

Sharp Family

Copied from Family History
written by Capt. James M. Sharp
for his son Dr. Samuel Pride
Sharp, and other records written
about 1894.

John Sharp, 1st, was born in the County of Meath or Myth, Ireland, date unknown but it must have been in the century preceding this, early 1700. He is of Scotch-Irish parents whose given names I never know. After arriving at manhood, he crossed the ocean and came to Pennsylvania, Lancaster County, and engaged in teaching what was then termed as a "Fencing School," which I understand to be the use of a sword in repeling or guarding against the thrusts or attacks of the enemy. This he continued for seven years in succession. At the close of each session of school, he would collect his pay and expending it in Flax seed, which he carried over to Ireland each Fall, realizing a good profit on it.

At the end of this time he married Miss Ann Boyd of his native country, and afterwards, how long I do not recollect, he came to the United States and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on a creek called Canegogig (could this be Conococheague Creek? M.S.) where he became the owner of three large and valuable farms. His settlement must have been a good many years before the war of the Revolution as he had raised up a large family before this time. His oldest son being a physician and surgeon in the Revolutionary Army. Living within fifteen miles of the Battle of Brandywine, he volunteered to aid in that battle. (Battle of Brandywine fought at Chadds Ford, Penn. Sept. 11th, 1777, between the British and Germans under Howe, 18,000, and the Americans under Washington, 13,000. The Americans lost and the British occupied Philadelphia. Chadds Ford located near Philadelphia between Chester and west Chester. He took with him into battle two Irish servants in his employ, one of whom was killed in the battle, the other returning safely with my grandfather.

Some time later he sold his lands to a man by the name of Coater, who lived in Philadelphia. The land to be paid for at different times in Continental money, getting enough paid at time of purchase to enable him to pay for a good farm in Augusta County, Virginia, ten miles northwest of Staunton and within two miles of Middlebrook near the North Mountains and on North river. By the time his other payments for the land sold became due, the Continental money had gotten to be of so little value that it was about worthless, which so impoverished him that he was unable to do but little to aid his large family, which consisted of five sons and five daughters. The names: James, Thomas, Joseph, Robert and John (my father), Margaret, Ann, Fanny or Frances, Jane and Letitia.

1. Uncle James was a physician and surgeon in the Revolution Army. He never married. Soon after the war he went to Savannah, Georgia where he pursued his profession for some years. It is said when he died he was worth considerable money but, from which, from some cause, was of little value to his friends as but little was ever realized.

2. Uncle Thomas married a lady by the given name of Mary but surname not recollected. He lived and died on the old Homestead in Virginia where he got to be wealthy. He had no children.

3. Uncle Joseph married Miss Julia Davidson and, I think, gained considerable means by his marriage. He too lived at the old Homestead in Virginia where he lived and died. He had no children. The estates of Uncle Thomas and Uncle Joseph were willed to their brothers and sisters- Uncle Robert getting the largest share of

Uncle Joseph's negroes and real estate, and Cousin Tom Sharp's father getting the largest part of Uncle Thomas Sharp's estate.

4. Uncle Robert married Miss Porter of Rockbridge County, Virginia and moved to Williamson County, Tennessee. He had a large family of sons and daughters. He lived in Williamson county many years when he sold his possessions and bought a good farm on Stone River not far from Murfreesborough, Tennessee, where he didd. I know little of his family. He had a son named William and one John. I suppose some remain in that section.

5. John Sharp, the second, and my father, born Nov. 11th 1760, died July 16th 1844. (will speak of him again after the listing of the daughters)

6. Aunt Margaret married James Wear or Weir, lived and died on a large farm on Pistol Creek, three miles north west of Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee. She had a large family- The sons: William, Hugh, John S., Preston. The daughters: Ann, Margaret, Betsy, Martha, and Lucina. The sons all married except Preston and had large families, and some of the family I suppose are at the Homestead Farm except William who went to Alabama a great many years since. John S. Weir born 1786, married first _____ Williams, two children, married second, Dorcas McCroskey. By 1st and 2nd marriage were born 4 or 5 children. William Weir married _____ Tipton. Hugh married 1st _____ Dinwoody of Greene County, Tennessee. 2nd marriage Margaret Chandler. James Preston Weir died single. Peggy or Margaret married John Gault, of whom is Dr. Samuel H. Gault and of him is Judge Grimm's wife of Knoxville. He died and Gault married 2nd time _____ Logan. Betsy, Martha and Lucina died single, they lived to be old.

7. Aunt Ann Sharp, born _____ married Feb. 14th, 1800 John Henry. They had considerable family and continued to live in Augusta County, Virginia. I do not know much of her family.

8. Aunt Fanny or Frances born 1768, died July 28th 1848- age 80. Buried at Eusebia Cemetery. She married William Porter, the grandfather of Joe Porter and John Sharp Porter of Knoxville. William Porter lived and died at Riceville, Tenn. They left Virginia and owned and lived in sight of Trundles Cross Roads. Three sons, John, Sam Boyd and William in all. The daughters were Ann who married Isaac Patton. She left Tennessee and lived in Benton County, Arkansas. Another daughter Marry married Wm Strain and went some years ago to Texas.

9. Aunt Jane, the youngest of the daughters, married James Black and lived on South River, Augusta County, Virginia where they owned a fine farm. They had two sons and one daughter. The sons: Samuel and John S. Sam married Lavinia Austin and owned and lived on a good farm three miles from his Father's on the river. John S. never married. He had a large estate which was willed to his brother and sister. The sister, Cinthia Ann married a cousin of mine, Mr. Thomas Johnston. They had no children. They were quite wealthy.

10. Aunt Letitia married ^{Robert} ~~John~~ Sharp but no relation and raised a large family, namely: John, Addison, James Boyd, Edward, Alexander, daughter, Nancy. Her first husband dying she married John Clark. (In 1801- marriage bond says John Clark to Lettie Clark in Blount County, Tennessee). The following is copied from Mr. Parham's sketch: John Sharp, born Feb. 17th 1780; married Polly Tulloch, May 10, 1810; Addison Sharp, born 1796, died May 27th 1832, age 36 years, married Rebecca Hitch; James Boyd Sharp, born 1788, died Sept. 4th 1824, age 36; Edward Sharp, born, Oct. 1781; Nancy Sharp, born Dec. 5th 1791, died Sept. 17th 1836, married James Clark, Feb. 4th 1808. James Clark is the son of John Clark by a former marriage. Some of

the Clarks still live at the old home three miles from Maryville. Alexander Sharp, the father of the present cousin, Tom Sharp, (Tom Sharp the father of Mrs. Kate Sharp). Alexander was born July 1783, died Sept. 17th 1839, married Susannah Maxwell, Sept. 10th 1816; she died Dec. 13th 1864. Descendants of Alexander Sharp: Sarah Sharp, born June 15th 1817, married John W. Parks, Dec. 25th 1834; Thomas, born, Dec. 8th 1818, married Mary Ann Vineyard, Nov. 28, 1844. She died May 30th 1857; Thomas Sharp married second time, Amanda Henderson, Feb. 7th 1861, she died Aug. 24th 1907. Thomas Sharp died Sept. 3, 1901. (Children of Thomas Sharp are Alexander, Robert, first marriage; and John Fletcher Sharp, Mrs. Teresa Tinsley, Mrs. Ida Ellis, Mrs. Eate Sharp, Miss Alice Sharp and Elijah Sharp). Robert Sharp, born July 24, 1820, died Sept. 22, 1839; Letitia Sharp, born Oct. 11th 1821, married Rev. William Burnett, March 21st 1839, died _____; Mary Thompson Sharp, born Nov. 11th 1823, married George Caldwell _____, died _____; James Clark Sharp, born Nov. 3, 1826, married Sarah A. Vineyard, Nov. 28th 1850, died _____; Francina, born Aug. 20th _____, married George Norton, _____, died _____; Ann White Sharp, born Feb. 13th 1830, married John Coulter, Blount County, Tenn., _____; died _____; Boyd Alexander Sharp, born Feb. 5th 1832, married Mary Rule, Feb. 11th 1858, died Jan. 26, 1918. (He was the father of Rev. Jake Sharp, Henry, Alvin, Byrd, Julia, Rose and others I don't remember). Addison Sharp, born March 1834, married _____, died _____. He lived in Texas. Nancy Jane Sharp, born April 27th 1836, married Samuel Rule _____, died _____. John Fletcher Sharp, born Oct. 26, 1838, married _____, died _____. (This is the end of Mr. Farham's sketch).

I now return to speak of my father John Sharp, son of John Sharp, the first. As stated previously he was born Nov. 11th 1760, died July 16th 1844. He was the youngest son of John Sharp, the first. According to his own count he was 82 years old but his sister Margaret Weir made him two years older. I have often heard him speak of his recollections of the battle of Brandywine, of his mother's great anxiety and distress for the safety of her husband who was in the battle. My father was 15 years old when his father came to Virginia. He remained at home for three years and then feeling that his father would not be able to do much for his large family he determined to go to his brother James at Savannah, Georgia, with the intention of reading medicine under him and qualifying himself for the practice of that profession. So he left his home and came to Blount County, Tennessee to see and remain with his sister Margaret Weir or Weir for a short time. But in about a week after reaching his sister's the Cherokee Indians made an attack on the white settlements and murdered a family by the name of Kirk on Nine Mile Creek. There were nine in number and everyone of them killed except one boy who happened to be out from the the time.

Blount County being a frontier county, only separated from the Indian nation by the Tennessee river, the whole country was greatly alarmed and was upon the lookout for further outrage and murder. It so happened that his brother-in-law, James Weir, his wife and my father were aroused near the break of day by the barking of the dogs, and they, fearing the approach of Indians, had barely time to make their escape to the thickets, when five hundred ~~xxxxxxx~~ Indians entered the house and set fire to the house and burned it up. My uncle James Weir thinking this too dangerous a place to remain with his wife and little family at that time, determined to go ~~back~~ back to Virginia and remain until more peaceable times. This being the situation, my father's further travel for a long distance through the Indian nation being impossible and there being no route open to Savannah except through the Carolinas and having lost nearly all his clothing and money in the robbery of his sister's house, he concluded to try as best he could to get back to his father's in Virginia, and getting up near Greeneville, Tennessee, he called to stay all night

with an old man by the name of Thompson, a mile or two from Greeneville. He told the man that he had no money and that he wanted to do some work to pay for a pair of shoes and stockings. He was taken in for the night and in the morning Mr. Thompson told him that if he would make him some rails, he would make him the shoes and give him a pair of stockings. So the old man went out and selected some timber that would split well, and then set to work to make the shoes. My father worked, cut and split 100 rails the first day and when night came his hands were in a solid blister. The next day he went to work to make more rails but after striking a few licks the blisters broke and began to smart, and he sat down on a rail cut and took a hearty cry and thought this a hard way to get shoes and stockings but he went to work and made 90 more rails that day, and when he quit at night he told the old man that he would have to do without the shoes as his hands were so sore he could not make any more rails. The old man asked him how he come to be in such want. When my father told him all that had happened to him, then the old man paid he should have the shoes and stockings and he need not make any more rails. My father readily accepted of the offer. The old man then told him that there was a company being drafted in Greeneville to guard the frontier settlements. My father concluded at once that was the easiest way to get some clothes. So he went and offered to take any ones place who it did not suit to go into the army, and directly there were half dozen men at him to take their places. He agreed to take some ones place and the few days the army was waiting to start, a man by the name of Lackey happened to hear his name called, approached him and asked where he was raised and his father's name. He told my father he had been a tenant of his father in Pennsylvania, and that he had been very good and kind to him and that he was too young to be out here in the wild and savage country, and to come into his store and he would get him what clothes he needed and would give him money to take him back to his home, and if he saw fit to repay it, he could do so, but if not it was alright that he felt it would not be thrown away, as his father had bestowed many favors on him. My father thanked him for his kind offer but told him he had lost all he had by the Indians and he was determined to have some of their scalps or they should take his. So all the entreaty of his friend could not change his course. So he was one of Gov. Sevier's soldiers for two years in guarding and defending the frontier from attacks of the Indians. Seven months of which time he was appointed and served with Capt. James Cunningham as spies to look out and report any danger of attack to the army and the command never crossed the Tennessee river but once when he did not go, but only kept back because he could not swim. (Capt. Cunningham after the war lived and died at Athens, Tennessee). He was in nearly all the battles that were fought. He and his fellow spy were in the apple orchard the day before the celebrated defeat at the mouth of Citico Creek, where it meets the Tennessee river, and filled their knapsacks with apples and carried them to camp and gave them to the soldiers. Nothing would do but they go back the next day over to the orchard to get apples, as there were none in the country except what had been planted by the Indians. Out of 31 soldiers who went for apples 17 were killed. They had no sooner gotten off their horses and began picking up apples when 500 Indians surrounded them, and then every one mounted and attempted to escape, most of those shot were killed while crossing the river. The Indians told my father, after peace was made and he went among them trading that they were lying in ambush and saw him get the apples the day before but the Chief told the others to let them alone as the apples carried away to camp would soon bring plenty more, and so it proved.

My father was in the battle of Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga. Our forces were under Gen. Martin, the battle was fought near the river and the Indians were hid behind the rocks and timber and there was no way to get an even chance with

then as the high and rough mountain was hard to scale and the river on the other side. My father said he saw Capt. Hardin, Beeller, and Gibbs all shot down near each other while trying to lead their men. There was great fault found with Gen. Martin for leading his men into such difficulties where they had no chance to meet the enemy on equal grounds.

After peace was made by a treaty, my father engaged in making a crop on his farm near Maryville and in the Fall when he had gathered it and disposed of it, he went into the nation and bought a lot of horses from the Indians. He got some of his old lady friends to bake him some corn bread or dodgers and he got some dried beef so after purchasing a wallet (this must be what we would call saddlebags), he put his bread in one end and the beef in the other and started for his father's in Virginia, camping out at night and turning his horses loose to graze on the range after belling one of them, so as to be able to find them in the morning. He would unsaddle his horse and then sit down and eat his bread and beef, and when he got sleepy would make a pillow of his saddle and cover up with the blanket. When morning came, would hunt up his horses and set out for a days travel. In this way he went 400 miles without lodging a night in a house or calling for a meals victuals. On getting to his father's, none of the family knew him as he was dressed in the Indians costume or buckskin from head to foot and by this time grown a beard, which was not the case on leaving home as he did a beardless boy.

After staying 2 or 3 weeks at his father's, feeding and resting his horses, he went down to eastern Virginia where he sold his horses for a large profit, they having cost but little at the start. He then went to Richmond and laid out his money in such goods as suited and came back and sold them at a very large profit. It was not long before he was able to own a good wagon and team and a negro boy to drive it, and had plenty of money to load it with furs bought of the Indians. He was also given the charge of seven other wagons also loaded with furs that belonged to the Government, all to be delivered in the city of Philadelphia. This also yielded him a large profit. He loaded at Philadelphia for Pittsburg for which he was paid \$11.00 per hundred and from Pittsburg he loaded for Richmond.

At another time he was engaged in buying and driving large droves of cattle from Virginia to the Maryland and Pennsylvania markets, some times as many as two or three droves in one Fall. At other times he would buy and drive to Richmond market large droves of sheep, and would attend the negro sales and when he saw a chance to make money would buy them and bring them to Western Virginia and sell them. For eleven years he was travelling and trading. He told me he had travelled 31 times from Tennessee to Staunton, Virginia, and seven from here to Philadelphia, all on horse back.

After these years of rambling and getting a start in the world, in 1796 he concluded to settle down and have a home. So he was married, on Aug. 23, 1796, near Brownsburg, Rockbridge County, Virginia, to Miss Issabella McChesney, daughter of James McChesney, and moved at once to his farm one and one half miles from Maryville, Tennessee, where he lived until 1806. The children of this wife were: Mary McChesney Sharp, born July 28, 1798, (Aunt Polly), who married Robert McCroskey. Annie Boyd Sharp, born Dec. 11, 1800, died Dec. 8, 1802; Narcissa Sharp, born Jan. 8th 1803, died July 25th 1844, married William Cowan Gillispie; Martha Montgomery Sharp, born March 16th 1806, died 1865, married Dr. Samuel Pride; Sally Sharp, born April 12th 1808, died Aug. 17th 1809. His first wife, Issabella McChesney Sharp died Sept. 8th 1810, age 36 years.

My father's second marriage was to my mother, Jean Johnston, daughter of Zachariah and Ann Johnston of Rockbridge County, Virginia. They were married on Sept. 3th 1812, and she died March 28th 1822. The children of this marriage were: Ann Johnston, born June 6th 1813, who married Caswell Lea and died at Dandridge, Tennessee, June 10th 1838. (They had two children, Jane Ann, who married a Mr. Davis, whose son Lea Davis lives at Chattanooga or Athens. Their daughter was named Martha Eliza). The next child was John Zachariah Sharp, born Jan 4th 1815, and died June 3rd 1815. The next was James Madison Sharp, born July 8, 1816, died _____ (He and his wife, Rebecca Cannon, are buried at Eusebia, Blount County, Tennessee.)

My father's third marriage was to Ann Crawford, whose maiden name was McNelly. She was born and raised east of the Allegheny Mountains, Montgomery County, Virginia. They were married March 31, 1825, and she died March 3, 1846. She was my stepmother and I think one of the best ladies in the world. I lived with her for over 20 years, and I don't think there was an unkind word. I could not have loved my own mother better. Her first husband was Thomas Crawford, they had one son named James who died when he was 24 years old. When Esq. George Gammon of Sullivan County, Tennessee wanted her to make his house her home and when my father married her, she had been a widow for 28 years. In 1806 he moved to the old Sharp home in Sevier County.

Descendants of Mary McChesney Sharp (Aunt Polly), married Robert McCroskey:
(written by Dr. S.P. Sharp in 1894)

John Sharp McCroskey, married (McCallie?); children were Robert, Marcus, John Ellis, Sallie Ann (married Emert), Nealie, married Oliver Pickens. Isabella Jane McCroskey married Campbell Bogle. Parthenia who lived only 10 or 12 years. Robert McCroskey who has now, 1894, one son and two daughters, then she married Maj. Heps Davis by whom she had two children. Joseph McCroskey (for whose guardian she went security) and one daughter. Presilla died 6 or 7 years of age. Martha Ann married Hiram Bogle whose children were Joseph, Mae, William, Harriet and Sidney, Caroline, Lizzie and Mary. Marcus married the daughter of David McCroskey. Mary McCroskey married Harvey Keener whose children are Robert, Joseph, Rebecca who married a Johnson, Mollie married Spencer Palmer, James, John, Ad, Ed. William McCroskey married a McClung.

Narcissa and William Cowan Gillespie: children were: Isabella Jane Gillespie, married Newton Campbell of South Alabama; James & Findley Gillespie, who never married; John Sharp Gillespie, married a Miss McAdore?; Milton Campbell Gillespie, married Lorinda Clark, they live in Alabama between Huntsville and Decatur; William Gillespie; Heseltine married Wm Toole; Clementine married Freeman Badget; Eglisc-tine? married Blount Heartsell, no children; Martha Montgomery Sharp, married Samuel Pride, whose children as follows: John, married Miss Sallie Morgan; Mary Ann, married Thomas Pope and live at Franklin, Tennessee. Ann Johnson Sharp married Casell Lea whose children were Jane, Ann, Isabella, married Mr. Davis and had one son, Lea Davis who married a sister of W. Pink Mitchell of Sevierville of Sevier-ville, Tennessee; Martha Eliza, married and went to Texas.

James Madison Sharp married Rebecca Cannon, Dec. 3, 1846, daughter of Wm Cannon whose children are John William Sharp, born Feb. 2, 1848; James Madison Sharp, born March 13, 1849; Nancy Ann, born March 2, 1851, died May 25, 1851; Guilford Earnest, born Oct. 10, 1852; Samuel Pride, born Oct. 14, 1855.

Descendants of John W. Sharp who married Ellen Pitner, daughter of Andrew and Mary Jane Pitner, they were married Oct. 19, 1876. Their children were Annie Gibbs Sharp, born Sept. 11, 1878, died Jan. 20, 1892; William Pitner Sharp, born

Jan. 7, 1880; Mary Rebecca Sharp, born Oct. 30 _____; Betty Lee Sharp, born Dec. 22 _____; Johnie Ellen Sharp, born _____; died _____. John W. Sharp married the second time to Mary Katherine Sharp, daughter of Thomas and Amanda Sharp. They had one son, Reuben Thomas, born _____.

James M. Sharp married Jennie Brabson, Dec. 27, 188__ whose children are Ella and Irene.

Guilford Sharp married Irene Brabson the first wife on Oct. 19, 1876 to whom were born Earl, Ben, James, Elizabeth, Samuel.

Jean Johnson or Johnston. My grandfather Zachariah Johnston was a native of Ireland, of what county I do not know. He was Scotch-Irish by birth, married in his native country, her name was Ann but never knew her surname. They came to Rock-bridge County, Virginia, at a very early day and lived within one mile of Lexington, Virginia. He represented that county for eighteen years in succession in the legislature. He raised a large family of sons and daughters; their names, sons: James, John, Thomas, George, Zachariah, Alexander; daughters: Betsy, Ann, Margaret, and my mother Jane, all of whom married in Virginia except my mother. My grandfather owned a large estate and lived to be old and honored. My Aunt Margaret Johnston married Robert White, a merchant of Lexington, Virginia. He also represented the country several times in the legislature, was an Irishman by birth, a fine scholar, and a man of fine sense. His children, some of them still remain there- namely, George and Robert and I would like if you could know and become acquainted with them as well as any and all my other relations.