

## 4

### *The Family of Michael Gl(e)aves About 1755 - 1811*

Most families have a child who is the free spirit, blown by the wind, marching to a different beat. Michael appears to be our candidate for this award. His life is well documented. Michael was a soldier, frontiersman, sportsman and entrepreneur.

Michael was the middle son of Matthew and Esther Glaves. The date of his birth is not known although in Chapter One, we place it as the mid-1750s. The vast majority of entries found referring to Michael during his lifetime list him as "*Michael GLAVES*". Shortly after his death in 1811, entries concerning his estate and children begin appearing exclusively with the surname spelled "*GLEAVES*".

Michael is first identified while still a minor in 1772, through the lawsuit *Turk vs. Rafferty*, which is detailed in Chapter One. His brother William had been named his guardian, although there does not appear to be any court record of this event. "...*Bill of Chancery ... whereby Thomas TURK and Mary his wife, William GLAVE and Elizabeth GLAVE, and Michael GLAVE, Esther GLAVE and Matthew GLAVE. Infants by William GLAVE their guardian.*" His father had died about 1760 when he was fairly young. Within a few years of his father's death, Michael's mother, Esther, had become remarried to Thomas Rafferty. It is assumed that he at least initially lived with his mother and stepfather during his formative years. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*

Thomas and Esther Rafferty had moved to Washington County, Virginia before the children filed the court case against them. It is not known if Michael made the move with them or remained in Augusta County with the families of his older brother or sister. His brother William had married Elizabeth Turk in 1770 and his sister Mary married Thomas Turk four years earlier in 1766. Court documents contain no signatures of the children, which would clearly establish his being in Augusta County in 1772. Subsequent entries pertaining to Michael make it likely that he remained in Augusta County with relatives.

Some time in 1772, his brother William moved his family to the Cripple Creek Valley in present day Wythe (pronounced With) County, Virginia. It would appear that Michael made the trip with them. "*William GLEAVES*" shows up on the rolls of the Botetourt County Militia for that year. Michael would still have been a minor and is not listed. *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*

#### ***Confrontation with Native American Indians***

The early 1770s were a period of unrest in the settlements on the western frontier of Virginia, particularly west of the Cripple Creek Valley. Friction between the new inhabitants and several Native American Indian tribes escalated as settlement pushed further westward. Indian attacks to protect their right to their hunting grounds and retaliation by the colonists had made the area unsafe for both groups. The following excerpts from a document titled; *Native American Clashes with European Settlers* describes the situation at the time.

*"The Indians had no concept of "private property", as applied to the land. Only among the Delawares was it customary for families, during certain times of the year, to be assigned specific hunting territories. Apparently this was an unusual practice, not found among other Indians. Certainly, the idea of an individual having exclusive use of a particular piece of land was completely strange to Native Americans.*

*The Shawnee had never given up their claims to western Virginia and interpreted the rapid settlement as act of aggression. Hostilities reached a climax in 1773 when land speculator Michael Cresap led a group of volunteers from Fort Fincastle (later renamed Fort Henry) at present day Wheeling, West Virginia and raided Shawnee towns in what became known as Cresap's War. One of the worst atrocities was the murder of several family members Mingo chief, Tah-gah-jute, who had been baptized under the English name Logan. Logan, who had previously lived peacefully with the settlers, killed 13 western Virginians that summer in revenge.*

*Virginia Governor, John Murray, Earl of Dunmore, plotted to crush the Shawnee and end hostilities. Dunmore drew up a plan to trap the Shawnee between two armies. The governor personally led the northern army while land speculator Andrew Lewis led a smaller force from the south."* <http://www.wvlc.wvnet.edu/history/inland.html>

### ***Dunmore's War: The Battle of Point Pleasant***

The first entries documenting Michael's presence in the Wythe County area occur when it was still part of Fincastle County. On August 13, 1774 a list of the men in Captain Daniel Smith's Company of the Fincastle Militia includes "Michael GLAVES" as "AWOL" from a fort at Upper Station. This author has not been able to locate the present day location of this fort. Two weeks later on August 29<sup>th</sup>, "Michael GLAVES" appears on the rolls of Captain Smith's Company stationed at the fort at Big Crab Orchard. This fort was located in what is now, Tazwell County, Virginia.

*Virginia's Colonial Soldiers*

Michael had probably not reached his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday yet when he left Big Crab Orchard with Captain Smith's Company to join the Southern Force under the command of General Andrew Lewis.

About the first of September, the companies under the command of General Lewis rendezvoused at Camp Union, now Lewisburg, West Virginia. The force, made up of volunteers and militia units, numbered approximately 1,100 men divided into two regiments. The Army left Camp Union on September 11<sup>th</sup> and after a nineteen-day march through thick mountainous terrain, reached the Ohio River. They intended to link up here with Dunmore's Northern Force before pursuing the Indians, but events overtook this plan.

On October 10<sup>th</sup> the army was camped near the present day town of Point Pleasant, West Virginia. At dawn, scouts for the Southern Force reported that a large body of Indians was camped two miles north on the Ohio River. General Lewis immediately dispatched two columns of men to confront the enemy.

The following are excerpts from an account of the battle by Captain John Stuart of the Botetourt Regiment. "*The detachments marched out in two lines and met the Indians in the same order of march about four hundred yards from the camp and in sight of the guard. The Indians made the first fire and killed both the scouts in front of the two lines. Just as the sun was rising, a very heavy fire commenced ...our men had given way some distance before they were reinforced by the other companies issuing in succession from the camp. The Indians in turn had to retreat, until they formed a line behind logs and trees, and kept up their fire 'till sundown.*"

*History of the Battle of Point Pleasant*

Late in the day General Lewis turned the tide of the battle when he ordered three of his companies in a flanking movement of the Indian's defensive position. The Indians, under the command of their leader, Cornstalk, believing these to be reinforcements from Dunmore's Northern Force, broke off the engagement. Elements of Dunmore's Force did arrive after the battle, about 11 o'clock that evening.

Accounts of the battle place General Lewis' losses at 81 killed with another 141 men wounded. Estimates of Indian losses are just that, but are reported to be 233. The Shawnee retreated to their towns in the Ohio Territory and for all practical purposes, ended any threat to the Virginia settlements. Many point to this battle as the beginning of the American Revolution since it insured that the patriots could fight the British without fear of attacks from their Shawnee allies. The first shots of the American Revolution did not actually occur until the next year, 1775.

Michael Glaves is not mentioned by name in accounts of the Battle of Point Pleasant, although several sources list him among the soldiers participating. We do know that the members of Captain Smith's Company appear in Fincastle court records and were compensated for their service. "*Michael GLAVES*" is listed on these rolls and was paid two pounds and eight shillings for his tour of duty.

*Soldiers of Fincastle County 1774*

### ***Michael and the American Revolution***

There are at least two other documented records of Michael's participation in the American Revolution. The first is actually a continuation of his Indian exploits.

*"On July 22, 1776, the Virginia Council received a letter from President Rutledge of the South Carolina Council stating that hostilities had been started by the Cherokee Indians as allies of the British. He also said that Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina had agreed to put an expedition in the field and asked for the co-operation of southwest Virginia. The British Government incited and armed the Indians in the Spring of 1776. The Nations so armed included the Creeks, Cherokees, Choctaws and the Chickasaws. They were induced to take up arms in behalf of their British Allies".*

*Genealogies of Virginia Families*

Virginia's response to the request was to muster two battalions of militia under the command of Colonel William Christian, a veteran of the Battle of Point Pleasant. The expedition would become known as "*The Rear Guard of the Revolution*". Listed among the Captains whose militia companies made up this force, are some familiar names. Family members served in several of their companies over the years. Among those listed was Captain Daniel Smith, in whose company "*Michael Glaves*" served two years earlier during the Battle of Point Pleasant.

Colonel Christian's orders were quite clear. "*When your battalion and the battalion under Colonel Charles Lewis are completed, you are to march with them and the forces under the command of Colonel Russell, and such others as may join you from Carolina, into the Cherokee country, if these forces shall be judged sufficient for the purpose of severely chastising that cruel and perfidious Nation, which you are to do in a manner most likely to put a stop to future insults and ravages and that may rebound most of the honor of American arms*". A list of the privates from Southwest Virginia in this force includes "*Michael GLEAVES*". Those listed are not broken down by company, although it is likely that Michael still served with Captain Daniel Smith.

*Genealogies of Virginia Families*

Several of the Indian nations mentioned above claimed hunting grounds in the lands that eventually became the State of Tennessee. This expedition is documented as penetrating the interior of that region. It is entirely possible that this campaign provided Michael Glaves with his first glimpse of the frontier he would settle ten years later.

*"Among the men of Colonel Christian's army were many from the interior counties of Virginia, who saw now for the first time the limpid streams, the rich valleys, and luxuriant uplands of lower Tennessee, and experienced its genial climate, where the heats of August and September are tempered by a cool breeze which comes continually down from the mountain altitudes, "stealing and*

*giving odors.” They were enraptured with the country; and, even before peace was concluded, they chose out spots for the homes to which they soon afterward emigrated.”*

*The Rear Guard of the Revolution*

The campaign lasted for three months and was successful in ending, for a time, the threat of aggression from Indian Tribes aligned with the British. Among the various tribes, all sued for peace except the Chickamugas and their Chief, Dragging Canoe. He refused to “*come in*” and swore eternal vengeance against the white settlers. As a condition of the peace treaty, the other tribes gave up large portions of territory in the interior of Tennessee. After this foray into Indian lands, Michael returned to Montgomery County, Virginia.

### ***Oath of Allegiance***

During the Revolutionary War, each county was required to keep a list of those individuals who took the Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia. During 1777 and 1778, John Montgomery compiled his list from among the men of several militia companies in Montgomery County. The Preamble reads as follows: “*The names of those persons within the District to which I was appointed to administer the Oath of Allegiance and fidelity those who have taken said oath are as followeth, to wit.*” The name “*Michael GLAVES*” appears on the list under the date of September 23, 1777.

*Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*

Family history suggests that both Michael and his older brother William participated in the Battle of King’s Mountain, South Carolina in 1780. Kings Mountain was a significant victory for the Americans at a time when they desperately needed good news to further the cause of American Independence. Troops from Montgomery County did participate in the battle, but nowhere can either brother be found. There is evidence to suggest that these reports are simply family folklore passed down over time.

On April 2, 1782 William Gleaves, Michael’s older brother, filed three Public Service Claims in Montgomery County Court. “*William GLEVES came into Court and made satisfactory proof that he furnished Captain Campbell’s Company of light horse Militia of Montgomery County with sixteen diets, sixteen sheves of Oats, 200 pounds of Beef, and the Washington Militia sixteen Diets, corn and hay for Eight horses one night, also Twenty-four Diets for a Company of patrollers under Sergt. Brumit, the whole amount 5 pounds, 2 Shillings*”. The dates on which William supplied these rations are not known although the supplies for Captain Campbell’s Company probably occurred in late September 1780.

*Early Adventurers on the Western Waters, Commissioner’s Book*

The first entry, involving Captain Isaac Campbell’s Company, would have occurred just before the Battle of Kings Mountain, October 7, 1780. Michael was a member of this unit. The following information documents the exploits of the company.

### ***The Battle of Shallow Ford***

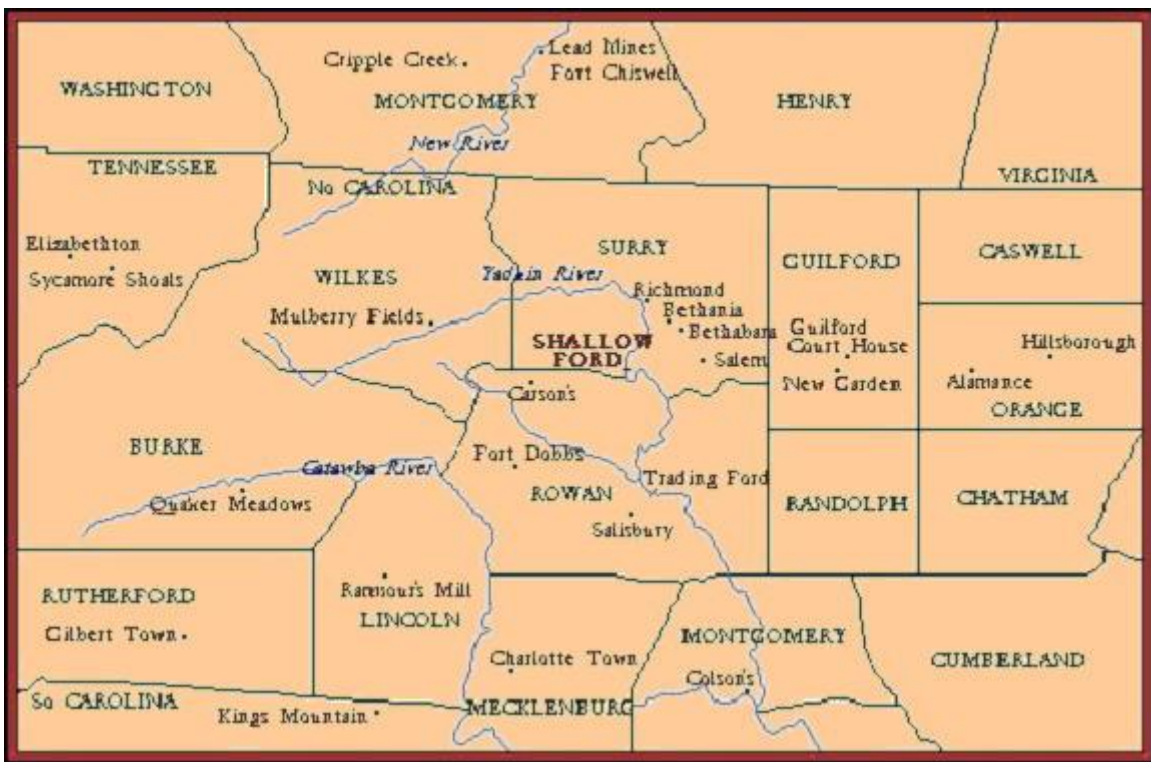
*“Four companies of Patriots, numbering about 160, from Montgomery County, Virginia, under Maj. Joseph Cloyd and Captains Henry Francis, Isaac Campbell, George Parris, and Abraham Trigg had followed earlier troops headed to meet Col. Ferguson.*

*When they reached western North Carolina, they learned of Ferguson’s defeat at Kings Mountain, and were redirected to Surry County. These four companies from Virginia (about 160 men) joined with the first three companies sent out from Charlotte and Salisbury (about 110 men) and with the local Surry county militiamen who had not pursued Ferguson (about 80 men). On Saturday morning, October 14th, about 9:30 a.m., this force of 350 men, were on the west side of a small stream, now called the Battle Branch, near the Shallow Ford crossing of the Yadkin River.*

Suddenly they saw the head of the Tory force which had threatened the county for the past weeks. Numbering between 400 and 900, they had crossed the Yadkin and were moving westward on the Mulberry Fields Road. Both sides hastily formed and fired several rounds at each other. The Whigs, though outnumbered, quickly gained the advantage. Captain (James?) Bryan, of the notorious Tory Bryan clan, who led the Tory forces, was quickly killed, along with 13 others. The Tories retreated pell-mell back across the Yadkin, shouting "we are whipped, we are whipped." As they were well mounted, they made good their escape. Captain Henry Francis of the Whigs lost his life, and four others were wounded. The battle probably lasted about 45 minutes."

<http://www.cbiinternet.com/shallowford/battle.htm>

The Battle of Shallow Ford has long been overlooked by historians. Recent research shows that, at the time, it was a significant victory for the Patriot forces. Occurring exactly a week after Kings Mountain, these two battles turned the tide of the War for Independence in North Carolina to the Patriots' advantage. After this, the British confined their activities to South Carolina.



This map of a four-state area shows the relative locations of a number of landmarks discussed in this chapter. Shallow Ford is in the center of the map; to the North are Montgomery County, Virginia and the Cripple Creek Settlement. Due East is Guilford Court House and Southwest is Kings Mountain, South Carolina.

This same Internet site referenced above contains a list of individuals titled *Soldiers at the Battle of Shallow Ford*. The rolls of the Montgomery County Militia list two other officers in Captain Isaac Campbell's Company; "Lieutenant William Dean, Lieutenant Michael GLEAVES". There is no record of William Gleaves being among the men of any of the four companies and most likely remained in Montgomery County during both of these engagements. William would participate in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse six months later. That engagement is detailed in Chapter 3.

It does not appear that Michael or his brother William ever applied for a Revolutionary War Pension, although both brothers are mentioned in applications made by others. These applications confirm Michael's involvement at Shallow Ford.

John Ewing S. 31015

*"3 April 1833. Logan Co., Ky. John Ewing of said county, aged 72, declares he was born in Prince Edward Co., Va., in June 1761.*

*By an order of the Governor of Virginia, Isaac Campbell and Robert Lawyers, both of Montgomery (County), were directed to raise two companies of light horse or rangers to serve for six months. He volunteered under Isaac Campbell. Michael GLAVES was lieutenant and John Rent ensign. They rendezvoused at the lead mines. Col. Abram Trigg took command and they marched up New River and crossed at Jones' Ford and proceeded across the mountains to the headwaters of the Yadkin River. Here they fell in with a party of Tories commanded by Capt. Kyle. They killed between twelve and twenty of the Tories and dispersed the balance. His former captain, Henry Francis, was killed in the fight and was the only Whig that was touched by the enemy. From there they went on to the Moravian towns. After being there a short time they returned to Virginia."*

Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 35

Robert Black S.1167

*"8 Nov. 1832. Woodford Co., Ky. Robert Black of said County, aged 82, declares he was born in Augusta Co., Va.*

*He volunteered under Capt. Isaac Campbell and Lieut. Michael GLAVES and marched to Dunker's Bottom on New River in pursuit of Tories. They marched down New River to Draper's Meadows where they remained some time and caught a good many Tories. They then marched into Carolina on the Yadkin to the Moravian Town, took a number of Tories, and then marched to the heads of the New River and the Yadkin where they had a skirmish with the Tories. They had one man killed; several Tories were also killed. They returned home and were discharged, having served three months."*

Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 7

Michael Buster S. 1178

*"18 June 1833. Pulaski Co., Ky. Michael Buster of said county, aged 75, declares...*

*In Montgomery County in April 1781 he volunteered in a company of light horse of Capt. Isaac Campbell, Lt. Michael GLAZE and Ens. John Rare and in May the company assembled and marched with another company of light horse to North Carolina and ranged on the Yadkin and Catawba rivers and on the borders of South Carolina. He was at the battle fought with the Tories at the Shallow ford of Yadkin River. The Tories were under Col. Wright. The two horse companies were under Captains Campbell and Man (Mars?) and the footmen were under Maj. Cloyd. The Tories were defeated and prevented from joining the British forces. The battle was fought the Saturday after the battle of King's Mountain and they would have been in that battle but a portion of their forces were dispatched to disperse the Tories that had embodied themselves under Capt. Martin. They dispersed Martin and his Tories although upwards of three to our one. He served to the latter part of Oct. 1781 when they were directed to return home. After their return he engaged with others in ranging against the Tories and in the winter received a discharge."*

Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 13

James Hall (Margaret) R. 4478

*"25 Sept. 1833. Blount Co., Tenn. James Hall declares he was born 29 June 1760 in Pennsylvania and moved at an early age to Guilford Co., N.C. Then he moved to Montgomery Co., Va., where he entered service at the age of 17 or 18 under Captain Preston as a volunteer.*

*4 Aug. 1845. Blount Co., Tenn. Robert Rhea of said county, aged 82, declares he served with James Hall in several detachments of Virginia militia in 1779 and 1780 for short terms under Captains Love, Preston and their subalterns, amounting to five or six months and in a company of cavalry under Capt. Isaac Campbell, Lt. Michael GLEAVIS, Ens. William Dean, Col. Walter Crockett,*

*Maj. Floyd and Gen. William Campbell from early in May 1780 until June or July of 1782. The troops rendezvoused at New River at the lead mines and Fort Chisel (Chiswell) and were in service in Virginia and North Carolina and at the battle of Shallow ford of the Yadkin on Saturday after the battle of King's Mountain.”* Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 49

After the War, several states, including Virginia and North Carolina, granted Bounty Warrants for unclaimed land to its veterans in appreciation of their service. Although there is no record of Michael ever serving in the North Carolina militia, that state issued Warrant #563 to him, dated August 3, 1784. North Carolina grants were for land in Tennessee, while Virginia granted lands in Kentucky. His claim to land is detailed later in this chapter.

There appears to be a piece of the puzzle missing here in that most grants went to soldiers serving in the militia of the state granting the land rights. Did Michael live, even briefly, in North Carolina? Bob Carver reports that Michael attained the rank of Captain at some point. Could this have occurred in North Carolina?

Michael remained active in militia after the Revolutionary War.

### ***The Cripple Creek Valley***

Michael had moved to present-day Wythe County between 1772 and 1774. No land records pertaining to him appear at that time, since he was probably still a minor. It isn't until 1780 that any record (other than militia) pertaining to him is found in this region.

On November 7, 1780, “*Michael GLAVES*” appears in Montgomery County Court as a member of a Grand Jury. No details of the case were recorded. This entry confirms that Michael had reached the age of 21 by this date, so the latest he could have been born would have been 1759.

*Annals of Southwest Virginia*

On April 5, 1781, “*Michael GLEAVES*” and his brother appear on the Montgomery County militia rolls in Captain James Newell's Company. This list was produced shortly after the Battle of Guilford Court House where members of the company, including his brother William, participated in the engagement. If Michael also participated, no documentation has been found.

On September 11, 1782, an entry in Montgomery County, Virginia Court Records grants a Commissioner's Certificate to “*Michael GLAVES for 200 acres on branch of Cripple Creek, adjoining William GLAVES' line*”. The entry just below it grants *William GLAVES* a certificate for an additional 300 acres of land on Mill Creek, branch of Cripple Creek. *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters*

A later, undated entry does provide some insight as to when Michael first established his own homestead. “*Michael GLAVIS, 100 acres on a branch of Cripple Creek, adjoining Wm. GLAVES line, settled 1777*”. Since this document wasn't recorded until 1782, it offers no new information to narrow his date of birth. *Montgomery County Deed Book, page 215*

That same year “*Michael GLAVES*” is listed on the Montgomery County tax rolls as a landowner with six horses and six head of cattle. *Tax List of Montgomery County, Virginia 1782*

### ***Westward to Lincoln County, Kentucky***

Some time after the tax rolls were completed in 1782, Michael left Montgomery County, Virginia. No records have been found showing that he sold the property he owned there, so the approximate date can't be narrowed down beyond a two-year window.

Some researchers have claimed that Michael Gleaves came to Tennessee around 1780, although several Kentucky records would argue otherwise. Other family researchers place Michael at the Daniel Boone Settlement in Northern Kentucky about that same time, but nothing documenting this claim has been found either. There are only a few scant reports to document Michael's time in Kentucky and none refer to the Boone Settlement.

It is possible that Michael first went to North Carolina. As previously mentioned, he received a North Carolina Bounty Warrant dated August 3, 1784. It is not clear if he traveled to North Carolina to apply for the grant or received it by some other method. We do know that two weeks after the date the warrant was granted he appeared in a Kentucky court. Some family historians suggest that he married his wife Rachel in North Carolina although no proof has been found.

The Kentucky District of Virginia had existed for some time before it was subdivided into counties. On November 1, 1780, most of the present-day State was divided into three counties. The largest of these, covering most of the southern half, became Lincoln County. The county seat was at Harrodsburg, located in the middle of the state.

"*Michael GLAVES*" first shows up in Lincoln County Court records on March 17, 1784 as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by John Hall. The suit was over a debt although no details are provided. The following day, "*Michael GLAVES*" served on a jury at the same location. The jury heard a case; *John Warford vs. Benjamin Pelton*. The case was decided in favor of the plaintiff, but there are no details explaining the circumstances. Five months later on August 17, 1784 he again is in court, this time entering himself as "*special bail*" for the defendant in a trespass case.

*Lincoln County, Kentucky Records Volume 2*

Lincoln County Court records for 1785 also list "*Michael GLAVES*" on several occasions. February 18<sup>th</sup> John Hall drops his lawsuit "*on debt. Discontinued, being agreed*". On June 21, 1785 a second lawsuit filed by John Francis against "*Michael GLAVES*" is ordered discontinued, no details are provided. The final entry occurs on August 17, 1785 when "*Michael GLAVES*" serves on another jury, this time in a case titled *John Crow vs. Arthur Owens* dealing with trespass.

*Lincoln County, Kentucky Records Volume 2*

During this 18-month period, Michael appears in court records six times but none of the entries gives any clue as to where in the vast county he lived at the time. No land records have been uncovered to more accurately pinpoint his location. While some of these entries could have been made without him appearing personally before the court, his service on the two juries appears to indicate he was in the county the whole time.

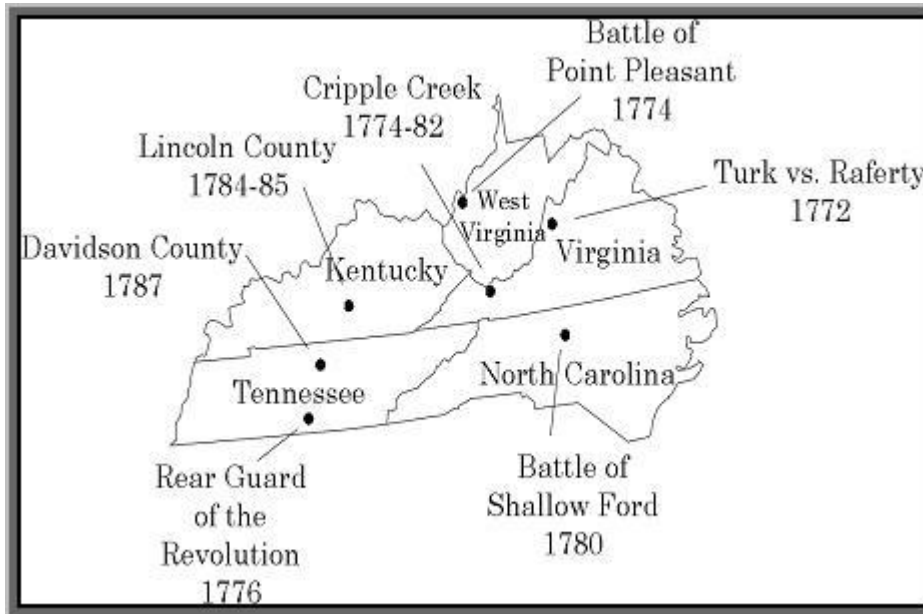
There is no record of when Michael left Lincoln County or where he went. It would be another eighteen months before he resurfaces, this time in Davidson County, Tennessee.

This researcher is puzzled by Michael's attraction to Kentucky. He had applied for a Bounty Grant from the State of North Carolina that was approved in 1784. Bounty grants for land in Kentucky came from the State of Virginia, while those approved by North Carolina were in its Tennessee Territory. These lands were at the time the western part of that state, known only as "*The Western Lands*". One possibility is that Michael may have received Bounty Lands in Kentucky for his service to Virginia as well. If this is true, no record has yet been found. It is possible that he may have moved to Kentucky with others. His brother Matthew settled in Kentucky also, but not until a year later and much further north in Bourbon County. If Michael had married by this time, he may have gone to Kentucky with members of his wife's family. Then again, this is our free spirit; maybe he just wanted to see Kentucky. This author looks forward to others answering this question.



### *The Travels of Michael Glaves*

The adventures of Michael Glaves are fairly well documented. Between 1772 and 1787 he is recorded in at least seven different locations in a five state area.



### *The Turner Manuscript*

Some time during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Dr. Edgar Lee Gleaves, of Nashville, Tennessee, took notes during an interview with J. Miller Turner as he recited in great detail, the family history of Michael Gleaves. Mr. Turner was Michael's great grandson. No date of the interview is given, although we know that Mr. Turner died on June 2, 1925. Dr. Gleaves then compiled a document titled *The Gleaves Family* which he updated several times into the 1940s. The first part of the six-page document is included here. The document is sometimes difficult to follow as it winds through five or six generations. It is a valuable tool for identifying additional members of the Michael Gleaves Family. Those individuals are recorded in Chapter 9. This oral history contains some errors but we owe much to both Mr. Turner and Dr. Gleaves. This chapter contains an excerpt of the manuscript dealing with Michael and his children. It begins:

*"The original family by the name of Gleaves came from Dillingham, England, to America, the exact date being unknown. Several years prior to the Colonial War they settled in Virginia near Roanoke where several descendants still live.*

*The first one of the family to come to Tennessee was Mike Gleaves, who came to the Boone Settlement in Northern Kentucky, from there to Mansker's Fort situated about fourteen miles north of what is now Nashville. The fort was built in the form of a stockade on Mansker's Creek at a large spring on what is now the boundary line between Davidson and Sumner Counties, about one and one half miles northeast of the Cumberland River. This settlement was under the command of Captain Mansker. Mike Gleaves at that time entered the Colonial Army and fought at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780, after which he returned to Fort Mansker with his two Negro servants and there married a lady named Rachel, last name unknown to the writer. This marriage was in 1788. Of this union there were born five children, four sons and a daughter: Thomas 1789; Michael 1791; Matthew 1793; William 1795; given name of the daughter not known, 1797. All were born at Fort Mansker. Mike Gleaves left Fort Mansker with his family and secured Land Grant No. ? (appears to be 26) to six hundred forty acres across the Cumberland river from Fort Mansker in what is known as the Jones-Hadley Bend, now occupied by the Powder Plant (during World War I, 1917-19), after that known as*

*Old Hickory and being the site of the Dupont Rayon and Cellophane plants. On this 640 acres is located the family burying ground, where he and his wife are buried. He also bought 640 acres adjoining him, and at a sheriffs sale purchased another 100 acres, giving him a total of 1300 acres. He was a wealthy man at that date. He was one of the first seven men to pay taxes in Davidson County in the year 1792. The date of his death is not known to this writer.”* The Gleaves Family

This author has a great deal of respect for family histories handed down over generations. They are to genealogy what the classics are to literature. To question a detail in such a document, borders on heresy. Discounting information provided by family elders must require documented proof. This author undertakes this challenge with the utmost respect for Mr. Turner and will attempt to confirm as many details as possible. Since the time of this interview, many new genealogical sources have been published and new information finds its way to the Internet daily. These tools are used in the analysis of this historical record.

Several details in this document appear to be contradicted by other reference sources. As reported in the first chapter, Bob Allen tried to locate Dillingham, England but no such town existed. It appears that Mr. Turner was referring to the town of Willingham. Earlier in this chapter evidence was offered that suggests that Michael Gleaves' militia unit arrived too late to participate in the Battle of Kings Mountain and was redirected to the Shallow Ford engagement. This document mentions five children by name. We know from Michael's will that he had at least seven children and possibly more. Several of the dates of birth for his children appear to be wrong. Finally, Mr. Turner places Michael at Mansker's Fort prior to the battle of Kings Mountain in 1780. Other sources provide a record that would indicate that the earliest he could have moved there would be 1785.

### ***Michael's Marriage to Rachel***

An exhaustive search of early marriage records before 1800 in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee fails to turn up a groom named Michael Gleaves or any variation of the family surname.

We do know that Michael was married to a woman named Rachel at the time of his death in 1811. She is mentioned by name in his will, filed in the Davidson County, Tennessee Will Book. "Rachel GLEAVES" is also listed in a family Bible and her date of death is recorded as September 7, 1835. Nathaniel Cartmell Bible

Rachel's maiden is unknown. The only clue we have comes from the exhaustive research of Hilda Hager Barnes. "Her maiden name is unknown, but at one point I have the name of "BEATTY" with a question mark. The source of her last name is unknown at this time." This author is not aware of any other researcher that has even ventured a guess as to Rachel's maiden name. Happy hunting!!

There is some confusion regarding the dates of birth of some of Michael & Rachel's children. Mr. Turner lists five children while other sources, including Michael's will, list at least seven.

If the date of birth of the oldest son is correct (Thomas-1789), Rachel would have been born some time before 1775. One daughter attributed to this marriage, Elizabeth, married in 1800, which would mean Rachel was born much earlier. There is a possibility that this daughter is from another marriage. There is no proof that Michael took a wife before he married Rachel but enough evidence exists for researchers to suspect that this may be the case. This issue is discussed at length later in this chapter.

Mr. Turner suggests Michael married Rachel in 1788. As discussed in the preceding paragraph, this date may be in error. There is at least one report that the marriage occurred near Roanoke, Virginia prior to 1780. Other, undocumented sources report that Michael married Rachel in North Carolina prior to moving to Fort Mansker. There are records placing Michael in Tennessee in

1787, which would suggest one of three things: 1.) Michael married Rachel before this date and she accompanied him to Tennessee; 2) he returned to North Carolina and brought her back; or 3) her family also came to Tennessee prior to the marriage.

No documents have been found to verify or discount Mr. Turner's recollection of these details.

### ***Kasper Mansker's Fort***

Kasper Mansker was a hunter and fur trader who began probing the Middle Tennessee area as early as 1769. He was one of the first white men to explore the area that would become Davidson County. He and others were called "*Long Hunters*", not for their rifles but for the duration of their hunts, which some times lasted two years. His home in the 1770s was Fincastle County, Virginia, home also to William and Michael Gleaves. It is not known if the brothers knew Kasper at that time.

In 1779 Kasper Mansker left Fincastle County and established Mansker's Station, a Fort on Mansker's Creek about 15 miles from present day Nashville, Tennessee. This was one of a string of outposts known as the Cumberland Settlements, named for the river upon which many were located. This first fort was abandoned in 1781 due to Indian attacks, but Mankser built a second one in the same area in 1783. Additional families from southwest Virginia moved to the area and depended on Mansker's Station for protection from the frequent Indian raids.

### ***The Daniel Smith Connection***

The document from which information on Kasper Mansker is gathered mentions a frequent visitor to the fort, General Daniel Smith. Between 1783 and 1793, Smith settled land and built a home called Rock Castle. He brought supplies and craftsmen from Lexington, Kentucky to aid in the construction. Daniel Smith is a name familiar to us. "*Captain Daniel Smith*" was the commander under whom Michael Gleaves served at the Battle of Point Pleasant, and was most likely his commander in 1776 in the expedition against the Cherokee Nation. If this is the same Daniel Smith, as appears quite likely, it is possible that Michael Gleaves came to Mansker's Station with him when he returned from one of his many trips to Kentucky. Again; no proof, just a theory.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~dmansker/Station.html>

Family oral history states that Michael and Rachel lived at Mansker's Station while Michael cleared and planted his land near there. It is reported that each morning he would travel by boat to the property and return to the safety of the fort before nightfall. It is not known how long the couple lived at the fort but the Indian threat from the Creek and Cherokee lasted until 1796.

### ***Davidson County, Tennessee***

Although we do not know exactly when Michael came to Davidson County, we know he was there by 1787. "*Michael GLAVES*" appears on the first tax list under the following heading. "*Names of persons who were in Davidson County in 1787, being the first year in which the tax on land and polls was taken, being white males over twenty one years, three hundred and seventy two and blacks one hundred and five between twelve and sixty years old*". This is but the first of more than 150 entries in Davidson County public records referring to Michael over the next 25 years. Virtually all of these records list the spelling of his surname as "*GLAVES*". Only those that are significant in detailing his life are included in this manuscript. *Pioneers of Davidson County*

To this point we know nothing about how Michael supported himself. He began to acquire land shortly after his arrival but a single entry on April 10, 1788 sheds some light on his skills as a craftsman. On that date, Michael must have been considered to be a reputable member of the community, since an apprenticeship was assigned to him. "*Ordered that Thomas Dunbar an Orphan Boy aged fourteen years and seven months be bound out into Michael GLOVES to Learn the art of*

*weaving if capable of learning the Same or if not To give the sd. Apprentice at the Expiration of his Term a horse and saddle Such as now Trade amongst us for five Second Rate cows and calves and to Read and write In some Tolerable Degree, Or Otherwise Six months Schooling With a Suit of Freedom Clothes". No information with regard to the length of the apprenticeship is included in this abstract. Davidson County Minute Book page 214*

In November of 1788, "Michael GLAZE" was summoned for jury duty by the Davidson County's Superior Court of Law and Equity. That same month he is fined for failure to appear in this matter. The amount of the fine and if Michael paid it, is not recorded. Davidson County Minute Book

The first record of Michael acquiring land in Tennessee is also recorded in November of 1788, when he is listed as purchasing the land of a man named "L. Steel", no details are given. On January 16, 1789, he again is recorded as purchasing land with much more detail recorded. *"This indenture made January 9, 1789 between Zachariah Stull of one part and Michael GLAVES of the other part, both of Davidson County. Zachariah Stull conveyed unto Michael GLAVES a tract of land containing 100 acres in Davidson County and adjoining Stull's Old Field, McGavock's line and Joseph Hannah's corner. It being part of 640 acres granted to said Stull by patent dated April 16, 1786 in right of Preemption".* Davidson County Deed Book A page 278

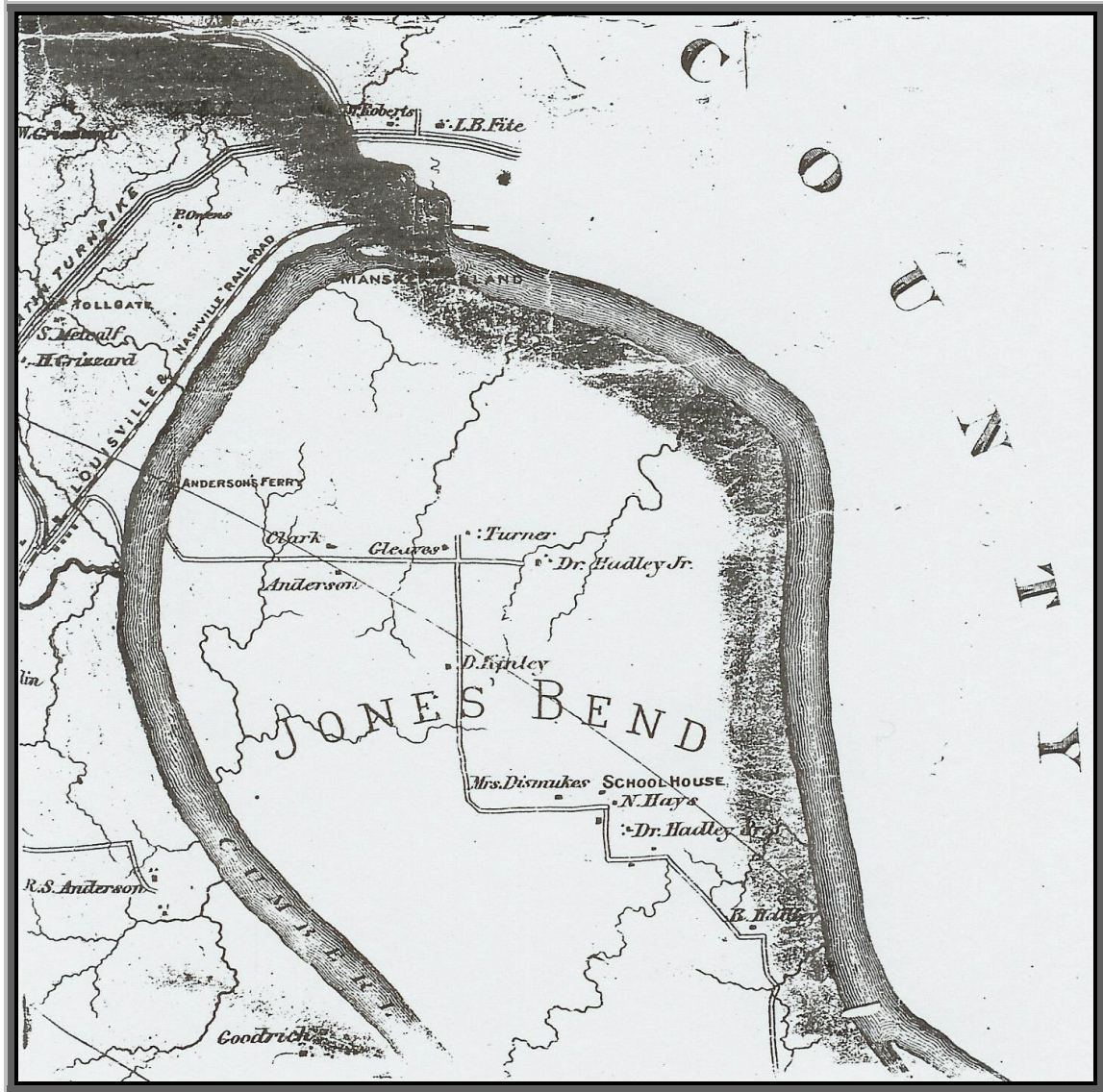
On July 6, 1789, "Michael GLAVES" joined several others in posting a "Sheriff's Bond" of 5,000 Pounds Sterling for Sampson Williams as Sheriff of Davidson County. It would appear that he already had become successful, since this would have been a significant amount of money at that time. Davidson County Will Book 1

Some time in late 1789 or early 1790 there is an entry where Michael appears to register his method of identifying his livestock. *"GLAVES Mark – Michael GLAVES Records his stock mark thus in the Right Ear an Underkiel and the Same in the Left".* This author has looked in vain to find some description of an Underkiel. Davidson County Minute Book page 317

Michael soon began to amass considerable land holdings. It is clear that he had access to money, since he was able to help post bond for the sheriff shortly after coming to the area. It is possible that Michael dabbled as a land speculator during this period. In December of 1789 "Michael GLAVES" purchased "a tract of land containing 640 acres on the south fork of White's Creek" at what appears to be a Sheriff's foreclosure sale. The transaction was recorded on May 15, 1790 and less than two months later; Michael sold half of this tract to a man named John Smith. Neither entry contains the price paid for the property. Davidson County Deed Book B

### ***Michael's Bounty Lands***

Michael appears to have used his North Carolina bounty grant to acquire the land at Jones Bend (later known as Hadley Bend) that would become the family homestead. The surrounding area would become known as the Hermitage. *"Michael GLAVES – Territory of the United States – North Carolina No. 297. For 10 pounds per 100 acres paid by Michael GLAVES was granted a tract of land containing 640 acres in Davidson County on the south side of the Cumberland River about a mile and a half below Jones' improvement. Surveyed for said GLAVES September 10, 1789 by Henry Bradford, D.S., in consequence of a Warrant No. 563, August 3, 1784; November 16, 1789".* This entry was filed on July 31, 1792. This appears to be the land that family legend reports as having been cleared and planted while Michael lived at Mansker's Station. Davidson County Deed Book C



This 1871 map of Jones Bend (later Jones-Hadley Bend) shows the approximate location of the land claimed by Michael Gleaves. The original property remained in family hands until World War I. Many of these names are familiar as these families intermarried with the Gleaves. Partially obscured at the top of the Bend is Mansker's Island.

Some time prior to July of 1790, Michael had been appointed by the county to be a Road Overseer. This was an important position on the early frontier and these men, with the help of the local militia units, kept the lanes passable for immigration and commerce. Overseers generally lived on or near the roads that they were charged with maintaining. On July 14<sup>th</sup> Michael was replaced: *“Ordered that Daniel Williams Jnr. Oversee the keeping in Repair the Road Leading from Shaw’s ferry to Mansker’s Station instead of Michael GLAVES”*. No reason for the change is given. While we know the location of Mansker’s Station, this author has not been able to pinpoint Shaw’s Ferry. It is possible that this entry marked Michael and Rachel’s departure from Mansker’s Station and it simply wasn’t convenient for him to continue in this role from his new homestead, which would be located on the other side of the Cumberland River.

*Davidson County Minute Book page 372*

During this period Michael was also acquiring another form of property; slaves. There are at least three entries in the 1790s where he purchased young blacks and his 1811 will names others.

Davidson County Will Books

### ***Hermitage: Thoroughbreds and a Future President***

During the 1790s, Michael became a wealthy man. It is not definitely known how he made his fortune, but it appears to have been considerable for his time. There is at least one report that Michael built the first church (Presbyterian) and school in the Jones Bend area. When he died, Michael owned land in four separate counties and his estate reported that he held notes due him from 39 different individuals. This same period saw the birth of most of his children. We do not know how long Michael and Rachel remained at Mansker's Station, but some time during this decade they moved to their homestead in an Hermitage area. There are reports that Michael named the home built on this plantation "Breezewood". A biographical sketch of one of Michael's great-grandsons, John Turner notes that the home was still standing in 1897. "...Junius Turner, brother of our subject, is residing in a part of the house, ten miles northeast of Nashville that his great-grandfather, Michael Gleaves, built."

Goodspeed's History of Crockett County, Tennessee

*"The Hermitage neighborhood was regarded as the best section of Davidson County, the soil being better adapted for cotton than any other part of the county, and was settled by wealthy men and cotton-planters."..... "In the same neighborhood lived a large family of Gleaves, early settlers and prominent men, some of whom are still living."*

History of Davidson County, Tennessee with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men & Pioneers

Around the same time that Michael and Rachel came to Mansker's Station, one of their future neighbors arrived in the area as well. Andrew Jackson came from North Carolina in the late 1780s and stayed at Mansker's Station in 1790-1791. We do not know if the two men lived at the Fort during the same period. We do know that they knew each other and lived very near.

Michael and Andrew Jackson shared a passion for thoroughbred racehorses. They are reported to have raced on a course in the Hermitage area known as Clover Bottom. "Newspapers of the passing years reflect the ever increasing cost of bettering horsestock. March was usually marked with extra editions of the Gazette, and later the Clarion, given entirely to advertisements of the pedigrees and powers of fatherhood of the more important stallions. Front pages were illustrated with large woodcuts of Atlas, Wonder, Diomede, Collector, Truxton, (owned by Andrew Jackson), Young Diomede, Royalist and numerous others, their names printed in the boldest, blackest type the editor owned. Following the description of pedigree, size, appearance, age and price, there was always a long list of names of the most noted horseman of Middle Tennessee who attested that all the information, particularly the pedigree, was true, among those who both advertised and attested was often Andrew Jackson". Michael's will mentions horses from two of these bloodlines, "the gray Diomede filly" and "the Truxton colt".

The Flowering of the Cumberland

### ***A Tiff with Andrew Jackson***

A biography of Andrew Jackson contains a document pertaining to Michael. According to several sources, in June of 1800, Michael Gleaves made a derogatory remark about the future President, who demanded an apology. Andrew Jackson was known for his temper and had already killed a man named Charles Dickinson in a duel over his honor. Jackson had recently been appointed as Judge in Davidson County and this may have tempered his demand for "satisfaction". Michael appeared to realize that discretion was the better part of valor and filed the following disclaimer with the court.

Notes from Bob Carver

### *Affidavit of Michael Gleave*

*State of Tennessee Davidson County*

*June 15, 1800*

*Whereas a report has been in circulation that I Michael GLIEVS (sic) of the County and State aforesaid Should have, on the sixth Day of June in the Year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and at the House of John Bosley utter and speak the following words of his honour Judge Jackson (to wit) As honest a man as Andrew Jackson was called he had stolen his Bull and he could prove it. I do therefore certify that if I did Speak the above named words they wer (sic) groundless and unfounded, and further I do certify that I never did suspect Andrew Jackson of a dishonest act in my life.*

*Given under my hand this fifteenth Day of June 1800*

*Test Samuel Donelson*

*Michel GLEAVE*

*I Josiah Payne and John Hays Junior do certify that we were at the House of John Boxley on the sixth Day of June in the Year of our Lord Eighteen hundred at which time reports say that the above named Michael GLIEVES (sic) said of Andrew Jackson Esqr. notwithstanding said Andrew Jackson Esqr. was called an honest man he had Stolen his Bull and he Could prove it. These are therefore to certify that if said Glives (sic) did make use of any such expression we did not here (sic) him at the time aforesaid nor any time before or since. Given from under our hands this fourteenth Day of June 1800*

*Test Saml. Donelson*

*Josiah Payne*

*John Hays The Papers of Andrew Jackson*

No additional information has been found pertaining to this incident. It appears that the two men were able to patch things up and resume their involvement in horse racing.

At the time of his death, Michael owned a colt sired by one of Jackson's stallions. According to family researcher Bob Carver, this public apology may have appeared in one of the local newspapers, although the publication of the Affidavit has not been documented yet.

Michael must have patched up his relationship with Jackson as he purchased land from him in 1809. *"The first Register was John Ake, appointed as early as 1809, and the first deed for land registered by him was from Andrew Jackson to Michael Gleave"*.

*Centennial Celebration, Tennessee Historical Society, 4th of July, 1876, Bedford County, Tennessee*  
*<http://www.tngenweb.org/bedford/centennial.htm>*

### *A Previous Marriage for Michael?*

Several researchers, including this author, believe that Michael was married more than once and had additional children yet to be positively connected to him. There are several indications he took a wife prior to marrying Rachel. Birth dates for some of his older children appear to occur before his arrival in Tennessee and prior to the reported date of Michael and Rachel's marriage. Michael would have been in his mid-thirties when he married Rachel. If Michael was married only once, it is likely that his marriage to Rachel occurred much earlier than 1788, as reported.

The two most likely children, Mary and William Frederick, are covered in detail later in this chapter under the assumption that they were born into this first marriage.

Early Tennessee records list several other men with the family surname. The uniqueness of the surname makes this author suspect that some relationship to Michael exists. All the records uncovered occurred after Michael came to Tennessee. As reported in Chapter 1, unrelated families with the GLEAVES name settled in Pennsylvania and Maryland, although there is no known record of any member of these families migrating to Tennessee.

One of the earliest records identifies a “Perry GLEAVES”. On July 21, 1788 a man named Jacob Messick was granted a North Carolina bounty grant (No. 515) for his service in the Revolutionary War. The tract contained 2,560 acres of land in Davidson County on the south side of the Cumberland River. A description of the boundaries of the property included the notation; “*joining Perry GLEAVES’ upper line*”. This is the only known reference to this individual. Michael settled on the south side of the Cumberland River as well, but the description contained in this entry does not provide enough information to establish if it refers to land in the same general vicinity.

*Davidson County Land Deeds, page 223*

A very brief entry dated November 28, 1794, refers to a “Peter GLEAVES” who was reported to have been scalped by Creek Indians at Sharp’s Station, another of the Cumberland Forts near Knoxville, Tennessee. Again this is the only reference to this individual.

*Southwest History of Tennessee*

A third individual, “Francis GLEAVES”, appears around the turn of the century. Francis is listed as delinquent on the Smith County, Tennessee tax rolls on August 1, 1800. He is listed as owning 2,560 acres on Salt Lick Creek. The document says that the property was to be sold on October 22nd for back taxes. No record of the any further action is listed. Salt Lick Creek appears to be in present day, Trousdale County, east of Nashville near the town of Carthage. Several tracts owned by Michael were located in Wilson County, just to the west.

A 1798 Sumner County, Tennessee court entry identifies Francis in the area even earlier. “*2 March 1798, William Tyrell, Knox County, Tennessee to Thomas Draper, \$320.00, 320 acres part of a tract originally granted to Francis GLEAVES, 2560 acres lying on Salt Lick Creek the waters of the Cumberland River.*”

*Sumner County, Tennessee Deeds page 343*

Perry, Peter, and Francis would have all been too old to be any of Michael's children born at Fort Mansker. Some or all may be siblings of Mary Dorcas Gleaves, born in Virginia. Since the children of Michael’s brothers have all been identified and none of these names appear, this is the most likely conclusion. If Francis was a female, she could have been a widow. The only known Gleaves death in Tennessee prior to 1800 is that of Peter Gleaves, scalped in 1794. It would have been highly unusual for a land grant to be made to a woman.

### ***The Will of Michael Glaves***

Michael Glaves made his last will on February 13, 1811, in Davidson County, Tennessee. We do not know the exact date of his death, although we do know the will was entered in the County Court on September 20, 1811. Michael would have been between 50-60 years old at the time. It is clear from the opening paragraph of the document that Michael had been in ill health at the time he wrote it. This author does not possess an exact copy of the document and what is reported here is taken from an extract. The opening paragraph appears to be an exact copy.

*In the name of God amen. I Michael GLAVES of Davidson County having arrived to an old age and being in-firm (in) health but in a perfect sound mind but knowing its appointed for all men to die. I recommend my soul to God and my body to the grave and after being decently buried I wish my estate divided in the following manner.*

*Item 1<sup>st</sup>, I wish my dearly beloved wife, Rachel GLAVES, to have full and peaceable possession of the Tract of land on which I now live on during her natural life and after death, I give it to my son, Thomas GLAVES.*

*Item 2<sup>nd</sup>, I give and bequeath to my son, John GLAVES, six hundred and forty acres of land lying in Wilson County on waters of Cedar Lick Creek.*

*Item 3<sup>rd</sup>, I give and bequeath to my son, William GLAVES, six hundred and forty acres of land lying in Wilson County on Spencers Creek*



Item 4<sup>th</sup>, all the lands I have on the Duck River in the counties of Maury and Bedford I give and bequeath to my son Matthew GLAVES

Item 5<sup>th</sup>, I give and bequeath three hundred and forty acres of land lying on the waters of White Creek in Davidson County and 100 acres adjoining Zack Stull in Davidson County to my son, Michael GLAVES,

Item 6<sup>th</sup>, I allow each of my single sons, that is John, Michael and Thomas as long as they continue living with their mother, each of them to keep a horse of their own and no more

Item 7<sup>th</sup>, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Isabella GLAVES, the gray Diomed Filly and a negro girl named Priscilla

Item 8<sup>th</sup>, my sons, John, Michael, Thomas, and William, to pay my daughter, Isabella GLAVES, each \$200 when her mother may think she should have it

Item 9<sup>th</sup>, All stock, cattell to be collected next July and sold, except 10 cows and 2 or 3 horses

Item 10<sup>th</sup>, I give a negro girl named Jenna to my son, Matthew GLAVES

Item 11<sup>th</sup>, The ballance of my negroes I wish to remain in possession of my wife during her life

Executors: Ezekiel B. McCoy, John Davis, and William GLAVES

Witnesses: William P. Robinson and Jenny Robinson

The will was probated September 20, 1811. Ezekiel B. McCoy and John Davis, two of the Executors, add an unusual twist to this document, as both appear to have married women named *Gleaves*. If they were related to Michael by marriage, this fact has not been documented. Again, there is no proof, just an interesting coincidence. Both individuals are discussed in detail later in this chapter where we explore the connection between Michael and the 8<sup>th</sup> child, Mary Dorcas Gleaves.

Davidson County Will Book 4, page 155

A codicil was added to the original document, although it is not clear if it was done at the same time as the will or if it was added later. The codicil deals with additional items that Michael wanted distributed from the estate. The document also references an additional daughter Elizabeth. She is treated differently than the other children. Elizabeth married in 1800 and is clearly older than the others. She may be an additional daughter from a previous marriage. The codicil reads:

(1) I wish my negroes to be sold after the death of my wife, except negro boy, Jack, who will go to my son, Michael GLAVES

(2) A negro boy named Jesse I intend for my son, Thomas GLAVES

(3) A little yellow slave named Cynthia I give to my granddaughter, Rachel TURNER

(4) Also a small girl 5 yrs old Celia, by name, after my wife's death to my son John GLAVES and Celia's increase

(5) My daughter, Elizabeth TURNER, \$200, in cash to be held in hands of my executors to be paid to her for her benefit and her children, and if she should die before she receives it, my executors are bound to let her children have \$200 when they are in want

(6) All money due me at this time is to be collected as well as the money from sale of my horses and cattle next fall and equally divided between all my children except Elizabeth TURNER

(7) The Truxton colt now a year old I give to my son, Thomas GLAVES

(8) My blacksmith tools to my son, John GLAVES

On August 12, 1812 a "List of notes due unto Michael GLAVES, deceased, when he died in the year 1812" was entered by his son "William GLAVES". The list contained 33 names. William would submit a second, shorter list in 1815, with both he and his father's surname spelled with the extra "E".

On May 16, 1816, the estate of Michael GLEAVES was settled. The executors, including William GLEAVES, reported to the court that there was "found in the hands of the executors" a total of \$1863.60 and 1/2 cents."

With his death, the family name began to be recorded as “GLEAVES” in most documents. Within ten years the change was complete. All documented family members in Tennessee, whether descended from Michael or his brother William, appear with the same surname.

### ***Rachel’s Life after Michael***

Rachel Gleaves outlived her husband by almost 25 years. There is very little information pertaining to her after his death. It is assumed that she lived on the family homestead at Jones Bend until her death on September 7, 1835. Rachel outlived three of her five sons. Her date of death is recorded in a family Bible belonging to her son-in-law. *Nathaniel Cartmell Bible*

Rachel’s will was probated in 1836 and is recorded in county records. Youngest son William served as the executor. This author does not have a copy of the document and can provide no other details contained in it. *Davidson County Will Book 10, page 607*

Ken Thomson Jr., a Family researcher, has provided a copy of the accounting of the sale of Rachel’s estate in January of 1836. It provides a picture of a very prosperous woman. The very lengthy document lists the buyer, the item purchased and the price paid. Twenty four separate lots of livestock (horses, cattle, oxen, sheep & geese) are listed as well as various farm implements furniture and household goods. Many of the items were purchased by family members. Of note; “*1 Family Bible*” was purchased by her grandson Michael H. Gleaves.

Just as did others in the family, Michael opened a new frontier. He helped to civilize an untamed area of this country. His roots go deep into Tennessee and his descendants can still be found in the area. Michael and Rachel are reported to be buried on the family plantation, *Breezewood*, although any markers have long since vanished.

Mr. Thomson has further documented how the Family plantation was passed down through the generations. After Rachel’s death, the homestead was supposed to go to the eldest son, Thomas, but he had died in 1831. It appears that their son William became the owner. “*After the death of Mrs. William Gleaves (Mary “Polly” Ann Wilson) it became the property of her step-daughter, Mrs. Richard Ambrose Turner (Martha Ann Gleaves). At her death in 1885 it passed to her son Junius Gleaves Turner (1839-1914) and was sold by his wife Mrs. Clementia (Hadley) Turner and her children to the U.S. Government for the Powder Plant during World War I.*”

### ***The Children of Michael and Rachael Gleaves***

The children of this marriage are documented through several sources that provide conflicting information. Dr. Edgar Lee Gleaves’ documentation of Mr. Turner’s recollections of the family include only five children born to Michael and Rachel, but Michael’s will mentions seven. Also the birthdates are in question given the records of the marriages of some of the children. For purposes of this section, the birth order has been derived from the order the children appear in Michael Gleaves’ will.

#### ***1) Thomas Gleaves 1789 – February 16, 1831***

“*Thomas GLAVES*” is the first child listed in Michael Glaves’ will. Thomas had an older cousin with the same name who also lived in the Davidson County area. The other Thomas (1771-1849) was the son of his uncle, William Gleaves. The identical names and overlapping life spans make it difficult to positively identify specific records to this subject. In several cases, Thomas

identifies himself as “*Thomas Gleaves Jr.*” in what was a fairly common practice, in an effort to differentiate himself from his older cousin.

By 1810 we know that Thomas was acquiring land. That year, Thomas, his father Michael, William Nash and William Donelson received Tennessee Land Grants totaling 833 acres. These four grants (#1937-40) were in Bedford, Maury and Williamson counties. Four additional grants were issued in the name Thomas Gleaves but it is unclear if these refer to Thomas or his cousin. The last one occurred in 1835, after his death, so it most certainly was the other Thomas.

*Tennessee Land Grants*

A “*Thomas Gleaves*” is listed as a member of Captain Creel’s Militia Company in 1812. It is unclear which Thomas this entry refers to. Also listed on the rolls are Michael Gleaves Jr., (this is Thomas’ brother), and Absalom Gleaves, his cousin. All three are privates. Of note: another private listed, Andrew Jackson, a future President.

*Pioneers of Davidson County*

Michael Gleaves willed the family homestead, known as “*Breezewood*” (Later changed to Hazelwood), to Thomas, who was to get possession of the property after the death of his mother, Rachel. A codicil to the will also granted to him “*A negro boy named Jesse*” and “*The Truxton colt now a year old*”. “*Truxton*” was the name of a stallion owned by Andrew Jackson that sired the colt. The will shows that Thomas was still living at home and unmarried at the time of his father’s death. Thomas died four years before his mother so it is assumed that he never had title to the family plantation.

One of the earliest references to Thomas appears in court records of an estate sale. “*Thomas GLAVES*” is listed as a purchaser at the estate sale of George W. Payne entered with the court on November 8, 1813.

*Davidson County, Tennessee Will Books*

***Mary “Polly” Dean***  
***October 11, 1801 – After 1834***

Thomas married Mary Dean in October, of 1817 in Davidson County, Tennessee. The license was issued on October 9<sup>th</sup> of that year. A report by Hilda Barnes states that Thomas is recorded on the marriage certificate with the middle initial of “*J*”. If the reported date of his birth were correct, he would have been 30 years old at the time. Born on October 11, 1801, Mary may have married Thomas on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mary was the daughter of James and Mary (Dickinson) Dean. She was raised on White’s Creek in Davidson County and after her marriage, moved to her husband’s home at Jones Bend. Mary was supposedly somehow related to Andrew Jackson. Her father James had died in 1813 and since his will does not mention his wife, it is assumed that she had preceded him in death. Mary’s older sister, Sally, married Thomas’ brother, Michael Jr., in 1812. Michael was given land on White’s Creek in his father’s will. Michael Jr. served as guardian for Mary and her brother James until both came of age.

*Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

There are a number of court entries dealing with James Dean’s estate that mention Polly. These are detailed in the section of this chapter dealing with Michael Gleaves Jr. The only significant entry to mention both Thomas and Polly occurred on February 18, 1818. This entry confirms Thomas’ marriage to Polly. The entry appears to have referenced a lottery for the remaining assets of the estate that were due to Polly and her brother James. “*Division of the personal estate of James Dean, deceased. Four small slaves valued at \$2,400 and Lot No. 1 which includes two negroes valued at \$120.00 was drawn by James Dean the minor son of the deceased. And Lot No. 2 which includes Alexander and Jim valued at \$1,200.00 was drawn by Thomas GLEAVES and Polly his wife who is the daughter of the deceased. December 13, 1817*”.

Her brother, James Dean still appears to be a minor at this time. One additional entry in June of 1819 transfers his portion of the estate to him. Davidson County, Tennessee Will Book

Thomas and Mary had at least four children, although this author has only been able to identify two of them. Additional information on these children is found in Chapter 9.

Thomas died intestate at his residence in Davidson County on February 16, 1831. It is reported that he died suddenly of “*apoplexy*” (paralysis due to a stroke). Will Book 10, page 166

He appears to have been a fairly prominent man for his time since his obituary appeared in several area papers including the Nashville Banner & Nashville Daily Advertiser and Nashville Republican & State Gazette. Both papers identified him as “*Captain Thomas GLEAVES*”. This author does not have a copy of this obituary so cannot give any other details. The papers disagreed on his age at the time of his death with one reporting 37 and the other 38. If either case were true, Thomas’ date of birth would be later (early 1790s) than that reported in the Turner Manuscript.

Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851

After the death of Thomas, Mary remarried. On March 28, 1834, in Rutherford County, Tennessee, she wed a man named John Fletcher. Little is known of her life after this event. She is reported to have died in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, although no date is given.

Early Middle Tennessee Marriages

## **2) John Gleaves**

***Before 1791 – 1822***

“*John GLAVES*” was the second son mentioned in his father’s Will and was given “*six hundred and forty acres of land lying in Wilson County on the waters of Cedar Lick Creek*”. The codicil directed that he was to receive “*a small girl 5 yrs old Celia, by name after my wife’s death*”. John was also to receive any children born to Celia. John died before his mother, so most likely did not ever take possession of Celia. Additionally, the codicil gave John his father’s blacksmith tools.

### ***Mary Sarah “Polly” Robinson***

***Before 1797 – After 1832***

Shortly after the death of his father, John married Mary “Polly” Robinson. The marriage license was issued on June 25, 1812 in Davidson County, Tennessee. This author has found no information regarding Polly’s date of birth or her family. Early Middle Tennessee Marriages

That same year John is listed on the tax rolls of Captain Cloyd’s Militia Company. John is the only family member in this company, although several others appear in a different company.

Pioneers of Davidson County

It is not known when John and Polly settled on the land given him by his father. At least one court entry relating to John exists during his lifetime where he appears to sell some of the land he inherited. “*John GLEAVES to Samuel Davis 133 acres on Cedar Lick Creek. 22 July, 1820*”.

Wilson County Deed Book H, page 253

On January 30, 1821, John Gleaves purchased a slave named Jenny whose age was given as “*about ten years*”. The transaction occurred in Wilson County, Tennessee. The seller was one Darling Cherry of Martin County, North Carolina. John paid \$287.50. Wilson County Court Minutes

### ***The Gleaves Branch***

The following portion of a historical sketch of the Mt. Juliet area of Wilson County, Tennessee mentions John in connection with a tributary of Cedar Lick, known as Gleaves Branch. This sketch provides a wealth of information on John, Polly and their family. “...*However the Gleaves Branch was likely named much earlier. In 1822 John Gleaves who married Mary "Polly" Robinson June 28, 1812 in Davidson County, left a will in Wilson County, naming his wife and five minor children - sons William and John (subsequent documents say John T.) and daughters Sally, Caroline and Malvinia. He mentions land adjoining Samuel Davis (new Lowe's) and in a deed this is described as land "granted to Michael Gleaves on the Waters of Cedar Lick Creek." Michael Gleaves was John Gleaves' father. When early deeds say "on the waters of" a creek, this could be the remotest part of any small branch of said creek. As Gleaves Branch has its origin in the area mentioned in the deeds, it was probably named for these early Gleaves families.*” *West Wilson Neighbors*

John and Polly had at least five children who have been documented. All five children are mentioned in John’s will. Additional information on these children is found in Chapter 9.

John died in 1822 and left a will that was filed with Wilson County on December 22, 1822. The abstract of the will provides few specifics as to how his possessions were to be distributed. All five children are mentioned. It does mention that he expected to receive property from his mother’s estate upon her death. The will names his wife, Mary as the executrix and if she remarried, then his brother William was to assume that role. *Wilson County Wills*

### ***Polly & Mary S.***

One of the unanswered questions regarding the John Gleaves family is if he was married twice. His marriage to Mary “Polly” Robinson in 1812 is documented in Davidson County records. His will was filed in Wilson County on December 22, 1822. The will lists his heirs, which included “*wife Mary S. GLEAVES*”. This document and subsequent entries dealing with the John’s wife at the time of his death always list her as “*Mary S.*” not Polly. All these entries appear to reference the same person but it is impossible to determine with certainty that John did not marry a second wife during the last years of his life. There are no known marriage records to indicate that John had more than one wife.

Mary appears in Wilson County records on December 8, 1823 when she sold a portion of the land owned by her late husband. “*Mary S. GLEAVES, executrix of John Gleaves deceased to Albert Perry 82 acres on Cedar Lick Creek*”. *Wilson County Deed Book K page 1*

### ***Mary’s Marriage to Cyrus Stewart***

Some time in August of 1826, Mary remarried. The license was issued on August 8<sup>th</sup> and lists the groom as Cyrus “*Stuart*”. Subsequent entries make it clear that his surname was “*Stewart*”.

*Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

By early 1828, Cyrus appears in court records as the “*guardian of the minor heirs of John GLEEVES*”. Again in July of 1830, Cyrus is recorded serving in the same role. A portion of the estate is listed as passing to Mary. “*One sixth part is retained as belonging to my wife, Sarah GLEEVES*”. In 1832, two additional entries pass a share of the estate to John’s children, although, in these last two abstracts, Cyrus Stewart is not mentioned by name. We do know that Cyrus was still alive in 1841 when the will of one of John Gleaves’ sons, William, mentions him. There is no mention of Mary at this time and she may have already died. *Wilson County Wills*

### **3) William Gleaves** **1789 –July 29, 1840**

“*William GLAVES*” was the third child mentioned in Michael Glaves Sr.’s will. He was also named the Executor of his father’s estate. He received “*six hundred and forty acres of land lying in Wilson County on Spencer’s Creek*”. William is the only child not mentioned in the codicil to the original will.

The J. Miller Turner manuscript states that his grandfather, William Gleaves, was born in 1795, in Tennessee. A short biographical sketch of J. Miller’s brother, John Turner, provides conflicting information on both the date and location. “*William Gleaves, Mr. Turner’s maternal grandfather, was a Virginian, and settled in Davidson County when Tennessee was a part of North Carolina*”. This would mean William would have to be born before 1787.

*Goodspeed’s History of Crockett County, Tennessee*

William’s Bible exists today in the care of his grandson, Kenneth Thomson. The Bible provides valuable insight into William and his family, although William’s birth date is not listed.

Mr. Thomson also reports that he is in possession of tableware William had made for his second wife Polly. William took the silver from his father’s “*shoe buckles, knee buckles and saddle silver*” which were melted down to produce the silverware.

The earliest records pertaining to William deal with his administration of his father’s estate. On August 12, 1812, a “*List of notes due unto Michael GLAVES, deceased, when he died in the year 1812*” was entered by William. The list contained 33 names. William submitted a second, shorter list in 1815, with both he and his father’s surname spelled with the extra “*E*”. On May 16, 1816, the estate of “*Michael GLEAVES*” was settled. The executors, including William, reported to the Court that there was “*found in the hands of the executors*” a total of \$1863.60 and 1/2 cents”.

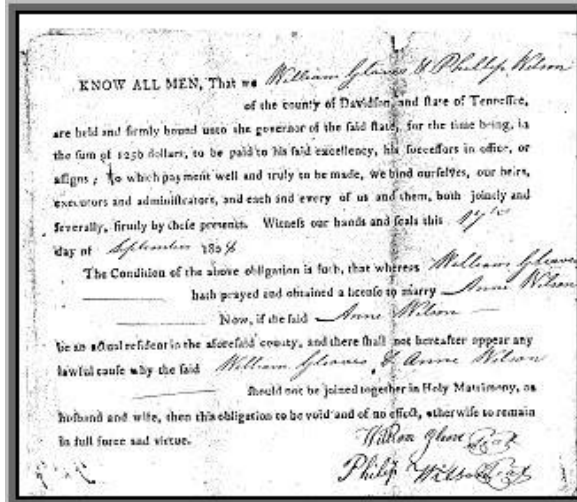
*Davidson County Will Books*

#### ***The Marriages of William Gleaves***

Records show that William was married at least twice in his lifetime. In September of 1808, he is reported to have married a woman named Anne Nelson. *Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

His family Bible documents the marriage but does not list Anne’s maiden name. “*William GLEAVES and Ann His wife was married Sept. 18.1808*”. *The William Gleaves Bible*

Little is known about Anne’s early life or her family. Some researchers refer to another family Bible that may contain additional information about her, although this author has no knowledge of its contents. A closer review of William’s marriage application reveals that Anne’s maiden name was in fact Wilson, not Nelson.



*Marriage Bond dated September 17, 1808 and signed by William Gleaves. The Bond for his second marriage exists as well.*

William and Anne had at least three children born into the marriage that are detailed further in Chapter 9. Anne Wilson appears to have died between June 5, 1813, when her third child was born and August of 1814, when William married for a second time. A marriage license issued in Wilson County on August 22, 1814 bears the names “*Polly Wilson and William GLEEVES*”.

*Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

It is not known if Anne and Polly were related, although there are several instances where Gleaves men have married the sister of a deceased wife. Again, William’s Bible does not answer the question. “*William Gleaves and Mary his wife was married Aug. 22, 1814*”.

*The William Gleaves Bible*

This author knows little about the life of Mary “Polly” Wilson. In 1812 and 1813 “*William GLEAVES*” appears as a buyer at the estate of a man named James Wilson, although no connection to either Anne or Polly can be made. To date, no children of this marriage have been identified and none appear in William’s Bible.

A series of land entries in Wilson County, Tennessee further identify William with his inheritance on Spencer’s Creek. On January 14, 1814 he sold some of the property, “*William GLEAVES to William F. Harris 150 acres on Spencer’s Creek*”. Three years later, a second transaction also reduced his holdings; “*William GLEAVES to James Wright, 65 acres on Spencer’s Creek, 28 July 1817*”. A third entry on October 10, 1819, shows him acquiring additional acreage, “*Robert Neil to William GLEEVES, 248 acres on Spencer’s Creek*”.

*Wilson County Deeds Books E, F & H*

“*Deaths: William Gleaves son of Michael Gleaves Sr. April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1840. Mary Gleaves, wife of William Gleaves, Died Sept. 11, 1877.*”

*The William Gleaves Bible*

William’s will was written April 8, 1840 in Davidson County and proved in court during May, of that year.

There is a document that has caused some confusion surrounding William’s death. An obituary printed in the *Nashville Whig* on September 30, 1840 lists a date of death as July 29, 1840. A brief abstract of the obituary of “*William D. GLEAVES*” states that he died in Franklin, Robertson County, Texas. The report goes on to identify him as: “*Youngest son of the late Michael Gleaves, Esq.*”. This is actually William’s nephew, William Dean Gleaves, son of his brother Michael Gleaves Jr.

*Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851*

### ***The Will of William Gleaves***

*I William Gleaves of Davidson County State of Tennessee, do make this my last Will & Testament, being of a disposing mind and memory that is to say I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary all the negroes I am now possessed of to wit; Sam aged fifty, Ruth...aged about twenty, Howard aged about fourteen, Matilda aged about fifteen, one hundred acres of the tract of land on which I live including the dwelling house, my gray horse, & choice of my brood mares, three cows and sufficient of hogs provisions for one year. I give to my grand Children William W. Smith, Mary Elizabeth Smith, George Smith each five hundred dollars on their coming of the age of twenty one or marrying and would either die before that time the survivor or survivors to have it, the same to be paid by Michael H. Gleaves and my son in law Richard a. Turner equally and finally, I wish all my just debts to be paid and the residue of my land to be equally divided between my son Michael H. Gleaves & Ann Turner, my daughter and at the death of my wife the hundred acres of land and negroes divided above to be also equally divided between My Son Michael H. and daughter Ann turner share & share alike*

*And in order to secure the payment as advised to my grand Children. Should My Son Michael, and Son in law Richard Turner wish to sell the land herein willed they Shall give bond and security to the guardian of my grand children, George Smith, M. Elizabeth, W.W. Smith, for the payment of the Legacy to each as heirs, and I further declare my will that if all of the said grand Children above named should die before they arrive at the age of twenty one or die without issue then the bequeath above is revoked & remain with my son Michael H. and daughter Ann, I constitute and appoint My Son Michael H. Gleaves and son in law Richard A. Turner executors of this my last will and testament made by me this 8 day of April 1840.*

*Signed and acknowledged in our presence,  
John T. Dismukes  
John L. Hadley*

*William Gleaves (seal)*

### **4) *Matthew Gleaves* 1793 – About 1835**

“*Matthew GLAVES*” was the fourth child mentioned in Michael Glaves’ will. He was given “*all the lands I have on the Duck River in the counties of Maury and Bedford.*” Matthew was also to receive one of Michael’s slaves, “*I give a negro girl named Jenna to my son Matthew GLAVES*”. Matthew’s brothers were all directed to give their sister, Isabella \$200 each, presumably to compensate her for not receiving any of the family lands. For some reason, Matthew had no such requirement. Matthew is not mentioned in his father’s codicil.

“*Matthew GLEAVES*” first appears in Davidson County court records in 1805 in connection with the death of his cousin by the same name. The son of his Uncle William Gleaves of Wythe County Virginia, his cousin came to Davidson County about 1800. The will confirms the relationship where the deceased had directed that lands he owned in Kentucky were to be sold and the proceeds divided among his parents and siblings. “*I Allow my Cousin Matthew GLEAVES twenty Dollars out of the Price of it*”. If Mr. Turner was correct on the date of Matthew’s birth, he would have been about twelve years old when his cousin died. The will also mentions a woman named Betsy Smith although no relationship if any, is referenced, “*I also allow Betsy Smith Ten Dollars out of the Price of my Big Steer paid by Thomas GLEAVES*”. It appears that this woman would become Matthew’s wife four years later. This would have Matthew marrying when he was about sixteen. During this time, women tended to marry young, but most men did not marry until after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday which calls into question the reported year of Matthew’s birth. The full text of the will appears in Chapter 3 in the section dealing with “Cousin Matthew”.

*Davidson County Will Book 3, page 4*



***Elizabeth “Betsy” Smith***  
***About 1790 – 1851***

Davidson County marriage records show a “*Matthew GLEAVES*” and a “*Betsy Smith*” applied for a marriage license on August 19, 1809. Again, if Mr. Turner were correct about Matthew's date of birth, he would have been about 16 at the time. Census records list her as being born about 1790.

Bill Smith has done research on this branch of the Smith Family and states that Betsy was the daughter of Ezekiel Smith and his second wife, her name is not known. Ezekiel moved to the Davidson County area in 1784 and remarried. A woman named Sallie Smith married Matthew's Cousin, Thomas Gleaves in 1797. Sallie's mother was Ezekiel's his first wife, again name unknown. “*She was the Cherokee Widow of Emanuel Choate who lived on The Holsten River in Washington District N C, (now a part of Tennessee) and was killed by Indians in Dunsmore's War in 1774*”

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/gleaves/messages/200.html>

Ezekiel Smith wrote his will on January 10, 1822. The will, contested by a son of the family of his second wife, is somewhat confusing, although several facts are clear. Ezekiel willed land to his “*sons*”; each being mentioned by name “*...on White's Creek...within the boundary of Stull's run off*”. The will goes on to mention several women by their married names but does not identify which, if any, are daughters. One mentioned is “*Elizabeth GLEAVES*”. Sallie is not mentioned in the Ezekiel Smith Will. Matthew's father, Michael Gleaves, left land on White's Creek in his will to Matthew's brother, Michael Jr. He also had dealings with several members of the Stull family and purchased land from Zachariah Stull. The connection is further strengthened by the name given to Matthew and Betsy's oldest son, Ezekiel Smith Gleaves.

*Davidson County Will Book*

It is unclear if Matthew moved to the land given to him by his father's estate. He is listed on the tax rolls of Maury County in 1811 and 1816. There is no definite information to confirm Matthew's whereabouts after these two tax entries until 1830. He is not listed in the 1820 Census of Tennessee. He may have moved away and returned to Davidson County, no proof of this has been found.

*Early Tennessee Tax Lists*

A “*Matthew GLEAVES*” appears in court records on January 24, 1827 when he, his Cousins Thomas and Absalom, and Brother Thomas Jr. were all part of a jury that decided a case concerning dower rights for a widow named Penelope Overton.

*Davidson County Will Book*

Matthew and Betsy had at least six children that have been identified and very likely several more. These children are detailed in Chapter 9. Records indicate that Matthew and Betsy moved southwest and raised their family in Dickson County, Tennessee. Dickson County adjoins Maury County where Matthew inherited land on the Duck River. This same river flows through Dickson County.

The 1830 Census of Tennessee lists a “*Matthew GLEAVES*” as living in Dickson County. Dickson County records also list a will for a “*Matthew GLEAVES*” probated in 1835. The 1840 Census for that county includes an “*Elizabeth GLEAVES*” as the head of a household living with two young boys, ages 5-10 and 16-20. The older boy appears to be her son Ezekiel Smith Gleaves, probably named for her father as discussed earlier. The 1850 census shows her living in the same county with Ezekiel. She is listed as being 60 years old at the time.

*Index of Early Tennessee Wills and Administrations*

The will of “*Elizabeth GLEAVES*” was signed on January 28, 1851 and probated in Dickson County in July of that same year. The will does not reference any land but does bequeath slaves to a son and daughter. Three other daughters are mentioned although all three appear to have preceded her in death. At least one grandson is mentioned by name. Elizabeth does not appear to have known how to write, since the will is reported to have been signed with her mark, an “*X*”.

*Dickson County, Tennessee Will Book A, page 224*

**5) Michael Gleaves Jr.**  
**Before 1791 – January 24, 1834**

“Michael GLAVES Jr.” was the fifth child to be mentioned in Michael Glaves’ will. He was given “340 acres of land in Davidson County on White’s Creek and an additional 100 acres adjoining Zachariah Stull’s land also in Davidson County”. The codicil also gave him a slave named Jack.

“Michael GLEAVES” is listed as a member of Captain Creel’s Militia Company in 1812. Also listed on the rolls are his cousin “Absalom GLEAVES”, and a “Thomas GLEAVES” (unclear if this is his brother or cousin). All three are privates. Of note: another private listed; Andrew Jackson, the future president. Pioneers of Davidson County

**Sally Dean**  
**October 9, 1796 – After 1870**

In 1812, shortly after his father’s death, Michael married Sally Dean. The license was issued in Davidson County on November 2, 1812. Sally was the daughter of James and Mary (Dickinson) Dean. She was raised on White’s Creek in Davidson County. Sally’s date of birth has not been documented with any official records. Given the marriage date, it is fairly certain that Sally was born before 1800. Several guardianship entries listed later in this section place her birth between 1797–99. This would have made her no more than 15 years old when she married Michael. Sally’s younger sister, Mary Dean, born in 1801, married Michael’s oldest brother Thomas five years later in 1817.

Early Middle Tennessee Marriages

Michael and Sally appear in Davidson County records on several occasions primarily involved in the affairs of her late father’s estate. James Dean died in 1813 and since his will does not mention his wife, it is assumed that she had preceded him in death. A somewhat confusing entry dated August 14, 1813 grants to Michael one third of the estate of his wife’s father. “By order of the court...to lot and set of(f) Michael GLEAVES the one third by intermarriage to Sally Dean one of the heirs of James Dean, deceased of the personal part up to January 1813 which third part we find to be \$1,780.71, three negroes, Hager, Charlotte and Alford, which includes the said GLAVES one third of the negroes and money in the hands of Francis McKay guardian to Sally Dean, James and Polly Dean. Negroes Peter, Mingo and Hager to Michael GLAVES also Alexander, James, Charlotte, Alfred, all valued at \$2,025.00 and cash on hand \$3,317.13. Total \$5,3423.13.” This entry makes it clear that Sally was still less than 18 years of age at this time since Francis McKay is named as her guardian.

A second entry on February 22, 1815 shows Francis McKay is still the guardian for all three children. “Sally Gleaves, James and Polly Dean orphans of James Dean, deceased, returned unto January term 1815 by Francis McKay, guardian. Merchandise furnished said orphans. Paid Alexander Reid for boarding and teaching James, also for boarding and teaching Polly for three months. Paid Mrs. Bradshaw for boarding and teaching Polly for three months. Paid John Criddle for a saddle and bridle for polly. Paid Michael GLEAVES for Sally his wife one third part of the money of said estate. Balance due James and Polly Dean \$2,286.29.”

By February 19, 1817, Michael has been named guardian of James and Polly Dean. On that date, monies are paid to several individuals for boarding James during the year 1815 and others included “Thomas Dickinson (their mother’s maiden name) for one bed for Polly” and “Thomas B. Craighead for teaching James”.

Several additional entries are listed on February 18, 1818. Both entries confirm Michael’s brother Thomas’ marriage to Polly Dean. The second entry appears to have referenced a lottery for the remaining assets of the estate that were due to James and Polly. “Division of the personal estate of James Dean, deceased. Four small slaves valued at \$2,400 and Lot No. 1 which includes two negroes valued at \$120.00 was drawn by James Dean the minor son of the deceased. And Lot No. 2 which

includes Alexander and Jim valued at \$1,200.00 was drawn by Thomas GLEAVES and Polly his wife who is the daughter of the deceased. December 13, 1817". James still appears to be a minor at this time. One additional entry in June of 1819 transfers his portion of the estate to him.

All above referenced entries: Davidson County, Tennessee Will Books

Michael is not listed in the 1820 Census of Tennessee, although ten years later he is listed as living in Davidson County.

"Michael GLEAVES" appears in court records again on September 10, 1828 when he is named as one of several Commissioners in a matter of widow's support "to set apart and lay off to Judy Earthman, widow and relict of Lewis Earthman, deceased, several items".

Davidson County, Tennessee Will Books

Michael and Sally had at least seven children born to this marriage. Little is known about Michael's occupation, although an obituary of *Martha Caroline GLEAVES*, published in the National Banner and Nashville Whig dated June 25, 1828, list her as "Infant daughter of Michael Gleaves, Esq." a title usually associated with lawyers.

Michael died in Davidson County on January 24, 1834 leaving a will. Excerpts from the settlement of the estate show Michael to have been fairly affluent. His real estate holdings were valued at just under \$3,500 and he and Sally had at least eleven slaves at the time of his death. Sally retained a good deal of the estate. "The Negro boys Jack and Sterling valued at \$560 were allotted to Mrs. Gleaves the widow. ...Milly and Rhoda to Sally Gleaves valued at \$700." She also shared in a portion of the land. "We have divided said land into 6 distinct lots or parcels as nearly equal in point both of quantity and value as well could be partitioned in apportioning and appropriating the same among the several heirs of the estate. ...Lot No. 2 - To Sally Gleaves - containing 36 acres Stake in road near a schoolhouse; center of creek; widow's dower corner; Richard Hyde tract.

Davidson County, Tennessee Will Book #10, page 395

His obituary was published in the National Banner & Nashville Daily Advertiser. This author does not possess a copy of this document. Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851

### **6) Isabella Gleaves** **About 1800 – June 24, 1857**

"Isabella GLAVES" is the only daughter listed in Michael Glaves' will. Her exact birth date is not known but given that she married in 1817, it is assumed to be 1800 or earlier.

Unlike her brothers, she did not inherit any land. Her inheritance was limited to a horse and a slave, "Item 7<sup>th</sup>, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Isabella GLAVES, the gray Diomedes Filly and a negro girl named Priscilla". She also was to receive money from four of her five brothers, "Item 8<sup>th</sup>, my sons, John, Michael, Thomas, and William, to pay my daughter, Isabella GLAVES, each \$200 when her mother may think she should have it". For some unexplained reason her brother Matthew was not required to make a similar payment.

### **Nathaniel Cartmell** **Before 1800 – November 11, 1863**

Isabella GLEAVES married Nathaniel Cartmell on September 18, 1817 in Davidson County, Tennessee. Nathaniel was born in Fredrick County, Virginia some time before 1800 to Solomon and Elizabeth (Reiff) Cartmell. One source contained in the *International Genealogical Index (IGI)* places his date of birth as 1795.

Nathaniel Cartmell Bible

*“Solomon Cartmell, son of Nathaniel, 2d, was one of the sons who remained in Virginia, and settled near his old Homespun home. As previously stated, he married Elizabeth Raife (Ralph) Jany. 26, 1792. Solomon died, leaving widow- and five children, just prior to 1804. His widow married James Leach, March 5, 1805. The children of Solomon were: Nathan, Nathaniel, Martin, Henry R., and Mary-all being minors. Their Orphans Accounts were settled in the courts of Frederick County, 1816 and 1819. Their mother we will not undertake to follow further, except to state that the second marriage was not agreeable to the children. The sons at an early age forsook mother and home, and for something better, sought homes in Tennessee. We find Nathaniel and Nathan in Wilson County, Tenn., in 1816, and Martin in same State in 1819, when their guardian settled with the Court. Henry R. wandered off to the wilds of Texas before she ran up the Lone Star. Mary remained with her uncles in Frederick County”.*

*.....“A son, William M., (son of Nathaniel and Isabella) became somewhat prominent, by a large bequest made by him to the Vanderbilt University. He has been dead many years. The other children were James, Thomas, Mary, Rachael, Sophia and Eliza.”*

*Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants*

Nathaniel and Isabella settled in Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee living there their entire lives. During this period the couple acquired a significant fortune. His Bible provides extensive documentation of their eight children who are profiled further in Chapter 9.

Before her death on June 24, 1857, Isabella was preceded in death by six of her eight children: five daughters and one son. All the children died between the ages of 16-27. Nathaniel lived an additional six years passing away on November 11, 1863. *Nathaniel Cartmell Bible*

This author believes that additional documentation on Nathaniel and Isabella exists. At this point, further research is needed.

## ***7) Elizabeth Gleaves Before 1786 – After 1826***

Elizabeth is the only one of the children that is not mentioned in Michael Glaves' will. She is identified through the codicil attached to the original document. It is clear that she was treated less generously than the other children were. It is not known if Michael had a falling out with his daughter or possibly, he had provided for Elizabeth and her family previously. She was to receive “\$200, in cash to be held in hands of my executors to be paid to her for her benefit and her children, and if she should die before she receives it, my executors are bound to let her children have \$200 when they are in want”.

This was the only portion of the estate in which she was to have an interest. All monies collected from debts and the sale of personal assets of the estate were to be divided among the children “except Elizabeth Turner”.

The earliest record of Elizabeth is her marriage to Arthur Turner, which occurred in late 1800 or early 1801. The marriage license was issued in Davidson County, Tennessee on December 29, 1800. Elizabeth's maiden name was recorded as *GLAVES*. Given the date of the marriage, it appears that Elizabeth was the oldest of the siblings. As discussed earlier, she may have been a child from a previous marriage. *Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

Little is known about Arthur other than some information contained in a biographical sketch done years later on his grandson. *“Arthur Turner, father of M. G. Turner, came from Halifax, N. C.; married a Miss Gleaves near Nashville; volunteered and accompanied Gen. Jackson to New Orleans and was killed during the defense January, 1815.”* *History of Cheatham County, Tennessee*

There is a report of five children being born to Arthur and Elizabeth. Only three children have been identified by name, “*Rachel Turner*” is mentioned in Michael Glaves’ will. The will was written in 1811, which would establish her date of birth as 1801-11. The codicil establishes the relationship between Michael and Rachel, “*A little yellow slave named Cynthia I give to my granddaughter, Rachel Turner*”. A second child, Michael Gleaves Turner is identified in the sketch referenced in the previous paragraph.

### ***Elizabeth Turner vs. Isaac Pierce***

The widow, Elizabeth Turner married for a second time on July 18, 1822. The groom was a widower named Isaac Pierce. Her brother Thomas served as bondsman. The marriage would prove to be short lived.

*Early Middle Tennessee Marriages*

On November 2, 1826, in Sumner County, Isaac petitioned the Tennessee State Legislature to dissolve the marriage. An extract of that petition, complete with spelling errors, is contained here.

*“Isaac Peairs was married in 1822 to Elzabeth. Isaac was then about 54 years old, having 13 children. Elizabeth was the widow of Arthur Tinnon, with 5 children. Isaac and Elizabeth separated for nearly two years and then went back together and have been together 12 or 18 months. Isaac has made a provision for Elizabeth that she and her brother, Thomas Gleaves, Jr., have accepted. Isaac and Elizabeth cannot get along, and want a divorce.”*

*Tennessee Divorces 1797 - 1858*

Divorce was a rarity during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with less than 750 granted in the state of Tennessee from 1797-1858. It appears that Isaac’s petition was granted later that same year. A second, undated entry reads; “*Isaac Pearce and his wife Elizabeth Pearce, have separated by mutual consent. They are to be divorced upon proof. Acts of Tennessee, 1826, p.134*

*Tennessee Divorces 1797 - 1858*

We do not have any documented information regarding the date or location of Elizabeth’s birth, although it is assumed to have occurred at Ft. Mansker. It is assumed that given the date of her marriage, she was born some time before 1786. No records have been found that would document Elizabeth’s life after the divorce. This author does not know the date and location of her death.

### ***A Previous Marriage for Michael?? Likely Children Not Yet Positively Connected***

Several researchers, including this author, believe that Michael was married more than once. There are several indications he took a wife prior to marrying Rachel. It appears that he married in Virginia, before he migrated to Tennessee. The name of this first wife, if in fact there was one, is unknown. The following individuals are the most likely children of this marriage. Both were born before Michael came to Tennessee and before his reported marriage to Rachel. This document traces these lines in an effort to include as many possible descendants as is reasonably possible. Further research by others may definitely connect them to our Michael.

### ***8) Mary Dorcas Gleaves About 1778 – December 31, 1851***

The first indication of an earlier marriage appears in Montgomery County, Virginia about 1780-82. During some of this author’s earliest research, before understanding the Glaves/Gleaves connection, a book was found dealing with miscellaneous documents relating to that County. Included in this book, was a note listing inhabitants of the Cripple Creek area visited by a tax assessor on a single day. The name of the tax assessor and the date were included in this record. This list contained the names of about 15 heads of households, including Michael’s brother “*William GLEAVES*”. No other information about these individuals was listed. At the bottom of the document is a separate entry; the name “*Michael GLEAVES*”, followed by a curious notation “*Mary Dorcas, Infant*”. The

reason for the inclusion of this child is unclear and no indication of her relationship, if any, to Michael appears. Nowhere else in this document are any wives or children listed. It is with a great deal of embarrassment that this author reveals that he has misplaced his photocopy of this information and efforts to relocate this mystery book among the thousands researched have, thus far, been unsuccessful. Cite Unknown

***John Lewis Davis***  
***July 30, 1770 – July 7, 1853***

The information cited above would not be included, were it not for a 1798 marriage record appearing in Davidson County, Tennessee. On August 4<sup>th</sup> of that year, a “*Mary Dorcas GLEALVES*” married a man named John Davis. Davis family records list Mary as the daughter of Michael Gleaves, although nothing to positively document this relationship has been found by this author. The previous year, 1797, a “*John Davis*” served as the bondsman for the marriage of *Thomas GLEAVES and Sallie Smith*. This was Michael’s nephew, son of his older brother William, who moved to the area from Virginia about 1796. Davidson County Marriage Records

John and Mary subsequently moved south to Maury County, Tennessee. One of Michael’s sons, Matthew, inherited land from his father in Maury County and lived there from 1810 until at least 1816.

The 1820 Census finds John Davis living in the Williamsport Township of Maury County. Until 1850, only the head of household was listed by name. John’s record reveals the following individuals living under his roof: one male under 10, three males 10 to 16, one male (John) over 45, one female under 10, two females 16-26 and one female (Mary Dorcas) 26-45. Although the Census does not state relationships of these individuals to John, it is assumed that most/all are his children. The record shows that the family owned no slaves and four family members were engaged in agriculture. The columns that asked about those engaged in commerce or manufacturing both had zeros. John and his family have not been positively identified in the 1830 or 1840 Census.

Mary Dorcas Davis was one the subjects of a 1993 article in a publication titled *Historic Maury*. The article primarily deals with the travels of her grandson Edward Hicks, who is profiled in a later chapter, and letters he wrote to various people. The author, Nancy Davis Bone Scott wrote this article that provides some wonderful insight into this family. Several excerpts are listed below.

*“A 1798 marriage proposal from one Aaron Prather to Mrs. Scott’s ancestress Dorcus Gleaves in Nashville which did not reach its destination before her marriage 9 August 1798 to John Davis.*

*Virtuous Madam my love and compliments will attend you I am well in health tho not in condition your absence occasions some uneasiness in my mind I have been much affected by your virtue since I saw you this letter I write to know if the is any possibility of ever being made happy by the bonds of true affection. I consider that your smiles will ever make me a friend to you I do not wish to influence you as to discompleat you happiness to complete mine but if I am your choice or object it would ever make me happy if not my love I can and will smuther in my breast untill I see some person that will prove true and kind my love to you is true. The same I want from you if you will of letter partake I’ll come at once more to cumberland for you sake my request is to write the first opportunity for my satisfaction I conclude by being your sincere lover and humble servant*

*Aaron Prather*

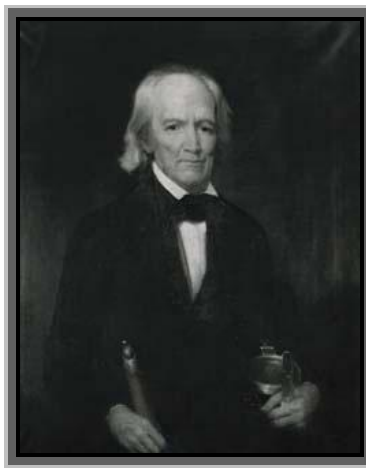
*John and Dorcus Gleaves Davis remained married until his death in July 1853, just three short years after the St. Joseph (MO) Gazette published the “Rules and Regulations of the Nashville and St. Louis California Company” to which his grandson Edward D. Hicks was a subscriber. By this compact John Davis was elected Captain of the overland expedition to California gold country, about*

which Hicks wrote. (The person referenced here is likely John's son, John Jr. as the father would have been 80 years old at the time.)

*By his Will, John Davis, Esq. bequeathed to his grandson Edward M. Hicks 3,791+ acres of land scattered across middle Tennessee, some exclusively in individual plots and some undivided with Edward's first cousins. Edward was thus afforded a "comfortable" endowment often reflected in his 1855-1871 correspondence with Mary Ann White of Williamsport, Tennessee, who he wooed and married and to whom he faithfully wrote during the Civil War."*

The above paragraphs from *Historic Maury, Volume 29, Issue 1*

Some time prior to 1850, John and Dorcas Davis had returned to Davidson County as they appear in the Census that year. John is listed as 80 years old and born in North Carolina. Dorcas is 71 and is listed as being born in Virginia. Also living with the couple is John Davis Jr., thirty years old, born in Tennessee.



#### ***Biographical Sketch of John Davis***

*"John Davis, eldest child of Frederick and Fanny Davis, was born on July 30, 1770. In the month of October, 1778 he arrived in Nashville and in that locality he spent the remainder of his long useful life. He settled on a farm on Big Harpeth River, about twelve miles southwest of Nashville, in 1795 or 1796.*

*Dorcas Gleaves, daughter of Michael Gleaves was born near Wythe Court House, Virginia on December 25, 1778. John Davis and Dorcas Gleaves were married on August 9, 1798. They went to housekeeping with limited means on the place he had commenced two years before, and were soon blessed with a family. He was tall and thin, had great activity and wonderful endurance, possessed all the noble qualities of his father, was an efficient surveyor, and held the office of Surveyor of Davidson County for many years, but never aspired to higher official position. Many instances could be written of his early life, but this writer is not prepared to do so. He lived to the age of eighty-three years, and died at his home on Harpeth River, July 7, 1853. His wife, Dorcas, who preceded him two years, died December 30, 1851, age seventy-three years. Both were buried on the old homelace, where they lived so long."*

The following obituary appeared in the *Republican Banner*, of Nashville, Tennessee, in July, 1853

#### ***The Late John Davis, Esquire***

*The death of the venerable John Davis, Esquire, who ended a long life at his residence, ten miles from Nashville, on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., leaves another void in the ranks of that gallant band of pioneers*

who came here more than half a century since to meet the perils of savage warfare and to make the wilderness blossom as the rose. Looking back to that period and around us today, who that beholds the marvelous changes wrought, who can realize how much the present generation owes to the gallant old men who achieved so much? When Mr. Davis came here, the settlers were falling victim to savage violence, within the space of three miles of Nashville, and it devolved upon the strong arms and stout hearts of such men as our departed friend to beat back the wild marauder to his remote fastnesses. As early as the year 1788, or sixty-five years ago, we find Mr. Davis in the strength of his youth beating up the haunts of the red foe, and among the many who were ever ready to respond to the call for volunteers. We find him at Buchanan Station in the Nickajack campaign as well as on the numerous other expeditions, holding the rank of lieutenant, but doing duty with separate detachments, or, in fact, holding a captain's command.

*"There was one peculiarity in the character of John Davis which ought not to be suffered to pass unnoticed, and that was his unvarying cheerfulness. Although past the four-score years allotted to man, he had cheerful, buoyant heart almost of youth. To those who were favored with his acquaintance, this characteristic ever made him a welcome companion – to the young as well as the old – dying gave him a warm place in the recollections of all. And this feeling followed him to the very verge of life. If the saying be true that 'no one likes a sorrowful man' then it is not difficult to account for the esteem which followed our departed friend; and passing away, he has filled the measure of a long and useful life, regretted by old and young.*

*"His closing hours were peaceful. He had been, up to within a very few months of his death, unusually strong and healthy for one of his years, the writer of this brief tribute having met him not long since seventeen miles from his late residence, whither he had ridden on horseback in the morning, and whither he was returning on the evening of the same day; and when congratulated upon his almost youthful movements and spirits, upon his elastic upright carriage, no one could have supposed from his appearance and reply that he had not other long years before him."*

*A Sketch of the Life and Generations of Frederick and Fanny Davis*  
<http://www.tngenweb.org/williamson/bios/Davis/Davis%20Family.htm>

Michael Gleaves would have been approximately twenty years old, living in Virginia when Mary Dorcas Gleaves was born in 1778-9. If Mary was his daughter, she was not mentioned in her father's will written in 1811. Since it was not unusual for older children to have been provided for long before the death of a father, they would not have received any additional inheritance at his death. This may be the case here, as John & Mary Davis appear to have been very prosperous in their own right. While there are no court records relating to Mary that would positively link her to Michael, John Davis served as one of the executors of Michael Gleaves' will in 1811.

## **9) Another Daughter of Michael?**

Adding to the circumstantial evidence pointing to a previous marriage, a second executor of Michael's will was a man named Ezekiel B. McCoy. His first wife is reported to have been, "...a Miss Gleaves who died of tuberculosis". This marriage would have occurred about 1806. None of Michael's sons or nephews had a daughter old enough to have been this woman. Ezekiel and his wife were among the first settlers of Madison County, Tennessee. The couple had at least five children.

*West Tennessee Supreme Court Minute Book 1841-1850, page 28*

*"22 May 1806, Rutherford Co., TN: Ezekiel B. McCoy was witness to deed of gift from Michael Gleaves to his granddaughters Martha and Rachel Turner. I believe Ezekiel B. and his Gleaves wife named their first daughter Abigail Louise after his grandmother, and the second daughter, Rachel Caroline McCoy was probably named for Rachel Gleaves."*

*Notes from Melanie Atkins*

Ezekiel's will, written March 3, 1838, provides fairly strong evidence that Michael and Rachel were his in-laws.



*“Art. 5th: My will is that all the money that I may get from the estate of Michal Gleaves, decest & also all the money that I may get from the Sale of the property & hire of the Negroes of the estate of Rachal Gleaves, decst. is to be divided equally among my first wife’s children, the Said money is to be collected by my trusty friend Thomas J. Hargis to whom I appoint for that purpose, also if I Should recover any negro property from the above named Estate, to which is in Suit in Chancery, it is to be divided equally also among my first wife’s children to them & their heirs forever.”*

<http://www.tngenweb.org/madison/records/willmccoy.htm>

## **10) William Fredrick Glaves 1788-1843**

This individual appears in a number of documents at various times under the names William Fredrick, Luther, Peter and John. These all appear to be the same individual, although this cannot be proven with the information this author possesses. William is the name most often referenced. William’s connection to Michael Gleaves Sr. is purely circumstantial and would not be included if it were not for the uniqueness of his surname. The only other person to be recorded in Tennessee with the *GLAVES* spelling is Michael Sr. During his lifetime, Michael was recorded over 150 times spelling his name without the second “E”. Only after his death, did his children begin using the name *GLEAVES*.

William married Elizabeth Goodner about 1826, presumably in Smith County, Tennessee. Elizabeth was born January 6, 1810 in Carthage, Smith County, Tennessee, the daughter of John and Martha (Stewart) Goodner. Smith County adjoins Wilson County where so many Gleaves Family members have been documented. John Goodner was a farmer and a tanner by trade. At least two other *GLEAVES* are found in Smith County land records; Francis as early as 1798 and Edward in 1817.

The principal source of information on William comes from various Goodner family records, some of which are in this author's possession. Several of these records state that William was born in Germany in 1788, which is possible. An exhaustive search of records finds the only places where the Family names can be found are in England and Ireland but the name “*GLAVE*” does appear in Germany. *Leaves from the Family Tree*

The first record of William has him recorded under a different name. “*John GLAVES*” is listed in the 1830 Census in Smith County, Tennessee. He age is listed as being 30-40 and his wife 20-30. Given the 1788 birth year reported for William in Goodner records, he would have been about 42. A son and a daughter, both under five years old, are also listed. Prior to 1850 only the names of the head of the household was recorded.

*“John (Goodner) remained in the Carthage area until 1836, when the Ocoee lands in Bradley County, Tennessee were thrown open for settlement, after the removal of the Cherokee Indians by the Government. He sold his farm and tannery near Carthage and bought a good farm in the northern part of Bradley County, which some years later sold to his son John.”* Bradley County is located on the south-eastern border with Georgia. *The Goodner Family*

It appears that William and his family moved with them as John Goodner and “*William F. GLAVES*” both appear on the county tax rolls for 1837 through 1839. *Bradley County Tax Extracts*

For reasons unknown William appears to have returned to Smith County prior to 1840. The Census for that year lists a “*William F. GLAISE*” that appears to be the same person. He is now 50-60 and his wife is 30-40. The John Goodner family is still listed as living in Bradley County and no sign of William’s family can be found there. The Smith County Census also enumerates nine children, without listing them by name. Goodner records only record the names of three of William and Elizabeth’s children.

If William's date of birth is correct, this would have made him 32 years old at the time of Elizabeth's birth and 48 when he married a 16 year old girl. He would have been 63 when his son, Daniel Luther was born, 1843. This is the same year that William died. He is reported to have worked as a steamboat pilot who died in an accident on the Mississippi River, near New Madrid County, Missouri. This information also appears in an obituary of their son, Daniel Luther Glaves. *Madison County, Missouri Bible Records, DAR Library*

The 1850 Tennessee Census shows no record of either William or Elizabeth, but several of their children are listed back in Bradley County. *Sarah Glaves*, (15) and *Samuel H. Glaves* (1) are living with their grandparents John and Martha Goodner. Both children are listed as being born in Tennessee. *Martha Glaves* (11), "*Rhuben*" *Glaves* (10) and *Sarah J. Glaves* (1) appear in the same county living with a young couple, John and Christina Wilson. Again, all children were born in Tennessee. Christina (19) appears to be the second eldest daughter of William and Elizabeth born about 1829.

There are conflicting reports as to the names and numbers of children from the marriage. At least two of the children identified with the marriage, Samuel Houston (actually Justin) and Sarah Jane Glaves were born in 1849, four years after William's reported death. (*IGI records only*)

#### ***More About Michael & Rachel's Family***

The story of the Michael Gleaves Family continues later in this manuscript. Additional generations are chronicled in Chapter 9.