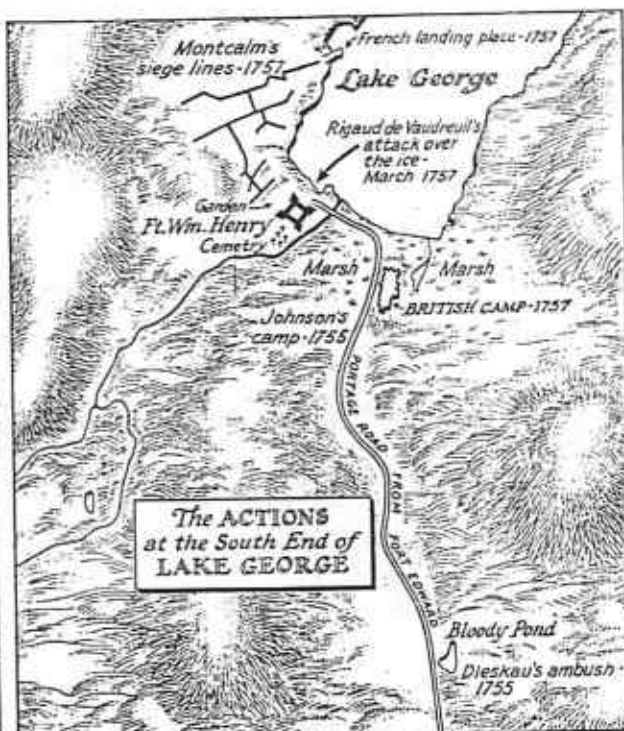
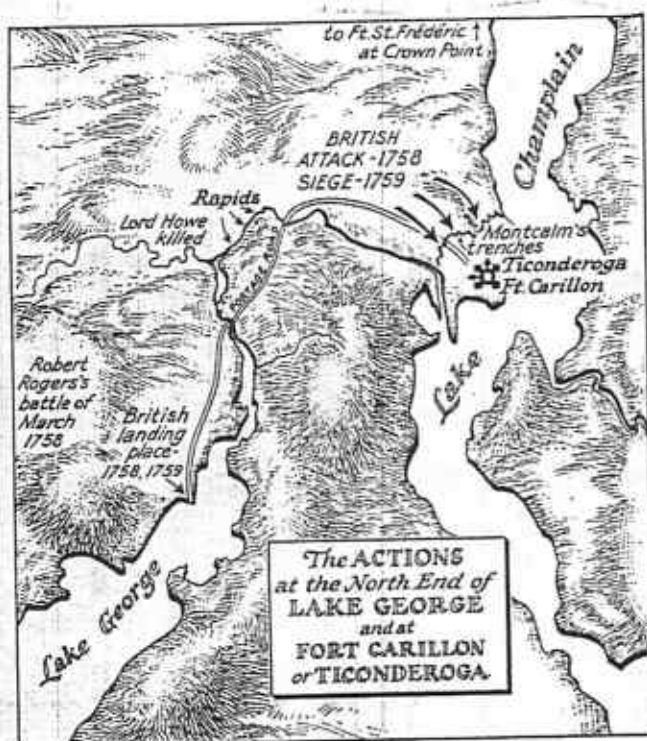
James Cathey, Ulster (Northern Ireland), b. 1865; Andrew, Ulster (Northern Ireland), b. 1714; William, Augusta (Virginia), b. 1741; Daniel, Buncomb (North Carolina), b. 1776; Andrew D. , Buncomb (North Carolina), b. 1804; William P. , (Georgia), b. 1837; Mark, (California), b. 1889.

Origins of the Family Name

The derivation of the Cathey family name is believed to be from the Clan Macfie (Scotland). The Gaelic spelling is "MacDubhSithe" meaning 'Son of the Dark Fairy or Elf'. The ancestral home of the *Macfies* was on the Island of Colonsay, off the coast of Scotland. They were descendants of "low land Scots." In a rebellion against King Malcomb of Scotland in 1615, the Chief of the Clan was killed. He was murdered at the Standing Stone. The lordship of the Isles changed in the fifteenth century. The name "Macfie" was changed into many different spellings over the years. Our family kept the Anglo spelling of "Cathey".

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Macfie Standing Stone.

The stone was dedicated to all Macfies and their descendants wherever in the world they may live and whatever the spelling of the name they may use.

It is believed many of the Catheys emigrated to Monaghan County, Ulster, Northern Ireland, perhaps as early as 1611-1618. The Catheys lived there approximately ninety to one hundred years before immigrating to America. The earliest known "Cathey" descendant in America was James Cathey, born in Ulster, Northern Ireland, in 1685. He was a millwright. At the age of thirty-three, in 1708, he married a woman known only as "Ann". James' records show that he purchased land in Cecil, Maryland, in 1718 and remained there until 1724.

In a peace agreement with the Indians, James Cathey was issued 200 acres of land that were recorded in the Samuel Blunston Register under Thomas Penn in 1732. It did not take long for the Catheys to learn Virginia and North Carolina were where they

wanted to settle--there was better and cheaper land. They moved their belongings by wagon and oxen over the Great Wagon Road to the great valley of Virginia, along the Shenandoah River near Staunton, where they lived between 1730-1743. James was deeded 1,350 acres by King George II for the sum of "sixteen pounds, 15 shillings. (See copy of the original land grant, Fig. 1).

After leaving Augusta County, West Virginia, a road crosses the Yadkin River leading to the Irish Settlement near Mills Bridge, Salisbury, North Carolina. By 1760, Salisbury had been settled. James Cathey's deed shows the Cathey household in Anson County colony of North Carolina. It was known as the "Cathey Settlement," an Irish enclave of fourteen families, ten miles west of Salisbury. The Catheys were the first English-speaking settlement. Here in the Cathey Settlement, James was granted 3,752 acres. Soon thereafter, he became ill, and left one-half of his plantation to his wife, Ann, and one-half to a nephew, John Branden. Records show that later his two grandsons were deeded the original mill site. James knew how important it was for the people of the wilderness to be able to mill and grind their own grain.

The History of Catheys Valley, California

(A Fifth Generation of James Cathey)

Andrew D. Cathey Settles Town

Cathey's Valley was named after Andrew D. Cathey, born in 1804 in Buncombe, North Carolina. He married Mary Deaver in 1828. Andrew was an adventurous young man in his early life. He decided to leave North Carolina on an exploratory trip to California with the Rowland-Hammond-Wills families from Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia. Their wagons loaded with household goods, they blazed a trail southward finally settling in Benton, Arkansas.

When the Gold Rush began in 1849, many men left their families in search of gold. Andrew, his son, Daniel, and son-in-law, Benjamin Wills, traveled by river boat

from Fort Smith, Arkansas to New Orleans and then took a ship to the Isthmus of Panama. In Panama, they boarded another ship bound for San Francisco; from there they caught a stage overland to Indian Gulch, Mariposa County, California.

In 1851, Andrew returned to Arkansas for his family. The Cathey-Hammond-Wills families organized a wagon train to California. Among the families were those who had come from North Carolina earlier, leaving the Hammonds to start from Collegeville, Arkansas.

Andrew Cathey was appointed Captain of the Cathey-Wills wagon train. Twenty families traveled in covered wagons pulled by oxen. Horses were used to drive the thirty head of cattle. It is said that only one steer was lost on the entire trip, and it was believed stolen by the Indians although the Cathey's never encountered any hostility by the Indians.

A trip journal shows that they traveled to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where they re-grouped and purchased supplies for the trip that began on April 2nd. They traveled the southern route through Ft. Bliss near El Paso, Fort Tucson, Arizona, then began following the Gila River, an alternative to the Santa Fe Trail. As the wagon train moved across the land, more people joined them. Special duties were assigned to everyone. When they reached the Rio Grande, the wagon beds had to be taken apart and all bolt holes were tightly plugged with wooded pegs. The cracks were caulked with what they had available. Together, they formed a ferry-like vessel to transport their families, their livestock, and household goods across the river. The Geary's, who had started out with the Oatman family, but had turned back, now joined Captain Cathey's wagon train. The Oatman's had been warned the Indians were on the war path. When the Cathey wagon train came upon the aftermath of the Oatman Wagon Train, Mrs. Geary recognized Mrs. Oatman's clothing; seeing the burned wagons, she was overcome with grief.

The wagon party took only a very few days off to wash clothes and rest the oxen. It is said many of the women walked barefoot. One serious threat was when their water

barrels began to get low, an order was given: no more water. People and animals were rationed only one or two swallows when it was really needed. It had been days since they crossed a stream, and mountains were still some distance away. After they had almost given up hope of finding water, one of the teamsmen suddenly noticed his oxen raised their heads and sniffed the air. In good judgment, the teamsman gave the oxen their reign. They immediately left the trail, and on top of a knoll, under a large rock, was a basin full of fresh water!

After leaving Ft. Yuma, a Mrs. Warner, who had just buried a child enroute in New Mexico, gave birth to another child. The family continued on to El Monte, in southern California. The Wills family broke away from the wagon train. The remaining wagon party traveled over the Tejon Pass, across the San Joaquin Valley to just below Millerton (then the County Seat of Fresno) where they crossed over the San Joaquin River. They proceeded north, traveling over Mariposa Creek and McDermott Tunnel, up Bear Creek, and on to Indian Gulch where they arrived on October 27, 1852. It was a long, arduous journey of living in tents and wagons for two years and enduring countless hardships. They sold milk from their herd to the miners.

Cathey's Valley Named After Andrew Cathey

In 1854, Andrew D. Cathey purchased a ranch from a Mr. Evans. Evans drove a hard bargain and Andrew finally agreed to pay him \$500 for a quit-claim. This became Andrew and his wife Mary's first, new, real home. Her sons lived at home for about ten years before they all became larger, independent landowners. Cathey's Valley now bears his name.

Andrew Cathey soon became very involved in civic and political activities. He enjoyed exhibiting his abundant produce in the Merced Fair. A few of his trees are still standing, although very sparse after nearly 150 years.

Andrew and his wife, Mary, very devout Christians, helped build a church, school and cemetery on land they donated.

The Little Town of Cathey's Valley Once Named "Valecito"

Catheys Valley is a small, closely knit community of people located 10 miles from Mariposa on Highway 140. The town consists of a post office, grocery stores, a gas station that also sells fast food, a real estate and insurance plaza, and state and local volunteer fire stations. The Catheys Valley Park consists of a Community Hall, and large picnic and baseball grounds. Service organizations are 4-H, Scouts and horse riding groups.

Presently the little one-room 1879 schoolhouse is being restored by the Catheys Valley Historical Society. Mrs. Korn, society president, once wrote, that it was a place where ladies came in print dresses and the men came in muddy cowboy boots to vote on Election Day. Also, a place where children put on plays at Christmas times and gave recitations, and pie suppers were held to raise money.

Each Christmas, a lighted Christmas tree graces the front yard of the schoolhouse. Colorful red, green and blue lights burn brightly on a dark night. The children gather around and sing Christmas carols before going Christmas caroling for the shut-ins. It is on these occasions I think of the contrast of nearly one hundred and fifty years ago when Andrew, Mary, and their family first arrived in an oxen-pulled covered wagon.

On the following two pages is a copy of the original land grant that James Cathey received from King George II for his land in Virginia. I have not included the property description, just the land grant.

James Cathey *Stout* the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France
 and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. To all to
 whom these Presents shall come greeting I know ye
 that for divers good Causes and Considerations but more
 especially for and in Consideration of the Sum of Six
 Pounds Fifteen Shillings of good and lawful
 Money for our Use paid to our Receiver General of our
 Revenues in this our Colony and Dominion of Virginia
 We have Given Granted and Confirmed and by these
 Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Give Grant and
 Confirm unto James Cathey or certain Tract or Parcel
 of Land containing thirteen hundred and fifty Acres
 lying and being in the County of Orange on the West
 Side the Blue Ridge on the said River and bounded
 as followeth to wit / *Beginning* at a Red Oak
 Corner to John Givings on the South Side the said River
 & runneth with the said Givings Lines South twenty five
 Degrees East two hundred and twenty four Poles to a Red Oak
 Thence East forty six Poles to a Red Oak Thence South twenty
 five Degrees East one hundred and fifty eight Poles to a
 White Oak Thence South twenty five Degrees West leaving the
 said Givings Line two hundred and fifty four Poles to a
 White Oak and two Pines Thence South sixty five Degrees
 West two hundred Poles to two White Oaks and a Pine thence
 North twenty five Degrees West three hundred and ten
 Poles to two White Oaks Thence North sixteen Degrees
 West two hundred and seventy four Poles to a Corner stone
 as divides John Her & the said Catheys Land on the River
 thence down the same Co. Cross the same fifty six Poles
 Thence North East one hundred and nineteen Poles to

Heirs or Assigns do not within the Space of three Years
 next coming after the Date of these Presents Cultivate
 and Improve three Acres part of every fifty of the Tract
 above mentioned Then the Estate hereby Granted shall
 cease and be utterly Determined and hereafter it shall
 and may be Lawful to and for us our Heirs and
 Successors to Grant the same Lands and Premises
 with the Appurtenances unto such other Person or Persons
 as we our Heirs and Successors shall think fit In Witness
 whereof we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made
 Attest Our Trusty & Wellbeloved William Gooch Esq. our
 Lieut. Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Colony
 & Dominion at Williamsburgh Under the Seal of our said
 Colony the Thirtieth Day of August One thousand seven
 hundred and forty three In the Seventeenth Year of our
 Reign

1763

William Gooch

300 Acres
 27
 George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France
 and Ireland King Defender of the Faith To all to whom
 these Presents shall come Greeting Know ye that for divers good
 Causes and Considerations but more especially for and in a
 Consideration of the Sum of Fifty Shillings of good and
 Lawful Money for us paid to our Receiver General of our

ORANGE COUNTY CALLED
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YOU CAN TELL A DUTCHMAN

by Aileen Bos

There is a saying..."You can tell a Dutchman, but you cannot tell him much."

Not so... As a natural born Oklahomian, converted Californian, joining my husband Gene in his search for his Dutch ancestors from the Netherlands...I must tell you they are a fine group of people. Hospitable, friendly, hard working, and so very proud of their cultural background. Myself, having English, Scotch, German and Irish, plus Kickapoo Indian in my blood line...it is even more interesting for me to pursue a pure line of Dutch ancestry.

Gene often talked of his family life as he was growing up. Born in the Hollywood Hospital in Los Angeles, and living in the Watts area...in 1926. A quiet neighborhood near the beaches. Gene's father was a United States Postal Carrier in the Los Angeles area. His grandfather had moved the family from Zeeland, Michigan, to California, settling in Los Angeles, due to his health problem with tuberculosis.

Gene's father never spoke of his growing up in Zeeland, or about the immigration of his Dutch ancestors. He was a postman, walking miles delivering mail every day. So when he came home, he sat in his chair reading the paper and smoking his pipe. Rules in his house were strict, and quiet time at meals a necessity...a reverse to my growing up days. At our family dinner table, my father loved telling us stories about his life.

Regretfully, I never knew John Bos (Gene's Dad), for he died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of sixty-eight. Gene remembers he read a lot, especially Popular Mechanics and Popular Science magazines, but never showing much interest in using tools, or making household repairs. Also, we have learned since our research began about seven years ago, that John played the organ in the second Reformed Dutch Church in Zeeland, and he belonged to a musical group in that area, playing the mandolin. Gene

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Cathey
Family

Lands Granted to the Cathey Family

Things found among the miscellaneous collections at the Broad River Genealogical Society Library/Archives.

Following is a list of land grants granted to the Cathey family in North Carolina. The grants were at one time located in the Office of the Secretary of State in Raleigh where a researcher could actually hold the grant and copy it. Today all the land grants have been transferred to the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, they have been microfilmed and removed from public view, occasionally you may request to see an actual document and they will pull it for you, but for the most part they encourage you to browse through the microfilm.

Within these land grants you will find the acreage, the surveyors warrant, the surveyors plat, the names of the interested parties, the names of the chair bearers, etc., which is most interesting. The date of the grand recording is not necessarily the initial date that the person took possession of the land. Due to various circumstances, the person may have lived on the land several years prior to perfecting title. Or he may never have lived on the land indicated, but was simply involved in land speculation. An example of this would be Alexander Cathey's 302-acre grant dated 3-28-1755, "on the south side of Pacolet River on branch of Clarks Mill Creek, called the Jumping Run, and including the fair forest path." Undoubtedly this was Alexander of Rowan County and there is no suggestion that he ever lived in the area of South Carolina where the land was located, nor is the land mentioned in his will that was dated 1766.

In North Carolina we have the Lord Granville Grants. In 1744 one-eighth of Carolina was by deed set off for Lord Granville (John Carteret), the only one of the original eight Lord Proprietors of Carolina who did not sell his share to the Crown in 1728. Granville's lands stretched from Virginia on the north, through the old town of Bath, along the southern borders of Chatham, Randolph, Davidson and Rowan counties, below the southern border of Catawba County (but not as far down as Lincoln County) and so on westward to the Mississippi River. His grants were declared void, caused by dissatisfaction, but not before his agents had sold off quite a bit of the territory to individuals for a small initial consideration and an annual rent. Those who had innocently purchased the land were protected in their titles after the reversion of Granville's title to the Crown. As for the significance of the date 25 March 1752, see Ramsey's book *Carolina Cradle*, pp. 63 – 64.

When viewing this list of land grants for the Cathey family, keep in mind that these may not be the same Georges, Johns and Williams that may be included in your family tree. Many Cathey's all had the same given names and distinguishing between them takes patience and a good timeline. We have placed these deeds in date order for easier access that allows you to see the earliest settler in the area.

*Deed Between William Camp and
Abishai Camp*

*Rutherford County Deed book
20 - 21 - 76 - 78*

April 27th 1803 No. 4

State of North Carolina

Know all men by these presents that I William Camp of York district So Carolina for and in consideration of the sum Fifty Dollars to me paid by Abishai Camp have granted bargained Sold and released and do by these presents grant Bargain sell and release unto the sd Abishai Camp a certain tract or plantation of land Situate in the County of Rutherford & State aforesaid on both sides of little broad River Beginning at a small White oak on beaty's cove running South twenty one East one Hundred and Eighty poles with sd line to a hickory on the bank of the river thence crossing the river South forty West sixty nine poles to a stake thence North Ten East forty nine poles crossing sd river to a stake thence North thirty five West two hundred and sixty eight poles up the Meanders of a branch known by the name of the flat rock branch north five west one hundred and twenty poles with sd branch thence to the beginning containing sixty five acres it being a part of a tract Containing two hundred acres Granted to Joseph Logan Also another track adjoining to the former beginning at a hickory on the west bank of the river in or near William Graham line thence South sixty four poles crossing the river to a Stake thence West one Hundred and twenty seven poles to a stake thence North sixty four poles crossing the river to a stake thence to the Beginning Containing fifty acres more or less together with all and Singular the right and members hereditaments & appurtenances unto the sd premises belonging or in any wise Incident or appertaining to have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned premises unto the sd Abishai Camp his heirs and assigns against myself My Heirs and against all other person or persons Whomsoever Claiming or to Claim the same or any part thereof Witnesses my hand and Seal this tenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred and two and in the twenty ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America Signed Sealed and Delivered in presence of us

Joseph Camp
his
James x Rany
mark

Will Camp



Name	Date	Acres	Name	Date	Acres
Josiah Cathey	1/16/1773	270	Andrew Cathey	3/13/1756	250
William Cathey	1/2/1780	100	Alexander Cathey	3/25/1752	590
William Cathey	1/2/1802	100	Alexander Cathey	3/25/1752	546
Alexander Cathey	1/28/1794	200	Alexander Cathey	3/25/1752	93
James Cathey	1/30/1773	100	Andrew Cathey	3/25/1752	640
George Cathey	10/10/1778	640	George Cathey	3/25/1752	630
William Cathey	10/10/1778	640	James Cathey	3/25/1752	640
John Cathey	10/13/1756	110	George Cathey	3/25/1752	613
Andrew Cathey	10/21/1758	600	George Cathey	3/29/1753	800
Archibald Cathy	10/29/1789	270	John Cathey and	3/29/1753	750
John Cathey	10/7/1749	400	Francis Mackilwean		
George Cathey &	11/1/1783	640	George Cathey	3/29/1753	150
John Carson			George Cathey	3/8/1769	100
This claim was later disallowed by Court action			George Cathey	4/19/1798	100
because it was entered prior to the time the land			John Cathey	4/2/1761	687
was released to North Carolina by Indian Treaty			Alexander Cathey	4/25/1791	56
John Cathey	12/10/1770	150	John Cathey	4/29/1768	165
John Cathey	12/10/1770	150	George Cathey	4/6/1765	300
Archibald Cathy	12/21/1798	150	George Cathey	4/6/1765	140
Archibald Cathy	12/21/1798	100	John Cathey	4/6/1765	150
George Cathey	12/5/1806	150	John Cathey	5/12/1753	825
John Cathey	2/23/1779	320	Andrew Cathey	6/10/1758	335
William Cathey &	2/24/17??	400	George Cathey	6/24/1751	312
James Greenlee			George Cathey	6/9/1758	400
Chas. McDowell			Margaret Cathey	8/12/1794	150
Thos. Litte			Agness Cathey		84
			Andrew Cathey	9/26/1766	84

If this information contains any information about your Cathey family connections, please let us hear from you.

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Things found among the miscellaneous collections at the Broad River
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North Carolina Land Grants in the Territory That is Now Tennessee

Prior to 1790, North Carolina had claim to the lands extending westward from the Smokey Mountains to the Mississippi River. Revolutionary War veterans were given land grants, or warrants for same, in recognition of their service to their country.¹ Many North Carolina veterans were supplied with lands in the territory that later became Tennessee, as most of the land in North Carolina proper had already been taken up and there were ample reserves of unoccupied lands in the region beyond the mountains.

Generally, these grants, or warrants, were on the following basis of rank in service, each allotted different acreage to its servicemen, but North Carolina chose to proceed in the following manner:

Soldier	640 acres	Colonel	7200 acres
Non Com	1000 acres	Brig.General	12000 acres
Subaltern	1260 acres	Chaplain	6200 acres
Captain	3840 acres	Surgeon	4800 acres
Major	4800 acres	Surgeons Mate	2560 acres
Lt. Col.	5760 acres	Gen. Nat'l Greene	25000 acres!

Survivors of deceased soldiers were entitled to their husbands or fathers warrant. There was considerable buying and selling of these warrants and a resulting speculation in the land which they were supposed to represent, and a bit of fraud crept in too, as these warrants fell into the hands of the unscrupulous.

Marriage Certificate

State of North Carolina}
Cleveland County } **GREETING:**

I, A. F. Newton, Register of Deeds for the above named State and County, do hereby certify that R. C. Fortenberry, age 25 and Lillie Price, age 19 were married by Zimri Kistler (Justice of the Peace) on the 28 day of Nov. 1907, as appears on record in my office, in Marriage Book No. 4, alphabetically arranged.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 17th day of
November, 1944
A. F. Newton, Register of Deeds

¹ Please note that the men who qualified for pension bounty lands were those who served in the Continental Army, not the State Militias.