

JOHN VILLIERS

In the old cemetery on "Manfield," a tract of land warranted on May 6, 1789, and patented June 13, 1794, to John Villis, there has been erected in late years a modern tombstone marking the resting place of the original warrantee of the land. Beside it is an old stone partly legible which was the original marker. Unfortunately the persons who erected the new stone did not examine the records which show that the will of John Villiers was probated May 26, 1826 as the new stone bears the inscription placing the death date as 1836. The old stone must have then read that he died in 1826 at the age of 92 years. Thus John Villiers was born in 1734 and died in 1826, and is buried on the tract of land near Jefferson which had been warranted to him. The new stone says that he served at Fort Pitt in Lieutenant William Wither's Rangers in the Revolutionary War in the years 1776-1779. He must have been in the Territory prior to 1780 as his name is among those who signed the petition for the new State of "Westsylvania" in 1779. In the tax list for 1784, he refused to turn in a list of his property to Washington County, still claiming Virginia Allegiance. John Villiers was twice married, his first wife being Mary _____ who died October 22, 1807, at the age of 64 years. His second wife was Elizabeth _____, who died July 26, 1834, at the age of 59 years who remarried after the death of her husband, her second marriage being to Archibald Ewart. (O. C. Docket 1, pp 281.) Both wives are buried with John Villiers. The marriages of his children suggest he lived in Cumberland Co., Pennsylvania before coming west.

Children of John Villiers named in his Will

1. John Villiers, who wife was _____ Cree
2. Elizabeth Villiers, born October 12, 1763, married Robert Cree, went to Harrison Co.
3. Victoria Villiers, married John Barclay
4. Nancy Villiers, married John Adams
5. Millicent Villiers married Jacob Ullom
6. Mathew Villiers, no record
7. James Villiers, born 1774, married Rebecca Davidson
8. Eleanor Villiers, married George Gregg, and died before her father leaving sons, George & John Gregg.
9. Cassandra Villiers, married Aaron Masterson
10. Rebecca Villiers, married Joseph Vanbuskirk
11. Priscilla Villiers, born October 12, 1782, died June 15, 1852, m. George Haver
12. Mary Villiers, dau. of John Villiers by his second marriage, b. 1809, died September 30, 1844; married Michael McGovern. buried Villiers
13. Jane Villiers, b. Feb. 24, 1811, d. April 24, 1829
14. Ralph Villiers, b. 1813, d. July 26, 1843, buried Villiers Cemetery