

The first Marshall that I have found in Sevier County was John Marshall, born about 1767 in Ireland. He was living with his daughter Frances Marshall Rambo in 1850, according to the census of that year and his age then was 83. Information obtained by the publishers of Goodspeed's History of Tennessee ~~shows~~ from John M. Rambo, grandson of this John Marshall, in the 1880's, shows that the latter came to this country from Ireland after he was a grown man. He settled in Pennsylvania as did most of the Scotch-Irish- proof of this is the fact that his daughters, Frances Marshall Rambo and Mary Marshall Scruggs, were both born in Pennsylvania, as shown by the Sevier County census of 1850. It is likely that John Marshall migrated with his parents and he may have had brothers and sisters- a search of Pennsylvania records would doubtless reveal other members of his family.

*Doubtful
No proof*

I have no proof of his marriage to Rebecca Montgomery as I show in the outline- however, the late Rev. Robert M. Marshall (Uncle Bob) told me this about a year before his death. I believe that he told me that he had this written down in his papers. He left papers, diaries, etc. that someone should examine for more Marshall data. It is my belief, again without proof, that this Rebecca Montgomery was a sister of Alexander Montgomery who settled on the West Fork of Little Pigeon about the year, 1790- he was my g.g. grandfather, and served in the first county court of Sevier County and county "Ranger" when Tennessee became a state in 1796. This Montgomery family was also Scotch-Irish, settling first in Pennsylvania and then coming south into Augusta County, Virginia. ~~Two other sisters of Alexander Montgomery settled in Sevier County. One of these married John McCreskey, Revolutionary war soldier, who settled on upper Boyds Creek near Eusebia, and the other married Samuel Newell, another Revolutionary War soldier, who settled on upper Boyds Creek where the late Ben Clark lived- he established a fort here known as "Newell's Station," where the first court of Sevier County was held in 1785 under the State of Franklin. It is my theory, but only a theory, that John Marshall and wife Rebecca Montgomery, followed her people to this County. I am partly inclined to this belief because a book on the Montgomery family states that two sisters of Alexander Montgomery are "unknown."~~

I do not know that date of John Marshall's migration to Sevier County, but it was soon after 1800- his daughter, Mary Marshall Scruggs, was born in Pennsylvania about 1800 (census, 1850). He obtained a Tennessee grant for 110 acres on Middle Creek in 1808- this land joined the land of Timothy Reagan, great grand father of John H. Reagan of Texas and Confederate fame. I think his homestead was where the late Bob Rambo lived.

It is said that John Marshall was married the second time to the widow of Phillie Roberts, but again I have no proof and I doubt the truth of this because Phillie Roberts was still living in 1850 and his wife and family were living with him according to the census of that year. And John Marshall was 83 years old and living with his daughter, Frances Marshall Rambo, as stated above. Also, John Marshall was dead by the year 1856 as shown by a deed which I shall mention again later in this story.

It is also said that Jacob Hoover Shield, born in Sevier County, July 18, 1831, was the illegitimate son of this Irish born John Marshall and Elizabeth Shields. A descendant of Jacob Hoover Shields makes this claim and insists that it was well known by family members that the "Old Irishman," named

John Marshall, was the father of her ancestor. She also states that it was always said that this first John Marshall spoke with an Irish dialect and that he was quite a character.

That both Frances Rambo and Mary Scruggs were daughters of John Marshall is shown by the following deed made 5 January 1856: "Frances Rambo, Basdell Scruggs and Mary Scruggs, formerly Mary Marshall, to Robert M. Rambo lands on Middle Creek willed to us by John Marshall dec'd." This deed was found in Sevier County Deed Book J, page 326. This same deed included a 25 acre tract that had been entered by one William Marshall and sold to John Marshall, but the exact relationship of these two was not shown by the deed. This William Marshall might have been another son of John Marshall, but we have no proof of this. An old book in my possession entitled "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ" published at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1792 has the name "William Marshall" inscribed on the front fly leaf; also, in the back of this book is a list of subscribers and "William Marshall, Territory South of the Ohio" was one of the subscribers. On the back fly leaf the name of Anthony Lawson, another early Scotch-Irish settler of Sevier County is inscribed. Therefore, it is my belief that an early William Marshall was in the County- he may have been a brother or even the father of our Irish-born John Marshall, and he probably owned this old book and sold it to Anthony Lawson. I bought the book several years ago at Frank Mullendore's sale.

The above deed shows also that John Marshall was dead in 1856- it is likely that he was buried at Shiloh or Middle Creek but his grave is unmarked today. He left a will referred to in the deed, but this will was lost in the court house fire of 1856. If the will could be found in the old papers of some Marshall descendant it would probably reveal other children because in these early days large families was the rule- of course his wife may have died young. However, there is a good chance that other Marshall children migrated to the west or the south long years before the Civil War as was the case with most early Sevier County families.

Peter Rambo and Frances Marshall were married on Middle Creek- probably in the home of John Marshall- on 24 November 1814- Josiah Rogers, justice of the peace, performed the ceremony. Proof of this was bound in the bounty land and pension files of Peter Rambo in the National Archives- also included in these records was a page from the Peter Rambo family Bible that gave the names and birth dates of most of the children of these two. Peter Rambo served as a corporal in a War of 1812 company, and was captured at Detroit when General William Hull surrendered that post to the British in 1812 and was held as a war prisoner in Canada until 1814. Apparently after their marriage in Sevier County in 1814 they lived in Greenbrier County, Virginia, because their first three or four children were born there as shown by the above mentioned Bible record. They settled permanently in Sevier County about 1822 and lived near where Munsey Rambo lives today close the river bank.

Mary Marshall was born in Pennsylvania about 1800 according to the Sevier County census of 1850. She was first married to Robert Montgomery, son of Alexander Montgomery, and if my theory is correct she married her first cousin which was not unusual in those days. At least George Montgomery of Wear's valley remembers that his father, Capt. R.A. Montgomery (b. 1830) said that this marriage occurred. After the death of Robert Montgomery (he died young) she married Basdell Scruggs and they lived on a part of the Montgomery land where Carroll L. Follette lives today, known for many years as the "Davis Place."