

## HISTORY OF THE CRESWELL FAMILY IN TENNESSEE

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The studying of Family Names, and early history of settlers of the American Colonies is very interesting; and furnishes a very important part of the early history of our Republic.

The origin and development of Family Names, and their application furnishes a very interesting and attractive subject. PRIMITIVE, PERSONAL or GIVEN Names doubtless dates back to the invention of spoken language, altho the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter FIRST or GIVEN Names were the only designations that men and women bore.

Family names, or actual hereditary names, or surnames as we know them, date from less than One Thousand years ago. By the end of the 12th Century, hereditary or family names were common in England. The largest class of surnames were derived from some peculiar characteristic of the place of residence, occupation or trade of the family.

Those Americans who possess old and Honored names, and who can trace their surnames back to the sturdy immigrant ancestors, or even beyond the Seas, and into the dim mists of Antiquity- may be rightly proud of their Heritage.

We will now deal briefly with the origin and history of the Family or Surname "CRESWELL."

The Name "CRESWELL," "GRESSWELL," OR "CRISWELL" is derived from the Old English Words "GRESSE" and "WELLA" which means "GRESS-SPRING" or "GRESS-WELL." This means that this was the place or spring, or well where the plant called "GRESS" grew. "CRESWELL" was the surname given to the people or inhabitants who lived at a place so called. There being Two Parishes in England of that name. One being in the County of Northumberland and the other in the County of Startford England.

There were many of this family very prominent in England, and held many important offices, and were heavy land owners, and had a distinguished Coat of Arms. Many of this family came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

The ancestors of the Sevier County Creswell family are traced back as near as possible to William Henry Creswell and his five brothers, Elisha, Isaac, James, John and Samuel who sought to enjoy Religious Freedom in the New World, migrated from England about 1740 and settled in Pennsylvania, Maryland. William Henry later crossed the mountains into South West Virginia, where he was killed by the Indians about 1776, and is buried at Abington, Virginia, where a monument has been erected by the citizens of that place to his memory. In Sumners History of South West Virginia page 620 we find the brief account of his death-

"THREE PARTIES OF INDIANS CAME TO THE VICINITY OF BLACK FORT, ONE PARTY SCALPED ARTHUR BLACKBURN AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD, THE THIRD PARTY ASSAULTED THE REV. CHARLES CUNNINGHAM AND WILLIAM HENRY GRESBELL-KILLING GRESWELL AND SHOOTING OFF THE FINGER OF A MAN BY THE NAME OF PIPER."

We will now take up the history of the CRESWELL FAMILY in Sevier County, Tennessee.

ANDREW CRESWELL, son of William Henry Creswell, was born in Lee County, Virginia, in 1757. He was a member of the Washington County Militia, and in this service did valiant service fighting the Indians.

From an affidavit sworn to before John Brabson Justice of the Peace in August 1822 Andrew Creswell gave a detailed account of his services in Indian Wars as well as his services in the Revolutionary War, especially the battle of Kings Mountain. After the battle of Kings Mountain, he was sent to Guilford Court House, N.C. to engage in that battle. He was allowed a pension of \$40.00 per year.

A record of this affidavit is on file in the Department of Commissioners of Pensions. A photostatic copy of which is in the possession of the writer.

ANDREW CRESWELL married Miss Dorothy Evans, who was born Dec. 11th 1756. This marriage was solemnized March 2, 1780, and the record of this marriage, and a family record of the birth and deaths of their children, which will be given more fully hereinafter, was obtained from an old family Bible of Andrew Creswell, and photostatic copies of same are in the possession of the writer.

Andrew Creswell and his wife settled near where Gap Creek runs through Bays Mountain, and built a fort at the location, which was a place of refuge for all white settlers in the neighborhood.

In Ramseys's History of Tennessee we find the following quotation relative to Andrew Creswell:

"Andrew Creswell was living in the neighborhood of McGaughey's Station. William Cunningham while passing near the Creswell home was shot by the Indians. He escaped to Creswell's home and wanted to go to the station, but that Creswell "said that from his knowledge of the Indians, they never made a second attack." Creswell then inquired of his wife, what she wanted to do, and she replied "It looks like death at either place, but that she would rather die at her own fireside." Creswell then said he "would stay there until the Indians took him out, and that he would never surrender as long as he had a load of powder or a piece of lead." He remained with his home and successfully resisted all Indian attacks."

Andrew Creswell was one of the leaders in establishing a church. He was one of the Charter members of the Eusebia Presbyterian Church, which is located across in Blount County, and he remained a member and Elder until his death, July 16, 1838. A large monument marks his last resting place in the well kept Cemetery of this modern country church.

WE WILL NOW TAKE UP THE CHILDREN OF THIS PIONEER FAMILY.

ANDREW AND DORTHY CRESWELL were the parents of Eight children as

follows: Nancy, Henry, William E., Rebecca (died unmarried), Elizabeth, Samuel E., Margret V., and Dorthy.

NANCY CRESWELL married John Randles and lived on the French Broad River about six miles from the Old home place. Nancy Creswell was born Feb. 5, 1781.

To the union of Nancy Creswell and John Randles the following children were born: James, Elizabeth, John, Henry, William, and Samuel. Information as to the descendants of this family is very brief.

JOHN RANGLES married a Miss Underwood, and seven children were born to their marriage, but we have been unable to authoritively learn their names.

HENRY RANGLES married a Miss Huffaker and to their union was born six children.

SAMUEL RANGLES married a Miss Pitner and to their union was born three children.

This is about all the information we have as to this family, but many of their descendants live in Sevier and Knox Counties.

HENRY CRESWELL, the second child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell, was born Oct. 28, 1782. He married a Miss Davis, and moved to Tlaedega, Alabama. After the death of his wife there he returned to Sevier County and married Miss Pelly Snody, when they returned to Alabama and reared a large family. From reliable authority many of this family were prominent in Alabama and Georgia. One of his descendants, a Miss Creswell as Supt. of Education of Georgia for many years.

WILLIAM E. CRESWELL, the third child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell was born June 10th 1783, and died May 8, 1852. He married Elizabeth McMurray, who died April 16, 1849. They settled on Nails Creek Blount County. To their union was born three boys and six girls as follows: Nancy, Dorthy, who married Robert Houston, August 1826, Samuel, Mernervia, Sarah, Andrew, Dorcus, William A., Elizabeth and Hannah. Nancy never married, but lived to a good old ripe age and died in the state of Texas. The descendants of William E. Creswell live principally in Blount and Knox Counties. Rev. John Creswell, a Presbyterian minister, who resides at Bearden is one of the descendants of this noted family.

REBECCA CRESWELL, the fourth child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell was born May 5, 17\_\_ and died October 15, 1822. She never married.

ELIZABETH CRESWELL, the fifth child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell was born May 23, 1793. She married a Mr. Huffaker. They located near the the Holston River in Knox County. They reared a family of six boys and four girls as follows: Dorthy, who never married, Mahala, who never married, Aggie, who married Joe Houston, Rebecca, who married Wash Larity, George, who married a Lonas, Andrew, who married a Newman, Lee, who married twice, Samuel, who married an Underwood, James, who

never married and Joe who never married. There is a great host of Huffakers in Knox and Sevier Counties and most of them are descendants from this large family.

SAMUEL E. CRESWELL, the sixth child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell was born April 12, 1792, and he married Polly Fagaly. Eleven children were born to their union, seven boys and four girls, as follows: Kate, who married a Williams, \_\_\_\_\_, who married Elmer Randles, Andrew who never married, Bart who moved to the state of Georgia, Samuel who died during the Civil War, Henry, who died at the age of 22 and unmarried, Margret and Dorthy who both died in young womanhood, Marrie who never married.

MARGRET CRESWELL, the seventh child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell, was born March 23, 1793. She married William Snoddy, and lived at the D.R. Pitner place. She lived to a good old ripe age.

DORTHY CRESWELL, the eighth child of Andrew and Dorthy Creswell was born March 22, 1798, and married John Pitner. They resided near Trundles Cross Roads for several years and then moved to McMinn County, and later moved to Murry County, Georgia. They have many descendants who live in Blount and Sevier Counties.

#### FAMILY HISTORY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL E. CRESWELL AND POLLY FAGALY CRESWELL.

ADAM CRESWELL, the first child of Samuel E. and Polly Creswell married Miss Eliza Williams. To their union were born five children Viz: Mathew, Dorthy, Burnette, Mary, Albert, Henry and Samuel and Ira. Most of this family moved to Texas and Oklahoma. Adam went to California during the Gold excitement and remained there for ten years. When he returned he found his old sweetheart, Miss Eliza Williams, had never married. They were soon afterwards united in matrimony. Adam Creswell held public office in Sevier County. He was Trustee of the County and also Register of Deeds. He later removed to the State of Oregon where he died. There is a town in Oregon named for him.

GEORGE CRESWELL, the second child of Samuel E. and Polly Creswell married a Miss Cowden. They had four boys and two girls, Dorthy, Ross, Hainon, Samuel and Arthur. He was a shoe maker by trade. He and his family all moved to the West where they made their homes.

RUFUS CRESWELL, the third child of Samuel E. and Polly Creswell married Amner Randles. To their union were born Eleven children Viz; Samuel, Howard (who was a soldier in the Union army, and was lost when the ill fated Sultana was sunk above Memphis), John, Lizzie, Adam F., Mary, Albert, Henry, Emily and George (who is the only one living and is 87 years of age) and J.W. who died in infancy.

KNOXVILLE REGISTER, WED. 25 JULY 1838

"Died, Monday 16th inst., at his residence in Sevier county, Mr. Andrew Cresswell at an advanced age. He was a native of S.C; removed to Virginia; in 1772 came with parents to frontier settlements on the Holston. His father was killed by the Shawnees and his mother left with eight children. In his 16th year he joined a company raised to protect the infant settlements on the Clinch. He served in the Revolutionary War and was at King's Mountain and Guilford Court House. He removed to Boyd's Creek in 1787; served in the Indian Wars; was one of the founders of Eusebia Church."

U.S STATES CENSUS, SEVIER COUNTY, 1850

	age	birthplace
Samuel Cresswell	59	Tenn.
Mary Cresswell	50	"
Andrew Cresswell	26	"
George Cresswell	23	" Shoemaker
Margaret "	16	"
Samuel "	14	"
Henry "	11	"
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R.M. Cresswell	32	Tenn.
Mary "	28	"
Samuel "	9	"
James H. "	7	"
John "	4	"
Adam "	3	"
Elizabeth "	1/12	"
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Jane Cresswell	73	Ireland
Martha "	64	Penn.
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Micheal Fagala	52	Va. Mechanic
Nancy "	46	Tenn.
James "	22	"
Albert "	20	"
Emily "	15	"
Esther "	14	"
Joseph "	13	"
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John Fagala	53	Pa.
Catharine Fagala	78	"
Catharine "	49	Va.
William Mill	14	Tenn.
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John Randles	73	Va.
Nancy "	69	Va. Feb. 5, 1781

	age	birthplace
Samuel Randles	28	Tenn.
Louisa "	20	"
Elizabeth "	43	"
Nancy "	9	"
James "	7	"

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William M. Randles	26	Tenn.
Mary Jane "	22	"

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Henry Randles	35	Tenn.
Roda "	35	"
Joel "	8	"
Sarah "	6	"
John "	5	"
Peter "	2	"
Nancy "	38	"

LAND GRANTS SEVIER COUNTY LAND GRANT OFFICE NASHVILLE, TENN.

WILLIAM E. CRISWELL

No. 347 Book I p. 347

\$15.73½ pd. 15 Feb. 1808; pd. 2nd Pay. 27 Feb. 1809; 157 A., Sevier County, Dist. So. Fr. Bd. & Hol., academy tract; "on the waters of Gap Creek,"; join. Henry Criswell, Adam Pitner, Patsy Davis; sur. 25 May 1807; John Sevier, Gov., Knoxville, 1 Oct. 1808; R. Houston, Sec.

ANDREW CRISWELL No. 1785 246 A., Sevier County Book 3 p. 84 1810

In 1790 the State of North Carolina issued a grant to Nathaniel Evins for 600 acres on Boyd's Creek. Grant No. 111 Book 7 page 396. This is available in Land Grant Office, Nashville. In 1798 Andrew Evans deeded 200 acres of this tract to Frederick Seruggs. Photostatic copy of this deed is in my possession. Dorthy Evans, wife of Andrew Creswell could have been daughter of Nathaniel Evins.