

NEELY



From the files of Stephen M. Lawson

Victor Naily

Richard Neeley and Ann Moberly

Richard Neely and Sallie Parker

Mary Ann Neely and John C. Turman

Elizabeth Caroline Turman and Mordecai S. Lawson

James Martin Lawson and Lucy Jane Freeman

Donald VanHoosier Lawson and Iva Melvina Freeman

Stephen Martin Lawson

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#1

Victor Naily

The information on the NEELY family has been obtained from a variety of sources. Much of the data is confirmed by and included in the privately published *Neeley Notes*, by Hazel Gibson JONES (Lubbock, TX: about 1993).

It is possible that Victor NAILY, of French Creek, PA and Craven Co., SC, was the brother of Thomas NEELY, who is said to have been born in Ireland, immigrated to Chester Co., PA before 1730 and died after 1750. Thomas was the father of the following children: Jackson married Ann and moved to York Co., SC; Thomas married Hannah STAR and moved to Mecklenburg Co., NC; Mary married John McGACHEY; John married Susannah; Samuel married Jane and remained in PA; and Matthew moved to Craven Co., SC. The information on the Thomas NEELY family is very limited, but may provide clues for future research.

Victor NAILY - d. late 1700s, Fairfield Co., SC. Reportedly of Irish heritage, his surname is variously recorded as NAILY, NALLY, NALEY, NELLY AND NEELY. As a leader of a group of Sabbatarian Baptists, Victor left the French Creek, PA area for Craven (now Fairfield) Co., SC in the mid 1750s. Descriptions of neighboring lands in Lancaster Co., PA seem to indicate that Victor owned land in Robeson Township on Apr. 26, 1751, but no longer owned the land on May 29, 1751. His residence is also placed on Connecocheague Creek. Perhaps the NEELY family were several years enroute from PA to SC. The Seventh Day Baptist Church was founded on Broad River, St. Mark's Parish, Craven Co., SC in 1754. Apparently, Victor settled on the Rocky Creek 150 acres by Dec. 4, 1756, and the Little River 100 acres by June 25, 1759, the dates of surveys of said land. He and his family settled on the Little River, and Rocky Creek of the Broad River, where he received Royal Land Grants totaling 250 acres in 1762. As a leader of the church in the Broad River area of SC, meetings were held at his house. Ordained ministers connected with the Seventh Day Baptists at Broad River included Richard GREGORY (son of

PA. → SC

Victor Neeley

John), and Capt. Israel SEYMORE [*Colonial Clergy...*, by F. L. WEIS 1955].

Children of Victor Naily & Ann Duntley

1. **Richard** - b. about 1742, possibly in PA or VA; d. before Oct. 20, 1798, Fairfield Co., SC.
2. **Victor** - d. 1795, Fairfield Co., SC. Received Royal Land Grant of 100 acres in St. Mark's Parish, Craven Co., SC on Apr. 20, 1763. Served in the Revolutionary War 119 days in the SC militia during 1781 and 1782. The 1790 Fairfield Co., SC Census: Victor NEELY 2-1-2. Married Martha 'Patty' (d. by Mar. 6, 1805, Fairfield Co., SC). Administration of the estate of Victor was granted to Patty NEALY, John NEALY and Samuel CLAMPET on Apr. 17, 1795, with heirs being his widow Martha 'Patty', and four children. Martha apparently remarried, as she signed a Deed of Gift and Relinquishment of Dower on Mar. 9, 1799 to her four children, the Deed being witnessed by Richard NEELY, Howard ROBINSON, and William YARBOROUGH. Upon the death of Martha, her minor son John NEELY chose John PEARSON as his Guardian on Mar. 6, 1805. Children: Victor married Sarah; John married Lucretia Jane BROOM/E (eight children); Richard married Elizabeth; and Jerusha married Alexander LESTER.
3. **Alexander** - Possible son. Received Royal Land Grant of 150 acres on McCray Creek, Craven Co., SC on May 18, 1771. Possibly the Alexander NEELY in Sumner Co., TN in 1790.
4. **James** - Possible son. The 1790 Fairfield Co., SC Census: James NEELIE 1-0-0.

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Richard and Ann (Moberly) Neeley

Richard NEELEY - b. about 1742, possibly in PA or VA; d. before Oct. 20, 1798, Fairfield Co., SC. Son of Victor NAILY. Richard received Royal Land Grants including 200 acres on Beaver Dam Creek, Craven Co., SC on Jul. 1, 1763, 100 acres on McGraw Creek, Craven Co., SC on Apr. 25, 1765, and 100 acres on Broad River, Craven Co., SC on May 18, 1771. During the Revolutionary War, he enlisted on Sep. 21, 1776 in the First Regiment of the SC Militia, and re-enlisted in Dec. 1776. The 1790 Census of Fairfield Co., SC: Richard NEELIE 2-3-6 [2 males over age 16, 3 males to age 16, 6 females]. His will [Fairfield Co. Wills, Vol. 1, Sec. 2, pp. 78-79] is dated Jul. 24, 1793, certified Oct. 20, 1798, proved Jan. 17, 1799, and recorded Jan. 19, 1799. Richard left 50 acres of land to his wife, an adjacent 50 acres to son Richard, 48 acres to son John, and additional land to sons Clement and Alexander. [A land survey certified Nov. 19, 1766 by Jno. CALDWELL identifies 150 acres in Berkeley County, granted to a Richard NEALY on Oct. 30, 1767.] It is estimated that Richard and Ann were married about 1762.

Ann MOBERLY - b. about 1745-49, Bedford Co., VA; d. about 1805, Fairfield Co., SC. Also known as Nancy MOBLEY, she was called Ann in her husband's will, left 50 acres of land and named executrix. 1800 Census of Fairfield Co., SC: Ann NEELY 0 0 2 1 - 2 0 2 0 1. The children are listed in the order named in Richard's will. Daughter of Clement MOBERLY/MOBLEY and Mary FOX.

Children of Richard and Ann Neeley

1. ~~Victor~~ - b. about 1780. Has name of his paternal uncle and grandfather. Over age 21 in 1793, he received a rifle and whipsaw in his father's will, of which he was named executor.
2. ~~Mary~~ - Has name of her maternal aunt and grandmother. Received one shilling by father's will.
3. ~~Jane~~ - Received one shilling by father's will.
4. ~~John~~ - Received 48 acres and a set of smith's tools by father's will. Possibly the John NEELY appearing on the 1812 tax list of Bedford Co., TN. 1800 Census of Fairfield Co., SC: John NEELY 2 1 0 1 - 3 0 0 1. Married by 1800, possibly late in 1790. On Sep. 15, 1809, John wrote a letter to brothers Richard and Clement in TN, indicating that John had a daughter Susannah born Jan. 9, 1809. Reportedly, one son was Victor NEELEY (b. 1792, Fairfield Co., SC; d. about 1865, Benton Co., AL), who was the father of John W. NEELEY (b. Sep. 21, 1845; d. Jul. 19, 1902, Rockwell Co., TX) married Mariah E. BROOKS. Children: Three sons and three daughters in 1800.
5. ~~Richard~~ - b. about 1785, Fairfield Co., SC; d. before Oct. 13, 1813, Bedford Co., TN.
6. ~~Ann 'Nancy'~~ - Has name of her mother. Received one cow and one calf in father's will. Married John BRENT/BRIANT (b. Fairfield Co., SC; d. Nov. 22, 1822, Pike Co., MS), who was a witness to his father-in-law's will. Moved to MS in 1812. Children: John; James; Preston; and Meridith.
7. ~~Abigail~~ - b. about 1763; d. after 1820, MS. She received one cow and one calf in father's will. Married by 1780 Thomas MEREDITH (b. about 1760; d. Apr. 26, 1812, Macon Co., AL), a Revolutionary War soldier. Thomas was killed by Indians while en route to SC, starting the Creek Indian wars of 1813-1814. Abigail may have married again in 1813, Amite Co., MS. Son: John M. married Catherine JONES (daughter of Ralph JONES); Mary married Thomas Reynolds; James married Mary Ann 'Polly' FAUST; Sarah married William JONES (son of Ralph JONES); Elizabeth married Mr. SASSER; Patsy married John HART; Thomas married Elizabeth RUGGLES; Nancy married Rowland THOMPSON; and Catherine married Isaac H. WRIGHT.
8. ~~Susannah~~ - Has name of her maternal aunt and great-grandmother. Received one cow and one calf in father's will.
9. ~~Sarah~~ - Received one cow and one calf in father's will. Married John PEARSON.
10. ~~Clement~~ - Has name of his maternal uncle and grandfather. Received land jointly with brother Alexander in father's will. Also received turning tools. On May 1, 1807, Clement and his brother Alexander jointly sold 100 acres to John BOYD "on waters of Little River, granted on 8 May 1771 to Richard NEELY Sr." When Clement moved with his brother Richard to TN in 1807, they both carried letters of introduction signed by Gen. John PEARSON. Clement NEELY received a commission as Lt. in the 28th Reg't, Bedford Co., TN on Jan. 11, 1810. A letter dated Oct. 7, 1809 from John BOYD to Clement's brother Richard includes the comment, "I suppose the next time I hear from you that Clement and Susannah will also be tied in the same kind of know." Clement married Susannah HARRINGTON about 1810, and they moved to Clay Co., MO in 1816 or 1817.
11. ~~Alexander~~ - Has name of his paternal uncle. Received land jointly with brother Clement in father's will.

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1785
Capt. Richard and Sally (Parker) Neely

Richard NEELY - b. about 1785, Fairfield Co., SC; d. before Oct. 13, 1813, Bedford Co., TN; bur. in unmarked grave Parker Cemetery, Raus, Bedford Co., TN. Son of Richard NEELEY and Ann

MOBERLY. On Mar. 25, 1804, as an orphan minor, Richard chose John PEARSON as his Guardian. On May 7, 1807, Richard sold 100 acres of land on McGraw's Creek, branch of the Little River, Fairfield Co., SC to John BOYD. This land is identified as being granted to "Richard NEELEY Senior" on Apr. 25, 1765 and surveyed on July 1, 1763, and included 50 acres received after his father's death, and probably 50 acres received after his mother's death. It would appear that the land sale was preliminary to Richard's removal to TN in 1807. When Richard moved with his brother Clement to TN in 1807, they both carried letters of introduction signed by Gen. John PEARSON. The letter for Richard, also signed by Gen. Richard WINN, apparently at a later date, read: "Whereas the bearer hereof Mr Richard Neeley a Native and inhabitant of this place being disposed to remove to the western country - These are therefore to Certify for him, that I have known him from his infancy to the present date, during all which time never have heard of anything alledged disrespectful to his character that he generally considered a good citizen an honest and industrious well disposed person. Given under my hands this 30th April 1807." On Jul. 23, 1810 he was a Capt. in the 28th Reg't. In 1812 he was Capt. of the Militia returning the Bedford Co., TN tax list, which included Clement NEELY, Richard NEELY, and Elijah PARKER. Though there is no known record, it is possible that Capt. NEELY was killed in action during the War of 1812, perhaps in the Creek Indian attack on Fort Mims, MS on Aug. 30, 1813. Richard married about 1808 in TN.

Sarah 'Sallie' PARKER - b. Apr. 10, 1791, Granville Co., NC; d. Oct. 17, 1884, Bedford Co., TN; bur. Parker Cemetery, Raus, Bedford Co., TN [photo]. A family history article on the TURMAN family in Wayne Co., TN is found on pages 408-409 in *Wayne County, Tennessee History and Families*, published by the Wayne Co., TN Historical Society (1995). This article explains that, after the death of Richard NEELY, Sallie and her daughter Mary Ann lived with Sallie's father Capt. Elijah PARKER. After Sallie remarried, Mary Ann continued to live in the PARKER home, and was referred to at times as Mary Ann PARKER. Sallie married second in 1816 James MCGILL. Children of Sallie and James MCGILL: Sallie married Martin SHOFNER; Lucy married Newton CUMMINGS; Elizabeth; Priscilla did not marry; Dr. James W.; William married Mary GARDNER; and Nancy. Daughter of Capt. Elijah PARKER and Mary HARRIS.

Children of Richard and Sally Neely

1. Elijah - b. Jul. 11, 1809, Bedford Co., TN; d. 1862, Madison Co., AR; bur. Tuttle Cemetery, Washington Co., AR. Married on Dec. 11, 1834, Amelia CALDWELL (b. May 2, 1818, Bedford Co., TN; d. Jan. 25, 1891, Parker Co., TX; bur. Springtown, Parker Co., TX, with memorial marker in Tuttle Cemetery, Washington Co., AR), daughter of Samuel CALDWELL and Anna DEAN of Spartenburg Co., SC. The family moved to Washington Co., AR in 1852, along with his MCGILL half-siblings. Children: Sarah Ann married Tom BATEMAN; Samuel did not marry; Casandra married Humphrey ENYART; Susannah married John W. MEREDITH; Richard Alexander married Mary Ellen TIMBERLAKE; Mary Frances married Britton Adams MERRICK; William Jefferson died in infancy; Josephine married Tice HARRIS; Lucy Edna married Thomas JOHNSON; and Catherine married William J. McELHANEY.
2. Mary Ann - b. Jul 10, 1811, Bedford Co., TN; d. Jun. 11, 1858, Waynesboro, Wayne Co., TN. Married John C. TURMAN.
3. Martha - d. Dec. 10, 1813, Bedford Co., TN. Born after the death of her father.