

Ches
FAM

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

CHESHER FAMILY

Information from Tom Spurlin, Garry Pryor, Wilma Berner and the Editor.

James CHESHER b 1749 Prince William Co., Maryland is recognized as a Revolutionary veteran who died after 1844 in Fayette County "very aged". His name appears on the monument placed on the lawn of the Fayette County Court House by the Fayette County Genealogical Society in 1976. He lived in Gallatin Co., IL before coming to Fayette County.

A transcript of his Revolutionary War Pension Application can be found at the end of this family sketch. This transcript comes to us through Garry Pryor. I am very pleased to be able to publish this valuable information. James Cheshier was 94 years old in 1843 when he made his petition for a pension before Ashael Lee. He died the next year.

James married Lydia. Three children of this couple have been identified:

1. **Jonathan CHESHER** b ca 1784 VA died Arkansas m Lydia _____
2. **Susannah CHESHER** b 1788 VA d 1881 War Eagle Creek, Madison Co., AR m George LEDBETTER son of Buckner and Tabitha JONES LEDBETTER.
3. **Martha (Patsy) CHESHER** b 1793 VA died after 1860 War Eagle Creek, Madison Co., AR m Washington LEDBETTER son of Arthur and Francis BROOKS LEDBETTER.

Jonathan CHESHER born ca 1784 and is found on the 1840 Federal Census for Fayette County. He married Lydia _____ she b ca 1780-90. He died in Arkansas.

KNOWN CHILDREN OF JONATHAN AND LYDIA CHESHER

1. Martha CHESHER dead before 1854, m 1 Apr 1838 William WRIGHT, Jr. John and Lydia CHESHER gave consent for their daughter.
2. Margaret (Peggy) CHESHER m 23 Oct 1839 Fayette Co., IL William HIGGS. William HIGGS purchased land in Sec. 33 T6N R2E (Otego Twp.) in 1857. William HIGGS appears on the 1840 Fayette Co. Census with several children in this household - this less than a year after his marriage to Margaret. Was he a widower? He bought at an auction 16 Nov 1840 in Fayette Co.
3. James Dillard CHESHER b 7 Mar 1824 Murphysboro, Rutherford Co., TN d 24 Apr 1905 age 81y 1m 17ds (per tombstone in Cheshier Cem., Wilberton Twp.) m 30 Sep 1843 Fayette Co., IL Nancy Elizabeth SHELTON b 18 Jan 1824 KY d 17 Feb 1895 age 71y 29ds.



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OBITUARY

The death of James Cheshier, one of the pioneers of Wilberton township, occurred at his home Monday afternoon aged about 84 years. He leaves a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn his loss. He was quite an influential citizen in the community in which he lived so long. He was born in Tennessee and came to this county with his parents in 1824 when but an infant.

When the National Road was built he hauled stone for the bridge abutments.

- A. John R. CHESHIER b 2 Apr 1842 Fay. Co., IL d 17 Aug 1926 Rock Falls, IL bu 17 Aug South Hill Cem., Vandalia m 26 Nov 1876 Fay. Co., IL Sarah LEHMAN she b Feb 1861 MO d 1932, bu 11 Dec dau of A. LEHMAN b Germany - he gave consent for her marriage. Her tombstone reads b 1863 d 1932 - our birth month and year is from the 1900 Census.

John R. CHESHIER's obit stated that he and some of his children moved to Rock Falls, IL about 1916. Some ancestor charts show that John R. Cheshier was the son of William and Nancy Cheshier both of TN. However, his obituary stated that he was survived by brothers, James, Ben, George and sisters Mrs. Frankie MAHON and Mrs. M.H. BEAL.

- 1) Clyde Sherman CHESHIER b 1894 d 10 May 1952 m Genetta MAMMEN b 1896 d 1969, bu 17 May both bu Fairlawn Cem., Vandalia.
- 2) Estella G. CHESHIER m 1 Jan 1896 Fayette Co., IL Lucius BUCK b 1874 Macoupin Co., IL son of Reuben B. and Frances BELLAMY BUCK.

- B. Lydia Louise CHESHIER b 19 Mar 1845 Fay. Co., IL d 6 May 1923 m 22 July 1863 Fayette Co., IL James Lafayette PRYOR d 17 Dec 1899. He was the son of Thomas and Nancy HAYNES PRYOR. Both bu Cheshier Cem. Parents of 11 children per her obit in the *Vandalia Union* 10 May 1923. James Lafayette's death was quite mysterious and was classified as an unsolved murder. An unknown assailant shot him with a .22 while he slept in a bed with his wife and son, Grover and another son, Arthur in the same room.

- 1) John D. PRYOR b 1864 d 1940 m 9 Apr 1893 Fay. Co., IL Margareta SCHWARM
 - a. Floyd PRYOR b 30 May 1894 Fay. Co., IL d 24 Jul 1978 m 14 Oct 1922 Fay. Co., IL Lucille BAYLES.

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- 2) Mary Ada PRYOR b 1866 d 1952 m 28 Jan 1886 Alphus SMITH
 - a. Dillie SMITH
 - b. Eunice SMITH m 1) _____ CRATZER 2) Dennis CLEARY
 - c. Rose SMITH
 - d. Earl SMITH

- 3) George A. PRYOR b 1 Nov 1868 Fay. Co., IL d 5 Nov 1953 same m 14 Jan 1891 Fay. Co., IL Minnie HAUGHAWALT.
 - a. Jesse A. PRYOR b 13 Jul 1891 d 24 Feb 1966 m 1) Mary Sarah STEINHAUER m 2) Pearl CHRISTMAN
 - b. George A. PRYOR, Jr.
 - c. Elmer L. PRYOR b 4 Dec 1899
 - d. Carrie PRYOR b 13 Apr 1898
 - e. Gladys Ora PRYOR b 21 Nov 1896
 - f. Bess PRYOR

- 4) James William PRYOR 26 Aug 1871 d 6 Mar 1896 Fay. Co., IL (His funeral was held the 12th) His obituary was published in the Vandalia Union 12 Mar 1896 issue. Evidently he had gone out hunting Friday, March 6 and it was thought that either he had been standing on a log and slipped off or the gun in his hand had somehow discharged. His body was discovered Sat. evening by Will NEAU. The obituary stated that his father was in Virginia visiting friends when the tragedy happened. He was telegraphed and arrived in time for the funeral. James enlisted as a member of Co. I, 4th Regt. Illinois National Guards on 15 June 1893 and received an honorable discharge.

- 5) Gracie Ann PRYOR (twin) b 16 Jan 1872 Fay Co., IL d 17 Feb 1895 m 12 Mar 1891 Fay. Co., IL Henry Benard HOFFMIRE
 - a. Ruby HOFFMIRE m Oscar HORN

- 6) Arthur Leland PRYOR (twin) b 16 Jan 1872 Bluff City, Fay. Co., IL d 13 Jan 1918 of typhoid fever Fay. Co., bu South Hill Cem., m 29 Jul 1900 Josephine Laura HENDRICKSON dau of Jonathan and Sarah SNYDER HENDRICKSON. Josie was b 7 Apr 1882 d 1 Jul 1965.
 - a. Marie PRYOR b 1901 d 2 June 1967 St. Louis, MO bu Fairlawn Cem., Vandalia, Fay. Co., IL m Frank W. KOHRS b 1894.
 - b. Beulah PRYOR

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- c. John PRYOR
 - d. Gilbert PRYOR
 - e. Kenneth PRYOR
 - f. Virgil A. PRYOR m Mildred _____
 - g. Ruby PRYOR
 - h. Nita PRYOR
- 7) Lilly PRYOR b 1876 Clarksville, Fay. Co., IL m 16 Nov 1899 Fay. Co., IL Abner RAPP (ROPP) b 1871 Brownstown, Fay Co., IL son of A.L. and Ellen ROBINSON RAPP (ROPP). This was his 2nd marriage.
- 8) Charles L. PRYOR b 15 Apr 1880 Fay. Co., IL d 22 Sep 1959 Centralia, Marion Co., IL m 1) 9 Aug 1899 Ida Mae Elizra FRIEND dau of William and Elizabeth WILLIAMS FRIEND, 4 children, m 2) ca 1910 Rena Inez BRAUGHTON, had son, Leonard.
- a. Jasper Wayne PRYOR b 28 Jan 1904 Bluff City, Fay. Co., IL d 4 Apr 1984 Vandalia, IL m 14 June 1930 Marshall, IL, Cleo Fern DURBIN, both bu Maplewood Cem., St. Elmo, IL
 - b. Harley PRYOR m Vivian MARCKS
 - c. Fern PRYOR 19 Nov 1905 d 28 Nov 1957 m 10 Mar 1928 Fay. Co., IL Ora HARPSTER
 - d. Earl PRYOR b IL d VA m Eva _____
 - e. Joyce PRYOR m Peter PRANGE
 - f. Leonard Bertram PRYOR, from 2nd marriage.
- 9) Benjamin M. PRYOR b 22 May 1882 Vandalia, Fay. Co., IL d 3 Jul 1950 Carlyle, Clinton Co., IL m 30 Apr 1908 Eliza WILLIAMS PRYOR.
- a. Harold Eugene PRYOR
 - b. Herbert G. W. PRYOR
 - c. William Lovell PRYOR
 - d. Bonnie J. PRYOR
 - e. Arthur PRYOR
 - f. Benjamin Ransom PRYOR
 - g. Lulu May PRYOR
 - h. August Andrew PRYOR
 - i. Claude Rollins PRYOR

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10) Grover D. PRYOR b 29 Nov 1888 IL d Oct. 1968 Fay. Co m Reba M. KIRK
b 1893 d 1967 bu 27 Dec., both bu Fairlawn Cem., Vandalia.

- a. Lydia Ofal Ellen PRYOR
- b. Reba Muriel PRYOR b 7 June 1919 d 14 June 1974 m Edward L.
RITCHEY
- c. Lloyd PRYOR
- d. Orville (Buckie) PRYOR

C. Winnifred (Ruth) Ann CHESHER b 1849 IL

D. Mary Frances CHESHER b 30 Mar 1850 IL

E. Sarah A. CHESHER b 1854 IL

F. James Lovell CHESHER b 23 Nov 1856 IL d 21 June 1934 m 1) May Janetta
RICHARDSON , she died in childbirth, bu Pinhook Cem. m 2) 22 Feb 1874 Fay.
Co., IL Mary H.C. BROWN b 1855 IL d 1939 both bu Cheshier Cem..

1) William Oscar. CHESHER died in Newman, IL, bu there m 25 Dec 1894 Laura
Bell OLDHAM - his marriage license says he was the son of James L. and
May Janetta RICHARDSON CHESHER.

a. James Oscar CHESHER d 17 June 1980 bu Harristown, IL m 1) Opal
C. NEWCUM she d 1947 m 2) Mary Eileen DENNIS she d 5 Aug
2001 Decatur, Macon Co., IL m 3) Ruth M. JACKSON she d
1996.

1. Janet Kay CHESHER
2. James William CHESHER (from 2nd marr)

b. Clarence E. CHESHER b 27 Oct 1895 d 3 Dec 1895 bu Cheshier Cem.

c. Mary Janetta CHESHER b 10 Apr 1906 Blue Mound, IL d 26 Jul 1998
Macon Co., IL m 5 Apr 1934 Vermilion Co., IL Owen Elmer
DODD b 10 Feb 1900 d 6 May 1956 Piatt Co., IL both bu Cerro
Gordo Cem., Cerro Gordo, IL.

1. Phyllis Nadine DODD b Macon Co., IL
2. Jackie Lynn DODD b 25 Aug 1936 Argenta, IL d 11 Jan 1977
Decatur, Macon Co., IL.

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3. Marcella K. DODD m 1) Bennett WILKINS, div. m 2) 14 Feb
1976 Macon Co., IL James V. LOURASH.

4. Pamela Jo DODD b Macon Co., IL

2) Laura C. CHESHIER

3) Leora CHESHIER m 28 Apr 1895 Fayette Co., IL Webster BURNETT

4) Eugene CHESHIER b Aug 1883

5) Linda CHESHIER b Aug 1888

6) Corda CHESHIER b June 1892

G. Benjamin Feller CHESHIER b 30 July 1860 Fayette Co., IL d 9 Jul 1945 Geneva, IL
bu South Hill Cem., Vandalia m 14 Oct 1883 Fayette Co, IL Lydia A. CURRY she
b Sep 1863. Information on this family comes in part from Wilma BERNER of
Arthur, IL

1) Isabell CHESHIER b Nov 1884 m 1) _____ WRIGHT m 2) _____
RIPERDAN, lived Harrisburg, IL in 1955 when Selby died.

2) Selby Lee CHESHIER b 13 Nov 1887 Fayette Co., IL d 12 Oct 1955 bu South
Hill Cem. m 1) 6 Aug 1909 Nellie TORRENCE, dau of Caleb and Isabelle
CHRISTY TORRENCE, they div and she was b 31 Mar 1884 Shelby Co.,
IL and died 9 Aug 1939. They were parents of 4 children; m 2) Faye
Frances CHRISMAN. Selby was a Sheriff in Fayette County and in later
years custodian at the Old State House in Vandalia.

a. Arlene CHESHIER m _____ LEDBETTER

b. Torrence CHESHIER li Ft. Wayne, IN

c. Permella CHESHIER m _____ FEERY

d. Hugh CHESHIER b 9 Ssep 1917 d Jan. 1977 Turlock, CA.

e. Eleanor CHESHIER

H. George Washington CHESHIER b Oct 1862 Wilberton Twp. Fayette Co., IL d 1933
m 29 Jan 1888 Fayette Co., IL Mary Hannah BUCK she b Mar 1874 dau of
Reuben B. and Mary Frances BELLAMY BUCK.

1) Charles F. "Tim" CHESHIER b Sep 1888 IL m Bessie ERVIN dau of Fred and
Martha STEPHENS ERVIN - they had 3 daughters.

2) James Wilson CHESHIER b Sep 1892 IL d 1952 bu 13 Jul m Clara
CHRISMAN she the dau of Thomas C. and Mary Elizabeth AUGUSTINE
CHRISMAN. See *Fayette Facts*, Vol. 7 No. 1 p 65 for CHRISMAN
family.

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- 3) Finas CHESHER b 31 Dec 1894 IL d Feb. 1987, lived Memphis, TN.
- 4) Lloyd Leon CHESHER b 14 Feb 1903 d 1965 bu 26 May m Ethel M. TETLEY - no children. Both bu South Hill Cem.

I. Mary Emma CHESHER b 1864 IL m 22 Dec 1881 Fayette Co., IL Philip BEAL son of Philip and Mary Ann VICKER BEAL.

J. Betty CHESHER

2. **SUSANNAH CHESHER** b 1788 VA d 1881 War Eagle Creek, Madison Co., AR m George LEDBETTER son of Buckner and Tabitha JONES LEDBETTER. We published information on the Asa LEDBETTER family from Georgia in *Fayette Facts*, Vol. 4 No. 1 pages 15-18 and no relationship between George and Asa is shown.

- A. Nancy LEDBETTER
- B. Jefferson Brooks LEDBETTER
- C. Hugh LEDBETTER
- D. Winnie LEDBETTER
- E. Harvey Carrol LEDBETTER
- F. Eli LEDBETTER
- G. Elizabeth LEDBETTER
- H. William M. LEDBETTER

3. **Martha (Patsy) CHESHER** b ca 1793 VA d after 1860 War Eagle Creek, Madison Co., AR m Washington LEDETTTER, son of Arthur and Francis BROOKS LEDBETTER.

- A. James LEDETTTER b ca 1805 d ca 1835 IL
- B. Benjamin LEDETTTER b 23 Jul 1811 Overton Co., TN d 27 Dec 1891 same
- C. William LEDETTTER b 23 Jul 1811 Overton Co., TN d 4 May 1891 same
- D. Winnie LEDETTTER b 23 Jul 1811 Overton Co., TN m Hickman OFFICER
- E. Washington LEDETTTER b 1813 TN d 1879 Overton Co., TN
- F. Mary LEDETTTER b 16 Sep 1816 TN d 1906 Aurora, Lawrence Co., MO m 27 Sep 1838 Overton Co., TN Martin QUALLS
- G. Merrill LEDETTTER b 1817 TN d 1860
- H. Beverly J. LEDETTTER b 1822 Overton Co., TN d July, 1833.
- I. Wiley LEDETTTER 10 June 1824 Overton Co., TN d 13 Feb 1915 Stone Co., MO
- J. Arthur LEDETTTER b 1825
- K. Sarah LEDETTTER b 4 Feb 1826 d Aurora, Lawrence Co., MO m Francis SANDERS
- L. Elizabeth LEDETTTER b 1830 TN d Monroe Co., KY m ____ KING
- M. Samantha LEDETTTER b 1832 TN
- N. Lewis C. J. LEDETTTER b 1835 Overton Co., TN d 1900 Boone Co., AR
- O. Amanda LEDETTTER b 1838 TN

CHESHER FAMILY

TRANSCRIPT OF JAMES CHESHER'S
REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION APPLICATION

State of Illinois, Fayette County

On this 25th day of December 1843 personally appeared before the Probate Justice of the Peace for the County aforesaid James CHESHER A resident of said County of Fayette aged ninety four years and upward who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress drafted June 7, 1832 that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as here in stated:

He resided at the time of the Revolutionary War in Prince William County State of Virginia and he served five lawful tours of three months each the particular dates of which he is unable to state. The first tour was shortly after the battle of Bunker Hill the first militia that was called from that part of Virginia. The militiamen were classed and he was in class. He was called out and served under Capt. William Farrow. They were marched to Leesburg where they were stationed after which he was drafted and served four other tours one of which was under the said William Farrow - one under Capt. Luke Cannon - one under Capt. John Hedges and one under Capt. Samuel Love one of his Lieutenants was named Robert Hedges - another by the name of Overhall.

He served under Col. Lee and under General Henry Lee. One tour of troops to which he belonged were called the northern troops - and they were attached to General Green's Army and were marched into South Carolina to a place called Long Island.

He was in the following battles: At Brandywine at the Cowpens - at old Williamsburg and at Gates defeat he was at the Hanging Rock but not until the battle was over. He was kept in service several weeks after his regular tour had expired. He got his discharge and was on the way home at the time of the Battle of Guilford Court House - and the fifth day after he got home he was drafted to go the tour to Little York where Gov. Wallis was taken ... at the expiration of each tour he got his discharge and a certificate from his officers which he possessed until about thirty six years ago on Christmas eve his house was burnt at which time they were destroyed - he has no documentary evidence by which to prove his service nor does he know of any person living where he can procure testimony to prove his service. One other short tour he thinks for him to mention - the British had set fire to and burnt buildings at the mouth of Quantico - the militia were called out in mass. They drew over at Dumfrise and were in service a few days and were discharged (or dismissed without a discharge until further orders) he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present one.

CHESHER FAMILY

Declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the agency of any state sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid, Before me,

Ashael Lee, J.P.

Isham Lansford
Harrison G. Haizlip
Rutherford Shelton

ASHAEL LEE QUESTIONS:

Q. Where and in what year were you born?

A. In Prince William County, Virginia in 1749

Q. Have you any record of your age?

A. Not any, from information of my parents I was born [as stated above]

Q. Where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you live now?

A. In Prince William County, Virginia - since then in Halifax and Henry Counties, Virginia and now in Fayette County, Illinois.

Q. How were you called into service - were you drafted? Did you volunteer or were you a substitute?

A. I was drafted.

Q. State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served such continental and militia regiments as you can recollect?

A. I recollect Gen. Lee, General Green, General Lafayette and General Washington, Col. Lee, Col. Morgan.

Q. Did you receive a discharge and by whom was it given?

A. I received discharges for every tour signed by my Captains which were destroyed by fire 36 years ago when my house burnt.

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Q. State the names of persons in your present neighborhood to whom you are known - who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief of your serving as a soldier of the Revolution.

A. Rutherford Shelton, Isham Lansford and Harrison Haizlip.

Q. This law allowing pensions was passed eleven years ago - what are your reasons for not making application sooner and give two or three reasons.

A. I had moved from the place where I was known had got all my papers burnt and I did not know how to prove my serving. I thought I could live without it as long as I was able to work. A man by the name of Williams once offered to get me a pension for half but I thought his proposal not a fair one.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY