

Joe Copeland and his wife had seven sons, and all their names ended in "son"; they also had three daughters, one of whom was named Louisa. All of Joe's sons were said to have weighed over 300 pounds and most were over seven feet tall. One son, Harrison, was said to have been almost eight feet tall; he died in early manhood. The sons' names were Richardson, Solomon Addison, William Ellison, Moses Wilkerson, Harrison, Joseph Anderson and Madison.

Moses Wilkerson was Big Joe's fourth son, born February 18, 1812. He was married first to Nancy Webb; his second wife was Mary Deck, who was once tried for murdering a woman in self-defense. Also Wilkerson was tried for some petty charge of not paying for some land he got from John Ramsey.

Moses Wilkerson Copeland had a daughter, Euretha (January 5, 1859 - October 2, 1921), whose second marriage was to Alvin Vaughn (1845-1936). A daughter named Frankie was born to this union and married M. H. Huddleston. The Huddlestons purchased the land in the Cove where Big Joe's home was located, in 1925. The old Copeland house stood about 200 feet from the present Huddleston home place. I was told by an aunt that Alvin and Haskell were born in Pickett County, Oren Frank and Leretha were born at the old Vaughn home, and Bobby Huddleston was born on the old Copeland farm. The children grew up on this farm and have always been a part of the community; Mr. Huddleston was one of the most honorable men in the area and everyone respected the family. (Later they will be in the Copeland family tree, as much as I could find in the time I have had to search.)

Big Joe died in the middle 1800's. He and his son Wilkerson are buried next to each other. His wife lived a few years longer than Big Joe did; all the sons and daughters shared equally in the will, except for Wilkerson, who was left out for some unknown reason. There are so many direct descendants of Big Joe Copeland that it would be impossible for me to get the complete line

Big Joe lived in a beautiful section of the county. He will be long remembered for his feats, brave ventures and for his fearless outlook on life. The Copeland name is found throughout this area, most tracing back to Big Joe. Ellison Copeland, one of Joe's sons, is buried at Bethlehem Cemetery.

A large part of this information has been taken from a paper written by Robert Huddleston, son of Betty and Bobby, while he was a student at Livingston Academy. He is proud to be a direct descendent of "Big" Joe.

I have done as complete job as I could on the family tree of Big Joe and some of his brothers and sisters. There are many descendants going into many directions, and it will be interesting to most of us. I will trace it to seven, eight and nine generations from Col. Stephen Copeland. The line of each family may not be listed in the order of their birth, but are as close as I could trace them. The Richardson and Wilkerson Copelands may run down into more generations than any of the others. This has been most interesting to me, since I like to know who really settled in the different areas of our county and who our ancestors are.

Mrs. Frankie Huddleston, Mr. Joe Vaughn, Mrs. Grace Bilbrey and others who go directly back to Joe Copeland have helped me get these notes together. There may be some mistakes, but the information here has been passed down by the different family members--plentiful by number--and it is as correct as we could make it. Each generation is assigned the same number, as in other families listed earlier.