

Chapter Three - The beginning of William Rich and Levin Savage Heritage

Our Jesse Rich was born in 1782 - probably in Wake County, North Carolina since William Rich (Reach) did not deed his property over to Nathaniel Hill until 1786. Also, William and Polly probably met and married in this area. There is a gap in time where we lose where William was living.

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In one listing of the 1800 census of North Carolina, the only Jesse Rich listed is in Wake County, North Carolina (this is not the son of William and Polly Rich). In another listing of the same year in North Carolina, a Jesse Rich is listed for Wilkes County (west of Surry County). These censuses still are under research by Donita Morris Rich.

Tennessee Deeds:

Jessee Rich purchased 130 acres on "Pea Ridge" near Celina (North from Celina to Kentucky on the left of the road) in 1817. The deed was not registered until 1821 and lies in Clay County, Tennessee.

Jessee Rich - 400 acres in Jackson County, Tennessee on the south side of Mill Creek in 1844.

Proving Jesse's brother is an unfinished task, but legend has it these Riches came up the Cumberland River by boat and separated, some going toward Overton County and some toward the community of Moss. Through Eastern Cherokee applications filed in 1906-1908 Rich descendants from all over claimed to be of Cherokee decent with Polly Hooker Rich, wife of William Rich, as a common ancestor. Each Rich applicant was denied.

The Riches kept family heritage by giving their children long established names. If Polly Hooker indeed was Cherokee, and I do not doubt this, she left the Cherokee Nation before any of the Indian Census records were started ... thus the reason she is not found on any Cherokee Roll.

Jesse Rich and Elizabeth Savage Rich were the parents of 13 children. There are two records listing names of children: The Family Bible records and a will (cited as sources in the book).

There has been a lot of controversy over the names and birth dates of Jesse's children, but Allen Rich, Jesse's son, wrote the following in his will:

"I bequeath unto each of my brothers and sister to wit: Obediah

Rich, Alford Rich, Alson Rich, Martin Rich, Granville Rich, Stanford Rich, Elizabeth Holeman, Polly (Mary) Skipworth, Nancy Asbridger, Cynthia Bowman, and LouAnna REynolds, ten dollars cash, and in cash any of them be dead, the bodily heirs of such deceased, shall inherit the ten dollars."

Calvin and Jane are not listed in the will, but are listed in the family Bible records.