

SELECTED CASSETTE TRANSCRIPTION 1972
Book Titled: 1st Raffety's in America
by Charles E. Raffety

Green and Taylor Counties

In 1969, while in Campbellsville, Kentucky, on a Sunday after church I drove about five miles north of town to the old Raffety plantation on Pittman creek. Several Raffety and Rafferty families still lived in that area. I visited with one family for about an hour and a half, during which time about five generations had congregated. In the kitchen on a large table where the maps and charts were spread out, I suddenly realized that, except for the influence of Susanna Morris Keen and Elizabeth Morris Keen Raffety, I would have probably been living and working on the farm there-- the same as the rest of them.

The younger members of the family took me up on the hill to the Rafferty cemetery, where we found John Rafferty (2-3-54) among the many buried there. John Raffety was the father of James Raffety (3-3-84), my great-grandfather. After visiting another graveyard in the vicinity, they took me to another farm where I visited with another branch of the family. Elmer Rafferty, an elderly man of about 85, was living with his daughter and son-in-law. He listened to me attentively for some time and then said, "Son, just what do you want to know about the Raffertys?" I told him. He looked up on the wall and said, "see that large oil painting--that's Jonathan Milton Rafferty, my grandfather. If he was here now he could answer your questions."

I had spent the day before in the County Clerk's Office, where I ordered a number of photostatic copies of land grants and deeds covering the property owned by my branch of the family in the early 1800's. When I went back to pick up the photostatic copies and pay for them, the County Clerk said, "I believe we are related." She had married into one branch of the Raffety family and gave me a photostatic copy of information taken from the family Bible of Jonathan Milton Rafferty, which I had copied from the Bible the evening before. She also had a book called Cowherd's Genealogy, which covered all of the Raffertys in that area. I tried to buy this book from her. However, instead, we got on the telephone and called the author's daughter in Louisville, Kentucky, and the next day when I passed through Louisville, I bought the book from Mrs. Lem B. Felts.

When I returned home I studied the book Cowherd's Genealogy, along with the other data that I had secured in Campbellsville, and found that a Thomas Rafferty (3-3-81) was the brother of James Raffety (3-3-84), of my family, and that Thomas Rafferty (3-3-81) had married Elizabeth Cowherd and they were the parents of Jonathan Milton Rafferty (4-371-25) referred to above. I have a large chart of this family covering eight generations to date, with 107 Raffertys or Raffetys--for the name is spelled both way in the telephone book--some of whom continue to live on the old Raffety property on Pittman Creek. I think I should mention here that when Elizabeth Morris Keen Raffety (3-3-84) sold their property and slaves on Pittman Creek in 1827, and moved to Indiana, this marked the end of their way of life as plantation owners. Although they and their children continued to own land, the children commenced to branch off into the business world, probably by the great success of Grafton Johnson. James Raffety died in Lawrenceville, Dearborn County, Indiana. His wife, Elizabeth Morris Keen Raffety, moved on with my branch of the family to Illinois, where she lived with her third daughter, Nancy, and Thomas Herndon in Vermilion, Illinois. She died in 1867 and is buried in the cemetery just out of Vermilion.

My father was born in Vermilion. When he married Laura Hornberger, they went to Kansas in about 1886, taking along with them his father, John, and his mother, Mary, and two bachelor brothers, Charles Howard and Edmond Carlisle. They settled in a little town called Sylvan Grove, located in Lincoln County, Kansas, where they established themselves in three general mercantile stores, and later established a bank adjoining one of these stores. This is where I spent most of my youth until I went to the University of Kansas in 1916.

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MY INTEREST IN GENEALOGY (CHARLES E. RAFFETY)

When my wife, Margaret, joined the D.A.R., it became necessary that she submit her family tree. She, my daughter and I spent many hours in the Genealogy Department of the D.A.R., the National Archives, and the Library of Congress. So by 1957, when I retired, I was somewhat acquainted with the sources of information that are available here in Washington. However, it was not until the passing of Margaret, my wife, in 1964 that I really took the subject of Genealogy up as a full time hobby! I attended classes in Genealogy and spent many, many hours in the libraries of the D.A.R., the Archives, and the Library of Congress. I also made trips into Williamsburg, then just across the line to Rockingham County, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois. In the course of my travels I have collected a world of information in the form of photostatic copies of deeds, land grants, birth, marriage, and death certificates, wills, and court cases--four or five hundred of which are indexed by state and county and filed in twelve loose-leaf binders in a cabinet designed and built for that purpose. I have over two hundred U.S. Government Geological Survey Maps of areas where Raffetys have lived in twelve different states in tubes filed by states in a cabinet designed and built for that purpose.

I have photostatic copies of three large wall maps (4' x 6') of the state of Virginia. The first, dated 1751, by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, the father of the third president of the United States; the second is this same map revised in 1776, representing the Revolutionary War period; the third map, dated 1807, by James Madison, a cousin of the fourth president. These three maps represent the period from the time the first Raffety came to America to the time when the second generation of Raffetys and their grown children went on to Kentucky. The fact that no other Raffetys have been found during this period in the state of Virginia has made the search easier.

On one of my visits to the Library of Congress I chance upon a reference which appeared to be rather insignificant but upon referring to the book I found that it was one of the most valuable pieces of information that I have found. The book was written by Damaris Knobe in 1924 and titled, The Ancestry of Grafton Johnson, which took the relatives of the Raffety family back to 1635 and through the colonial days at Williamsburg. I later found this book in the D.A.R., which is a little more accessible, but decided that I must have a copy. I wrote to some 35 or 40 genealogy book stores throughout the United States, waited a year, and then went to the Library of Congress and for \$48.00 had the book reproduced page by page.

I later located some of the author's notes in Greencastle, Indiana, and bought two copies of the book from Mrs. Grafton Johnson Longden, who fell heir to these and many other antiques which had been collected from other relatives, dating back to the old colonial days in Williamsburg, and some of which belonged to my family. On another visit with Mrs. Grafton Johnson Longden at her home, we received some of the author's notes on pictures in the book. We were looking for additional information on the Keen branch not published in the book. This book was indeed a vast wealth of information--not only on the Raffety family, but on the several families that intermarried in the early days in Virginia and then moved on west to Kentucky about the same time.

Grafton Johnson was a wealthy businessman, President or Chairman of the Board of a number of large corporations, with headquarters in Greenwood, Indiana, just south of Indianapolis. On one of his many trips to New York he met and hired Damaris Knobe, a woman magazine writer. She was on the payroll of one of his companies for seven years, traveling all over the country collecting information for the book.

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The book is divided into four sections--the Holeman branch, the Johnson branch, Morris branch and the Keen branch. It is with respect to the Johnson, Morris and Keen branches that the Raffetys are related. The Raffetys married into the Keen family and the Keen family married into the Morris family. Two of the Keen family married into the Johnson family. At a remote period in North Carolina, one of the Holemans married a Johnson who was the grandfather of Grafton Johnson.

It is of interest to note that the granddaughter of Robert Morris, Susanna Morris attended social events in Williamsburg where George Washington was present years after he courted the richest widow in Virginia, Martha Brandage Custis, whom he later married. Susanna Morris met and married a young aristocrat just arriving from England by the name of Dudley Keen. They were the parents of Elizabeth Morris Keen, who met and married James Raffety, my great grandfather, of the third generation of Raffetys in America. Their oldest daughter, Mildred Raffety, married Gideon Herndon, cousin of William H. Herndon, law partner of Lincoln. We will find later on that the Raffetys, while living in Augusta County, were neighbors of Abraham Lincoln's grandfather. They all moved to Kentucky and settled in adjoining counties about the same time. Nancy Raffety, youngest daughter of Elizabeth Morris Keen Raffety and James Raffety, married Ephriam Rockafeller, cousin of the famous John D. Rockafeller; and in Indiana, a generation later, Fredrick J. Raffety married Elizabeth Rockafeller, the daughter of Ephriam Rockafeller.

I am now going back to the family of Susanna Morris and Dudley Keen. Their second daughter, Mary Turner Keen, married a James Johnson, who was the father of the first Grafton Johnson, whose son, the second Grafton Johnson, was responsible for the publication of the book The Ancestry of Grafton Johnson. Nancy Keen, the third daughter, married Thomas Herndon, the uncle of William H. Herndon, the so-called best friend and law partner of Abraham Lincoln for seventeen years. The fourth daughter, Mildred Ratcliff Keen, was adopted by her maternal aunt, Mildred Morris Ratcliff, who was a Quaker minister. She too became a Quaker. Forty years after the minister's death the church published a book entitled The Memoranda of Mildred Ratcliff. The only son of Susanna Morris and Dudley Keen, John Morris Keen, married Nancy Johnson; and after Nancy's death he married Mary Arthur, cousin of Chester Alan Arthur, the twenty first president of the U.S.

Dudley Keen married Susanna Morris against the wishes of her parents, but he must have proven himself because at the time of his death, at a very young age of 58, he had acquired three plantations with slaves, a weaving mill, and fell heir to his share of the Morris' property. I have given the highlights of the Keen family because the names Dudley, Susanna, Keen, Morris, and Elizabeth keep appearing in the families associated with them--the Holemans, Johnsons, Morrises, Keens and even the Raffetys. I had a brother who's middle name was Keen; I had another brother who had a son by the name of Dudley; my father's name was Dudley; he had a brother named Keen, and an uncle who's name was Dudley Keen Raffety.

It has been said that in those days, if you search long enough in your family, you will find a "horse thief". When Elizabeth Morris Keen and James Raffety, having lived on their plantation in Green County, Kentucky, about twenty years, suddenly sold all of their property, withdrew from the church, and moved to Indiana, I thought I had found one. In 1827 they had purchased an additional 68 acres adjoining their plantation for \$350, and just six weeks later they sold this same piece of property for \$250. It developed that their related families were moving on into Indiana and the influence of Elizabeth's mother, Susanna, prevailed.

The first three generations of the Morris family, leading up to their participation in the Baptist ministry, and the three generations of the Keen family, who were undoubtedly responsible for the young Dudley Keen coming to America in 1785, all living in Williamsburg or on plantations nearby, had their influence on those to follow--friends and neighbors

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for all generations to come. It was Susanna Morris Keen who, after the death of her husband, Dudley Keen, in about 1805, took her young family to Kentucky and kept them together even after they moved on into Indiana and Ohio about 20 years later. She had married a wealthy Kentucky plantation owner by the name of George Gaddey, but spent the last few years of her life with her only son, John Keen, in Leesburg, Ohio, where she died about 1826 and is buried in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It was Susanna's daughter, Elizabeth Morris Keen Raffety, who probably talked her husband, James Raffety, into moving on into Indiana with the rest of the Keens, Morrisises, and Johnsons, after having been comfortably located on a large plantation on Pittman Creek in Green County, Kentucky, for about 20 years.

I have a book called Love Valley, written by Jolee Love, of Nashville, Tennessee, in 1954. For several years before she published the book she spent considerable time in Washington, D.C., working in the Library of Congress, the Census Bureau, and the Archives. We had exchanged information on the Raffety family, and when I found her book in the Library of Congress and D.A.R., I was satisfied that the Raffetys mentioned in her book were descendants of one of the branches of my family from Virginia. I also have another book called Cowherd Genealogy, which will be discussed under "Families in Kentucky".

I have many documents, papers, and maps which I have used to support the information shown on twelve large generation wall charts representing twelve different branches of the Raffety family in America, covering nine generations, with just over 1200 Raffetys. These large columnar charts are of my own design, used and developed over a period of 25 years, for the final recording of the information and data that I have received.

There are a number of standard forms used by Genealogists in collecting information--two of which I have used considerably. One is for the living, called "Family Group Record" by The Genealogical Society of The Church of the Latter Day Saints, Inc., Salt Lake City. This society should receive credit for restoring and making available a tremendous amount of genealogical data on 35 millimeter reels. I sent a supply of these forms to Walter A. Raffety and family in Davies County, Kentucky, who distributed them to 35 Raffety families for completion and return, thus bringing this branch of the Raffety family completely up to date. The other series of forms for the dead are used to transfer information from census reports and may be found in the Archives Reading Room where the original census reports are kept, or on the fourth floor in the beautiful wall-to-wall carpeted room where 35 or 40 machines are available for reading census reels. Sometimes all of these machines are busy and one has to wait his turn to get a machine.

For information before 1790, one has to rely upon the tax lists. The first census report, beginning 1790, listed only meager information, giving the head of the family, the wife, and children as males or females in age groups. The census report for 1850 begins to show the complete name and age of the head of the family, the given names, the ages of the wife and each child, and where they were born. By going back and placing these names on previous census reports it is possible to construct a family tree. This was not as simple as it might seem for the reason that names Thomas, William, John, Richard, James and others kept appearing in each succeeding generation, making it difficult to determine which name belonged to which branch of several families. To facilitate this procedure I used long columnar paper, setting up a column for each census from 1790 to 1850. Each column provided space for the name or, where the name was not available, whether male or female. I retrospected the age and established a date of birth for each individual. In each column I transferred the respective census report under the county and state. This not only made it possible to separate families, but to follow them from one locality to another. The favorable result of this procedures resulted in the use of the long columnar paper to set up the four by six foot columnar generation charts.

I am now going to quote from my notes taken from a book I found in the Library of Congress entitled Irish Families by Edward Mclaysaght, CS498MS, page 252, under the title "O'Rafferty, Roarty, (Rafferty)". "Originally

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belonging to the adjacent counties Donegal and Sligo, the O'Raffertys are now found in many parts of Ireland, though no where in large numbers. They are still associated with Donegal County where they were Co'arbs of St. Columcille in Troy Island. Sligo County the sept was one of the seven pillars of the skreen, but the descendants of these have become, scattered. At no time have they played a prominent part in political, military, or cultural life in the country. One is mentioned by the four masters--he was Abbot of Durrow in 1090, far away from the homeland of his sept. The usual form of the name in modern time is spelled O'Raithbheartaigh, but this is actually a variant of the older O'Robhartaigh, the sound of which is preserved in the anglicized form Roarty. This surname, though rare, is still existent in the northwest counties. Rafferty, sometimes confused with Rafferty, is quite a different name. It is O'Raichtaire in Ireland and belongs exclusively to the Connacty. It is notable on account of the blind Mayo Folk poet, Anthony Rafferty, 1784-1835." Because of the many variations and mutations which a name undergoes over the centuries, sources of sir names trace the changes of names through the years and give coat of arms for which is "Ermine, an eagle displayed sable, over all a fesse or charged with two salmon nayant gulls, the crest on a mound vert an eagle displayed or."

It might be of interest here to state that I have 68 photostatic copies of pay cards for my great-great-grandfather, John, 2-3-54, in the Revolutionary War on which the company clerk spells the Raffety name ten different ways: Raffety, Raffertey, Rafferey, Raferty, Rafforty, Raforty, Rofferty, Roferty, Rufferty, and Shafferty.

I have traveled in Ireland, England, and Scotland, from north to south and from east to west, and upon referring to the telephone books in numerous places, I found many O'Raffertys and Raffertys but no Raffetys in Ireland. In England and Scotland I found Rafferty and Raffety.

While I cannot say definitely that they were not Irish-Catholics from the north of Ireland, it can definitely be said that with the spelling of the name Raffety I have found no Catholics except through marriage, and then only three instances out of the 1200 Raffetys I have established records on. In the early days in Virginia they were more often Baptists and followed that religion throughout their stay in Kentucky, Indiana, and even in Illinois as late as 1886.

Many of the descendants of the Holemans, Johnsons, Morrises, Keens and the Raffetys, as far back as colonial days, were members of the Masonic Order. Perhaps they attended Masonic meetings in Williamsburg when George Washington, on visits to that place, would officiate as master of the lodge--for he was the wishful master of his lodge in Alexandria, Virginia.

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**1ST THREE GENERATIONS IN VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA AND
WEST VIRGINIA**

Before going into the Raffety's, it seems only fitting and appropriate to give a few dates, places, and events leading up to the arrival in America of Thomas Raffety in 1750, and to be oriented with respect to the political, religious, social, and economic climate existing at that time in and near Williamsburg, County Seat of James City County, Virginia.

From the Worlds Almanac we find that in 1607 Captain John Smith established the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown, on an island on the James River about 10 miles from Williamsburg, and just two years later Henry Hudson, an English explorer, sailed the sloop, "Half Moon", into New York Harbor. In 1619 the House of Burgesses, first representative legislature, elected by popular vote at Jamestown, established the principle of self-government for a royal colony; and the first Negro slave landed by the Dutch at Jamestown. In 1620, based on a map made by Captain John Smith, the Plymouth Pilgrims, or Puritan Separatists from the Church of England, set sail on the Mayflower for Virginia, but got lost and landed at Plymouth Rock. Of the 101 passengers and crew of 48, half perished during the hard winter. In 1626 Peter Minuit bought Manhattan Island from the Indians for trinkets worth \$24. In 1624 the Dutch landed eight men from a ship, The New Netherlands, on Manhattan Island and then proceeded to Albany. In 1676 Nathaniel Bacon led planters oppressed by taxes against Governor Berkeley at Jamestown. They burned the town and Bacon died suddenly. Twenty-three followers were executed.

In 1752 Benjamin Franklin, flying a kite in a thunderstorm, proved lightening is electricity. In 1754 the French and Indian War started after the French occupied uncompleted British Fort Duquesne, the site of Pittsburgh. Colonel George Washington with Virginia troops clashed with the French at Great Meadows, dug in at Fort Necessity, and later capitulated and withdrew from that area. In 1769 Napoleon Bonaparte was born in Corsica. In 1785 the first steamboat experiment by John Fitch demonstrated with twelve mechanical oars on the Delaware River. In 1787 James Rumsey, encouraged by Washington, ran a steamboat with a power pump on the Potomac. In 1803 Robert Fulton operated an experimental steamboat unsuccessfully on the Seine, in Paris, France. In 1807 Robert Fulton made the first most practical steamboat trip on the Clermont in an open boat, 140' x 13', with a seven-foot draft side paddle wheel. He left New York and reached Albany in 32 hours--a distance of 150 miles.

We must not forget the constant fight with England for political, religious and economic freedom, which led to the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War from 1776 to 1783, resulting in over 10,000 casualties. It is hoped that these related pertinent facts covering a period of two hundred years beginning 1607, shortly after which the related ancestors of the Raffety family came to America, and through 1807, when the Morrises, the Holemans, the Johnsons, the Keens, and the Raffetys all moved west to Kentucky, will set the climate for what is to follow.

The first forbearer of the Morris branch of the Raffety family was English in origin. Robert Morris, who, as headright, was brought to Jamestown in 1635 by Hugh Cox. In this account of the so-called Bacon's Rebellion, when Nathaniel Bacon, imbued with the spirit of 1776, 100 years before that memorable date, attempted to oppose the policies of Sir William Berkeley, Royal Governor who dwelt in James City County. There appears in the journal's ship "Young Prince", Robert Morris, Commander, from September 9, 1676 to January 29, 1677, the following: "The commissioners appointed by the King to inquire into the history of Bacon's rebellion reported that the main service that

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was done for reducing the rebels to obedience was by the seamen and commanders of ships then riding the rivers. The chief actor in the business on the James River was Captain Robert Morris".

Whether this Robert Morris and his descendants were even distantly related to Robert Morris, famous as financier of the Revolutionary War and signer of the Declaration of Independence, and has been claimed, is conjectural.

This branch of the family possessed a remarkable historic setting that covers every period of Virginia, from the new struggling 28-year-old colony to the highly developed state of today. Many descendants of Robert Morris remain in and around Williamsburg. That this early ancestor escaped the horrors of the first Indian Massacre in 1622, when 347 out of the population of 1256 were slain, is assured; however, he must have witnessed the second massacre in 1644. At the time of his arrival the colonists probably numbered less than 5000, as five years later, in 1640, there were only 7466.

Then, beginning with his descendant of four generations, John Morris, who lived eight miles northwest of Williamsburg, when it was the capital of the colony, occurred many important events. His entire family, sharing the discontent that finally culminated in the Declaration of Independence. In fact, he stands out as the first among the kinsfolk to separate from the dominant Episcopal Church and join the Baptist faith to become a Baptist preacher; by his courageous act, when dissenters were often persecuted to the extent of imprisonment, he set the standard of independent thought, and action that has been emulated by succeeding generations.

This John Morris was born in James City County, Virginia, about 1730 at the plantation possessed by preceding generations. The plantation was operated by 20 slaves as disclosed by the duplicate tax lists filed at Richmond, the new capital of Virginia beginning in 1782. Prior to 1753, he married Elizabeth Turner, whose parents, John and Mary Turner, resided on a neighboring plantation of 533 acres situated 12 miles northwest of the courthouse at Williamsburg, the county seat, and in the upper precinct of James City Parish. He disappeared from both the personal and land tax lists in 1788-89, when his death was evidenced by his "estate" being carried on the books until 1794. A memorandum on the margin of the settlement papers showed that the homestead was acquired by his wealthy son-in-law, Daniel Jones, husband of his eldest daughter, Mary Morris. His wife had passed away five years before in 1783. He was buried beside her in the family burial ground one and one-half miles north of James City Baptist Church, subsequently known as Smyrna Baptist Church. The burial ground is now unmarked--even the remains of tombstones.

It should be mentioned at this point, again as it was earlier, that John Morris and Elizabeth Turner's second daughter, Elizabeth Morris Keen, and married James Raffety of the third generation of Raffetys in America. Dudley Keen arrived from England in 1785, obtained the license at the old Christopher Wren Courthouse in Williamsburg, and married Susanna Morris about 1786, just two or three years before the death of John Morris. He acquired his first plantation of 110 acres in the vicinity of the Morris plantation just before or after his marriage to Susanna Morris. He disposed of this property about 1791 and bought his second plantation of 200 acres twelve miles west of the courthouse in Williamsburg. He sold this property in 1797. After an interval of five years, he purchased, in 1802, his third plantation of 185 acres eight miles west of Williamsburg, just three miles north of Jamestown, in a section rich with historic interest; here he spent the few last years of his life. Their children liked to go to what they called "Jims-town". It was here that he conducted various activities, including weaving on his looms that turned out linens, blankets, and wonderful counterpanes, which were sold by the wagon load in Richmond. It was in the same community as Greensprings, formerly the estate of Sir William Berkeley, one of the colonial governors of Jamestown.

Susanna Morris Keen, the widow, and her family of five moved on to Kentucky in 1807, but the Dudley Keen's estate remained on the tax books for 43 years until 1850, before his affairs were finally adjusted. Further significance is

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revealed by the fact that on a duplicate tax list a William Keen, contemporaneously with Dudley Keen, dwelt in James City County on land nine miles west of the courthouse, while the third plantation of the latter, acquired about ten years after the former's death, was eight miles west of the courthouse; both tracks are described as adjoining a William Lee's estate. It cannot be determined when William Keen settled there, but he died in 1791 or 1792, and his estate was carried on the books for 43 years until 1835. There was a memorandum written on the margin of one page of the estate settlement papers to the effect that William Keen's estate at that time was bound, in addition to the William Lee estate, by the land of Park Jones and Dudley Keen's wife. This William Keen was a third generation descendant of a John Keen, who as headright was brought to this colony by a Pierce Lennon of Charles City County, who received 300 acres on November 5, 1635. Years later, on April 20, 1682 a John Keen received 270 acres in New Kent County. So, from two different sources, it is apparent that this early colonists was succeeded by another with the same name, and that Dudley Keen, who lived on the main stage road running west from Williamsburg to Richmond, which is in the same general neighborhood, was a relative. There was another William Keen that lived in that section who was a Baptist minister. A great many of the descendants of this family also went to Kentucky in early 1800. I have many more interesting and related facts supported by references, book and page numbers, which will have to wait until a later date. I have tried here to give only the minimum information and facts to set the stage for the arrival of the first Raffety in America.

The first evidence of the first Raffety in America can be found at the Archives in the Virginia Magazine History and Biography, Vol. 1, pg. 383, giving the size of Major Andrew Lewis' company. Thomas Raffety is listed as age 22, size 5'3 1/2", of Irish descent, from Nansemond County, Virginia, serving as a shoemaker in the Virginia troops during the French and Indian War. This document has a notation in the margin "No date". However, it is easy to determine that his date of birth was 1733, because he was 22 years of age while serving in the French and Indian War in 1755-6, during the short period of time when Andrew Lewis was a Major. He became a General and his life-size statue is now on the capitol grounds in Richmond, Virginia. Nansemond County is located across the river from Jamestown and down the James River a few miles.

For reasons I will explain later, it was determined that Thomas Raffety landed from England about 1750, was married and had young children while serving in the French and Indian War.

In this same magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 7, pg. 422, Thomas Raffety and Esther were issued a marriage license in Augusta County, Virginia, on June 6, 1762, which is 12 years after he arrived in this country. This had to be a second marriage. Based on a preponderance of evidence and no evidence to the contrary, he had at the time of his second marriage five sons aged 10, 9, 8, 6, and 5, which would set the first marriage about 1751. I have made a diligent search in the Archives and in the State Library at Richmond and have come up with no additional facts about Thomas Raffety from 1755 to 1761, when he had a survey made in Augusta County. It is reasonable to assume that a young man 22 years of age, serving as a shoemaker in Major Andrew Lewis' company, married with small children, did not have any time to make any historic landmarks of record during those six years. However, there are two possible sources of information to be pursued. One would be a record of Major Lewis' company, which might be found in the Archives, and if not there, perhaps in the library at Richmond. The other possible, but unlikely, source would be the records of deeds or land grants in the various counties where Thomas Raffety may have lived before his second marriage in 1762. If I am able to produce any new evidence from these two sources, an addendum will be added.

At the time Thomas Raffety married Esther in Augusta County in 1762, that county extended west of the Blue Ridge Mountains from Frederick County on the north to include the Shenandoah River watershed, and on the south to include west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the north watershed and the south watershed of the Roanoke River. There

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are several sets of facts or evidence which indicates where and when Thomas and Esther were located in the county of Augusta. A year and a half before they were married in February, 1761, will book #3, pg. 221, of Abstracts of Wills of Augusta County, Thomas Rafferty attested to the will of John Lewis, who was the father of Major Andrew Lewis. In February, 1763, Thomas Rafferty was mentioned in connection with the probation of this will. In May, 1764, about two years after they were married, Thomas Rafferty purchased 18 acres on South River, a branch of the Shenandoah River, for 12 pounds, which was delivered in January, 1765. In Vol. 2, pg. 204, of Deeds, there appears a certificate of survey dated in 1769 of land in the south end of Augusta County for Thomas Rafferty. In October, 1771, Thomas Rafferty and Esther sold the 18 acres on the north side of the South River of the Shenandoah, which it is believed was southeast of Staunton, about ten miles in Waynesboro--thus accounting for their location for about nine years.

Based on the survey made in the southern part of Augusta County in 1769 mentioned above, Thomas Rafferty bought 65 acres for 25 pounds on a branch of the Roanoke River at a place called Devil's Den. This property was purchased from John Madison, witnessed by Thomas Madison on July 28, 1770, and recorded in Botetouet County, which only the year before had been separated from Augusta County. It is a significant coincidence to find a court order ordering that a path leading from the Devil's Den to the Madisons be cleared at this time and that John Madison had attested to the sale of the 18 acres by Thomas and Esther Rafferty--all this leading to the possibility that Esther's maiden name before she was married could be Madison or Lewis. In 1771 Thomas Rafferty bought another 100 acres in Botetouet County, just north of the Devil's Den property, on the north fork of the Roanoke River. It was while living in this community that Thomas Rafferty, along with 16 other men, was ordered by the court to appear and show cause why he refused to obey the county sheriff in retaking Joseph Alexander after he broke prison.

To become oriented at this time with respect to Augusta County, was of the Blue Ridge Mountains and south of Fredrick County, I refer to the two large wall maps by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, dated 1751 and 1775, and find very little change in 24 years. A significant fact is that there was no change in the Indian road by the Treaty of Lancaster, which appears on both maps. This was called "The Great Road from the Yadkin River in North Carolina through Virginia to Philadelphia, a distance of 455 miles". Beginning at the Yadkin River in North Carolina, Davie County, through Rockingham County, across the Dan River and the state line into Virginia, then north to the Roanoke River, through the Blue Ridge Mountains, just northeast of Devil's Den where Thomas Rafferty lived, and on north across the James River and the North River into the watershed of the Shenandoah River, west of the Lewis Creek near Staunton where Thomas and Esther were married, then on north to the North River fork of the Shenandoah River at Holeman Creek, then north to Winchester and Hagerstown, then across the mountains to York and Philadelphia. It was the only trail west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and was used by the Indians and the white settlers in that remote area.

One of the earliest settlers in the Shenandoah Valley in what was then Fredrick County--now Shenandoah County--was Daniel Holeman of the third generation of Holemans in America, dating back to 1635 in James City County near Williamsburg. He acquired some 18,000 acres as early as 1750 with the main homestead on Holemans Creek five miles west of Quicksberg. There were two other Holemans, Thomas and Jacob, who obtained large tracks of land in the same neighborhood by land grants located on the Holeman River on the east side of the branch of Holeman Creek. They began a settlement called Holeman. When Daniel Holeman passed away in 1770, in addition to all of his real property, the papers of administration evidenced a considerable amount of personal property for those days of 1,167 pounds; and when his son, Jacob Holeman, passed away in 1787, his will shows that he followed in the financial footsteps of his father by possessing an impressive amount of personal property of 1,466 pounds. Three or four other sons of this prominent pioneer family moved on down the Indian Trail across the state line into Rockingham County and then Davie County, North Carolina, where they received land grants on and near the Yadkin River About 1786. The Holemans, the Johnsons, and three branches of the second and third generations of the Raffertys were all neighbors in

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this new settlement in Davie and Rockingham Counties. Some of the descendants of the Morris family and the Keen family were located just across the line into Virginia. I will give more information on this later when I cover the post-Revolutionary War period. For the present we will continue with facts concerning the pioneer settlements along the Indian Trail in Augusta County and down through Botetourt County, to lay the pattern for the Revolutionary War period.

There were at least three other families, descendants of important families who lived in and around Williamsburg a generation before, who lived in Augusta County concurrently with the Raffertys. They were the Jones', the Taylors, and the Robertsons--the last of which married into the Rafferty family in Tennessee and will be covered later on. At this time we are more interested in the Lewis family that lived in Albemarle County, and the Madison family who lived in Madison County and Orange County bordering the Blue Ridge Mountains and were closely associated with the Raffertys in Augusta County and later in Botetourt and Campbell Counties for a number of years. Going down the Indian Trail from the Holeman planation about 40 miles, we come to Lewis Creek in Staunton, which is close to the place where Thomas Rafferty was married June 6, 1762, and owned the 18 acres. It should be remembered that Thomas Rafferty served under Major Andrew Lewis in the French and Indian War in 1755-6.

It cannot be said for sure whether or not Major Andrew Lewis was related to a Virginia General Robert Lewis who emigrated from Wales to Virginia. He held a commission from the English government and died in 1645. His great grandson, John Lewis III, was the father of Fielding Lewis, the Revolutionary patriot of Kenmore House of Fredrichsburg, Virginia. General Robert Lewis's daughter, Elizabeth, married Lawrence Washington, the ancestor of General George Washington. Colonel Fielding Lewis married General Washington's sister, Betty Lewis.

Major Andrew Lewis was born October 9, 1720, in Ireland. He was brought to Augusta County, Virginia, by his father, John Lewis. In John's will he named his three sons, Thomas, Andrew, and William, as executors. His will was attested to by Charles Lewis, Thomas Rafferty, and Betty Taylor, with a notation to the fact that the executors were qualified by John Madison. It should also be repeated that Abraham Lincoln's grandfather lived up the road a few miles from this community.

Over a period of ten years, most of these families moved on down the Indian Trail some 85 miles to the neighborhood of Roanoke, where the Raffertys, the Lewis' and the Madisons seem to have been especially close together. Years later, on a map dated 1807, there is a Lewis Fort and a Lewis Mill west of Roanoke, and off to the northwest a few miles is a town by the name of Lewisburg and a location called Lewis cove. There is also a town called Madison just a few miles north of Roanoke.

In 1773 Thomas and Esther bought 535 acres in Washington County. About three years after they moved to this locality, the

Declaration of Independence was signed and recruitment commenced for the Revolutionary War in 1776. At this time Thomas Rafferty's family consisted of five boys by the first marriage, Esther's six children, and two daughters by Esther, his second wife. His oldest son, Thomas, was 24 years of age, had a wife named Martha, and two children. The second son, William, age 23, of whom I know least about, was probably married. The third son, John, my great-great-grandfather, age 22, had a wife named Sarah and two children. The fourth son, Richard, age 20, could have been married, but did not have any children until 1780. The fifth son, James, age 19, had only one son, James. Their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, were ages 13 and 11 respectively.

Immediately upon the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, the way of life in this remote

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area of Virginia suddenly changed. Every family had one or more sons who volunteered for service--the Holemans had five sons and the Raffertys had three sons. Those men with previous military history as officers commenced forming companies and taking enlistments. I have 128 photocopies of the muster rolls of pay cards for the three Raffertys who served in the Revolutionary War. James Rafferty, the youngest son, had only four payroll cards, indicating that he had volunteered to serve with Captain Harry Terrell's company in the Fifth Virginia Battalion commanded by Colonel Charles Scott. He served as a private for three months--August, September, and October, 1776--but was paid for ten months at the rate of \$6.66 per month, \$2.10 in Pennsylvania currency, suggesting that he may have served in Pennsylvania. The last pay card, under remarks, says "Dead", indicating that he died in the service of his country.

Richard, the fourth son, had 68 pay cards, all of which, except three, spelled the name Raffety instead of Rafferty for the first time in America.

On December 26, 1776, shortly after the death of James, his older brother, Richard enlisted for three years as a private in the Fourteenth Virginia Regiment, Captain George Lambert's company, commanded by Colonel Charles Lewis. In May, 1777, he was listed as being in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and in August he was listed as a casualty. He was in the hospital from December 1, 1777, to April 5, 1778, at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where about 3,000 of George Washington's army were incapacitated that dreadfully hard winter. In May, 1778, he was in Brunswick, New York, in July, White Plains, New York, and in September, West Point, New York, where he was made a Corporal Musician and his monthly pay was increased from \$6.66 to \$7.33. From October to December he was in Middlebrook. He was transferred to the 15th, then the 1st, and then the 10th Virginia Artillery Regiment. In May, 1779, he served at Smith Cove, in September at Camp Ramnadough, in October at Haverstraw, New York, and in November at Norristown, near Philadelphia, where he was discharged on the 23rd of December, 1779. He received three months extra pay and was sent home. On January 5, 1785, five years later, the last pay card shows he received 6,511 pounds as a result of a certificate for full pay under a Virginia Act of Assembly passed in the November session, 1781, Register Vol. 176, pg. 259. Even though Richard was on the casualty list within six months after he enlisted and spent more than four months in the hospital at Valley Forge, he continued to go on for a time as a foot soldier, after which he was transferred to three different companies as a Corporal Musician until he was discharged.

John, the third son, my great-great-grandfather, had 56 pay cards. He was appointed on December 16, 1776, thirty days after his youngest brother, James, died in the service, by Captain Roland Madison, Company Commander, under Colonel James Woods, commanding the 12th Virginia Artillery Regiment, for an enlistment period of three years; but he did not report for duty until April 1, 1777. The first review of his pay cards indicated nothing unusual, for he appeared to have served in many of the same camps as his brother, Richard, served--however, upon close scrutiny of the records, such was not the case. He served for about a year in Captain Roland Madison's company, Colonel James Woods commanding, and then was transferred to the 4th and then the 8th company under different captains, but under the same command of James Woods. He served the entire three years as a private. He was not paid for the first three months, at which time he was paid at the private's rate of \$6.66 per month and continued at that rate of pay for July, August, and September when, in addition to his regular pay, he received 13 weeks of the subsistence allowance pay. This would indicate that he was on some special duty away from his company because the pay cards commenced to show under remarks "command", "on duty", "on guard", "on Adjutant Generals guard", "on furlough in Virginia", and then at the end of May, 1779, under remarks, "on furlough expired April 15th". The company clerk was so utterly confused that he issued the pay card for May, 1779, and then canceled it and placed a notation under remarks, "Son on roll", indicating complete confusion, since John's oldest son was only five years old. The very next pay card seemed to straighten everything out, for it said, "Furloughed, supposed to be to the southward with General Scott". The next four and last pay cards stated under remarks, "southward". He was not well known in the three or four companies in which

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he served three years because his name was misspelt ten different ways. The several company commanders under which he served in the course of three years many not have known him, but it is for certain that James Woods, under whose command he served during this time, did know him, because Colonel James Woods served directly under General Charles Scott. It should be remembered that John's youngest brother, James, died while serving under Colonel Charles Scoot, and that his company commander's name was Captain Harry Terrell.

This leads us to a very prominent military family by the name of Scott living in Orange County, adjoining Augusta County. The Scotts were neighbors of the prominent Madison family and had married into the Wood family, the Terrell family, the Herndon family, the Jones family, and the Cowherd family. Some of these names appear as witnesses on deeds for land transactions later on by the Raffetys. A generation later a Raffety married into the Cowherd family, all of which is set forth in the book Cowherd's Genealogy. There are two good reasons to support in the probability that John Raffety visited his folks in Washington County, Virginia, during the winter of 1778. First, he was on furlough in Virginia during that time while serving with General Scott, and second, his father was ailing. There is a possibility that Richard, who spent the winter of 1777 in Valley Forge Hospital, may have also visited his folks in the winter of 1778.

This leads us up to almost the end of Thomas Rafferty, the first Rafferty in America. In 1773 he had purchased 535 acres of land in Washington County, which at that time was in Botetourt County, and it appears that he was in poor health the last few months of life at that location, for he wrote his will, which reads in part as follows: "In the name of God, Amen. The 21st day of October in the year of our Lord 1779, Thomas Rafferty of Washington County, Virginia, being very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks to God for the same and calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed to all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament..." The will continues on and covers only personal property, one third of which he leaves to his wife, and the balance divided equally between their daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. The will was filed in Washington County on the 21st day of March 1780, indicating that Thomas Rafferty died sometime between the first day of October, 1779, and the 21st day of March, 1780. Esther Rafferty was appointed executrix of the Thomas Rafferty estate. Joseph Cole and William Glavis posted bond in the amount of 10,000 pounds to assure faithful administration of the estate. The court ordered that Samuel Huston, Daniel Reamy, William Edmondson, and Ambrose Bush, or any three of them being first sworn, to appraise the estate of Thomas Rafferty and make return to the next court. The inventory and appraisement was taken on the 16th day of October, 1780, by Samuel Huston, Daniel Reamy, and Ambrose Bush. It was recorded in; the court by John Campbell, date not given.

The long inventory and appraisement of the personal property only listed, among other things, six head of horses and colts, 20 head of cows, 18 head of sheep, plows and many other farm implements including carpentry tools, a churn, pickle barrels, a weaving wheel, and the household furniture, totaling 6,544 pounds. This was about four or five times as much personal property as was left by Daniel Holeman (1,167 pounds), or by his son, Jacob (1,466 pounds), in 1770, which at that time was considered a very impressive amount of personal property. During the next three or four years Esther Rafferty had to go into the Washington County courts to successfully collect bad debts, the last of which was for 1,560 pounds, costs, 375 pounds of neat tobacco, 15 shillings, attorney's fees, costs, 95 pounds of tobacco, plus another attorney's fee of 7.6 shillings. Washington County Marriage book #4 shows that Esther Rafferty married for the third time on March 1, 1786, to Elias Woolman by Thomas Woolsey. I have no further information on Esther Rafferty or her daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth.

Thomas Rafferty owned several thousand acres of land. The custom in those days was to dispose of real property before death by gift or deed to the sons, with the major share going to the oldest son.

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The Revolutionary War raged on for three more dreadful years until 1783; with the tragedies of war fresh in their memory, the four sons continued to support the cause by supplying the troops. The Raffety's had never been militarily or politically ambitious, but loyal to their country always.

Thomas, the oldest son, may have lived on one of the old plantations, but he probably worked hard before, during, and after the Revolutionary War, since the Raffety's, up to this point had no slaves. After the war Thomas, the oldest, knowing that he was in the driver's seat, appeared to be resting on his oars for several years. William, the second son, probably followed in his oldest brother's footsteps during the war, left little history to be recorded--perhaps because of his indifference or his indecision with respect to whether or not he should stay home where he was probably needed, or also volunteer for service. The third son, John, appeared to be ambitious from the start. About the time he was married at a very young age, he crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east into Bedford County, now Campbell County; and on November 22, 1771, he had a survey made of 104 acres on the west fork of Bowman's Creek, indicating that he was getting ready to shove off on his own. There were members of the Madison family living in that vicinity. However, as time went along and the war broke out he decided to enlist in Captain Rowland Madison's company. After the war he must have bought this tract of land as well as another 154 acres on Falling River nearby, because on January 4, 1785, a John Raffety of Guilford County, North Carolina, sold 154 acres on Falling River for the sum of 60 pounds, current money of Virginia. This deed was signed by John and Sarah Raffety and witnessed by Thomas Raffety on January 21, 1785. John Raffety sold the 104 acres on Bowman Creek for the sum of 1,150 pounds of tobacco. The year before, on July 20, 1784, Thomas Raffety purchased 240 acres on the north side of Falling River nearby for the 60 pounds from a William Stearman of Guilford County, North Carolina. His signature was witnessed by Thomas Stearman, John Raffety, Harry Terrell, and Joel Terrell. This deed did not say where Thomas Raffety was from. All three of these deeds are recorded in; the County seat, Rustburg, Campbell County, which was separated from Bedford County in 1782.

There are two good reasons stated in the deed to indicate that Thomas bought this 240 acres in 1784 in Campbell County as an investment. First, the deed does not state that he lived in Campbell County and, second, he bought it from Stearman, who lived in Guilford County, North Carolina. I personally made two separate searches in Bedford County and in Campbell County, as well as the state library in Richmond, to find two deeds covering the purchase of the two tracts of land by John, but was unable to find anything to indicate whether or not he ever lived there. At the time John sold this property he was a resident of Guilford County, North Carolina. It is probable that he traveled down the old Indian Trail to that part of Guilford County that was set aside in 1785 to establish Rockingham County, where he received a land grant or bought 150 acres between Town Creek and Wolf Island Creek, northeast of the county seat of Wentworth, close to the Virginia line, and where his oldest brother, Thomas, acquired 811 acres starting in 1787 through 1801 by four land grants and three deeds. It is reasonably certain that the three oldest Raffety brothers, Thomas, William, and John, lived there together for at least 14 years. When Thomas sold his land some of the deeds were witnessed by William, John, and Martha, his wife, and the description of the land mentioned William's boundary line. Thomas sold his last piece of land there in October, 1801, and John sold out in February, 1802, indicating that there was some definite reason for disposing of the land.

I don't want to appear to be repetitious with respect to the Holeman family who were among the very first settlers in Fredrick County or that part of Fredrick County that was cut off, making Shenandoah County in 1778, but there are two other related families which should be mentioned--the Issac Johnson family and the Squire Boone family, who moved to Augusta County as early as 1750. They became friends and neighbors of the Holemans and their descendants intermarried and moved down the old Indian Trail through Augusta County to Roanoke, over the mountains

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to the east, and on south through Rockingham County, North Carolina, and to that part of Rowan County that became Davie County on the Yadkin River where these three families became established many years before the Raffetys moved to Rockingham County.

The Holemans acquired thousands of acres of land by land grants or deed in the vicinity of their three plantations, where they lived for over 50 years, before some of their descendants commenced to move to Kentucky, where they became large land owners in addition to their plantations and slaves. They became prominent and influential citizens in their community, serving in Congress and judgeships with no less personage related than ex-President Taft. While living in adjoining plantations in Davie County, North Carolina, Issac Holeman's oldest daughter, Elizabeth, met and married Isaac Johnson and they became grandparents of Grafton Johnson, for whom the book entitled The Ancestry of Grafton Johnson was published.

It was from this locality on the Yadkin River that Squire Boone's son, Daniel Boone, and his brave companions started their first exploration trip to the western wilderness and returned telling of the wonderful land in Kentucky; thus setting off, in the early 1800's, the migration of thousands from Virginia and North Carolina to Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap in the Cumberland Mountains located in the extreme southwest corner of Virginia.

This was probably the reason that the three Raffety brothers, Thomas, William, John, sold their thousand acres in the adjoining county of Rockingham in 1801 and 1802. Though they may not have all gone to Kentucky together, the 1810 census in Kentucky shows that they settled in different counties where they all bought land and set up their own plantations with slaves. There is a gap of three to five years between the time they sold their property in North Carolina and when they purchased land and set up their plantations in Kentucky, so it is presumable that they perhaps returned to the old plantation in Washington County before they sojourned to Kentucky.

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THE 1ST RAFFETYS IN KENTUCKY

"The old wilderness road" in Kentucky beyond the Cumberland Gap was only a trace for the weary, plodding traveler on foot or horseback, whether man, woman, or child, with packsaddles crudely fashioned out of the fork of a tree for their belongings. With guns over their shoulders, they kept a constant lookout among the tall trees that thickly flanked both sides for wild game to be cooked by the roadside at night, and for the sulking Indians who came silently out of the forests, robbed and murdered, and then disappeared into the fathomless depths of the woods. It was impassable for scooner wagons prior to 1795 when a highway was constructed by act of the state legislature of Kentucky.

The first evidence of the first Raffety in Kentucky was a land grant survey witnessed by Edward Neely on Red River on the south watershed of Green River, Logan County, in 1805, for Thomas Raffety, the oldest son of the first Raffety in America, who in 1801 had sold over 800 acres of land in Rockingham County, North Carolina. It is believed that Edward Neely, who also received land grants in Logan County, Kentucky, was a descendant of the Neelys in Davies County, North Carolina, neighboring the Raffetys, whom it was said owned so much land that they could ride nine miles in a straight line without getting off their property. In 1805 Thomas Raffety and his family consisted of four sons, all married with children, who located then or soon after in Logan County, Kentucky, on several tracts of adjoining land where they set up plantations with slaves on Drakes Creek in that part of Logan County that later became Simpson County. Richard, age 33, whose wife's name was Caudill, had five children; William, age 30, whose wife's name is unknown, had five children; Samuel, age 29, whose wife's name is Ebbs, had six children; and Thomas, age 25, whose wife's name was Butler, had four children. I do not have evidence of all the property owned by the Raffetys in Logan County, Kentucky, but I do have the following: Thomas Raffety Sr., land grant on Red River, 1805; William Raffety, survey for land grant of 300 acres witnessed by Thomas Raffety, 1810; Thomas Raffety, in 1811, bought 200 acres from James Neely, bordering the Neely property line, witnessed by Thomas Jr. and William Raffety; Thomas Raffety, in 1818, bought 30 acres from William Stearman on the William Raffety line, witnessed by Samuel and William Raffety; Thomas Raffety Jr., in 1818, bought 170 acres in Logan County, witnessed by Edward Neely.

William Raffety, the second son of the first Raffety in America, who had lived on adjoining land with his two brothers in Rockingham County, North Carolina, and who it is presumed went with his brother, John, to Green County, Kentucky, in about 1808, had at least two sons--William Raffety, age 26, married with two children, and Thomas Raffety, age 22, married with one child and one slave, as shown in the Green County census reports of 1810, 1830, and 1840. All branches of the Raffety family in the third generation had sons with surnames of William and Thomas. I have no further information on this branch of the Raffety family.

John Raffety, the third son of the first Raffety in America, went to Green County, Kentucky, about 1808, with a family of seven as shown on the 1810 census for Green County, Kentucky, where five sons and their families spent many years. It is of interest to note that on January 4, 1813, John Raffety sold two slaves, Pam Simon and a girl, to Jonathan Cowherd for \$400. This documentation is recorded in the Green County Courthouse, witnessed by George Gaddey, a very wealthy plantation owner who married Susanna Morris Keen, the mother of Elizabeth Morris Keen Raffety. In 1808 John's oldest son, William, age 36, was mentioned in the settlement of his father's estate, but other than this nothing else is known about him. Thomas, the third son, age 27, married Elizabeth Cowherd in 1808; they had no children, but many of their descendants, as set forth in the book, Cowherd's Genealogy, continue to live on Pittman Creek in that part of Green County, now known as Taylor County. The fourth son, Richard, age 22, was also mentioned

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From the notes of Charles E. Raffety, loose leaf booklet titled: ***1st Raffety's in America***
Included in the Raffety Family Tree @ancestry.com
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in the settlement of his father's estate. The five sons and their descendants continued to live in that part of Green County known as Taylor County on Pittman Creek for some 19 years before their father's death in 1827.

It is believed that Richard, the fourth son of the first Raffety in America, went to Kentucky about 1808, at which time he had at least two sons--Richard, age 28, and William, age 24, who later established himself in Smith County, Tennessee.

You will remember that there was a fifth son of the first Raffety in America who died in 1776 in the service of his country during the Revolutionary War. James was survived by a wife, Hannah, and one son, age 1 year, at the time of his father's death. This young son, James, and his mother were probably looked after by his Uncle John, my great-great-grandfather. They probably went to Kentucky about the same time, in 1808, at which time he was 33 years old. This probability is based on a deed in the County Clerk's office of Davies County, Kentucky, where it is shown that James Raffety bought 425 acres on Panther Creek on January 18, 1832, from James Madison and Dolly Madison of Orange County, Virginia, for \$850. The property was bounded by a survey by Ambrose Madison, and the transaction was handled by Ambrose Madison's brother-in-law, John H. Lee, Attorney. There is every indication that the purchase of this 425 acres in Davies County, Kentucky, in 1832, by James Raffety was the result of his grandfather's long association and possible intermarriage with the Madisons in 1762 in Augusta County, and his close association with the Madisons in Botetourt County in 1771, at which time he himself purchased land from John Madison (uncle of President James Madison) on a branch of the Roanoke River--the deed for which was signed by John Madison and his wife, Agatha, and witnessed by Thomas Madison. It was undoubtedly the direct result of his uncle John's close association with the Madisons in Botetourt and Bedford Counties, Virginia, for it will be remembered that within 30 days after James' father's death in the service of his country during the Revolutionary War, uncle John enlisted in Captain Rowland Madison's company.

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DAVISS AND MCLEAN COUNTIES

In 1969 I collected many documents from Davies and McLean Counties, Kentucky, where one branch of Raffetys have been for a great many years. In the spring of 1972 I passed through Owensboro, Kentucky, called a Walter Raffety, with whom I had been corresponding with for about three years. He asked me to come out to see his farm only a few miles from town. I drove out to their place where he and his wife and I reviewed a big chart prepared by their daughter covering many of the Raffertys in that region. About 3:00, when I told them that I had to be on my way, they insisted that he take me around the Rafferty property which we had been discussing. I told him if he would get me back in time to get into Owensboro by five, I would be most happy to go with him. She said, you're going to spend the night with us. I'm going to stay home and cook us a good country dinner and we will have our daughter over this evening. I spent the rest of the afternoon traveling over the old Rafferty property, meeting and talking to several other Raffertys. We had a wonderful country dinner and I spent a pleasant evening with them and their daughter discussing their family tree. That night I walked up the stairs in this very old plantation home with very high ceilings, and after I went to bed and before going to sleep I tried to imagine what this place was like in the very early days, perhaps with slaves.

I did not readily go to sleep that night, because one of the Raffetys we visited that afternoon made a disturbing statement about where his ancestors came from; if his statement was true, I was convinced that none these Raffetys were related to me and I had been misrepresenting myself to Walter Rafferty and his family.

When I returned home I found a photostatic copy of a deed and will I had bought in the County Recorder's office in 1969 which proved our relationship.

James Raffety, of the third generation of Raffetys in America bought 425 acres in another location on Panther Creek on January 18, 1832, from James Madison and Dolley P. Madison of Orange County, Virginia, for \$850. At that time the property was adjoining a survey by Ambrose Madison. It is doubtful that the ex-President of the United States, James Madison, ever visited there, for the sale of the property was handled by his attorney, John H. Lee. He died June 6, 1836, and is buried near Montpelier, Virginia, now in Hanover County.

At this point in my dictation I went to the library to check on the Madison family and found that James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, had a brother by the name of Ambrose and that his wife's name was Lee. So it is reasonable to assume that the attorney, John H. Lee, was probably the brother-in-law of Ambrose. Dolley Payne Todd Madison, the ex-President's wife, was born in Guilford County, North Carolina, where the Raffetys had lived.

I also found that another James Madison, author of the large 6 x 8 foot wall map I have, was born near Staunton, Virginia, and grew up in Madison Hall, located in that part of Augusta County which is now Rockingham County, and that this property was bought by his father, John Madison, who was an uncle of the ex-President. This James Madison later became president of William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. I mentioned this because the first piece of property sold by Thomas and Esther Raffety was recorded by his son, John Madison, as County Clerk for Augusta County in 1771. Later this same John Madison attested to the signature of Thomas Rafferty for several land transactions in Botetourt County. In 1770, Thomas and Esther also bought 65 acres at Devil's Den near Christensburg from John Madison. It is believed that this close relationship between the Raffetys, Thomas and later his son John, and the Madisons led to the purchase of the plantation in Davies County, Kentucky, by James Rafferty from the ex-President of the United States. NOTE: The deed dated 1-6-1832, for 425 acres, and the will dated 5-23-1833, prove to my satisfaction that their ancestors came from Virginia and that we are related.

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From the notes of Charles E. Raffety, loose leaf booklet titled: ***1st Raffety's in America***
Included in the Raffety Family Tree @ancestry.com
www.sherrihale.com
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Book Titled: 1st Raffety's in America
by Charles E. Raffety

TWO RAFFETY FAMILIES IN TENNESSEE

On one of my trips down south in 1969 I went to the county seats of Smith County and DeKalb County, about 45 miles east of Nashville, and purchased five land grants and deeds on the William Raffety property, which I found was adjoining the Love property in Love Valley. He had moved to that location prior to 1817 and acquired five different pieces of adjoining land, totaling over 200 acres, which he sold to the Love family just before he moved up north in 1838.

I drove through Love Valley where the Raffety and Love properties are located and then went on into Nashville and visited with Jolee Love at her home for a couple of hours. At this time I bought her book Love Valley. Since then we have corresponded and exchanged considerable amount of information on the Raffetys and related families. She sent me the papers of O'Hart, which show the Raffetys descended through Spain and later from the king of Ireland in 379 A.D. The ancient name of Raffety was spelled RAGBHEARTACH, and signifies "the stubborn". The motto of the Raffety family at that time was "Fide et Vigilantia", and the clan was located in the present county of Donegal, Ireland. In 1970 I received a note with her Christmas card which reads in part as follows: "Gregory Peck used the William Raffety house in Love Valley for his picture I Walk the Line. It was on a big screen in gorgeous color; Tuesday Wells played the part of the other woman. I wish it had not been that kind of a picture. The company paid my cousin \$3,000 for the use of the house".

In the spring of 1972 I passed through Nashville and called Jolee Love. The next morning I picked her up at 8:00 a.m. and drove 180 miles, round trip, through the Love Valley area, stopped at the county seat, and then went on to the old Raffety home. While Jolee sat in the car reviewing some of the information I had brought with me, I walked back into the woods to the old Raffety home. It was in a terrible shape, probably the result of vandalism because of the publicity it had received. The steps to the porches were broken, the doors were gone, the windows were broken, the chimney and fireplace were turned over, and the wallpaper was hanging loose--an almost unbelievable sight, considering the way the house looked in the picture I Walk the Line. Not too far from the house was a small graveyard with a wrought-iron fence which was so overgrown with weeds and thistle that it was impossible for me to get close enough to read the information on several large headstones. Jolee told me that this was not the Raffety graveyard and that the one mentioned in the deed when William Raffety sold the place was a little further away from the house. We drove back to Nashville, I dropped Jolee at her home at 4:00 p.m., and rushed through Nashville before the heavy traffic, and drove to Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky.

Charles E. Raffety
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