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- (1) JOHN COLLIER (COLYAR) . Probably was born in England. He sent his son John and possibly other sons back to the Old Country to be educated. Other family traditions indicate he was a man of some means.
- (2) JOHN COLLIER (COLYAR). In pension applications for Revolutionary war service his name is variously spelled Collyar, Collier, Colyer and Colier. Born in Virginia abt 1742. Married there abt 1772 Grizelda Taylor. Moved to Ky. abt 1795. Died in what is now Rockcastle Co., Ky. March 31, 1826. His widow survived him until 1846.
- (3) JOHN COLYER, Jr. He usually spelled his name in this way, but his children mostly adopted the spelling of Collier. Born July 4, 1782, in Va. Moved with his parents to what is now Rockcastle county, Ky., abt 1795. Was a farmer. Married April 8, 1805, Susanna Graves. Died July 6, 1833, of cholera, in Rockcastle Co., Ky.
- (4) MARY ANN COLLIER. Born in Rockcastle Co., Ky., May 8, 1826. Her father and his brothers were soldiers in the war of 1812. She married Jesse Caleb Williams March 5, 1850. The wedding was private, owing to the recent death of her mother, of pneumonia. She died at Carthage, Illinois, Jan. 26, 1910.
- (5) OSCAR WALDO WILLIAMS, eldest son of MARY ANN COLLIER WILLIAMS. Born at Mount Vernon, Ky., March 17, 1853. Married Miss Sallie Wheat. 5 children.

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The Collier ancestors of my mother told her that the family was of French-Huguenot extraction. Forced to flee from France at the revocation of the edict of Nantes, they found refuge in the south of England, near the border line of Wales. Some descendants claim that the family came to America from Oxfordshire, England, while others, with equal earnestness, insist that they came to this country direct from Wales. As research in Great Britain has thrown no light on the matter, it is not probable we will ever establish definitely the exact place of their residence between the time they left France and the time they landed in Virginia. Listed among the families forced to flee from France at the time of the massacre of St. Bartholomew, we find the Collier family, accepted by authorities as a family that settled in Great Britain when they were endangered owing to their protestant faith.

The first we know of the Colliers in Virginia was during the 18th century, when John Collier, the first, father of John, the Revolutionary soldier, was carrying on a large farm in Virginia. He was well-to-do for those days, and sent at least one of his sons, John, back to the "old country" to attend school. He may have been the John Collier, who jointly with George Ferris, bought 1700 acres, conveyed by George the Second, in Halifax county, Va., March 5, 1760. If so, he was by that time well along in years, as he was evidently born before 1720. About the same time we find his sons, John, Thomas, William and Charles, were residents of Henry county, Va., where John (his name being spelled Colyer) took the oath of allegiance in 1777; Thomas and William the same year, on August 30th; and Charles on the same day.

The son, William (he spelled the name Colyar) married Nancy St. Clair, thought to have been a sister of Gen. Arthur St. Clair. The latter was born in Scotland and came to America in 1757 as an officer in the British army. He resigned from the army in 1762 and settled in the Ligonier valley of Pennsylvania. William and Nancy (St. Clair) Colyar had a son named Arthur St. Clair Colyar, also a son, William, Jr., who in 1821 was a justice of the peace in Washington county, Penn. The parents settled on the Holachuk river, in what was then North Carolina, but now Tennessee, about the time of the Revolution, and remained there until death. One of their sons, Alexander Colyar, was the father of Col. Arthur St. Clair Colyar, noted southern historian. In addition to the sons, William, Jr., Alexander and Arthur St. Clair Colyar, there was a fourth son, John Colyar, whose son, George Washington Collier (the name was changed in this generation) married Charlotte Spear, of Washington county, Tenn. George died in Solano county, Calif., in 1900, at the age of 78. He was the father of five children by his first wife, Charlotte, and there were seven children by a second marriage.

THE COLLIER FAMILY.

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 First Generation in America:

JOHN COLYER, the 1st, father of  
 John Colyer, Sr.,  
 William Colyar  
 Charles Colyer  
 Thomas Colyer, of Henry Co., Va.  
 James, later of Ky.  
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 husband, (?) of Henry Co., Va)

Second Generation in America:

JOHN COLYER, Sr., Vol. A, pg 176, Land Grants of Va.,  
 shows a grant of 217 acres in  
 Pittsylvania Co (from which Henry  
 county was created) to John Colyer,  
 by Thomas Jefferson, Nov. 11, 1779.  
 He served in the Revolutionary war from  
 Va., later settled in Ky. In 1774 he was a  
 private under John Murray, Va. Colonial  
 militia. He and Grissell (Taylor) Colyer were  
 parents of:  
 William, Elizabeth, James, John, Jr., Elijah,  
 Charles, Dorcas, Susan and Nancy, also two children  
 who died in infancy.

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 Third Generation in America:

JOHN COLYER, Jr., soldier in war of 1812.  
 Born July 4, 1762, in Va., died July 6, 1835.  
 He and Susanna (Graves) Collier were parents of:  
 Elizabeth, Hannah, James, John, Stephen,  
 William Graves, Susanna and Maryann.

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 Fourth Generation in America:

MARYANN COLLIER: Born 1826, died 1910.  
 Married Jesse C. Williams 1850.  
 Children: Catherine, Oscar Waino,  
 William David, Josiah Joylin,  
 Edward Everett, Susan Anna and Jessie.

THE COLLIER FAMILY

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 JOHN COLYER the first had at least five sons: John,  
 William (who settled in what is now East Tennessee), Thomas  
 and James (who appeared to have remained in Henry county, Va.)  
 and James, who settled in Kentucky before 1785. He is listed in  
 that year as a citizen of Madison county. Two years later, in  
 May and June of 1794, he was sent to the frontiers of Lincoln  
 county to guard against Indians and for two months of service  
 was paid a sum slightly more than \$10 as compensation.  
 The nuncupative will of James Collier was proved, December 22,  
 1805, in Madison county, Ky. The will was committed to writing by  
 James Collier, Jr., and showed money deposited for the benefit of  
 children. He may have been the father of Rev. Stephen Collier  
 and Rev. Richard Collier, ministers in the Baptist Church, and  
 intimate friends and close relatives of my grandfather's family.  
 I have never been able to definitely establish whose sons they were  
 but they were cousins of my grandfather, John Colyer, Sr., and often  
 visited in the family.

The census of 1830, Rockcastle county, Ky., shows Stephen  
 Colyer, age between 50 and 60. The same man appears in the  
 census of 1840, Pulaski county, Ky., his age being then between 60  
 and 70 years.

Meanwhile, some descendants of William Colyer, of East  
 Tennessee, had come to Kentucky and settled in Pulaski county,  
 where the family was represented for several generations.  
 In the census of 1870 three brothers were living there, namely:  
 Alexander Colyer, St. Clair Colyer and Stephen Colyer, all born  
 in Kentucky, in 1810, 1815 and 1824 respectively. My aunt Susan  
 (Collier) Seargent, said that she was never acquainted with these  
 cousins, but knew of their relationship and of their residence  
 in Pulaski county. This family changed the spelling of the name  
 from the Colyar used by their ancestor, William, to Colyer and  
 then to Collier. Another descendant, Col. Arthur St. Clair Colyer,  
 born in Washington county, Tenn., in 1818, was a son of Alexander  
 Colya, who moved to Franklin county, Tenn., in 1800. He was a  
 member of the Confederate Congress and later of the Tennessee  
 legislature. He stated that he was positive the name was  
 spelled Collier by Virginia ancestors and did not understand  
 why his grandfather, William, used the spelling Colyar. But  
 William's brother, JOHN, signed his name JOHN COLYER, to a  
 pension application, although most of his family used the  
 spelling Colyer or Collier. In those days the spelling of a  
 name seemed a very unimportant matter.

JOHN COLLIER, Sr., soldier of the Revolution, was born in Virginia (county unknown) some time between 1740 and 1745. Perhaps the year 1743 would approximate the date. Family tradition says that he was one of six sons. I have the names of four besides himself, - William, Thomas, Charles and James. The 6th was probably Richard, of Henry county, Va.

Few things can be proved about the boyhood of JOHN COLLIER, Revolutionary soldier. But there is one interesting family tradition about him. His father sent him back to the "old country" to be educated. It is not improbable that he attended a school in Lancashire, England, taught by a noted writer, John Collier, who may have been a relative of the family. This John Collier wrote under the nom de plume of Tim Bobbin. He is described by Francis Espinasso in a volume entitled "Lancashire Worthies", printed in 1874 in London by Simpkin, Marshall & Co., title John Collier (Tim Bobbin). Espinasso in 1877 brought out another volume of "Lancashire Worthies", but Collier is found only in the volume of 1874, pg 239. Collier was born in 1710 and died 1786, and was conducting his Lancashire school at the time my ancestor, John Collier, was sent back from America to be educated.

One day, while at the English school, my ancestor heard the music of fife and drum accompanying a small procession of red coats passing the school. He learned that recruits were needed to go to America to fight the French. Possibly he was homesick and wanted to get back home. At any rate he joined the army. After a time devoted to drilling he was sent aboard a ship bound for America, but when the ship cast anchor he learned that peace had been declared and so he was honorably discharged. That was probably the peace made by the treaty of Paris in 1763.

There is a family tradition that my ancestor, John Collier, was at Braddock's defeat in 1755. If so, he could only have been about thirteen years of age and his service would have been in a minor capacity. One line of descendants still has the basket he is said to have carried. Another line has his old rifle. The gun was of the type brought over from Europe for use by soldiers. It shot a steel bullet and had a bayonet attached to the end of the barrel. Mrs. Suzanne Lasley Hatch, granddaughter of Mrs. Susan Seargent, states that when she was five years old her mother, Mrs. Anna Lasley, was showing the old gun to her mother-in-law and other guests, when she accidentally pulled the trigger. It had not been discharged for many years, but it shot just the same. The bullet went over the head of the little girl, cutting out a tiny piece of the scalp, so that she has a scar for life, as a testimonial to the fact that age did not render the gun useless. From her head the bullet went on, through a heavy oak door, across a hall, through another door, through a barrel filled with clothing, and then imbedded itself in a brick wall. For a long time this gun was in the possession of Hugh Seargent, now deceased.

About the year 1773 (exact date unknown) JOHN COLLIER married Grizelda (or Grissell) Taylor. She was always known as Grizzey (or Grizzy), a name she disliked so much that she would not permit any of her daughters or granddaughters to be named in her honor. She said she wanted her descendants to remember her with affection and was positive they would not do so if encumbered with such a name as "Grizzey." When my mother was a child she often saw this energetic grandmother. The grandchildren loved to ask her to spell her name. Her black eyes would flash with amusement as she would exclaim: "G R I IZZARD IZZARD E Y." The grandchildren had been taught the present pronunciation of "Z" and the IZZARD sounded strange and amusing to them. The name Grizelda is rare in every period of the history of America. One genealogist believes it to be a variant of Grace. The Century Cyclopeda states that it comes out of Italy, from some of the stories of Petrarch and Boccaccio (1313-1375). The same indicates that some ancestor was given to reading out of the usual English path of the centuries sixteen and seventeen hundred. My mother said that Grizzey was named for a grandmother, but of this we lack documentary proof.

Grizelda Taylor was born in Virginia (county unknown) about 1758. Her eldest child was born ca. 1774 and the youngest ca. 1804. The last date comes from the census of 1850. The first date comes from her written statement that at the opening of the Revolutionary war she was the mother of "two or three children." Only twice have I found the name Grissell or Grizelda or any variant thereof, in the records of old Virginia. One records stated that in 1780 David and Grissell Taylor sold land in Augusta county, Va. Also I saw a copy of an ancient letter written by a widowed Mrs. Taylor in Virginia. In this letter she casually mentioned a niece GRIZ.

JAMES TAYLOR, father of Grizzey, lived in Henry county, Va., during the Revolutionary period and removed thence to Powell's valley in Tennessee, where he died ca. 1815. One line of descendants gives the name of his wife as Eleanor Smith, but if that is correct, it is difficult to understand why none of his daughters or granddaughters (so far as I can trace) bore the name of Eleanor. I know of five children in the family of James Taylor:

David, who is said to have served in the Revolutionary war.  
 Grizzey, who married JOHN COLLIER (COLIER)  
 Zachary Taylor, who was killed in youth by a falling tree.  
 \_\_\_\_\_, wife of John Adams. They moved to Missouri in 1807 from Virginia. John Adams was a son of Thos. Randolph Greenfield Adams, of Maryland, who settled in Henry county, Va.  
 Betsey, wife of Edward Adams, a brother of John Adams.  
 I have no record of their descendants.

JOHN COLLIER was the father of three children when he enlisted in the Revolutionary war. The records of the war department show that he "served as a private in Capt. Thomas Hill's Co., 5th (also known as 8th and 11th) Va. Reg't, commanded by Col. Wm. Russell; and in Capt. Thos. Hill's Co., 7th Va. Reg't of Foot, commanded by Col. McClenahan. He enlisted Feb. 13, 1777, to serve three years. His name is borne on the rolls to Nov., 1779, when it disappears." Signed, Lutz Wahl, Brigadier-General. Family tradition has it that he served to the close of the war.

Department of Interior  
Bureau of Pensions  
Washington, D.C.  
September 24, 1925

"I have to advise you that from the papers in the pension claim W 8624 it appears that John Colyer (Collier) while residing in Virginia served as a soldier of the Virginia line, war of the Revolution, date of service and names of officers not stated.

"Also, he served as a sergeant in Capt. Jacob Ripton's Co., Col. William Darke's Regiment of U. S. Levies in 1791, in Gen. St. Clair's army, was at the battle of St. Clair's defeat. He was allowed pension from September 4, 1791, on account of disability in this service, the nature of which is not stated.

"In 1821 he was living in Lincoln county, Ky. He died March 31, 1826, in Rockcastle county, Ky.

"He married, 1772 or 1773, in Virginia, Grizzy, her maiden name not given. She was allowed pension on account of his services in the Revolution, on her application executed November 4, 1843, while living in Rockcastle county, Ky., aged about 80 years.

"They had several children. No names stated except that of William, the eldest. The name of the soldier's father is not given."

(Signed) Winfield Scott, Commissioner.

Application by John Collier for a new certificate of service  
(State of Kentucky)  
(County of Lincoln)

On the 11th of July, 1821, before me, the subscriber, a justice of the peace for the said county of Lincoln, personally appeared JOHN COLLYAR, who on his oath declares he is the same person who formerly belonged to the company commanded by Col. William Darke (commonly called the United States Levies); that his name as placed on the pension roll of Pennsylvania or Virginia or Tennessee (as he verily believes) and that Col. William Darke was from the state of Virginia. But he cannot say, at the time it was disbanded, whether it was called the Pennsylvania, Virginia or Tennessee line. But it was from the first Regiment of the U.S. Levies, which formed a part of Gen. St. Clair's army, at the time of St. Clair's defeat in 1790. And that he has regularly drawn a pension for upwards of twenty years from the loan office or pension office in the city of Philadelphia. That he received a certificate under the signature and seal of the secretary of war, which certificate on or about the 7th day of April, 1814, was destroyed when his house was burned. (Signed in a weak and faltering hand) JOHN COLYAR.  
Sworn to before Herbert King, justice of the peace in and for Lincoln county, Kentucky.

Philadelphia, Penn., August 17, 1821

The Honorable John W. Calhoun:  
Sir:

We again take the liberty to call your attention to the enclosed, being a renewed application, on a different document, of JOHN COLLIER, for a new certificate. It has just arrived, from Messrs. J. & E. Davidson, of Stanford, Ky. Whether it proves agreeable to the prescribed forms of office or not, it certainly speaks to the feelings sufficiently to cause us to have no doubt that you will take pleasure in ordering a new certificate to be made out and forwarded to us without delay; or make us acquainted, by the immediate return of the affidavit of the ILL success of his application.

With the highest respects,

Yr obedient humble servant,  
(Signed) Comegys Paul.

Certificate of the Pension Bureau, dated Nov. 22, 1844, Richmond, Va., shows that a certificate issued Feb. 21, 1783, in the name of JOHN COLLIER, a soldier of infantry, for two-thirds pound, had been given to John Shackelford, and was for services prior to Jan. 1, 1782.

Another certificate issued August 2, 1782, shows one-third pound, paid to John Shackelford, for services of JOHN COLLIER prior to Jan. 1, 1782.

Virginia Land Grants, Volume A, pg 629: Thomas Jefferson for 35 shillings conveys to John Colliar 536 acres in Henry county, Va., in the fishing fork district of Leatherwood creek, July 13, 1780. (Possibly this was in pay for his services in the Revolutionary war.)

Old Military warrants of Virginia, Volume 1-3, Warrant 890 conveys to John Colyer 50 acres for services rendered by him during the late war between Great Britain and France, according to the proclamation of 1763, by the King of Great Britain. This warrant was signed by S. Carr, April 3, 1780. As John Colyer enlisted for service in this war, while at school in England, the 50 acres may represent pay for his service. Apparently he did not pre-empt the acreage, but sold the warrant to secure money for his immediate needs.

Not long after the opening of the Revolutionary war, JOHN COLYER enlisted in the Virginia Continental line, leaving his wife at home to support their children while he was at the front. Although he was the son of a prosperous family, yet while he was away at war his family seemed almost to lack the very necessities of life. His wife was a woman of great energy and kept the proverbial wolf from the door by her amazing industry.

The part of his Revolutionary service about which JOHN COLYER most frequently spoke to his children and grandchildren was in regard to the eventful winter at Valley Forge, where he was a private in the 7th Virginia Regiment, under Capt. Thomas Hill, Major John Wet and Col. A. McClanahan.

The following is quoted from "Valley Forge" (1910) by Rev. James W. Riddle of Philadelphia:

"The troops arrived at Valley Forge, 21 miles from Philadelphia, Dec. 19, 1777. With nothing but tents to withstand the rigors of a very severe winter, the soldiers were at once put to work to build log huts, 14x16 feet. Each hut accommodated 12 men. The officers were not so crowded. The huts were laid out in streets. Straw supported by poles was used for roofs. Straw also was used for bedding for the soldiers' bunks. At first 11,089 men were encamped at Valley Forge. Camp fever broke out. Small pox became epidemic. Sickness and death and desertion reduced the number to 5,012. June 18, 1778, the men heard that the British were evacuating Philadelphia. Washington broke camp and pushed toward Philadelphia, arriving there as the last of the British were crossing the Delaware. June 28, 1778, Washington and his men attacked Clinton at Monmouth in New Jersey." In this battle John Colyer took part as a private.

Whenever JOHN COLYER noticed that his children or grandchildren showed the least indication of wastefulness, he at once would reprimand them, telling them of the suffering at Valley Forge; how he had seen soldiers so hungry that they would fight over kernels of corn; how he and others lacked shoes and socks to keep their feet warm, and as they walked in the snow would leave the marks of blood from their tender, frostbitten feet; how the soldiers had so little clothing that, when they stepped from the huts, they would throw their bedding (coarse army blankets) around him. He well remembered Baron Von Steuben, whose striking personality made an indelible impression on all the soldiers. Von Steuben spoke English very brokenly, but he spoke it or some other language very forcibly. No one could misunderstand his meaning, for his adjectives were strong. He saw the privates hungry, illy clad, suffering every privation, yet comparatively few of them deserted; most of them clung to their forlorn hope. Near by in Philadelphia, where the British and their American Tory friends were stationed, there was plenty of food and warm clothing, there was music and dancing, a joyful time for all, with no uneasy cares, no hardships, no destitution. Von Steuben regarded the American rebels with admiration. He said no cause could fail with such men as that, yet he saw the imperative need of better guns and better drilling, and he did his part to that end; so well indeed that Congress later gave him large land grants in New York, as a home for his last days.

John Colyer took part in several battles of the Revolution. Monmouth is the only one about which I am positive. Once in a battle he was struck by a bullet that he thought had finished him. When he recovered from the shock and hunted out the damage, he found that the bullet had struck squarely on the front of the large silver coin that he wore as a top button on the fly of his trousers. There was no damage beyond the heavy blow and the shock. He told his children that he was present when Gen. Washington bade farewell to the army. He recalled how the veterans showed very deep emotion. Their tears ran freely down over unshaven faces to ragged, dirty shirts.

During the war there were times when John Colyer was permitted to return to his home. This saved the government the expense of feeding him, but he had to be ready for call to service any time, day or night. Meanwhile his wife had become alarmed by the frequent raids of Hessians. Many families abandoned their homes and fled west or southwest, to get away from the Hessians, and Mrs. Colyer joined some of these fleeing families and with her children took refuge in Powell's valley, in what is now East Tennessee, settling in a lonely spot on or near the Holston river. But she had merely exchanged one danger for another. Freed from fear of Hessians, the refugees found themselves in constant peril from the Indians.

## THE COLYER FAMILY.

Although without money or means of support, the Revolutionary's soldier's young wife was fully equal to the serious emergency. In her hour of need she turned to the preparing and selling of homespun garments. It was a tedious, difficult and illy-paid task. She also raised a few sheep and traded finished garments for wool or cotton or flax. She sowed flax and harvested it, but to break and pull it was very difficult, at times too heavy a job for a woman. Here again she traded finished garments for labor. Once she hired two Irishmen to pull the flax. In order to insure that they did good work, she worked with them and set the pace. But the work was so back-breaking that she was glad (so she said years later, with a touch of humor) of an excuse to quit when word was brought to her that once of the children had been slightly burned and she was needed in the cabin. Occasionally I hear some pompous person express a doubt that Americans suffered in the Revolutionary war. They say that the stories are imaginative and have grown with every generation, but records prove (without a trace of exaggeration) that in all our history (prior to the year 1930) there was never a time of such stress and strain, such hardship and destitution, as during the years 1776 to 1783.

When the revolutionary soldier was honorably discharged he returned to their primeval habitation and his wife was able to give more attention to her children. The state line between Virginia and Tennessee was not as now, and I am not positive if they lived south or north of the present state boundary. But this I know; it was a lonely spot and their hard work scarcely provided their growing family with the commonest needs of existence. But they continued there quietly until early in 1791, when Congress authorized the president to call for mounted militia and also to increase the defenses by new levies of men. This the president did, assigning to each district a certain quota of men to be raised. Kentucky was not made a state until June, 1792. The district of Washington (now known as Tennessee) was reluctant to enter the campaign. For once their militia did not rush into service. They were accustomed to volunteering without any definite time of service set. This term of service was longer than they desired, nor did they wish to take an oath to obey the commands of officers whom they did not know, and in whose selection they had absolutely no part. It became necessary to draft young men and many of those drafted hired substitutes. Major Rhea was appointed to the command of the battalion for the district of Washington and before July 15, 1791, had started for Fort Washington.

Among the troops sent from East Tennessee was a company commanded by Capt. Jacob Tipton. About to leave on that distant and perilous service, he had bade farewell to his ~~husband's~~ family and mounted his horse, when he called back to his wife and asked his wife, if he should be killed, to alter the name of their son William and call him Jacob. At the battle Nov. 4th he was killed. William then became Jacob and later was Gen. Jacob Tipton, U.S.A., of Tipton county, Tenn., a county named in 1821 by the Tennessee legislature in honor of the brave captain who fell at St. Clair's defeat.

March 4, 1791, Arthur St. Clair (a native of Scotland) was commissioned major-general of the armies of the U.S., with the chief command of the expedition against the Indians of the frontier. May 15, 1791, he arrived at Fort Washington, and was joined by Col. William Darke August 29, 1791. In 1811 St. Clair published a book explaining his defeat. He stated that many recruits arrived at Fort Washington almost naked; that the clothing for the levies was "infamous", the shoes were bad, the shirts too small, the coats useless for storms, the axes too soft, the hospital stores extremely bad, the guns poor, the powder almost worthless. The militia that deserted complained bitterly of the scarcity of food. Their haversacks were filthy and their cartridge boxes poor, while their new tents permitted the moisture to run through, so that in the late fall weather the men could not find dry places to sleep. In fact, the whole St. Clair account reads like a tale of contractors wanting to get rich out of selling the government worthless supplies.

Although there were originally 2300 men in the campaign, so many deserted, hungry and cold, that only 1400 were left to fight the Indians. They had 86 officers. Of these the records show that 890 men and 16 officers were either killed or very seriously wounded. Col. Oldham told John Helm, a relative by marriage, that he had remonstrated with St. Clair in vain; he and other officers did not sleep the night of Nov. 3d. Before dawn on the 4th they were attacked by Indians. Oldham and Gen. Butler were killed. After four hours of fighting the remnant of the army fled pell mell into the woods, turning south a fleeing mob, over the same road on which they had marched, an orderly expedition, two days before. My ancestor, John Collier, told his children that there was snow on the ground. Many writers mention the cold weather, but McDowell is one of the few who mention the SLUSHY SNOW that retarded the progress of the fleeing whites. The soldiers had eaten no breakfast nor could they stop to eat lunch, even though they had a lunch to eat. Many had become so tired, so dispirited and so alarmed that they dropped their equipment, and fled in the greatest disorder. The retreat became a riot. McDowell's aid he met a woman carrying a son one year old. She was ready to drop from exhaustion, so he carried the infant for a time. When he finally gave the child back to the mother, she threw the infant into the snow and hurried on alone. Indians picked up the child and reared it in one of their camps.

## THE COLYER FAMILY.

As the army fled in disorder they were joined by stragglers who had been wounded and had hidden in the woods. Among these was JOHN COLYER. The condition of the survivors of the battle was pitiful. Perhaps never, in the history of our country, was there an engagement that more resembled murder and less resembled a battle, than this struggle known as St. Clair's defeat. In this battle William Darke (born 1736 Philadelphia, died 1801 Jefferson county, Va.) colonel of the first Regiment of U.S. Levées, commanded the left wing of the army when Indians were making a desperate onslaught and whites were falling in heaps. St. Clair ordered Darke to charge with bayonets. He drove the enemy back, but being short of riflemen could not continue the pursuit, and the Indians again penetrated to the camp. He started to make a second charge with some success, but a concentrated charge could not be made and many fell, among them his own son, Capt. Joseph Darke, mortally wounded. Darke arrived that evening at Fort Jefferson, thirty miles away, with his dying son whom he had brought on horseback from the field of slaughter. He urged an immediate attack on the Indians, declaring in the flush of their victory they could easily be beaten by the whites, but his advice was overruled.

In St. Clair's defeat JOHN COLYER was seriously wounded and then was forced to flee for his life. Indians were pursuing the whites, who failed to keep together in one compact body, but became scattered through the lonely timber. All that terrible 4th of November JOHN COLYER ran as rapidly as his wounds permitted. Frequently he had to stop and spit blood into the snow, but he soon began to realize that the Indians would track him by the blood, so he opened the front of his heavy hunting shirt and spat the blood into it, cold and sick and hungry, he watched the day sink into darkness, but he did not dare to sink down to rest. Again and again he heard the guns of Fort Jefferson sounding. They were fired to indicate to the wounded and fleeing soldiers the direction in which they should run. The officers had been mounted, but JOHN COLYER, only a sergeant, had been on foot and therefore had less chance to flee than had the officers. St. Clair himself, who had gout or rheumatism himself to such an extent that he had to be helped on and off his horse by his servant, had fled horseback to safety, and arriving at Fort Jefferson had directed the care of his wounded men.

For a time JOHN COLYER sought safety in the hollow of a dead tree. While there he heard the conversation of Indians as they pursued the white men. After many narrow escapes he reached Fort Jefferson. He had enlisted Sept. 4, 1791, and for many months after the defeat he was ill and unable to work. The wound he received affected him through the balance of his life. About a dozen of them were removed from his body and when he died, they were placed in the coffin with his body. Under the old Invalid Act he received a pension, but all the papers pertaining thereto were burned in fires that twice destroyed his home, once in 1800 and again in 1814.

The defeated army crossed the Ohio river into Kentucky and John Colyer lay for a long time, ill from his wounds, at Bryant's Station, near the present site of Lexington, Ky. Meanwhile travelers from Kentucky through Powell's valley conveyed to his wife the news that he was dangerously ill, perhaps unto death. She hastily found homes for her children among the neighbors and joined a party starting for Kentucky. When she finally reached Bryant's Station she was told that her husband had recovered sufficiently to join a party bound for Virginia and Powell's valley. She had to remain at Bryant's Station for three months before she found an armed party going over the dangerous road back to her starting point. Finally husband and wife were reunited. They resumed the quiet tenor of farming. About the only pay he had received for his war services was a grant to some land in Illinois and for some time they entertained the thought of migrating to that country, then an unsettled wilderness, and develop their grant, but finally they allowed the claim to be lost for want of homesteading. About 1795 they left Powell's valley and traveled by wagon to Lincoln county, Ky., where they established a home.

In personal appearance JOHN COLYER, of the Revolution, was a bony man of fair complexion, blue eyes and black hair. In temperament he was impetuous, sometimes too much so for his own good. As a result of showing too much sympathy for the losing side, he was often in personal trouble. On one occasion, passing down a road, he came to a fight between a robust youth and a frail, elderly man. Immediately he took the field against the young man, whom he worsted and then summoned before a magistrate, but he was unable to give the magistrate any explanation for his interference beyond the difference in age and strength between the two combatants.

March 31, 1826, the Revolutionary soldier, JOHN COLYER, having lost his last battle and having been defeated by the great enemy, Death, passed from earth. He was buried in the Menfro burial ground (now called the McClary cemetery), five miles northwest of Mount Vernon, in Rockcastle county, Ky. The burying ground is a large, deserted plot, and a search for any grave therein is most difficult. Over the last resting of John and Grizelda undoubtedly once there was a large stone, with their names inscribed thereon, but no trace of the stone can now be found.

- (1) JAMES TAYLOR. Place of birth unknown, probably in Virginia. Name of wife unknown, although there is a family tradition in one line of descendants that she was Eleanor Smith. They were residents of Henry county, Va., moved thence to Powell's valley in Tennessee, and there he died ca. 1815. They were parents of a large family. I know the names of the following:  
David Taylor, said to have served in Rev. Zachary, killed by a falling tree in youth.  
Mrs. John Adams, who died in Missouri.  
Betsy, wife of Edward Adams.  
Grizzy, wife of John Colyer, Sr.
- (2) GRIZELDA, (Grizzey, Grizzly, or Grissell?) TAYLOR. Born in Va. ca. 1758. Married JOHN COLYER ca. 1773. Moved to Ky. ca. 1795. Died there 1846. She had applied for a pension Nov. 4, 1843. It was granted shortly before her death. Her sons, William, James, John, Jr., Elijah and Charles served in the war of 1812. She is said to have been named for a grandmother, but disliked the name so much that she would not permit a daughter or a granddaughter to be named for her.
- (3) JOHN COLYER, Jr., born in Henry county, Va., July 4, 1782 (or possibly may have been born after the family settled in Powell's valley near the Holston river). He was about 13 when the family moved to Ky. There he married Susanna Graves April 8, 1803. 8 children. He died of cholera July 6, 1833, in Rockcastle Co., Ky.
- (4) MARY ANN COLYER, born May 8, 1826, in Rockcastle county, Ky., on the Colyer plantation 5 miles northwest of Lount Vernon. She married Jesse Caleb Williams March 5, 1850. Died at Carthage, Illinois, Jan. 26, 1910.
- (5) OSCAR WALDO WILLIAMS, born March 17, 1853, in Lount Vernon, Ky. Married Sallie Wheat, daughter of Clayton Miller Wheat, in Dallas, Texas.
- (6) OSCAR WALDO WILLIAMS, Jr., born Apr 11 14, 1883, at Dallas, Texas. Married Clive Strickler in Keokuk, Iowa. 3 ch.
- (7) OSCAR WALDO WILLIAMS 3d, graduated from high school of Fort Stockton, Texas, in June, 1934.

After the death of the Revolutionary soldier, JOHN COLYER, his widow lived with her children until she passed away, Sept. 15, 1846, in Rockcastle county, Ky. When she applied for a pension her son, Charles, stoutly opposed it, calling a pension "blood money." The old lady herself saw no harm in it, and my sole regret, as a descendant, is that it took her many months to secure the pension, and a large part of it was required to pay lawyer's fees.

Certificate of pension was issued to her June 1, 1848, and sent to Hon. C. S. Morehead, House of Representatives (Ky. 4545). The government did not pay the money direct to her (according to family tradition) but sent it to the lawyer who had handled the case, and he retained the greater portion of the back pay as his fee.

It is not known when GRIZZEY TAYLOR was born nor where. The spring of 1758 is perhaps fairly accurate for the date, but the Virginia county is as yet not known to me. Nor is the date of her marriage to JOHN COLYER known. That event was probably solemnized in the summer of 1773, when she was 15 years of age.

The Taylor family were members of the church of England. In accord with the old English custom, her marriage was celebrated in an Episcopal Church at an early hour in the day. Mrs. Colyer told her children that the church was 20 miles from her father's home. The bridal party rode the entire distance on horseback. On the road the horse of the bridesmaid, alarmed by some wild animal, bolted the road. Now it happened that this bridesmaid carried on the pommel of her saddle a wicker basket containing the ruffles and fichu which the bride was to put on, when the party reached the chapel. In dismay the bride witnessed the runaway horse dashing down the road, until finally the wicker basket was thrown to the ground. Then the horse was curbed, fortunately without injury to the rider. In after years the bride of that day reproached herself with having more concern over the fate of her wedding finery than for the safety of her bridesmaid. Everything, however, ended happily. The wedding fichu and ruffles were worn in all their original neatness. The journey home was followed by a dinner and a dance. Then the bride and groom began housekeeping on a farm near by, but soon moved to another property in the same county.

GRIZZEY TAYLOR COLYER told her grandchildren that she was married in the Episcopal Chapel at Belle Haven, Va. This has caused all of us much study. A part of Alexandria, Va., was at that time called Belle Haven. The query came to me: "Was our great-grandmother married in the Episcopal Church at Alexandria, where Washington at one time worshipped and where Lee later had a pew?" When I went to that church I inquired for the old marriage records, but was told they had been stolen during the Civil war. There is also a Belle Haven on the East Shore of Virginia. The records there were studied, but to no avail.

There is reason to believe that the six Colyer brothers (One of whom Grizzey Taylor married) were JOHN, William, James, Charles, Thomas and Richard, all of whom lived in Henry county, Va., during the Revolution and all were loyal to the cause of independence. During 1927 Mrs. L. C. Anderson, Bainbridge, Ohio, wrote me she had studied the Taylor family records in Lancaster, Northumberland, Prince William, Stafford, Fauquier, Culpeper, Orange, King & Queen, Westmoreland, etc., counties, and never had found the name of Grissell, Grizzey, or Grizelda Taylor. I searched Culper Co. records for Colyer, but

## THE COLYER FAMILY.

found none, and do not believe the Colliers ever lived there, in spite of a tradition that at one time it was their place of residence.

In one instance I found the name of GRISSELL TAYLOR in Virginia records. The records of 1780 show that DAVID and GRISSELL TAYLOR, husband and wife, sold land in Augusta county, Va., in that year. Now Grizzey Taylor Colyer was said to have been named for one of her grandmothers, and after finding that record, I felt convinced that David and Grissell Taylor of Augusta county, Va., were her grandparents. However, I have no documentary evidence to support this belief. Grizzey Colyer had a brother, David Taylor, according to family tradition; and he probably was named for this grandfather, while his sister was given the name of her grandmother Taylor. It may have been her brother who in 1800 sold land in Rockingham county, Va., and to whom (and his wife) Barbara Smith deeded land about the same time. His David Taylor is said to have been a revolutionary soldier. I know nothing of his history.

Throughout life Mrs. Colyer was considered an excessively neat housekeeper. It was said of her that she not only kept her house spotlessly clean, but every few days she could be seen treating the stumps of trees in her yard to a heavy dose of soap and water. Her explanation of this was that the stumps were used as chopping blocks on which game was cut up for the fireplace oven, and she felt the stumps must be kept clean for sanitary reasons. Also she scrubbed the stiles, so that her long skirts would not be soiled in stepping over them. In my opinion Grizzey was one of the very neatest of my ancestors, and that she had a keen sense of humor, a quick Irish wit (Yet she was said to have been English, not Irish), a vast amount of energy, and a fine intelligence that took the place of a finished education. She remained mentally and physically able to the last, and when past 90 years of age she met a sudden death through injuries caused by a fall down the stairs. She died Sept. 15, 1846, and was buried beside her husband in the McClary graveyard in Rockcastle county, Ky. Eleven children formed her family:

- (1) WILLIAM COLLIER, born 1774, served in war of 1812.
- (2) ELIZABETH COLLIER JACKSON, born 1775, died in Indiana
- (3) Son who died in infancy; born 1776
- (4) JAMES COLLIER, born abt 1780, served in war of 1812; was a teacher.
- (5) JOHN COLLIER, Jr., born July 4, 1782, served in war of 1812.
- (6) ELIJAH COLLIER, date of birth and death not known.
- (7) CHARLES COLLIER, born 1787 in Virginia; soldier in war of 1812
- (8) and (9) DORCAS and her twin. The latter died at birth. The former born 1795, married James Menfro, and died in Ky.
- (10) NANCY, 1798-1863, married Samuel Close; settled in Indiana
- (11) SUSAN, born 1804, married Lewis Butcher; died about 1881 in Rockcastle county, Ky.

## THE COLYER FAMILY.

state of Kentucky)

county of Rockcastle)

On this 4th day of November, 1843, personally appeared before me, James Sayers, an acting justice of the peace in and for the said county and state, MRS. GRIZZEY COLLIER (COLYER), a resident of the said county and state, aged upwards of 90 years; and who after being duly sworn according to the law, doth on her oath make the following declarations, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress, passed 4 July, 1836, to-wit:

That she is the widow of JOHN COLLIER, deceased, late of the said county and state, and who was a regular soldier in the U.S. levies in the revolutionary war, and served almost the whole time say several years (as she thinks), and resided in the state of Virginia when he entered the service, she thinks; and on account of his said service in said war her aforesaid husband received a pension from the United States which was granted to him, until his death which took place the 31st of March, 1826, at the rate of \$96 per annum.

She further declares that she cannot state the names of the officers her said husband served under nor the line he served in, but for their names as well as the character of the service performed and such other facts as are needed in the investigation of her claim, she would refer to the evidences contained in the paper, comprising the matter of the application of her said husband for the aforesaid pension.

She further declares that she has no documentary evidence in support of her claim. She further declares that she was married to the said JOHN COLLIER some time before the old revolutionary war began, she thinks in the year 1772 or 1773. She cannot state positively, but she had three children at the commencement of the said war and she worked and fed and clothed her children all the time her husband, JOHN COLLIER, was in the said line in the said war, to the astonishment of her neighbors. This she did until her said husband returned. She further states that she had her first child about one yr after her marriage. Then there was 1 1/2 yrs between the others, which makes the marriage several years before the old war. She further declares that she has never received a pension from the U.S. since the death of her husband. The affidavit of pension which her said husband had was given to her attorney to get the arrears.

She further states that she has never married since the death of her said husband, JOHN COLLIER, but still continues his widow. She further declares that she has appointed U.R. Trabue her attorney to draw her certificate of pension from the commissioner of pensions in Washington City from the year 1832 until death.

She further declares that she is not able to attend in open court on account of old age, frailty of body and weakness. She cannot ride on horseback, and she is entirely dependent upon her daughter, a poor widow, for her support. Therefore she prays for a pension, as the widow of JOHN COLLIER, a revolutionary pensioner, deceased. She further states that her oldest child, if living, would be about 68 or 69 years of age.

(Signed) GRIZZEY COLYER.

state of Kentucky)

Co. of Rockcastle )

I the foregoing subscribed justice of the peace in and for the sd county and state, do certify that I am personally acquainted with the aforesaid declarant, GRIZZZEY COLLIER, the widow of JOHN COLYER, a Revolutionary pensioner of the United States and upon the Kentucky rolls, and drew \$96 per annum until his death, which took place 31 March, 1826.

She is a lady of good character and high standing, and I do believe she has stated in her declaration from what I do know of my own knowledge and what I have heard of her character as a lady of truth and veracity. I further state that she is not able to appear in open court, owing to her old age and frailty of body, not being able to ride.\*

(Signed) James Sayers, J.P. Nov. 4, 1843

State of Kentucky)

Co. of Rockcastle )

At a county court organized and holden in the county of Rockcastle, state of Kentucky on 27 Nov., 1843, it is ordered by the court to be certified and recorded that the proceedings in the matter of Mrs. Grizzey Collier for a pension, held before James Sayers, Esq., he and the same are now submitted to the court and are now sanctioned by the court; and further, that the sd proceedings are entitled to as full faith and credit as though they had been made in open court.

(Signed) James Terrill, Clerk of Court.

State of Kentucky)

Co. of Rockcastle )

On this, the 7th day of November, 1843, personally appeared before me, Adams Crawford, an acting justice of the peace in and for sd county and state, RICHARD COLYER, aged upwards of 64 years of age, and after being duly sworn according to the law, doth on his oath make the following statement, to-wit: that he is upwards of 64 years of age and ever since his earliest recollections he has been acquainted personally with JOHN COLYER, an old soldier and Revolutionary pensioner of the U.S., and upon the Kentucky rolls, and drew about \$96 per annum until his death, which took place abt March 31, 1826. He further states that he was well acquainted with the sd JOHN COLYER and his wife, GRIZZZEY COLYER, and they were living together as husband and wife, and they had at that time several children, and from the age of the eldest children, and from what he heard from the sd JOHN COLYER, deceased, he believes they must have been married about the year 1772 or 1773 or nr that time, and they lived together as husband and wife until his death, which took place at the time above stated.

He further states that the aforesaid GRIZZZEY COLYER is the identical widow of JOHN COLYER, deceased, late of the aforesaid county and state. The aforesaid GRIZZZEY COLYER is still his widow and has never married since the death of the aforesaid JOHN COLYER. He further states that the sd GRIZZZEY COLYER is very old and he believes she must be upwards of 90 yrs of age and unable to appear in open court. (Signed) RICHARD COLYER, Attested by Adams Crawford, J.P.

State of Kentucky)

Co. of Rockcastle )

I, the abovesubscribed J.P. in and for the sd county and state, do certify that I am personally acquainted with the foregoing affiant, RICHARD COLYER, and I do know that he is a man of high standing and veracity. He is a man of truth and what he has stated in his deposition is strictly true. He is and has been a long standing preacher of the Gospel, and stands high in the church, and with all men in his neighborhood where he lives. What he has stated in his deposition is strictly true.

(Signed) Adams Crawford, J.P., Nov. 7, 1843.

State of Kentucky)

Co. of Rockcastle )

On this 7th day of November, 1843, personally appeared before Adams Crawford, an acting J.P., in and for the county and state aforesaid:

STEPHEN M. COLYER aged upwards of 68 years and after being duly sworn according to the law, doth on his oath make the following statements, to-wit: that he was born April 10, 1775, and that from early recollections he has been acquainted with JOHN COLYER, a Revolutionary soldier of the U.S., a regular soldier and pensioner of the U.S., and upon the Kentucky roll and drew a pension until his death, which took place about the year 1826.

He further states from the time above stated he was well acquainted with GRIZZZEY COLYER, his wife, and they lived together as man and wife from the time above stated until the death of JOHN COLYER, which took place as above stated, late of Rockcastle county, state of Kentucky.

He further stated that the sd JOHN COLYER and GRIZZZEY, his wife, lived in the state of Virginia, where he first became acquainted with them and there lived until they moved to Kentucky, and settled in the sd county of Rockcastle, where the sd JOHN COLYER departed this life.

He further states that he, the affiant, also moved from the state of Virginia and settled in the same county and there remains until now. He further states that he did not see the sd JOHN COLYER marry the sd GRIZZZEY, but one of his aunts has frequently told him that she was at the wedding and saw them married. He further states that he has frequently heard the sd JOHN COLYER state that he was married to the sd GRIZZZEY and speak of circumstances concerning the marriage and other circumstances relative thereto. He further states that he can recollect the yr 1778 and that then the sd John and Grizzey were living together as husband and wife, and lived so ever since until the death of the sd John, and he does believe that they were married according to the laws of the state of Virginia. He further states that the sd Grizzey is a lady of character and truth.

(Signed) Stephen M. Colyer. It is noticeable that he first signed his name Collier and then wrote a "ye" over the "ll". The declaration was attested to before Adams Crawford, J.P.

## THE COLYER FAMILY.

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Nov. 7, 1843. I, the before described J.P., do and for the county of Rockcastle, state of Kentucky, do certify that I am well acquainted with the above affiant, and I do know him to be a man of truth and veracity, and all of his statements are to be believed. He stands high as a preacher of the Gospel and has been for many years and stands high in his church and before the world.

(Signed) Adams Crawford, J.P.

May 18, 1848: I am acquainted with Stephen K. Colyer, and have known him personally and from character for several years, and state that he is and has been for many years a preacher of the Gospel, and is a man of exceptional character and such is his general reputation. I also know Richard Colyer from reputation and state that the general repute of the county where he resides gives him a good character. I also state that the general reputation of James Fish, J.P., and Adams Crawford, J.P., for Rockcastle county, Ky., is good. Green Adams, M.C.

State of Kentucky )  
Co. of Rockcastle )  
March 27, 1844 )

Personally appeared before me, James Fish, an acting justice of the peace, for sd county, SARAH WARDEN, aged near 80 yrs, and who after being duly sworn according to the law, deposed on oath, that she is a native of the same section of Virginia in which Grizzey Colyer, now of this county, widow of John Colyer, was raised. That she knew the family of the sd Mrs. Colyer ever since she can recollect and also the Colyer family. That the sd John Colyer and sd widow were lawfully and legally married, as the deponent verily believes, about or before the time the declaration of Independence was signed. Deponent was not present, but she remembers when it took place and those who were present said it took place and they always afterward lived as husband and wife until the sd John Colyer died. This deponent hath lived their neighbor ever since. This deponent knew that the said John Colyer was a regular soldier in the Virginia line and entered the service after he and the sd widow were married. Deponent knows that the sd John Colyer was married to the sd widow before he went into the service and in this, deponent cannot be mistaken. The deponent knows that their eldest child, William, must be as much as 66 or 67 years of age. Deponent knows that the sd John Colyer was a pensioner of \$96 per annum before his death. When he died he left Grizzey, his widow, who has never married since his death, but remains his widow, and now lives in this county and I am one of her neighbors.

(Deposition was made by SARAH WARDEN.)

James Fish, J.P., attests that SARAH WARDEN is a lady of respectability and all of her statements are entitled to the fullest credit. James Fish also attests that he has known GRIZZEY COLYER and JOHN COLYER ever since his remembrance, abt 50 yrs. He believes their son, William, is as much as 67 yrs of age. He stated that John and Grizzey raised a large and respectable family of children.

## THE COLYER FAMILY.

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The two Baptist ministers who made affidavits as to the marriage of their uncle and aunt, John Colyer and wife, were Rev. Stephen L. and Rev. Richard Colyer (they usually spelled their name Collier). While they were nephews, I have no knowledge as to the name of their father, but take it he might have been Richard or James Colyer. These two were men of fine intellect, keen intelligence and considerable oratorical ability. The elder, Rev. Stephen L. Colyer, was so dear to the hearts of John and Susanna Graves Collier, his cousins, that they named their son, Stephen, in his honor, while to their daughter, Hannah, was given the name of Hannah, wife of Stephen. This Stephen officiated at the marriage of Hannah Collier in 1827 and always was a friend of the family, ministering to them in sickness and rejoicing with them in health.

A man of quick, blunt humor, Stephen Collier made warm friends and pronounced enemies as he preached the Gospel in his part of Kentucky. One day when he was baptizing in a small stream in Kentucky, a well-dressed young man rode horseback into the river. The minister courteously asked the young man to take his horse out of the river, but this the young fellow refused to do. Turning to the great throng of onlookers, Rev. Mr. Collier said: "That young man has on fine clothes and he is riding a fine horse, but I suspect he owes for the clothes and is riding a borrowed horse." The guess proved to be correct. The youth flew into a rage and said he would whip the minister the first time he saw him, which he really tried to do a little later, but instead was whipped himself, for the minister was the possessor of considerable prowess himself. Many other tales are told of his frankness and physical strength, as well as many stories of his spiritual power and desire to aid the erring.

The census of 1830, Rockcastle county, gives Stephen Colyer, age between 50 and 60 years; his family comprising his wife; also one female under 15, one female between 15 and 20, and one male between 25 and 40. A Stephen Collier married Anna Burk 1819 in Floyd county, Ky. In 1849 Rev. Stephen A. Collier of Crab Orchard married Mary Ann Allin, born 1827, who lost her mother, Jane (Cabell) Collier, by cholera in 1833. In 1861 J.P. Colyer, age 42, of Rockcastle county, Ky., had a son, Stephen Colyer, age 5 years. In 1870 Stephen Collier, age 46, born in Ky., was a farmer in Dallas district, Pulaski county, Ky. (adjacent to Rockcastle). The census of 1850, Pulaski county, Ky., gives another Stephen Collier, 14 years of age, son of John Colyer. The name Stephen in this family goes back to Surry county, Va., where in 1798 there was an inventory of the estate of Stephen Collier, who served in 1777 as second lieutenant and in 1779 as first lieutenant in a Surry county company, Virginia Line.

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Andrew Michaux's "Travels in the Tennessee Country" contain this sentence: "In March, 1796, Andre Michaux arrived at Lime Stone cove and slept at Charles Collier's, 18 miles from Col. Tipton's (ten miles from Jonesborough). On the 22d he crossed Iron Mountain and traveled 23 miles without seeing a house." A footnote to the foregoing statement gives the information that Charles Collier was of the family from which descended Col. Arthur St. Clair Colyar, author of the 2-volume biography of Andrew Jackson. This Colyar was a son of William Colyar and a nephew of my ancestor, John Colyer, the Revolutionary soldier. This is the only clue I have of the Charles Colyer, who lived in Henry county, Va., at the opening of the revolutionary war, and was one of the six brothers who numbered besides himself, William, John, Thomas, Richard and James. I would judge that William and Charles settled in Tennessee, John and James in Kentucky, and possibly Thomas and Richard remained in Virginia.

Warrant 6092, Book 3, Military Certificates of Virginia, shows that, July 10, 1813, representatives of Thomas Collier, son of John Collier, cobbler, are allowed 100 acres of land, etc.

Warrant 6089, Book 3, pg 9, Military Certificates of Virginia, states that warrants were issued, 1813, in the name of the heirs of Thomas Collier, deceased.

Land Grants, Index Patents, from "Virginia Colonial Militia" show that in 1724 John Collyer was granted 180 acres in 1724 for service in the militia (see page 178); Joseph Collyer the same year was granted 380 acres, while William Colyer in 1726 was granted 150 acres (see page 211). There is a probability that these three men were brothers, young men not long over from Great Britain, and John, one of the three, a cobbler and planter, may have been the father of John Colyer, the Revolutionary soldier. Also the father of Richard Collier, of Henry county, Va., who in 1776 was paid for bacon furnished the army. Also the father of James Collier, who in 1792 was taxed on 3 head of horses and nine head of cattle, in Madison county, Ky. Also the father of William and Charles, of East Tennessee; and Thomas, deceased before 1813.

The Virginia Collier family furnish one of the most difficult lines I have ever attempted in genealogy. There appear to have been several distinct lines, in no wise related in Virginia; possibly not even related in Great Britain, although I notice all of them trace back to French-Huguenot ancestry. There were at least three John Colliers of the Revolutionary period, who were born in Virginia and settled in Lincoln or Madison county, Ky. One of these was the John, who Dec. 1, 1790, married Cassandra Crook. Another was John Collier (usually called Major), the father of William, Hamlett, Clayburn, Coleman, Franklin, Patsy, Polly, Lucy, Fernelia and Cynthia. The line of this John traces back to William Collier, of England, a resident of York county, Va., in 1670. The third John Collier was my ancestor, born in Virginia, settled in Lincoln county, Ky., abt 1795 and died 1826, a Revolutionary pensioner.



# Certificate of Service

Kentucky Volunteers  
United States Army

Adjutant-General's Office

Frankfort, Ky., July 13 1931

I Herby Certify that it appears from the Official Muster in Rolls on file in this office that James Collier was enrolled on the 7 day of March, 1813 and mustered into service on the 7 day of March, 1813 a Private in company Capt. Audley's Co Regiment, Kentucky Detached Militia Volunteers, to serve        years. It further appears from said Rolls that he served until Sept 9 - 1815

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal this 13 day of July 1931

*[Signature]*  
The Adjutant General

Attest: *[Signature]*  
Chief War Records Office

THE COLYER FAMILY.

WILLIAM COLYER, son of JOHN COLYER (Revolutionary soldier), was born in Virginia abt 1774. Accompanied his parents to Kentucky abt 1795. In the spring of 1807 his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, arrived in Lincoln county, Ky., with their children, en route from Virginia to Missouri for the purpose of buying land and developing a farm. They spent the summer in Kentucky with Mrs. Colyer, sister of Mrs. Adams. In the Adams family was a daughter, Martha Adams, (known as Patsy). An attachment developed between this young girl and her cousin, William Colyer. They were married in Lincoln county, Ky., Oct. 27, 1807, and later moved to Cynthia, Harrison county, Ky. He served in the war of 1812. My uncle, William Graves Collier, visited them in Harrison county after 1840. Just when William Colyer died I do not know, but he pre-deceased his mother, who passed away Sept. 15, 1846. A private in the war of 1812, he was mustered in Sept. 10, 1814, in Capt. Forrest's Co., Kentucky Volunteer Militia, under Col. Porter.

ELIZABETH COLYER, born abt 1776, married a Jackson and settled in Indiana. According to pension records, she survived her mother (deceased 1846). I know nothing of her descendants.

JAMES COLYER, born in Virginia abt 1780, came to Kentucky with his parents in 1795. He taught school all of his mature years. By his first wife, a Miss Hiatt, he had a son, John M. Colyer, also a teacher by profession. James enlisted in the war of 1812 March 9, 1813, as a private in Capt. Dudley's Co., Kentucky Detached Militia. After the war he settled at Frankfort, Ky., where he married, Sept. 9, 1823, Nancy McKendrick, daughter of Thomas McKendrick. He died before Sept. 15, 1846. His son, John M., in 1850 was the father of the following children: Elizabeth, 25 years old in 1860; Charles, 22; Willis, 18; Mary, 15; Isabella, 12; Louis, 9; Samuel, 7; and Martha, 5 years old.

JOHN COLYER, Jr., my grandfather, was next in birth.

ELIJAH COLYER, born in Virginia, married in Lincoln county, Ky., April 1, 1809, Lucy Graves, a sister of Susanna Graves and daughter of James Graves. They settled in Indiana at a place then known as Fort Madison (present name unknown). After 3 children were born she died, and later he married a Miss Howe. He died before Sept. 15, 1846.

CHARLES COLYER, born in Powell's Valley, Virginia, Jan. 3, 1787, accompanied his parents to Kentucky in childhood, served in the war of 1812, was a member of the Kentucky legislature for some years, and held a position of prominence as a citizen. More about him on the next pages.

DORCAS COLYER was one of twins, the other dying in infancy. DORCAS was born circum 1795 in Powell's valley, Virginia. She grew to womanhood in what is now Rockcastle county, Ky. In 1832 she married James Renfro, widower (William Renfro, bondsman), in Lancaster, Garrard county, Ky. His will, dated Jan. 15, 1833, was probated in Knox county, Ky., in August, 1835. He mentioned his wife, Dorcas, also the following children by a former marriage: William, James, China Ward, Jemima Wallins, Ruth Gibson, Inda Renfro, Mary Ross, Jane Charity Hogan, Theodosia Herndon and Olvis (?) Johnson. After this will was written a daughter was born to James and Dorcas (Colyer) Renfro. This daughter, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, married Abraham Chesnut, Jr. She was named Sarah Renfro, and her husband was a son of Abraham Chesnut, Sr., and Charlotte Somers (Hiatt) Chesnut, who were married May 22, 1820. The other children of Abraham Chesnut, Sr., were: James Monroe Chesnut, who married Mary Buford; Lucy, Mrs. Jonathan Newcomb; S. Bennett, accidentally killed at the age of 19 years; William Peaslee Chesnut, 1826-1895; Benjamin, 1828-1889, who married Dorcas Colyer, 1830-1902, daughter of Charles and Mary (Renfro) Colyer; and Mary Ann, wife of Capt. Richard Lewis Myers; and Charles, born in Laurel county, Ky., in 1834.

NANCY ANN COLYER, daughter of John and Grizelda (Taylor) Colyer, was born July 4, 1798, near what is now Mount Vernon, Ky. Her birth in Kentucky and the birth of her sister, Dorcas, in Virginia, fix the time of the removal of the family to Kentucky as between 1795 and 1798. According to family tradition it was in 1795, during the infancy of Dorcas. NANCY ANN COLYER married Samuel Close in Rockcastle county, Ky., April 11, 1822. They settled in Indiana, where she died February 23, 1863. How many children she had, I do not know. I am informed of only one, but there might have been others. This one was Betty Close, wife of Chester Powers Davis, who was the mother of at least two children: Nancy Davis Scovell, of Kentucky, and Marietta Davis Beardsley, 3645 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Mo. The former survived her husband, who was a dean of the agricultural department of the Kentucky State College, a man of unusual ability. They had no children. Mrs. Beardsley is the wife of a one time mayor of Kansas City, whose name was often mentioned for the United States senate.

## THE COLYER (COLLIER) FAMILY.

## THE COLYER FAMILY.--CHARLES COLLIER.

SUSANNA COLYER, youngest child of John and Grizelda (Taylor) Colyer, was born near Mount Vernon, Rockcastle county, Ky., in 1804. She died there about 1881. I have no authentic record of her birth, but family tradition and census reports place it as 1804, although at that time her mother, thought to have been born in 1756 and stated in census reports of 1843 to be upwards of 90 years of age, must have been 48 years of age, and her eldest child had been born 30 years before, in 1774. SUSANNA married Lewis Butcher and became the mother of seven children. Mrs. Nancy Houk, perhaps the eldest of the seven, removed to Indiana and settled near Indianapolis. The second was possibly James Butcher, born 1828 in Kentucky. He was a farmer and served as county sheriff. The census of 1850 gives Lewis Butcher, farmer, born in Virginia, age 50 years, his wife, Susan, born in Kentucky, age 46 years; their son, James, age 22, with his wife, Martha, age 19 and their daughter, Elizabeth, one year old; also John, age 20, David, age 14, Elizabeth, age 12, and Eliza, age 8, all born in Kentucky.

## CHARLES COLLIER, 1787-1876.

The census of 1860 gives the following: Charles Colyer, 63 years old, a farmer of Rockcastle county, Ky., born in Virginia, has real estate valued at \$2,000. His wife, Mary (Polly), age 55 years, was born in Virginia. With them in their home at that time were their daughter, Permelia, 34 years old, and her husband, Wesley Riggs, 41 years old, a laborer born in Kentucky, and their children: Albert, 12, Stephen, 10, both born in Kentucky; Mary 7, Martha, 5, Charles 3 and Sarah five months old, these four born in Missouri.

CHARLES COLYER, who served in the war of 1812, married Mary Renfro, born March 3, 1795, and died Jan. 19, 1875. He was born Jan. 3, 1787, and died August 13, 1876. His wife was a daughter of Mark Renfro, ensign, one of the five sons of Joseph Renfro, who served as a lieutenant in the French and Indian wars 1754-58. Chloe, a sister of Mrs. Colyer and daughter of Mark Renfro, married Absalom Renfro August 23, 1798, in Garrard county, Ky. (formed in 1797 from Lincoln and Madison counties). By act approved Jan. 13, 1810, "Absolem" Renfro was made a trustee of the academy in Rockcastle county, Ky.

CHARLES COLLIER, 1787-1876, and Mary (Renfro) Collier, 1795-1875, were the parents of 8 children, namely: Stephen D., Permelia, Martha, Nathan R., David Taylor, Mary, Chloe and Dorcas.

(1) STEPHEN DEARBORN COLLIER, son of Charles and Mary Collier, was born in Rockcastle county, Ky., Jan. 10, 1814, died of typhoid fever, Dec. 21, 1861, at Lynn Camp, Anox county, Ky. He married Olivia Johnson Hogan and all of their nine children were born in Knox county, Ky. They were:

- (1) David Alexander Collier, born 1849
- (2) Mary Louisa, born 1851, died at two years
- (3) Lucy Jane Madeline, born March 8, 1852
- (4) Hugh Hogan
- (5) Charles E.
- (6) Alice, who died at one year
- (7) Richard White
- (8) Olivia May, who died in New Orleans at ten years
- (9) Stephen Dearborn, Jr., born May, 1862.

(2) Permelia Collier married Wesley Riggs. Her children are named on page 571. With the census report as authority, she was born in 1824. But with the family Bible (or a copy therefrom as authority) she was born April 15, 1816.

(3) Martha became Mrs. Culter.

(4) Nathan Renfro Collier, born June 2, 1820, died Feb. 15, 1843, of tuberculosis.

(5) David Taylor Collier, born May 26, 1822, married in South Carolina a daughter of Dick White; moved to Texas, where he died Jan. 19, 1875.

(6) Mary born May 5, 1825, died in infancy.

(7) Chloe, named after her mother's sister, was born Feb. 25, 1827, and died Sept. 10, 1828.

(8) Dorcas, born April 28, 1830, died Sept. 10, 1902. She married Benjamin Chesnut, born April 29, 1829, and died Nov. 1, 1889. The census of 1850, Rockcastle county, Ky., lists them: Benjamin, age 21, born in Ky., a farmer; wife, Dorcas, age 20, born in Ky. Children, Stephen A., age 2 years, and David, age 8 months. Census of same county, in 1860, lists them: Benjamin age 30; Dorcas, age 29, with four children: Stephen, age 12; David, 11; Charles 8; and Richard 5 years old; Another son, Benjamin, Jr., died at age of 6 months, Oct. 29, 1857. Of the five sons, Stephen A., David Taylor, Charles Monroe, Granville Richard and Benjamin Franklin, the only survivor, May 18, 1927, was Granville Richard Chesnut, born Feb. 19, 1855. He married Dec. 24, 1874, Juliana Graybeal, born June 7, 1854. They became the parents of 13 children, nine of whom were living in 1927. The parents made their home in Des Moines, Iowa, for many years. One of their children is Mrs. C. O. Stuckenbruck, whose husband is a prominent minister in the Christian Church.

## THE COLLIER (COLYER) FAMILY.

Intermarriage between the Collier and Chesnut families makes pertinent a recital of the latter pedigree. Capt. John Chesnut of the Revolutionary war migrated from Virginia to Kentucky in 1789 and settled near London. At the same time his brother James settled near Rogersville, Tenn. The emigrant ancestor of John and James came from England and settled in Virginia some time between 1740 and 1750. His name is not known to me.

The will of Capt. John Chesnut, dated March 21, 1805, was probated May 5, 1805, in Warren county, Ky. It mentioned his wife, Patience; sons, John, Jacob, Abraham and Benjamin; daughters, Ann and Nancy.

During Braddock's campaign a John Chesnut was killed at Fort Duquesne. His family was driven out of their Virginia home and took refuge in the Carolinas, his son John settling in Camden, S.C., in 1755.

Capt. John Chesnut had four sons, John, Jacob, Abraham and Benjamin. Jacob married Lucy Blakely; they were parents of Abraham, who married Charlotte Somers Hiatt; and Stephen Chesnut. Abraham, son of Jacob Chesnut, was born Jan. 11, 1800, and died 1890. He married May 22, 1820, Charlotte Somers Hiatt, born August 5, 1798, and died May 4, 1870. His second wife was Sallie Farmer. He died near Paint Lick, Ky. Children, all of his first marriage, were: Benjamin, Chas., Abraham, ~~James, Mary, and John~~, William Peaslee Chesnut, who married 1st Amazetta Jones and 2d Mrs. Judy McCall. He lived in Rockcastle county, Ky., between Oak Hill and Boone's Fork. He died August 31, 1894, aged about 75 years, and was buried near his home. His children were:

- (1) Samuel D. Chesnut, who married his second cousin, Celia Wilson, Elder James Azbill officiating, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 1870, at Mount Vernon, Ky.
  - (2) Somers Chesnut.
  - (3) Cynthia, who died a few weeks after her marriage.
  - (4) Lucy, Mrs. Caswell Carter
  - (5) Jarrett, who married Georgia Hammonds
  - (6) Richard, who lived at Ash Grove, Mo.; had two sons
  - (7) Mary, wife of Dr. James West
  - (8) James
  - (9) Helen, Mrs. Albert Seigel Rider, who died at Louisville, Ky., March 7, 1904, aged 45 years, and was buried in Cane Hill cemetery, at Louisville
  - (10) Abraham Chesnut, who married first a young lady living at Winchester, Ky., and they had a daughter, Pearl; after her death he married a widow with three children. He died in St. Joseph, Mo.
- Abraham Chesnut, Jr., married Sarah Kenfro, and their daughter, Dorcas, was born August 15, 1854, in Rockcastle Co., Ky. His brother, Chas., born 1834, died at St. Joseph, Mo. Benjamin married Dorcas Colyer.

Lucy Peaslee (or Peasely), whose parents traveled from the Carolinas to Kentucky with a large group of emigrants (for protection from the Indians), is believed to have been of French descent. She married 1st, Abner Hiatt, Dec. 2, 1790, with James Reed as bondsman. Her second husband was named Quinn. Her children were:

- (1) Charlotte Somers Hiatt, who married Abraham Chesnut
- (2) Mary Hiatt, Mrs. Jack Fish
- (3) Peaslee Hiatt, who was twice married
- (4) Bennett Hiatt, who married Alice Bailey and lived at or near Kenfro's creek, Mount Vernon, Ky.
- (5) Lucy Hiatt, Mrs. David Proctor
- (6) Lou Ann Quinn, who married Early Hunt
- (7) Louisa Quinn, Mrs. Wallace
- (8) Artemesia Quinn, who married Dr. John Walker

Bennett Hiatt and Alice (Bailey) Hiatt were the parents of:

- (1) Lucy Hiatt, who married Jack Adams. They were the grandparents of Judge Ida May Adams, of the Los Angeles (Calif.) Municipal Court.
- (2) Sarah, Mrs. Jack Wilson, the mother of Celia Wilson, who married Samuel D. Chesnut
- (3) Ellen Hiatt, Mrs. James Joplin
- (4) Mary Hiatt, Mrs. John Conn
- (5) Helen, Mrs. Willis Adams, Sr. (brother of Jack Adams)
- (6) William Hiatt, who lived at the old Bennett Hiatt homestead about two miles from Mount Vernon, Ky.
- (7) Jones Hiatt, who was married twice.

Jack Wilson and Sarah (Hiatt) Wilson (she born May 5, 1853 in Rockcastle county, Ky.) were the parents of:

- (1) Celia Wilson, who married Samuel D. Chesnut.
- (2) Bennett Hiatt, head of the Aransas Pass (Texas) Harbor Co.
- (3) Betty, who married twice
- (4) Lucy, who married her first cousin, Joseph Joplin.

Celia Wilson married Samuel D. Chesnut 1870. Children:

- (1) Edgar D. Chesnut, born Nov. 25, 1871, died Feb. 17, 1917; has a son, Edgar, and a daughter, Jeanetta, in Joplin, Mo.
- (2) Herbert, an attorney, born 1874, died 1903
- (3) Sallie Etta, born Sept. 21, 1875, married 1st, Lewis Grant Reser, Jan. 1, 1897. Children, Mary Reser, born in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 16, 1898, married Howard Layton, of Fond du Lac, Wis. (one child); and (2) Celia Virginia Reser, born at Marionville, Mo., Oct. 21, 1907, married H. E. Pietsch, lives in Los Angeles, 752 W. 104th St.; and (3) Mrs. Edwin Weare, of Yakima, Wash.

JOHN COLLIER, Jr.,

JOHN COLLIER, Jr., was born in Virginia on the 4th of July, 1782, and died of cholera in Rockcastle county, Ky., July 8, 1833. Like his brothers, James, William and Charles, he was a soldier in the war of 1812. In stature he was somewhat below medium height, not as tall as his father, and apparently resembling the tailors more than the colliers. His hair was black, his eyes brown and his complexion a clear olive. He was so small when he started out to work in Powell's valley, Virginia, that a woman, who also worked out and went to her home at night on the same road, was in the habit of kindly picking up the tired little boy and carrying him home over the last long hard pull. His employers were not always thoughtful of him. He bore a grudge against a German, for whom he worked a certain number of months under the promise of a hat for his pay. When he asked for the hat the German told him he would give him a thrashing if he ever spoke of pay again. In his mind he secretly made a resolve to thrash the German when he grew up, but the German left the country and the resolution was never carried out. Doubtless had the man remained, all desire to punish him would have ceased, for such is the way with most of our troubles.

Many times in going to and from his work he was in danger from wild animals. One time when entering a forest he chanced on some sudden impulse to look up into a tree, overhanging a trail, and there he saw a panther on a limb, apparently crouching for a spring on him. He was frightened, but his childhood on the frontier had taught him much of animal lore. He fixed his gaze steadily into the eyes of the panther and slowly backed along the path until he got out of sight of those fiery orbs, when he took to his heels and ran! Another time he was caught in the woods at night far from any house. His road (or trace, as it was then called) was very indistinct. When it grew dark he was forced to hunt a place to spend the night. So he tied his horse to a tree, where it could graze the length of its rope. Then he hunted a tree where he could spend the night safe from wild animals. It was intensely dark. After many failures he found what he thought was a safe tree. He climbed up and felt his way slowly to a fork between some high limbs, apparently far above the ground. There he put himself in such shape for sleep that the danger of falling was at a minimum. During the night he was awakened by the squealing of pigs, apparently at or near the trunk of the tree, and he could hear the growls of a bear trying to get the pigs. These noises caused him to climb higher to another perch. When he awoke at dawn he was troubled to find that he had slept not much over two feet from the ground. The tree was at the foot of a hill and bent toward the hill itself, so that the higher he climbed the nearer he came to the earth.

JOHN COLLIER, Jr., 1782-1833.

The frontier home of the Collier family was in Virginia near the line of East Tennessee and Kentucky. The father was in poor health for years after St. Clair's defeat in 1791, his health having been shattered by his many wounds. It was necessary for the wife and children to work, in order to make even a meager living. This is the reason that the junior John began to work when he should have been in school. In truth there was no school for many miles in any direction, but had there been, he could not have attended, for he was helping with the livelihood of the family.

The people for whom his mother spun fabrics did not live close together in a little town, but each family had its own separate "clearing." It required time and labor to bring to the door the wool or flax, and to carry back the coat or dress. At one time a neighbor came to the door and asked her to spin some garments, intending to aid in the fashioning, but a disagreement arose and the woman left in anger, saying that unless Mrs. Collier finished the work by the following day she would not be paid for it. This was a serious matter, so Grizelda sat up all night in order to finish the spinning. Also her son, John, Jr., had to sit up through the whole night, to keep going the light of the pine knots, so that she could see to work. He dropped off to sleep, fell into the fire and burned his arms, but fortunately not to a serious degree. The next morning he was sent by his mother with the spinning to the home of the woman. He was instructed to go around the mountain, rather than the shorter route over it. But John, weary from the night's sleeplessness and sore from the pain in the arm, disobeyed, and went over the mountain, threw the spinning in the neighbor's house and then ran back home. Because of the quickness of the trip and because he brought no word from the "neighbor", Grizelda decided to go to the house herself. As the quickest route, she too went over the mountain to see about the pay for the spinning. But she found that the woman had started around the mountain to see her, so she turned back to come around the mountain, only to find on her return that the woman had gone home over the mountain. But that was far from being her only hardship in the matter. She had received as her pay, while at the woman's cabin, a sack of potatoes, which she greatly needed as food for her children. After she started back with the potatoes, she found that a bear was following her. ~~She~~ The bear came so close that she threw him a potato. The bear grabbed and ate the potato, then again followed her, so that to keep him off, she threw him one potato after another. Finally when she reached home, she had a pitifully small number of potatoes, but she was thankful to have escaped from the bear. These little incidents are told, so that we may not forget the hardships that our ancestors underwent. We need to remind ourselves that the development of our country was secured at a fearful price of self-denial, exposure, danger and difficulties.

When the Collier family moved from Powell's valley to Kentucky in 1795, John, Jr., was almost 14 years of age, and thereafter he worked for farmers in what is now Rockcastle county. In this way he came in time to work for JAMES GRAVES, a farmer from Virginia. Now James Graves had a daughter, Susanna, with blue-gray eyes and curly brown hair, and John fell in love with her.

JOHN COLLIER, Jr., 1782-1833.

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JOHN COLLIER and SUSANNA GRAVES were married April 8, 1803, in what was then Lincoln (now Rockcastle) county, Ky. Some years after marriage they went to Indiana expecting to remain. The trip was full of hardships. In crossing the Ohio river their boat capsized and they had a narrow escape from drowning. They took up a claim near what was then known as Fort Madison, Ind (exact location unknown). But the land carried malaria, and there was a constant danger from Indians, so they went back to Kentucky before the war of 1812, and continued in Rockcastle county until death.

The Rockcastle census of 1830 gives:  
 JOHN COLYER, age between 40 and 50. Wife, age between 40 and 50.  
 One male under 15 years (this was William G., age 14); two males 20 or less (James and John); two females under ten (Susanna and Maryann and one female ~~under~~ between 20 and 3) this was the blind daughter, Elizabeth).

The census of Rockcastle county for 1840 gives:  
 SUSANNAH COLYER, widow, age between 50 and 60. Two males under 30, (John and William G). One female between 30 and 40 (the blind Elizabeth), one female under 15 years (my mother, Mary Ann Colyer) and three slaves.

JOHN COLYER (so the name was spelled), private, mustered in at Newport, Ky., in Col. Johnston Dysart's Co., Col. William Williams' Regiment, Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia. The company was engaged in garrison duty for a time, then marched into Canada, heard the firing in the battle of the Thames, but arrived there too late to take part. The discharge papers of John Collier were given to a grandson, who unfortunately lost them. After his war service John Collier resumed farming in Rockcastle county, Ky. He died of cholera July 6, 1833, during the terrible epidemic that made its deadly way from the Atlantic ocean to the most remote spots in the then wilderness.

A rude coffin was hastily constructed by the eldest son, James Collier and a brother-in-law, Lewis Butcher. Old friends dug the grave on the farm that he owned, perhaps a mile from the house. At eleven o'clock at night his body, in its rude coffin, was placed in a cart and started for its last resting place, preceded by family slaves carrying torches of pine knots and marked by torch lights on both sides of the path, as neighbors and friends stood far back in the safe distance, looking on at this last sad march of the soldier of the war of 1812. As the cart passed, the torches fell in far behind and followed the procession to the grave, where no ceremony was had in the burial. The rattling of clods alone told the story of "earth to earth". Long afterward a tall stone was placed to mark his grave and his name suitably inscribed thereon. His descendants a hundred years later pause a moment in their busy lives and with "their own ~~knives~~ torches afar" from his day, give a salute to this honored ancestor.