

My Patriot Ancestor

Edward Jarvis (1763-1836) of North Carolina and Kentucky – A Fighter in War and in Peace

By Frances R. Nelson Salyers

Every family historian hopes to find at least one ancestor who fought in the war that won independence from Great Britain and launched the Grand Experiment known as the United States of America. I have found two Revolutionary War patriot ancestors (so far), and one of them – my fourth great-grandfather Edward Jarvis – also fought in the War of 1812.

Edward was born 31 July 1763 in Edgecomb County, North Carolina.¹ He was 14 years old and living in Wake County, North Carolina, when his father, John Jarvis,² died. In the county court's February session, Edward chose Thomas Wooten to be his guardian.³ At age 15, he enlisted as a patriot.

In his Revolutionary War pension application filed in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, on 27 August 1832, Edward stated that he enlisted in North Carolina and fought for three months under the command of Captain Welch, then for six months under Jeremiah Mobley and Archibald Lytle. "We were marched to the relief of Savannah [sic] but it surrendered before we got there," he stated in his application. "We then marched up Savannah River on one side and the British on the other. The British arrived at Augusta and lay there and we took possession of Wallehorns [?] Bluff . . . to watch their movements. The British then marched down the river to Brier Creek, crossed the river and burnt the bridge. . . . The British . . . came in upon us behind and defeated us and we lost many of our men in the retreat."⁴

Edward next served under Woodson Daniel and Col. Sumpter or Summer (he said he couldn't recall for sure), and then under Captain Samuel

Hye as a scout in the vicinity of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina. After this

22215
Kentucky
Edward Jarvis
of Muhlenberg in the State of Kentucky
who was a private in the company commanded
by Captain Welch of the 1st Regt commanded
by Col. Hutton in the Revolution
two yrs 1 year & 9 months

Inscribed on the Roll of Kentucky
at the rate of 70 Dollars per annum
to commence on the 1st day of March, 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 18 day of Sept
1832 and blessed at
Wm. Greenwell

Amount to the 1st of Sept	175.00
Pension allowance ending 1st Mar	35.00
	<u>210.00</u>

{ Revolutionary Claim, }
Act June 7, 1832.

Recorded by *Saml B. J.* Clerk,
Book 6 Vol. 7 Page 14

Pension Application Cover, Edward Jarvis

battle, he served for three months as a county ranger under Colonel John Pope.⁵

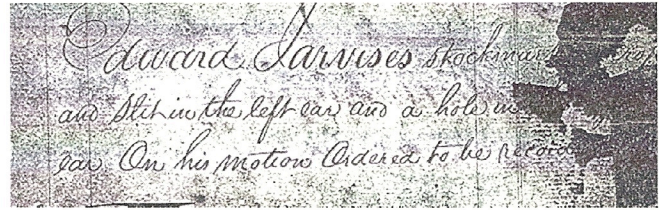
“He saw out his time on each of the afore-said tours and was honorably discharged and received discharges but took no care of them. They are lost,” wrote the clerk recording Edward’s application. Even so, Edward was granted a yearly pension of \$120, which apparently continued until his death in February 1836.

In the Revolutionary War pension paperwork, the clerk presenting Edward’s declaration in Judge Alney McLean’s court mentioned that Edward was “also in the service of the United States in the last war [The War of 1812] and was in the battle at New Orleans.”⁶ Note that Edward would have been about 51 years of age when that battle was fought, 8 January 1815. Further mention of his participation in the battle is found in Rothert’s history of the county published in 1913. The author quotes from a lecture prepared by Isaac Bard, a minister and civic leader who arrived in Muhlenberg in 1823 and lived there for almost a half-century. In the lecture, which according to Rothert was written sometime after 1870, Bard states:

“ . . . These were the causes of the last British War . . . and this was why Judge McLean, Ephraim Brank, Edward Jarvis, Mike Severs, Joseph McCown, John Shelton, Isiah Hancock and others of Muhlenberg fought the British. It is said that Ephraim Brank and Edward Jarvis mounted the breastworks and there fired into the British army, as they marched up, as fast as their friends could load the rifles for them.”⁷

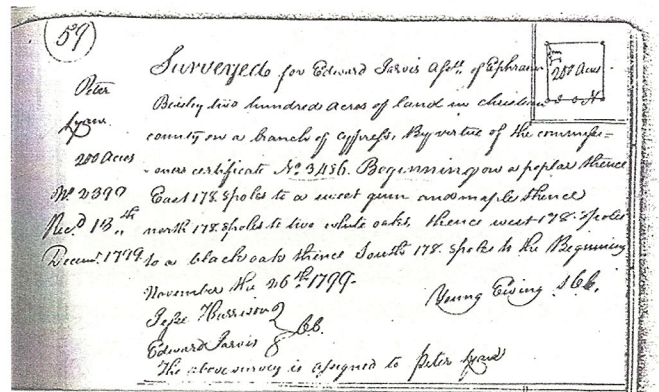
Migration to Kentucky

Around 1792, Edward moved from Wake County, North Carolina, to “the Crab Orchard in Kentucky” [in Lincoln County].⁸ In 1798 he received 200 acres on Cypress Creek in Christian County.⁹ In the following year, that section of Christian became part of the new Muhlenberg County. Muhlenberg court records include the



Record of Stock Mark Registration, Muhlenberg County, 27 August 1799. Source: Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Court Records, Book 1, Page 89

registration of Edward’s stock mark, “a crop and slit in the left ear and a hole in the right ear,” dated 27 August 1799.¹⁰



Land Survey Record, 200 Acres on Cypress Creek, Christian County, December 1799. Source: Kentucky Land Grants South of Green River, Volume 10. Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History

Edward began acquiring more land and in 1800 was taxed for two tracts of land totaling 400 acres on Cypress Creek.¹¹ Through 1831, he claimed, bought and sold several large parcels of land along Cypress, Thompson, and Isaac’s creeks. He is named in Kentucky land grants 3206, 2388, 2389, 2390, and 3937¹² – and in various claims recorded in Muhlenberg courts.

Edward grew tobacco on at least some of his land. He is listed as one of more than 40 growers whose tobacco harvest was inspected at the Lewisburg warehouse on the banks of the Green River in Muhlenberg County between 1 December 1809 and 1 June 1810.¹³

Edward Jarvis Surveyed for Edward Jarvis of negro
 of Moses Thores by order of James Madison
 in the Commissioners Office No 2177 for a black line
 No 2206
 Recd 13th
 Dec 1800
 being County on the main fork of Cypress Run
 at a angle and White oak on Bankers line
 running N 25 E 179 poles to a split in the road with
 1/4 Pitt 179 poles to a hickory and Logwood S. 115
 West 179 poles to a stake South 115 East 17 poles
 with Bankers line to the Bagwood end
 James Bankers 286
 David Waller 286
 November 19th 1799

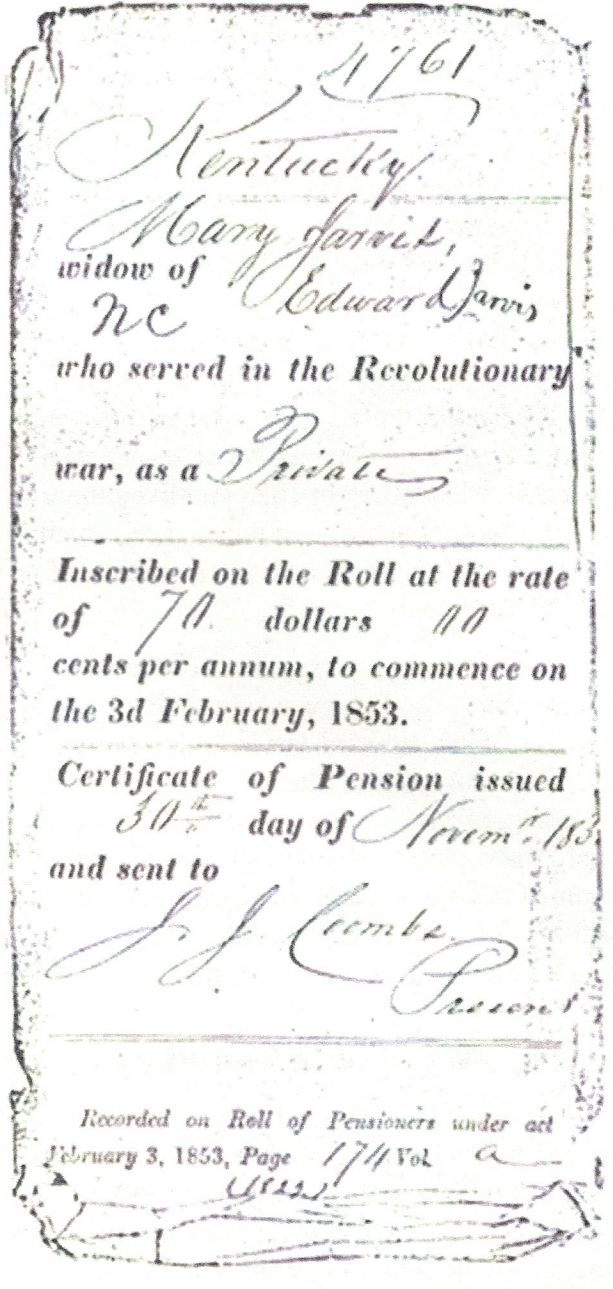
Land Survey, 200 Acres on Cypress Creek, December 1800
 Source: Kentucky Land Grants South of Green River, Volume 13.
 Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History

Early county records list Edward Jarvis and others assigned to clear roads in the area. Among the men who worked with him in 1804 on the road from Greenville along Harris's Branch to Littlepage's Ferry were "John Earls [?] and hands Benjamin Clark and hands Wm [?] Nall James McCaless [?] William Grayson and hands William McAduie Sr. William McAduie Jr. Jesse Oats and hands William Oats Eli Smith William Hanly [or Stanly] John Grayson Sikes Garris Sharp Garris William Bradford Wm Campbells hands Michael Goodnight Peter Goodnight Edward Jarvis John Jarvis William Wilkins & Son open and keep the Same in repair thirty feet wide as the Law directs."¹⁴

Family Life

Documenting Edward's family life has been more challenging than proving his military service and land ownership. He married at least twice. I have found only one record of his wife "Polly," who was documented by name when the couple sold land on Cypress Creek for a token price of \$10 to their son Edward Jr. on 2 August 1819.¹⁵ Edward and Polly probably married circa 1784 in North Carolina.¹⁶

At least two publications state that Edward and Mary had eight children: Sarah, Sion/Simon, John, Margaret Elizabeth, Mary (a.k.a. Polly), Edward Jr., Josiah, and Delila.^{17 18} I have yet to find primary sources that name the children other than Edward Jr., Josiah, and John. (A John Jarvis was appointed administrator to the estate of Edward Jarvis.)¹⁹



Pension Application Cover, Mary Jarvis

The name of Edward's second wife, Mary, is documented in her application for a Revolutionary War widow's pension.²⁰ A Muhlenberg County register lists a marriage on 11 September 1824 for Mary Forrester and Edward Jarrard.²¹ That record haunted me for months! The date lined up with my thoughts about when Edward married Mary, but who was Edward Jarrard? Finally, in the Revolutionary War pension records, I found the marriage license and return certifying that Edward married Mary Forrester on 11 September 1824. There was also a statement from County Clerk J. Reno certifying that the "foregoing license and return is a true and perfect transcript and record of this office." The statement is dated 17 November 1854. I think the confirmation of the marriage and the marriage date was necessary because of the incorrect listing in the register and because of a change in the law that made Mary eligible for a widow's pension. As stated by the National Archives and Records Administration: "On July 29, 1848 (9 Stat. 265), Congress provided life pensions for widows of veterans who were married before January 2, 1800. All restrictions pertaining to the date of marriage were removed by acts of February 3, 1853 (10 Stat. 154), and February 28, 1855 (10 Stat. 616)."²²

Edward and Mary's son was born circa 1829. They named him Edward Jr.²³ – the same name given to a son born in 1794 to Edward and his wife Polly. The first Edward Jr. apparently died circa 1823, six years before the second Edward Jr. was born. Perhaps Edward Sr. was memorializing the first Edward Jr. by bestowing the name on another son.

In 1830, the couple had a daughter, Nancy Jane,²⁴ who in 1850 married Gillis Spinks.²⁵ Shortly after the marriage, the 54-year-old widow Mary Jarvis moves from her own home to live in the newlyweds' household.²⁶ Next door are James and Susan Bennett. At least one researcher believes Susan to be another daughter, the first-born to Edward and Mary.²⁷

Close by live the Jason Mercer family (no doubt related to Amanda Catherine Mercer, who married Nancy's brother, the second Edward Jr.) and the Joseph Forrester family (likely related to Edward's widow Mary Forrester Jarvis).²⁸

Fighting Spirit

When I discovered that Edward volunteered to fight in wars when he was 15 and again at age 51, I thought of him as supremely patriotic. As I dug deeper into Muhlenberg County records, I began to think that maybe Edward just liked to fight! At the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort, donning white cotton gloves, I held original court papers indicating that my fourth great-grandfather stirred up some trouble in his day. In March 1805, Edward's neighbor and fellow road crew member Peter Goodnight – who "now is and during all his lifetime hitherto hath been a good, true, faithful & honest citizen . . ." – files complaint that Edward has used "false, scandalous, defamatory & malicious words" against him. It seems that Edward had, in the presence of others, accused citizen Goodnight of stealing and marking one of Edward's hogs!²⁹ I'm still trying to determine the outcome of that case.

Edward of his father malice against the said Peter, & wrongfully & injuriously continuing & extending as aforesaid, afterwards, to wit: on the same day & year aforesaid in the parish & County aforesaid, in a certain other discourse which the said Edward, then & there had in the presence & hearing of divers good worthy citizens of the Commonwealth of & concerning the said Peter, he the said defendant, then & there, falsely & maliciously said, rehearsed, & published in the presence & hearing of those citizens, then false scandalous & malicious words following, of & concerning the said plaintiff, that is to wit, "He (meaning the said Peter) did steal a hog." And the said Edward, of his father malice against the said Peter, & wrongfully & injuriously continuing & extending as aforesaid, afterwards, to wit: on the same day & year aforesaid, in the parish & County aforesaid, in a certain other discourse which the said Edward

Portion of Court Record, Goodnight vs. Jarvis, 1805. Source: Original Muhlenberg County Court Record, Box 2, Case 199, Research Library, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The Commonwealth of Kentucky to the Sheriff of
 Muhlenberg County Greeting We command you to
 summons Edward Jarvis to appear
 before the Judge of our Muhlenberg circuit court at the
 Court House in Greenville on the first day of our next
 March Term to answer us of the following presentment
 made against him by the grand Jury at the September
 Term 1834 to wit: That Edward Jarvis late of
 said County Ky on the 8th day of September 1824
 got drunk by the
 & then drinking and was found to exceed contrary
 to the form of the Statute in such Cases made
 & provided & against the Peace & tranquility of
 the Commonwealth aforesaid
 And have then there this writ Wm Charles J
 Wing Clerk of our said court at the Court House
 in Greenville on the 15th day of September Term 1834
 and in the 25th year of the Commonwealth

Wm Charles J
 Wing

Summons for Edward Jarvis to Answer to a Charge of Public Intoxication, 1804. Source: Research Library, Kentucky Department for Library and Archives, Frankfort, Ky. Muhlenberg County Court Records, Box 9, Case 1281

In the same year, Edward was the plaintiff, accusing Thomas Randolph of “trespass assault [sic] and battery” and demanding \$1,000 in damages.³⁰ I may never know the basis for Edward’s accusation, because the case was “stayed by order of the plaintiff.”

Two years later, the Commonwealth brought Edward into court to answer charges of assault against Hutson Martin.³¹ The file contains a summons calling William Blackberne (?) and Jacob Anthony as witnesses to speak on Edward’s behalf. The attorney for the Commonwealth, Christopher Tompkins, Esquire, apparently presented a good case. Jurors found the defendant, Edward Jarvis, guilty as charged and levied a one-dollar fine.

While Edward may not have been the model citizen – or maybe *because* he wasn’t – I’m still digging to learn more about him. A major goal is to prove that he is the father of Margaret Elizabeth Jarvis, born circa 1787 in Wake County, North Carolina. I welcome tips from others.

In the meantime, best wishes for great success as you research your own Revolutionary War ancestors.

Endnotes

- 1 Revolutionary War Pension request Kentucky 22215 by Edward Jarvis, certified by Charles Wing, Court Clerk, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky; presented in court 27 August 1832.
- 2 Wake County, North Carolina, Quarterly Court Minutes, February 1778 Session, Page 44; State Archives File CR099.301.1.
- 3 *Ibid.*
- 4 Revolutionary War Pension request, *op. cit.*
- 5 *Ibid.*
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 Otto A. Rothert, *A History of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky*, published 1913 in Louisville, reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1996; p. 206.
- 8 Revolutionary War Pension request, *op. cit.*
- 9 *Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, History and Families 1799-1996* (Turner Publications, Paducah), p. 168.
- 10 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Court Records, Book 1, Page 25.
- 11 Nathan W. Murphy, MA, AG, *Early Families of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky – Vincent, Wright, McElwain, Wilkins, and Jarvis*; David W. Murphy & Associates, publisher; 1999; p. 283.
- 12 Kentucky Land Grants, South of Green River, multiple volumes, Martin F. Schmidt Research Library, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

- 13 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Court Order Book 2, pgs. 241 & 242, 8 October 1810.
- 14 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Court Order Book 1, Page 321, 27 February 1804.
- 15 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Deed Book 5, 1817-1823, Page 101.
- 16 Nathan W. Murphy, *op. cit.*, p. 280.
- 17 *Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, History and Families 1799-1996* (Turner Publications, Paducah), p. 168.
- 18 Nathan W. Murphy, *op. cit.*, p. 285.
- 19 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Court Order Book 4, p. 217, 20 March 1836.
- 20 Revolutionary War widow's pension request, NC File W7871, Series M805, Roll 468, Image 241.
- 21 Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, Marriage Bonds and Licenses, Book 1 (1802-1836); p. 55.
- 22 Web site www.americanrevolution.org/NARA.html, located on 28 October 2012.
- 23 *Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, History and Families 1799-1996* (Turner Publications, Paducah), p. 168.
- 24 *Ibid.*
- 25 U.S. and International Marriage Records 1560-1900 [database on-line]. Provo, Utah; Ancestry.com; located 28 October 2012.
- 26 U.S. Census, 1850, Muhlenberg, Kentucky; National Archives Microfilm Publication M43, roll 214, p. 176A, image 392.
- 27 Nathan W. Murphy, *op. cit.*, p. 281.
- 28 U.S. Census, 1850, Muhlenberg, Kentucky; National Archives Microfilm Publication M43, roll 214, p. 176A, image 392.
- 29 Box 2, Case 199, Archives Room, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- 30 *Ibid.*, Case 211.
- 31 Box 5, Case 492, Archives Room, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky.

less than the last premium.

School aids, according to John Calahan superintendent of public instruction, should be raised from about \$8,000,000 to about \$10,000,000.

Besides, the new governor at several points during the budget proceedings has indicated that he favors increased expenditures in some directions. When budget requests for crippled children's work were considered, he appeared extremely sympathetic to proposals for greater activity.

When capitol officials told him about activities in the field of promoting Wisconsin agricultural products, he indicated that the present sum of \$75,000 annually which the state department of agriculture and markets is using for dairy advertising, does not "scratch the surface." He said he would advocate centralization of all agricultural promotion activities, and that he would summon Wisconsin farmers and their leaders to Madison in January for a conference which will formulate a new dairy and farm promotion program with state funds.

The new governor's early discussions indicate that he realizes the size of the job for which he volunteered last fall, and for which the people of Wisconsin accepted him, and that he is already thinking about solutions of the state's difficult financial problem.

During the consideration of the state highway department's budget,

From The Standard Democrat
(Burlington, Wisconsin)
30 Dec 1938
Page 1 Column 1

What's the Answer?
By EDWARD FINCH

WHY DO THEY CALL IT A HONEYMOON?



BECAUSE in old-time Germany, newly married couples always drank during the first month or "moon" after marriage, a wine which was made from honey and during this month they would keep apart from other people, making it a time of adjustments. Soon the idea of a voyage away from all things familiar took the public fancy and that voyage acquired the name "honeymoon" which it carries to this day long after the custom which originated it is forgotten.

From *The Standard Democrat* (Burlington, Wisconsin)
30 December 1938, page 1, column 1

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Submitted by Ken Schwedler