

Re: Joseph Willis of Mercer County,
Kentucky

Posted: 19 Nov 2006 3:40PM GMT

Classification: Query

David W. Willis (View posts)

Surnames: Willis Lee

Sorry, in my last message I clicked on "Post Reply" before completing my message. Continuing

According to these sources, Olive married Samuel Lee, son of William Lee and Catharine Graves, on July 14, 1798 in Mercer County, Kentucky. Samuel Lee was said to be born in 1763 in Richmond Virginia. Olive was said to have died in 1812 in Mercer County, Kentucky. They are said to have had children Mary Catharine Lee, Willis Lee, John Lee, Elizabeth Lee, Hannah Lee, Samuel Lee, and Thomas Lee.

Do you have any additional information?

The following is information about Olive's father Joseph Willis.

Joseph Willis was born about 1725 in East Bradford, Chester County, Pennsylvania. His father moved to Newberry, York County, Pennsylvania about 1746. There is no marriage record for Joseph. Joseph's first son, also named Joseph, was born about 1751, probably in Newberry, York County, Pennsylvania, therefore Joseph was probably married sometime between 1745 and 1750, probably in York County, Pennsylvania. His wife's name was Hannah (last name unknown). Hannah was a first name commonly used by Quakers or those who were first generation removed from Quakerism (as was Joseph Sr.). Joseph is mentioned in a couple of early York County records (ca 1751). In a Kentucky pension application on February 1, 1780, Joseph stated that he was a Private in Captain Dickenson's company of VA rangers in 1758. Joseph was a Private in Captain Dickenson's company according to Crozier's "Virginia Colonial Militia, " pp. 9-57. He may have enlisted before April 1757, because he is not listed on the guest list of the Quaker marriage of his brother John to Phebe Bennett in April 1757.

Joseph settled at Bent Mountain, Montgomery County, Virginia, perhaps after his military service. He settled there before 1761, because when his father died in 1761 two of his younger brothers (John and Henry) were named administrators of the intestate estate. Also, Joseph was not listed in the 1762 York County tax list.

According to what I have, which is based partly on Joseph Sr.'s will, written February 19, 1789 and probated July 1809, Olive was the youngest of his children, who included Joseph Jr., Mary, Ann, Edward, John, Hannah, and Olive. (Please let me know if you have additional information.)

About 1779 Joseph and most of his children moved from Bent Mountain, Montgomery County, Virginia to Mercer County, Kentucky. My guess is that the family made this move to take advantage of unusually low land prices that existed at that particular time, which allowed all of Joseph's many sons to acquire farm land.

The father of Joseph Willis was Henry Willis, a farmer who was born in Thornbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania roughly about 1698 and died, as mentioned above, in Newberry, York County, Pennsylvania in 1761. His wife was Mary (last name unknown). Henry's children were Joseph, John, Henry, Isaiah, Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, and Ann. The father of Henry Willis was John Willis, who was born March 6, 1668/69 in Shoreditch, Middlesex, England and died about August 1745 in Thornbury, Chester County, Pennsylvania. John married Esther Brinton, daughter of William Brinton and Ann Bagley, about 1692 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Esther was born October 9, 1675 in Nether Gournell, Sedgley, Stafford, England.

The father of John Willis was Henry Willis, who immigrated to America in 1674. Information about Henry Willis can be found in George Ingraham Willis, "The English Origins of Henry Willis of Westbury, Long Island," The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, v. 118, No. 2, April 1987, pages 65-74.

The paper records that show Joseph is the brother of John, Henry, and Isaiah Willis are not perfect, but DNA testing has confirmed the link. The strongest paper evidence is that the mark made by Joseph Willis when he signed a land sale document in Pennsylvania (his deceased father's land; Joseph is stated to be the oldest brother) along with his younger brothers John, Henry, Isaiah, is identical to the mark Joseph made on his will. There is also some other paper evidence and a consistency of names and timelines. However, the proof that Joseph Willis of Mercer County, Kentucky is the same Joseph Willis is the brother of John, Henry, and Isaiah has been obtained through male (Y-chromosome) DNA testing of

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descendants of each of the four brothers, including one Willis-surname descendant of Joseph. The male DNA of the Willis-surname descendants of these four brothers, which is a rare DNA pattern, is an almost exact match.



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Joseph Willis of Mercer County, Kentucky

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Joseph Willis of Mercer County, Kentucky

Posted: 11 May 2003 5:26AM GMT

Classification: Query

Surnames: Willis

dwillis11 (View posts)

Searching for Willises who believe they may be descendants of Joseph Willis of Mercer County, Kentucky. He moved to Lincoln County (later became Mercer County), KY in about 1780 from Montgomery County, VA. I have information on his possible ancestry.



Re: Joseph Willis of Mercer County, Kentucky

Posted: 19 Nov 2006 10:10AM GMT

Classification: Query

Surnames: Willis, Lee

billmartys (View posts)

I would be interested in any information you may have on Joseph. My husband may descend from him through Olive Willis(married Samuel Lee). They had a son, Willis Lee. Thank you for any help. Martie Stotlar



Re: Joseph Willis of Mercer County, Kentucky

Posted: 19 Nov 2006 2:34PM GMT

Classification: Query

Surnames: Willis Lee

David W. Willis (View posts)

I have the following information on Olive Willis:

Source of marriage data for husband Samuel Lee: "Marriage Bonds and Consents 1786 - 1810, Mercer County, Kentucky, by Alma Ray Sanders Ison and Rebecca Wilson Conover, page 68. Bride's father: Joseph Willis. Teste: Samuel Wilson. Bondsman: William Lee.

Source of birth, death, and children's data: One World Tree, Ancestry.com, June 8, 2006

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According to the above information, Olive was born about 1775. She married

The following is information about Olive's father Joseph Willis.



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Kentucky

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Classification: Query

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Re: Joseph Willis of Mercer County,
Kentucky

Posted: 19 Nov 2006 4:38PM GMT

Classification: Query

Martie Stotlar (View posts)

Surnames: Willis, Lee


Thank you for the quick reply. I only knew Joseph was Olive's father because of the marriage record. I really know of nothing else before that. Olive and Samuel Lee had a son, Willis, who had a daughter, Rebecca Lee. She was the "unmarried" mother of Martin V. Lee. I say unmarried, because there is no marriage record for her until after Martin is born. And he had her last name. Martin had a daughter, Percella Lee, who was my husband's grandmother. They had settled in Warrick County, Indiana. I have found in the Virginia Land grants the names of Joseph Sr and Joseph Willis. Are these the same ones? Thanks again so much. Martie



Re: Joseph Willis of Mercer County,
Kentucky

Posted: 19 Nov 2006 5:00PM GMT

Classification: Query

 dwillis11 (View posts)

Yes, probably the same. Both Joseph Sr. and Joseph Jr. obtained land grants in Lincoln County (later Mercer County)



Re: Joseph Willis of Mercer County,
Kentucky

Posted: 15 May 2011 6:20PM GMT

Classification: Query

 kellys6874 (View posts)

I am descended from Joseph Willis through his daughter Mary that married John Hale.

I have that Joseph Willis and Hannah's children were: Joseph, Jr.; Mary born c1755; Nancy Ann born c1760; Edward born 1762; Hannah born 14 Dec 1762; John and Olive.

Joseph received 50 acres in Kentucky County on 1 Feb 1780 for service as a soldier in Capt. Dickinson's Company of Rangers in 1758. This unit marched to Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) during the French and Indian War under Colonel Washington.

Joseph lived in Botetourt County, VA and left there sometime after 12 Mar 1779 when he was appointed constable in the bounds of Captain Wilson's Company.

By 1779 he and his family had moved to Wilson's Station in Mercer County, KY. While there he served on a jury with Daniel Boone and Henry Wilson, for whom Wilson's Station was named. The trial was held at Lexington, KY County on 1 Jul 1779. This was the first Confiscation or Escheat trial in KY. At this trial they confiscated the lands of John Connolly and Alexander McKee and the sale of these land allowed VA to create Transylvania Seminary which became Transylvania College.

While they were at Wilson's Station, son Edward enlisted for two month's service on 3 Jul 1780 in Captain John Allison's Company. This troop joined up with General Clark's Regiment and built a block house in what would become Cincinnati, OH. Son Joseph, Jr. also served in 1780.

Edward and Joseph, Jr. served again in 1781.

When Joseph's son John was drafted in 1782, Joseph, Sr. and wife petitioned to let son Edward serve in his stead.

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in Nob 1782, sons John, Joseph and Edward served in Captain Simon Kenton's Company under General Clark in an expedition to Ohio.

Joseph, Sr. had a number of land grants in Lincoln County, VA, which later became Mercer County, KY. 200a on east side of Deep Creek; 200a on Chaplin Fork, and 210a on Chaplin Fork and Deep Creek. The land were granted to him in Dec 1785. This property included the mouth of Deep Creek. In Jul 1786 he surveyed 288a on Chaplin Fork and Salt River, which was granted to his son-in-law John Hale on 9 May 1788. There were land surveys for his sons as well.

They remained at Wilson's Station throughout the Revolutionary War and until at least 1782. Joseph's patriotic service rendered during this time has qualified him as an ancestor in the SAR records.

The photos of historic homes of Mercer County shows the Joseph Willis log cabin, built on Deep Creek Road. It was approximately sixteen feet by twenty four feet, with two levels.

In 1786 Joseph, Sr. sold 200a of his land grant on Chaplin's Fork and Salt River to Beverly Mann for 75 pounds.

Joseph is listed in the 1800 Census in Mercer County, KY.

Son Edward was a Captain in the "Corn Stalk Militia" 19th Regiment in Apr 1802.

Jospeh, Sr. died in 1809. His will was probated in Jul 1809. His will in Mercer County, KY Will Book 4, page 69, names wife Hannah; son Joseph; son-in-law Hale; son Edward; son John; son-in-law Robert Caldwell; and youngest daughter Olive.



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