**A Brief Introduction to John Trap\Trapp,**

**Late of Jackson County, Tennessee**

**and some of his family**

**Prepared by Leota Mac Trapp Bennett**

[**leotabennett@gmail.com**](mailto:leotabennett@gmail.com)

**6 July 2011**

John Trap/Trapp was born in the greater Charlottesville, Virginia area or Orange County, Virgina. He lived in that area, North Carolina and South Carolina briefly during the Revolutionary War; Kentucky for about 20 years, White County, Tennessee from about 1804-1805 to 1819, and from about 1819-1820 until his death after 1853 he lived in the Dry Creek area of Jackson County, Tennessee where he was a farmer and a miller. Possibly, he was buried on his earlier farm where his son John Trapp and his wife Susan McGinnis Trapp lived. The farm and Trapp Cemetery were located in De Kalb County's Wildcat Hollow near the Caney Fork River. The Trapp Cemetery there was moved to Mount Holley when Center Hill Dam was built. Or John may be buried in the Farris/Pharis Cemetery in Jackson County as his sister married a John Farris/Pharis in Kentucky before moving to Tennessee. John Faris/Farris/Pharis died in 1803 and his will was probated in Smith County, TN.

John was the son of Martin Trapp, II and Mary Unknown. John married first to Nancy Dodson, the daughter of the Reverend William Dodson and his wife Sarah Barron at Pulaski County, Kentucky in 1800. Their first child William L Trapp was born there in 1804. Shortly thereafter, they moved to White County, Tennessee where their second child Joseph Trapp was born in 1807. John is listed in White County, Tennessee County Court records on 16 July 1807 and many times thereafter as a Captain of a 100, road construction, Jury duty, etc. He served in the War of 1812 in 2nd Tennessee Volunteers in Col. Thomas Hart Benton and Col. William Pillows where served as the unit’s Lieutenant. He participated with Col. Pillows at the Battle of Talladega, Alabama on 9 November 1813. These records are at the Tennessee State Archives.

John returned to White County, Tennessee after the War of 1812 where he is again found in the White County Court Records in October 1814. Sometime in 1815, his wife Nancy Dodson Trapp died leaving him with seven small children. These children lived in several areas including presentday De Kalb, Giles, and Van Burean Counties in Tennessee and Missouri. After Nancy died, John was not found in the White County TN court records as often and by 1819 – 1820, he had moved to Jackson County, Tennessee. John remarried Mary unknown about 1820 in either Tennessee or Kentucky and had several more children. He is on the 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 US Federal Census Records for Jackson County, Tennessee.

John’s brother, James Terry Trap/Trapp also lived in Jackson County, TN area and is found on the 1820 US Federal Census there. James moved to Warren County, Mississippi where he died about 1823. John’s father Martin Trapp II and his brother Martin Trapp III who had married Nancy’s sister, Jemimah Ruth Dodson, also lived in the White County area until about 1820 or so. Martin Trapp II and Martin Trapp III moved in a cluster migration to the Dover, Missouri area. Some of Martin Trapp III’s children migrated to Benton County, Oregon about 1848-1850. Others moved to Oklahoma, Kansas, etc. In the early 1900’s one of his grandsons Martin Edwin Trapp was Governor of Oklahoma.

John Trapp and Nancy Dodson had several children who remained in Tennessee. Many of these descendants lived in the area where Center Hill Lake is located in the De Kalb County, Tennessee area. Many of his descendants became farmers, public school teachers, other professional occupations, public officials, etc. John Trapp’s grandson was the first Superintendant of De Kalb County Schools James Terry Trapp. His great grandson James Fantly Trapp, Senior was De Kalb County Court Clerk from 1926 to 1934. His great-great grandson Howard McGinnis “Mac” Trapp was a school teacher, high school principal and retired as a Lt Colonel from his military career with the 6th Caverly, US Army, and the 278th Tennessee National Guard.

For more information about John Trapp, late of Jackson County, Tennessee and his farmily please visit Ancestry. Com’s Public Family Tree titled “Tennessee Kin”.