

WILLIAM STEWART

Private from Virginia



William Stewart (Stuart) was born about 1727 in County Cork, Ireland, and died February 10, 1811, in Monongalia County, Virginia. He married Elizabeth Givens in 1750 in Lancaster County, PA. She died 8 Nov. 1813, according to her tombstone.

William arrived from Ireland and settled in Lancaster County, PA., in 1746.

"Immigrants to America" by Michael Tepper, p.123 states "William McCrea assigns

William Stewart (a servant from Ireland in the Ship Happy Return) to John Atchison of Lancaster County, yeoman, for three years from May 21st, 1746. His occupation was wagon master and yeoman. By the early tax rolls he owned 100 acres of land, two horses and one servant. In driving across Conestoga Creek, just south of the town of Lancaster, his team drowned. 'Thinking he could never pay for his farm; he gave it up. He took two old plugs of horses, loaded on what he could on their backs, and struck out into the wilderness. When he came to the land between the Monongahela and the Cheat Rivers, he built a cabin and raised a patch of corn for "Corn Rights" and after four months went back for the family.

During their trek, William and Betsey had three children old enough to walk and Charles who rode a yearling bull across the mountains the twins, Daniel and Alexander were the fifth and sixth children, which indicates the trip was made before their birth. which was Christmas Day, 1769.

No road from Ft. Cumberland onward, just a bridle path; full of rocks. It would have worn out their shoes, if they had any. Everything they owned. was packed on the two horses; no wagons could travel over the paths until years later when the roads were widened and improved. After he brought his family to Monongalia County, he eventually acquired large amounts of land on the Cheat River and may have operated a ferry on the Youghiogheny River.

William was in the Virginia militia three months before the Revolutionary War. Everyone west of the mountains was expected to serve his time in the militia, especially because of the Indian raids, their greatest danger up to 1790. long after the War. When he enlisted in the Continental Line (the regular Army) he was a private in the 14th Virginia Line Commander Col. Charles Lewis. His name appeared on a muster roll on December 18, 1776, the next year, and until war's end, he served under Col. Davies and in the 10th Line. He was listed as a guard, a wagoner and as a wagon master on Command. His name last appearing on a muster roll of camp near Morristown, December 9, 1779, with the remark "On command as Wagon Master." To be in command of a group of wagons was a high position for a private. He probably rode when he hauled supplies to all the places Washington 's Army went—Trenton, Haverstraw, Plains, etc. He spent a while at Lancaster, Pa and at Morris Town, supply bases. It is interesting to find that he was at Valley Forge that terrible winter when the soldiers had no shoes and froze their feet, and had not much to eat, nor enough clothes to keep warm.



At his death he owned 1800 acres including most of the land around Stewartstown (called Middletown). Sims Index for Monongalia County shows 10 tracts of over 8000 acres to William between 1773 and 1800. Most of this was in the area of Indian Creek, the Monongalia River, and the forks of the Cheat River. Much of his land was given to family upon his death. William's will, probated September of 1811 names wife Elizabeth, Sons Alexander, Charles, Daniel, and Robert and daughters Sarah McKinley and Nancy Parks.

William and Betsy, as well as several members of his family (including Daniel, his son) are buried at the Stewart Cemetery. The cemetery is hidden in the woods off Route 119 on a rough and gravel-lined path. It is several hundred yards south of the Pennsylvania border in Monongalia Co, WV. The woods are so dense you must search to find the tombstones. This descendent has managed to locate the tombstones. It was quite an honor to stand in the footsteps of such a brave and adventurous patriot.

4th Great-grandfather of Marilyn Shaffer

6th Great-grandfather of Sara Meyer