

Finding Henry's Parents

Gregory J. Casteel

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*A Search for the
East Tennessee Origins
of my Great-Great-Grandfather
Henry Montgomery Casteel
of Limestone County, Alabama*

Gregory J. Casteel

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*Dedicated to all of the descendants
of Henry Montgomery Casteel of
Limestone County, Alabama*

*but especially to my late father,
James Martin Casteel
(1922-2010)*

Preface

I didn't know what I was getting myself into. That's obvious now. When I began this "little" project, I thought it would take only a few hours of my spare time to complete and that I might end up with, at most, a few pages of text—something I could post on Henry's profile page on WikiTree or on the *Descendants of Henry Montgomery Casteel* Facebook group. I never realized that I was heading down the rabbit hole, and that one discovery would lead to another, which would lead to another, which would lead to even more questions, which would force me to do more research to find the answers, which would lead to even more discoveries, which would call into question some of my previous findings, which would force me to go back and revise them, which would lead to even more discoveries, and so on ... and that this project would not only end up consuming all of my free time, but would actually force me to drop other projects that I was working on just so I could devote the time to get this thing finished before it drove me crazy. And it soon became apparent that I was going to end up with something that was far too long to post on Facebook or WikiTree. Once I passed 50 pages of text, knowing that I was still nowhere near finished, I realized that I would have to abandon my original plan to post my findings online and would instead have to reformat them into the form of a "book" (if you can call a rambling document in PDF format a "book"). So, that's what I've done.

To be honest, once I had completed my research, I really should have started over and rewritten this entire document from the beginning, organizing my findings in a more coherent and easy-to-follow manner. But frankly, by that point, I was just too exhausted to put any more work into this project—I wanted to get it finished and to get back to the other projects that I had been neglecting while I worked on this. So, I reformatted my text to make it a bit more readable, but I chose not to do any major rewrites after I had completed my research. What you are about to read, then, is really just an edited version of my original research notes, which is why it may seem somewhat disjointed in places. (And, in case you're wondering, yes—it is my usual habit to write these sorts of detailed notes whenever I'm doing research. I find them very helpful for organizing my thoughts. It's easy to miss something when you're just copying down the information you find or making a

rough outline of the facts. But when you actually have to try fit those facts into a story and explain what they mean, it quickly becomes apparent when something doesn't make sense, or when you're missing a crucial piece of the puzzle.) I did go back and break up my notes into separate chapters, because I felt that the "wall of text" I began with was a bit overwhelming. I also added several maps to help the reader get a sense of what happened where, and I included an *Introduction*, mainly for the benefit of anyone who happens to stumble across this document who may not know who Henry Montgomery Casteel was or why anyone would care where he was born or who his parents were. (*Spoiler alert*: Unless you are a descendant of his, as I am, or are doing genealogical research on the Casteel family, then there is really no reason why you *should* care, and this document will, in all likelihood, be of no interest to you at all.) But apart from that, I have made very few changes to my original research notes. So what you're about to read is, for all intents and purposes, a step-by-step account of what I did and what I found. I hope you find it informative, if not entertaining.

— *Greg Casteel*
Athens, Alabama
21 February 2017

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Introduction

Henry Montgomery Casteel was my great-great-grandfather. In fact, he was my great-great-grandfather twice over—he was my father’s father’s father’s father, and he was also my mother’s mother’s father’s father. (Yes, yes, I know. I am indeed from Alabama and my parents were, in fact, cousins—*second* cousins, mind you, but still... Some of us have to live up to the stereotypes, I guess.) So I am doubly interested in learning as much as I can about this particular ancestor of mine. And since Henry was the very first Casteel to settle permanently in Limestone County, Alabama, thereby becoming the founder of the Casteel line in my home county, I have always found him to be a worthy subject of study.

I have been studying him, off and on, for well over a decade now. Unfortunately, I haven’t been able to learn all that much, and what little I have learned has come to me in occasional trickles of information with long dry spells in between. And, unless someone invents a time machine, I just don’t foresee this pattern changing. Sure, there may be a treasure trove of information about him hidden somewhere out there, just waiting for me to stumble upon it, but I’m not counting on it. I’ve pretty much resigned myself to the fact that I’ve reached the point of diminishing marginal returns, where I’m doing more and more research but am getting fewer and fewer results for my efforts. But I still haven’t given up trying.

So, what *do* we know about Henry Montgomery Casteel? Well, most obviously, we know his name. That, in and of itself, was something of an accomplishment. His first name, last name, and middle initial were known long before I first started researching him, but his full middle name was not known at that time, and there was much speculation among Casteel family researchers as to what it might be. It is fortunate, then, that we were finally able to find a land patent issued in his name that actually included his full middle name: *Montgomery*.

In addition to his name, we also know from census records and other sources, that he was born somewhere in Tennessee around 1817, or perhaps as late as 1820 (but the earlier date seems more likely to me than the later). We also know, from his marriage record, that he had arrived in Limestone County, Alabama, by 1840 at

the latest. (He does not appear in the 1840 census for Limestone County, but I suspect that he and his new bride may have been living with his father-in-law at the time.) We know that he married Elizabeth “Betty” Jane Hicks in Limestone County, Alabama, on 7 April 1840. We also know that he was a blacksmith and a farmer, and that he owned a 160 acre farm in the westernmost part of Limestone County, which he acquired in four 40 acre plots between 1852 and 1860.

We know that Henry and Betty had at least ten children:

- James H. Casteel (1842-1892)
- Henry M. Casteel (1845-bef.1860)
- Jacob Carol “Jake” Casteel (1847-aft.1920)
- Hannah Evelyn Casteel Goode (1848-1924)
- Prestain (or Preston) H. Casteel (1851-1867)
- Elvira M. “Ellen” Casteel Looney (1856-aft.1910)
- Francis Jane “Janie” Casteel Looney (1857-1932)
- Nancy Rebecca “Beck” Casteel Lee (1859-1927)
- Abraham “Bud” Casteel (1861-1938) — my father’s father’s father
- John Samuel Casteel (1862-1939) — my mother’s mother’s father

We know that Henry died on 18 November 1865, when he was not yet 50 years old; though we don’t know his cause of death. We know that Betty outlived him by less than a decade, dying on 28 November 1872, at age 52. Once again, we do not know her cause of death. We know that Henry and Betty are buried together in a small family plot near the Elk River, a few miles from their home, along with their teenage son Prestain and a few other, as yet unidentified, family members.

Just about everything else we think we know about Henry Montgomery Casteel is little more than informed speculation. For example, we have reason to believe that Henry and his family remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. We know that his eldest son, James H. Casteel, wore Union blue, serving as a sergeant in a volunteer cavalry regiment that was organized in 1862, when much of North Alabama was under Union occupation. And I suspect (though I am not yet able to prove) that Henry’s son (and my great-grandfather), Abraham “Bud” Casteel, who was born in 1861, might have been named after Abraham Lincoln.

This is not as unusual as it may sound. Many of the poor white farmers of North Alabama—farmers who couldn’t afford slaves of their own and couldn’t compete with the large plantations that relied on slave labor—had no interest in fighting a war to defend the South’s “peculiar institution.” Besides, many of these men were

the sons of proud American patriots who had fought in the War of 1812, and the grandsons of even prouder American patriots who had fought in the Revolution; so they found the very suggestion of taking up arms against the United States of America to be an act of treason. That's why Limestone County, along with most of the other counties of North Alabama, voted *against* secession. But most folks who opposed secession had no real desire to fight on either side in the Civil War. They just wanted to be left alone. But when the Confederacy began to draft all able-bodied young men into the rebel army, and when pro-Confederate partisans launched a campaign of terror against the families of draft dodgers and anyone else who didn't support the rebellion, staying out of the fight was no longer an option. This is what motivated many Southern Unionists to volunteer to fight against the rebellion. Henry's oldest son, James, was among them, but he was certainly not alone. Many of his neighbors from western Limestone County served alongside him in the 1st Alabama Cavalry, United States Volunteers. So, while I don't have proof that Henry Montgomery Casteel personally opposed secession and remained loyal to the United States throughout the Civil War, I have good reason to believe that he probably did.

But even if Henry were not a Southern Unionist, he would still be fascinating just because of the period of history he lived through. Is it any wonder that I want to learn more about him? But learning more about him has not proven easy, and we still have more questions than answers. Perhaps the biggest unanswered questions we have about him are: *Who were his parents?* and *Where was he born?*

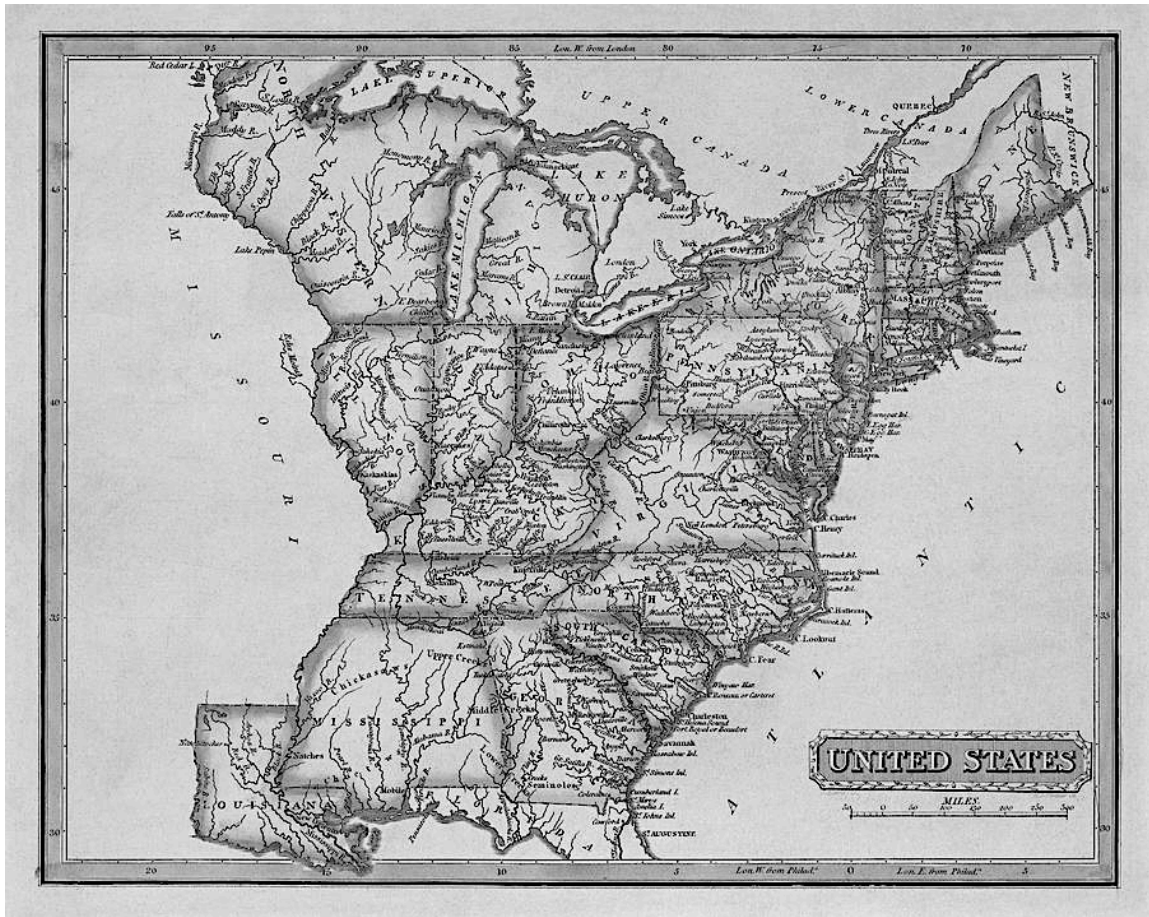
We know that he was born somewhere in Tennessee, but we don't know exactly where. And we know that his parents were Casteels, but we don't know exactly who. Of course, these questions have a deeper significance to them: If we knew who his parents were and where he was born, then perhaps we would be able to figure out how he is connected to the broader Casteel family that traces its origins back to Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval (*a.k.a.* Edmond du Casteel) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Captain Edmond was a merchant seaman, privateer, and pirate who had arrived in America by the early 1690s and became one of the leading citizens of William Penn's colony. We don't know exactly where he came from before arriving in Philadelphia, but the ancestral home of the du Chastel de Blangerval family was the tiny village of Blangerval in the County of Artois (now part of northern France, though in centuries past it has been, at various times, an independent county, a part of the neighboring County of Flanders, and a part of the Netherlands). The larger du Chastel family (or to use the Dutch form of its name: the *van den Casteel* family), of which the du Chastel de Blangerval family was merely a tiny twig, was found mainly in Artois and Flanders (which are today

parts of northern France and Belgium) and, to a lesser extent, in the Netherlands. Today, most members of the *Du Chastel* family live in Belgium and Switzerland, as well as in Canada (where the name is spelled *Duchastel*).

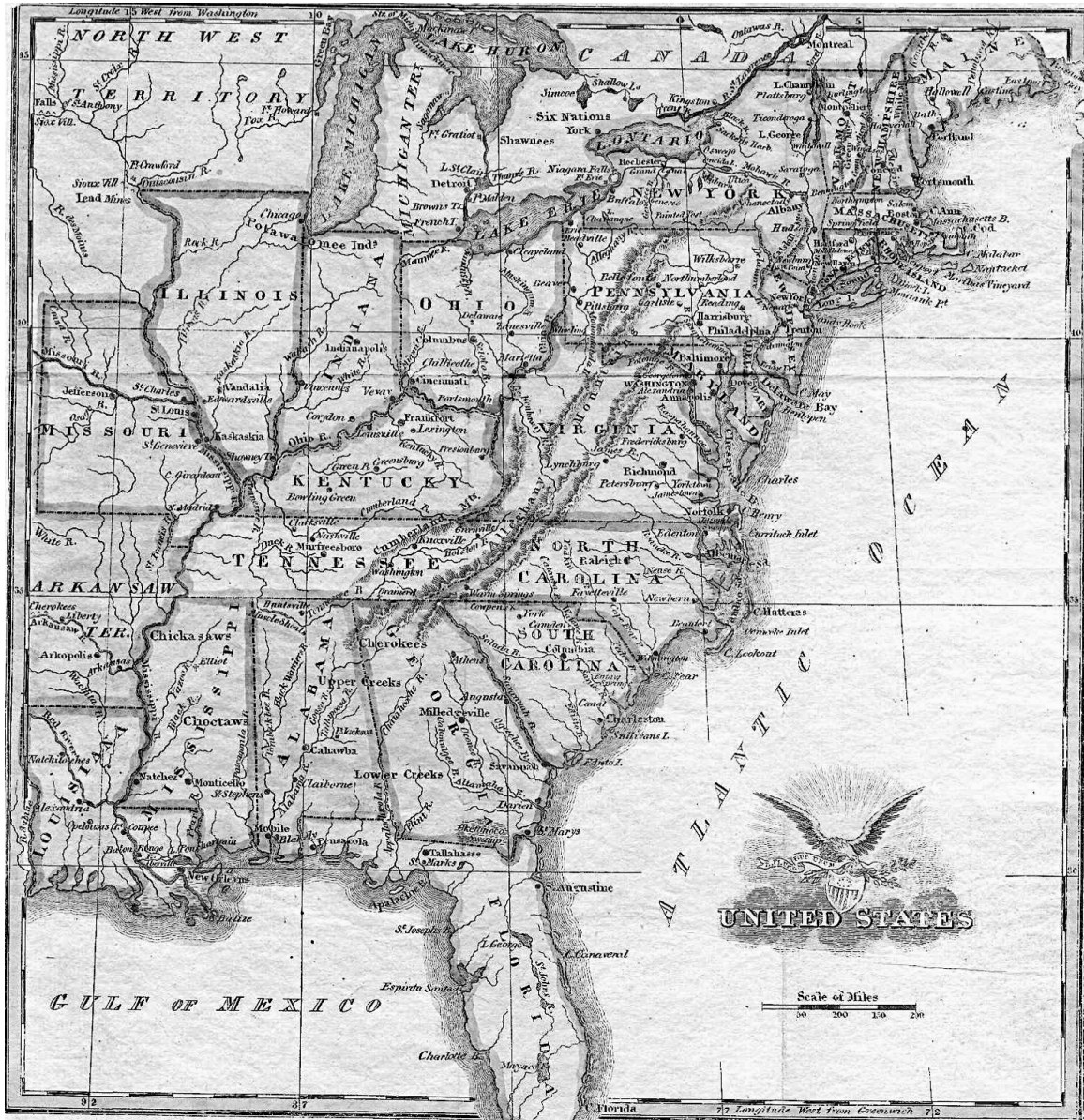
It is believed that most of the Casteel families in the United States are descended from Captain Edmond, but only some of those families have been lucky enough to be able to definitively trace their family tree back to the founder of the Casteel lineage in America. Without being able to identify Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents, there is no way we can know exactly how—or even *if*—we are descended from Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval of Philadelphia. So, that's one of the main reasons why it is so important to try to figure out who Henry's parents were, and why it is so frustrating that we can't.

But just because we have not yet found, and may never find, a faded old document that explicitly says, “Henry Montgomery Casteel of Limestone County, Alabama, is the son of *So-and-So* Casteel of *Such-and-Such* County, Tennessee,” does not mean that we can't use the information that is currently available to us in order to try to figure out who Henry's parents *might* have been. We may never be able to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, who his parents were, but we can at least try to narrow down the list of possible candidates and see which ones are the most likely suspects. That is exactly what I am going to attempt to do in this document.

I've been researching Henry Montgomery Casteel, off and on, for a long time; but I must admit that, here lately, it's been more off than on. But a few months ago, a new idea occurred to me about how to find Henry's parents. I knew I had to test my idea out immediately. But while I was doing so, another new idea occurred to me, then another, and before I knew it, I found myself in full research mode once again, spending hours at a time digging through census records, marriage records, land records, and online postings by other genealogists. But this time I was taking a completely new approach to my research, and it was starting to pay off. While I didn't discover the identity of Henry's parents or anything quite so dramatic, I did learn a great deal about the Casteel families of East Tennessee and their migrations to other parts of the country; I did figure out where Henry is most likely to have been born; and I did manage to identify those Casteels who *could potentially* have been Henry's parents, then narrow that list of names down to the few most likely candidates. So, even though I was not able to find ironclad proof of who Henry's parents were, I still feel that my findings are worth sharing. Even if they serve no other purpose, maybe they will at least give other Casteel family researchers some vital clues to go on.



The United States in 1817



The United States in 1830

Chapter 1 — Casteels in Tennessee in the 1830 Census

We know that Henry Montgomery Casteel was born in Tennessee around 1817 (or possibly as late as 1820). Unfortunately, we don't know where in Tennessee he was born, his exact date of birth, or who his parents were. But based on what limited information we do have, we can try to make a few educated guesses about where Henry might have been born and who his parents might have been.

The good news is that there weren't all that many Casteels in Tennessee around 1817, and they all appear to have been concentrated in just a handful of counties in the mountains East Tennessee—so Henry had to have come from one of these families in one of these counties. The bad news is that the information we have about these Casteels is very limited. All census records for East Tennessee before 1830 have been lost. Not only that, census records before 1850 did not list the names of anyone other than the head of each household, so Henry Montgomery Casteel is not listed by name in the 1830 census (when he would have been about 13 years old). However, the 1830 census does give the number of people in each household, broken down by sex and age bracket (given in five-year intervals up to age 20 and ten-year intervals thereafter). So, assuming that Henry and his family were living in Tennessee in 1830, we are looking for a Casteel family in Tennessee that, in the 1830 census, had a boy in the 10-15 year old age bracket. (Of course, we can't rule out the possibility that Henry's family was not living in Tennessee in 1830. We will explore this possibility a bit later. But for now, we will focus on the Casteel families who were still living in Tennessee when the 1830 census was taken.) Any family that does not have a boy in the 10-15 year old age bracket in 1830 can safely be eliminated from our consideration.

~ ~ ~

So, let's start by looking at the 1830 census.

Below are the census listings for the various Casteel families living in Tennessee in 1830, listed by county. The names given are the heads of each household, and the

numbers beneath each name indicate how many people are in each household, broken down by sex and age bracket, as follows:

[A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M||N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z]

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| A | = | number of free white males under the age of 5 |
| B | = | ... at least 5 years old but under the age of 10 |
| C | = | ... at least 10 years old but under the age of 15 |
| D | = | ... at least 15 years old but under the age of 20 |
| E | = | ... at least 20 years old but under the age of 30 |
| F | = | ... at least 30 years old but under the age of 40 |
| G | = | ... at least 40 years old but under the age of 50 |
| H | = | ... at least 50 years old but under the age of 60 |
| I | = | ... at least 60 years old but under the age of 70 |
| J | = | ... at least 70 years old but under the age of 80 |
| K | = | ... at least 80 years old but under the age of 90 |
| L | = | ... at least 90 years old but under the age of 100 |
| M | = | number of free white males 100 years old and up |
| — | | |
| N | = | number of free white females under the age of 5 |
| O | = | ... at least 5 years old but under the age of 10 |
| P | = | ... at least 10 years old but under the age of 15 |
| Q | = | ... at least 15 years old but under the age of 20 |
| R | = | ... at least 20 years old but under the age of 30 |
| S | = | ... at least 30 years old but under the age of 40 |
| T | = | ... at least 40 years old but under the age of 50 |
| U | = | ... at least 50 years old but under the age of 60 |
| V | = | ... at least 60 years old but under the age of 70 |
| W | = | ... at least 70 years old but under the age of 80 |
| X | = | ... at least 80 years old but under the age of 90 |
| Y | = | ... at least 90 years old but under the age of 100 |
| Z | = | number of free white females 100 years old and up |

(Please note that any slaves or free black persons in the household would be listed separately. But since none of the Casteel households found in the 1830 census for Tennessee included any slaves or free black persons, we can set aside, for the time being, the issue of how they are recorded on the 1830 census form and come back to it later when it becomes relevant.)

Here are the relevant census records:

Bedford County (*in Middle Tennessee*)

- Henry Castile *

[4|2|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||2|1|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

1 male between the ages of 10 and 15

(* It is possible that the name is actually spelled *Castell* instead of *Castile* on the original census form—it is often transcribed that way—though it looks more like *Castile* to me. The handwriting is not entirely clear. In later census records, however, his name is spelled *Casteel*.)

- John Castile *

[1|2|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||3|1|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 10 and 15 †

(* This name is definitely spelled *Castile* in the 1830 census. However, in later census records, it is spelled *Casteel*.)

(† While this census record shows no males between the ages of 10 and 15, other sources—including later census records—indicate that this family did have a son in this age range: Abraham Casteel, who was born around 1818. This should serve as a warning to us: Census records are not always 100% reliable, so we have to be extremely careful when drawing conclusions from them. Fortunately, this John Castile/Casteel left a will that listed all of his children, and our Henry Montgomery Casteel was not found among them. So we can safely eliminate this family from our consideration.)

[Please note that some transcriptions of the 1830 census for Bedford County also list a *Martin Castile* immediately after John Castile. However, this appears to be due to a transcription error. The name immediately after John Castile appears to be Martin *Collins*, though the handwriting is a bit difficult to make out. In either case, this Martin Collins (or Castile) has no sons in the 10-15 year age bracket.]

Knox County (in East Tennessee)

- Abednego Casteel
[-|-|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|3|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15

- Daniel Casteel
[1|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|2|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Francis Casteel
[-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

~

McMinn County (in East Tennessee)

- Alex. (Alexander) Casteel
[1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Edmond Casteel
[-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Elijah Casteel
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

Monroe County (in East Tennessee)

- Barney Casteel
[3|1|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Daniel Casteel
[-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
- Edward Casteel
[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

~

Rhea County (in East Tennessee)

- Andrew Casteel
[1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-||1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- David Casteel
[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Jno. (John) Casteel
[1|-|1|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15

... *Rhea County (continued)*

- Joseph Casteel

[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Morris Castele

[-|-|1|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|3|2|2|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15

~

Roane County (*in East Tennessee*)

- Zachariah Casteel

[-|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15

~

[Please note that some transcriptions of the 1830 census also list a *Dale Casteel* in Weakley County in West Tennessee. However, this appears to be a transcription error. Though the handwriting on the original census form is somewhat unclear, I am convinced that the actual name is *Duke Cantrell*. Note that there is a Duke Cantrell listed in the 1840 census for Weakley County.]

That leaves us with:

- Henry Castile (or Castell) of Bedford County in Middle Tennessee
- Jeremiah Castile of Greene County in East Tennessee
- Joseph Casteel of Jackson County in Middle Tennessee
- Abednego Casteel of Knox County in East Tennessee
- Barney Casteel of Monroe County in East Tennessee
- Daniel Casteel of Monroe County in East Tennessee
- Jno. (John) Casteel of Rhea County in East Tennessee
- Morris Castele of Rhea County in East Tennessee
- Zachariah Casteel of Roane County in East Tennessee

These are the only Casteels listed in the 1830 census for Tennessee who had sons in the right age range to have been our Henry Montgomery Casteel.

~ ~ ~

In order to further narrow down this list, we need to examine these same families in the 1840 census. We know that Henry Montgomery Casteel was already living in Limestone County, Alabama, by 1840, so he should not be found anywhere in the 1840 census for Tennessee. (His name does not appear in the 1840 census for Limestone County, Alabama, either—it's possible that he and his new bride were living with his father-in-law at the time—but we know from his marriage record that Henry was in Limestone County, Alabama, in 1840.) So we're looking for a Casteel family in Tennessee that had a 10-15 year old son in 1830 but that appears to be "missing" a 20-30 year old son in 1840.

Casteel who was born about 1823, and a son named *William Riley Casteel* who was born about 1824. I have not been able to find any of them anywhere in the 1840 census. However, all three appear in the 1850 census for Wayne County.

So, we have enough information about the family of this Henry Castile/Casteel of Bedford and Wayne Counties in Middle Tennessee to rule him out as the father of our Henry Montgomery Casteel.

I must admit that this is something of a disappointment, since I've always felt that the Henry Casteel of Wayne County was a very promising candidate to be Henry Montgomery Casteel's father, and not just because of his name. Wayne County, Tennessee, is actually quite close to Limestone County, Alabama—only about 30 miles apart, as the crow flies—and the terrain between them, though hilly, is not so rugged as to make routine visits back and forth infeasible. Plus there's the fact that two of Henry Montgomery Casteel's daughters—Ellen and Janie—moved to the small community of Iron City, Tennessee, after they married. Iron City lies right on the border between Wayne and Lawrence Counties in Tennessee (it used to be in Wayne County, but the county line was moved so that most of it is now in Lawrence County), just north of the Alabama state line, and only a few miles from where the Henry Casteel of Wayne County lived. Coincidence? Perhaps. But it was more than enough to make me suspect that these two Henry Casteels were somehow related. Perhaps they weren't father and son, but I still wouldn't be surprised if they turned out to be uncle and nephew.

~

Jeremiah Casteel (spelled *Castile* in the 1830 census) of Greene County

First, a reminder of his 1830 census record:

[- | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | -]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

He is still living in Greene County in 1840.

And here is his 1840 census record:

[1|1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

There is no need for us to investigate the family of Jeremiah Castile/Casteel any further, since the only son of his who is in the 10-15 year old age bracket in 1830 appears to still be living with him in 1840. So this unidentified son is unlikely to be our Henry Montgomery Casteel.

However, just out of curiosity, I wanted to see if I could figure out who this son of Jeremiah Casteel was. So, after examining later census records and consulting various other sources, I believe that this has to be Jeremiah's son *William Casteel*, who was born sometime between 1814 and 1819 (sources vary).

~

Joseph Casteel of Jackson County

First, a reminder of his 1830 census record:

[1|1|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|1|-|1|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

He is still living in Jackson County in 1840.

And here is his 1840 census record:

[-|-|1|1|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

Just as with Jeremiah Casteel above, we can safely rule out Joseph Casteel as the father of our Henry Montgomery Casteel, since the only son of Joseph Casteel who is in the right age range to be Henry is still living with his parents in 1840.

But, once again, just out of curiosity, I wanted to try to identify this son of Joseph Casteel if I could. Based on later census records, the most likely candidate appears to be a *Joseph Casteel* who was born around 1819. While we can't be absolutely certain that this younger Joseph Casteel was the son of the elder Joseph Casteel of Jackson County, Tennessee, we can be reasonably confident that the elder Joseph Casteel was not the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

~

Abednego Casteel

First, a reminder of his 1830 census record from Knox County:

[-|-|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|3|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 2 between the ages of 15 and 20)

In the 1840 census he and his family can be found living in Blount County (also in East Tennessee), which borders Knox County.

Here is the 1840 census record for Abednego Casteel* from Blount County:

[-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

(* Please note that some sources mistakenly transcribe this name as *Cartret*. Although the handwriting on the original census form is a bit difficult to read, it definitely says *Casteel*.)

In the 1830 census, the Abednego Casteel family had one boy between the ages of 10 and 15, and two between the ages of 15 and 20. All three of these boys would be in the 20 to 30 year old age bracket in 1840. However, the 1840 census shows only one male in this age bracket living with Abednego Casteel.

However, also living in Blount County in 1840 is a *James Casteel*.*

(* Please note that this name is often mistranscribed as *Castrel*. The handwriting on the census form is a bit hard to read, but I believe that the name is actually meant to be *Casteel*.)

Here is his census record:

[2|-|-|2|-|-|-|-|-||2|1|-|-|2|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 20 and 30

From other sources, we know that Abednego Casteel did indeed have a son named *James Monroe Casteel* who was born in Tennessee around 1812. Assuming that this is him—and we really have no reason not to, since there are no other Casteel families living in Blount County at the time—then it would appear that all three of Abednego Casteel’s sons who were between the ages of 20 and 30 in 1840 are accounted for. But just to be on the safe side, let us look at the 1850 census and see if we can identify these two other sons.

James Monroe Casteel and his family are living in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in 1850. (They would later migrate to Illinois.) But the rest of the family is still in Blount County. Abednego Casteel appears to have died sometime before 1850, but his widow, Agnes, can be found in the 1850 census for Blount County, along with several of her children. We are fortunate that, starting with the 1850 census, the names and ages of each member of the household are listed. Of interest to us are *Benjamin Casteel*, age 32, and *George W. Casteel*, age 30. (George is living with his widowed mother, so we can be pretty sure that this is one of Abednego Casteel’s sons.) Either of these two men could have been the 10-15 year son of Abednego Casteel listed in the 1830 census, so we can safely rule out Abednego Casteel as the father of our Henry Montgomery Casteel.

Barney Casteel

First, a reminder of his 1830 census record from Monroe County, Tennessee:

[3|1|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||1|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 2 more between the ages of 15 and 20)

In the 1840 census, he and his family can be found in Cherokee County, North Carolina (which borders Monroe County, Tennessee).

Here is the 1840 census record for Barney Casteel from Cherokee County, NC:

[-|2|2|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||1|-|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 20 and 30

But, in addition to the sons living in the Barney Casteel household, there are two other Casteel households listed immediately after the Barney Casteel household in the 1840 census for Cherokee County, North Carolina:

- *Edward Casteel** (who was born around 1811, according to the 1850 census)

[-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-||2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

(* Please note that this is not the same *Edward Casteel* who was listed as living in Monroe County, Tennessee, in the 1830 census. That Edward Casteel can still be found living in Monroe County in the 1840 census.)

- *Henry Casteel* (who was born around 1815, according to the 1850 census)

[-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-||1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

So, all four of Barney's sons who were between the ages of 10 and 20 in the 1830 census are accounted for in the 1840 census.

But one of Barney Casteel's sons is named *Henry*. Is it possible that this could be our Henry Montgomery Casteel? No. This Henry Casteel—*Henry L. Casteel*, according to the 1850 census—ended up in Georgia, along with the rest of Barney Casteel's family, and can be found in census records there.

As for Barney Casteel's other two sons who were in the 20-30 year old age range in 1840, based on information from various sources, I have been able to identify them as *Allen Casteel* (who was born in Tennessee around 1815) and *Alexander Willis Casteel* (who was born in Tennessee around 1818).

~

Daniel Casteel of Monroe County

First, a reminder of his 1830 census record:

[|-|1|1|_|-|-|1|_|-|-|_|-|-|2|2|1|_|-|1|_|-|-|_|]

1 male between the ages of 10 and 15

(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

He is still living in Monroe County in 1840.

And here is his 1840 census record:

[|-|-|1|1|_|-|1|_|-|-|_|-|-|1|_|-|1|_|-|-|_|]

1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

Since the only son of this Daniel Casteel who was between the ages of 10 and 20 in 1830 is apparently still living with him in 1840, we can be fairly confident that he is not our Henry Montgomery Casteel.

Here is the 1840 census record for M. Casteel from DeKalb County, AL:

[1|2|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

In 1830, Morris Castele of Roane County, TN, had two boys in the 10-20 year old age bracket, but in 1840, M. Casteel of DeKalb County, AL, has only one son in the 20-30 year old age bracket. There is no information in the 1840 census that would help us to identify either of these two sons—the one who is still living with the M. Casteel family or the one who is “missing” from the census record.

Unfortunately, the 1850 census records for the Morris Casteel family in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, provide us with little additional information. We learn that Morris, his wife Sarah, and the two oldest children who are still living with them (ages 18 and 20) are all from Tennessee, while their three youngest children (ages 8, 13, and 15) were all born in Alabama. But we don't learn anything about their two oldest sons who are no longer living with them, except that they were most likely born in Tennessee.

But, fortunately, census records are not the only source of information we have about the Morris Casteel family. Based on a variety of sources, which I have had to piece together like a jigsaw puzzle, I believe that it's possible to identify Morris Casteel's two oldest sons as *Dr. Samuel Eddings Casteel* and *Abraham Calloway Casteel*. Samuel Eddings Casteel was born in East Tennessee in 1813 and died in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, in 1885. Abraham Calloway Casteel was born in East Tennessee in 1817 and died in Forrest City, St. Francis County, Arkansas, in 1901. I will not belabor you with all of the evidence I found which led me to conclude that these were Morris Casteel's oldest sons. I'll just note that I am now firmly convinced that Morris Casteel could not have been the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

This revelation will surely come as a great disappointment to many Casteel family researchers, because Morris Casteel's name has been mentioned perhaps more than any other over the years as a possible candidate for Henry's father. This is largely because he lived for a time in DeKalb County, Alabama, before moving his family to Pontotoc County, Mississippi, presumably passing through Limestone County, Alabama, along the way. Personally, I never found the case for Morris Casteel as Henry's father all that persuasive to begin with, but now I am fully persuaded that Morris Casteel is definitely *not* the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

Zachariah Casteel of Roane County

First, a reminder of his 1830 census record:

[-|2|1|_|-|1|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|2|_|-|1|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

It is believed that Zachariah Casteel died before 1840, so he does not appear in the 1840 census. However, a tax list from 1836 places him in Hamilton County in the southernmost part of East Tennessee, and census records do show a *Rebecca Casteel* and family living in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in 1840. We know from marriage records and other sources that Zachariah Casteel's wife was named Rebecca, and this Rebecca Casteel in Hamilton County is in the right age range to be Zachariah Casteel's widow (she is in the 30-40 age bracket in 1840; Zachariah Casteel's wife was in the 20-30 age bracket in 1830), so this almost certainly has to be Zachariah Casteel's widow.

Here is the 1840 census record for Rebecca Casteel in Hamilton County:

[1|1|1|1|1|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|1|2|1|_|-|1|_|-|_|-|_|-|_|-|]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

The son of Zachariah and Rebecca Casteel who was between the ages of 10 and 15 in 1830 appears to still be living with his mother in 1840. That pretty much rules Zachariah Casteel as a possible candidate for Henry Montgomery Casteel's father.

Unfortunately, I have had no luck tracking down who this son of Zachariah and Rebecca Casteel was or what became of him. Based on a variety of sources, I have managed to identify their two youngest sons: *James Madison Casteel* (b. 1833, d. 1912) and *William Daniel Casteel* (b. 1837, d. 1917). Both of these brothers settled in Iron County, Missouri, by no later than 1860, where they died and are buried. But I have not yet been able to identify or track down any of Zachariah and Rebecca Casteel's other children. Nonetheless, we can be fairly certain that Henry Montgomery Casteel was not among them.

~ ~ ~

Okay, so where do we now stand? On the assumption that Henry Montgomery Casteel would have been living with his parents in Tennessee in 1830, we looked at every Casteel family listed in the 1830 census for Tennessee, and by comparing their census records from 1830 with their census records from 1840 (when Henry was living in Limestone County, Alabama), we were able to eliminate all of them as candidates to be Henry's family.

So, does this mean that we have accomplished nothing? No. At the very least, we have been able to demonstrate that Henry Montgomery Casteel was probably *not* living in Tennessee in 1830. But where could he (and his family) have been living in 1830?

Chapter 2 — Casteels in Alabama and Arkansas in the 1830 Census

The obvious first place to look is North Alabama, where Henry would eventually settle. But according to the 1830 census, there is only one Casteel family living in North Alabama (or, in fact, anywhere in Alabama) at this time: the *R.W. Castell* family, in Lauderdale County. At first glance, this appears to be a promising lead. Lauderdale County lies immediately to the west of Limestone County—in fact, the county line is only three miles from where Henry Montgomery Casteel’s farm would eventually be.

But once we look at the 1830 census record for this R.W. Castell, we can find no trace of Henry:

The R.W. Castell family in the 1830 census for Lauderdale County, Alabama:

[2|5|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-] slaves: [1|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|-]*
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
(or between the ages of 15 and 20)

* This is the first Casteel family we have encountered that owned slaves. Unfortunately, it will not be the last. So we need to take a brief moment to discuss how slaves were listed in the 1830 census. As with free whites, the number of slaves in a household was broken down by sex and age bracket. However, the age brackets that were used for slaves were different from those used for free whites. Here is how slaves are recorded in the 1830 census:

[males <10|10-24|24-36|36-55|55-100|100+||females <10|10-24|24-36|36-55|55-100|100+]

Please note that, if there are any free black persons living in the household, they are enumerated by sex and age bracket in the same manner as slaves, though they are listed separately.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any other census records for this R.W. Castell family, so it is not known what became of them. (Later in this chapter we will encounter an *R.W. Casteel* family living in Arkansas, but that R.W. Casteel is too young to be the same person as this R.W. Castell, nor does it appear likely that they were father and son.) It certainly seems reasonable for us to suspect that this R.W. Castell of Lauderdale County, Alabama, might have been related to our Henry Montgomery Casteel in some way, but we just don't have any evidence to suggest what that relationship might have been. So, for now at least, the identity of this R.W. Casteel and the other members of his family remains a mystery.

~ ~ ~

Before we move on, there is one more thing that we need to discuss about Casteels in Alabama. While the R.W. Casteel family appear to have been the only Casteels in the state in 1830, there were a few others living there in 1840 (including, as we have already seen, the family of Morris Casteel in DeKalb County). In fact, if we look at the 1840 census, we can actually find a Casteel family living in Limestone County, Alabama—and it is *not* the family of Henry Montgomery Casteel! (We know from their marriage record that Henry Montgomery Casteel and his bride, Elizabeth “Betty” Jane Hicks Casteel, were living in Limestone County in 1840, but they are not listed in the census. I suspect—but can't prove—that they were living with Betty's father at the time.) While we don't find a listing for a Henry Montgomery Casteel in Limestone County in the 1840 census, we do find one for a *Jno (John) Casteel* and family. Here it is:

- Jno Casteel

[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

So, this John Casteel was between 20 and 30 years old; he had a wife who was also in her 20s; and they had three children—two girls and a boy—all under the age of 5. We can find an 1833 marriage record from neighboring Lauderdale County for a *John Casteel* to an *Elizabeth Guest* (or *Gess*). This almost certainly has to be them. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find this John and Elizabeth Casteel in any other records. Consequently, I don't know anything else about them. So, I don't know how this John Casteel is related to the Casteels of East Tennessee, if at all; nor do I know how he might be related to our Henry Montgomery Casteel. I suspect that he might have been Henry's brother, especially since it looks like he lived very near to where Henry's farm would eventually be. But I can't prove it.

So, if we haven't been able to find Henry's family in either Tennessee or Alabama in 1830, where should we look next? I would suggest Arkansas. Why? Because a number of Casteel families migrated from East Tennessee to Arkansas in the early 1800s. In fact, many of the Casteel families we have already looked at ended up in Arkansas (or in neighboring states, such as Mississippi or Missouri) before the end of the 19th century. But there is evidence that at least a few Casteel families made the trip from East Tennessee to the Arkansas Territory in the 1820s, so we need to examine the Casteels found in the 1830 census for the Arkansas Territory and see if we can find any promising candidates.

~ ~ ~

Fortunately, there are only seven Casteel households listed in the 1830 census for the Arkansas Territory, all of them living in St. Francis County (which is not far from Memphis, Tennessee). Here they are:

- John Casteel (the elder) of Franks Township
 [-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-] *slaves: [2|1|1|-|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-]* *
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
 (or between the ages of 15 and 20)
 [* plus 1 free black male between the ages of 24 and 36]

- Moses Casteel of Franks Township
 [1|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
 (and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Philip Casteel of Franks Township
 [1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
 (and 1 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- James Casteel of Union Township
 [-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
 (or between the ages of 15 and 20)

- John Casteel (the younger) of Union Township
 [1|-|2|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 10 and 15
 (and 2 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Washington Casteel of Union Township
 [-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
 (or between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Willis Casteel of Union Township
 [1|1|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|2|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 10 and 15
 (and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

~ ~ ~

It is reasonable to assume that these are all members of a single, extended family, though the exact relationship between them cannot be established based on 1830 census records alone.

Note that John Casteel (the elder) would have been born sometime between 1760 and 1770, John (the younger), Philip, and Willis between 1780 and 1790, Moses between 1790 and 1800, and James and Washington between 1800 and 1810.

According to various sources, these Casteel families migrated from East Tennessee to St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, sometime between 1825 and 1828. So it is quite possible that Henry Montgomery Casteel, who would have been around ten years old at the time, could have been among them. Other Casteels from East Tennessee—including some we have already met—would join them there later.

~ ~ ~

Now let us take a look at the 1840 census records for all of the Casteel families in Arkansas (which is now a state). Most of them are once again found in St. Francis County, though now there are a few Casteels living in other Arkansas counties.

St. Francis County

- Jemima Casteel* of Franks Township
 [---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|1|---] slaves: [---|1|---|---|1|---|1|---] †
no males between the ages of 20 and 30
 (* This has to be the widow of the elder John Casteel.)
 [† plus one free black male between the ages of 36 and 55]

- John Casteel (the younger) of Franks Township
 [---|1|1|---|2|---|1|---|---|---|---|---|1|---|---|1|---|---|---|---]
2 males between the ages of 20 and 30

- J.W. Casteel of Franks Township
 [---|---|---|1|---|---|---|---|---|---|1|---|1|---|---|---|---|---|---]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

... *St. Francis County (continued)*

- Philip Casteel of Franks Township

[1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 20 and 30

- Moses Casteel (the younger)* of Franks Township

[-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]

1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

(* This Moses Casteel is too young to be the same Moses Casteel who was listed in the 1830 census. Presumably, it is his son or his nephew.)

- James Casteel of Union Township

[-|2|-|1|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- Willis Casteel of Union Township

[1|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 20 and 30

~

Crittenden County (which bordered St. Francis County to the east)

- George* W. Castteele

[|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-] slaves: [-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 20 and 30

(* The first name is hard to read on the original census form because of the barely legible handwriting, but it looks quite similar to the name *George* as it is written elsewhere on the same page, so I am pretty sure the name is meant to be *George*.)

Phillips County (which then bordered St. Francis County to the south)

- Madison Castele

[2|-|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

~

Union County (quite some distance from St. Francis County)

- A. Casteel

[2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

~ ~ ~

Okay, let's try to sort all of this out. First of all, the elder John Casteel appears to have died sometime between 1830 and 1840; so his widow, Jemima, is listed in the 1840 census in his stead. But the younger John Casteel is still living, as are James, Philip, and Willis Casteel. There is also a listing for a Moses Casteel, but he is too young to be the same Moses Casteel we saw in the 1830 census. One assumes that it must be either his son or his nephew. But where is the older Moses Casteel and the rest of his family? I can find no trace of them anywhere in the 1840 census, so this is a mystery that needs to be solved.

We also now have a J.W. Casteel who was not listed in the 1830 census. Based on information from various sources, I have determined that this is *John W. Casteel*, but I have not yet been able to identify who his father was—though presumably it was either John (the younger), Philip, Moses (the elder), or Willis Casteel.

Washington Casteel, who can be found in the 1830 census, appears to be missing from the 1840 census. However, I'm not so sure that he is. Permit me to indulge in a bit of speculation for a moment. Let's suppose, for the sake of argument, that Washington Casteel's full name was actually *George Washington Casteel*. Might we not, then, suspect that Washington Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, as listed in the 1830 census, just might be the same person as George W. Casteele of neighboring Crittenden County, Arkansas, as listed in the 1840 census? We just might. And when we compare the ages of Washington Casteel and his wife from the 1830 census with the ages of George W. Casteele and his wife from the 1840 census, we notice a definite correspondence. Does this prove that they are, in fact, the same people? No. But it does give us reason to suspect that they might be.

Then we've got a Madison Casteele who lives in Phillips County (which, in those days, was just south of St. Francis County). Clearly he is a part of this extended Casteel family, because Madison Casteel and his family can be found in the 1850 census living in St. Francis County, Arkansas. Presumably, he is the son of either John (the younger), Philip, Moses (the elder), or Willis Casteel, though it is just not possible to determine which without additional information.

Finally, there is an A. Casteel who lives far away from all the others—way down in Union County, Arkansas, in the southernmost part of the state, on the border with Louisiana. Some unverified sources suggest that this is *Abraham Calloway Casteel*—not the Abraham Calloway Casteel who was the son of Morris Casteel, but rather his uncle (Morris Casteel's younger brother), who he was named after. This older Abraham Calloway Casteel would end up settling in Missouri, whereas his nephew, the younger Abraham Calloway Casteel, would settle in Arkansas (as we will see below). Nonetheless, no one in his household falls into the 20-30 year old age bracket, so he can safely be ignored for now.

~ ~ ~

Okay, now that we've (more or less) sorted out who's who among the Arkansas Casteels of 1830 and 1840, let's compare the census records for these families in 1830 with their census records in 1840 and see if this tells us anything.

According to the census, there were six Casteel males between the ages of 10 and 15 living in the Arkansas Territory in 1830, plus an additional three between the ages of 15 and 20, for a total of *nine* between the ages of 10 and 20:

- John Casteel (the younger)
 - [1|-|2|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
 - 2 males between the ages of 10 and 15*
 - (and 2 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Moses Casteel (the elder)
 - [1|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
 - 1 male between the ages of 10 and 15*
 - (and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Philip Casteel
 - [1|-|1|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
 - 1 male between the ages of 10 and 15*
 - (and 1 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Willis Casteel
 - [1|1|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|2|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
 - 2 males between the ages of 10 and 15*
 - (and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

So, that means that we should expect to find nine Casteel males between the ages of 20 and 30 in the 1840 census. How many do we actually find in the census? Five in St. Francis County, plus one in Phillips County that we should probably also count, for a total of *six*.

- James Casteel
 [-|2|-|1|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- John Casteel (the younger)
 [-|1|1|-|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 20 and 30

- J. (John) W. Casteel
 [-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- Moses Casteel (the younger)
 [-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- Madison Castele (in Phillips County)
 [2|-|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

That means that *three* Casteel males between the ages of 20 and 30 are “missing” from the 1840 census for Arkansas. What could have become of them? Before we begin to speculate, let’s try to find out as much as we can about these young Casteel men based on the available census records.

The 1850 census is extremely valuable because it is the first census that lists the names of each member of the household (not just the head of each household), it is the first census that gives the precise age for each member of the household (not just an age bracket), and it is the first census that gives the place of birth for each member of the household. So, what do we learn from the 1850 census records for the Casteel families of Arkansas?

First of all, we discover that *James Casteel* (who is listed as a head of household in both the 1830 and the 1840 census) was born in Tennessee around 1805, and that his wife's name is *Elizabeth* (she was born in North Carolina around 1805).

We also find a *Charlotte Casteel* listed who was born in 1801 in South Carolina. She appears to be widowed. We know from Blount County, Tennessee, marriage records that she was the wife of Philip Casteel.

But right now we are concerned only with the Casteel men who would have been between the ages of 20 and 30 in 1840—*i.e.* those who were born between about 1810 and 1820. And here they are:

- *Madison Casteel* was born in Tennessee in about 1813
- *R.W. (Robert Wiley) Casteel* was born in Tennessee in about 1816
- *(J.) Ezra Casteel* was born in Tennessee in about 1818
- *James W. (Wiley) Casteel* was born in Tennessee in about 1818
- *Calloway Casteel* was born in Tennessee in about 1819
- *John W. Casteel* was born in Tennessee in about 1820

In addition to this information from the 1850 census, there is a marriage record for *Moses Casteel* (the younger) that establishes his year of birth as about 1818. He is not listed in the 1850 census, and it is unclear what became of him.

Here is a bit more about a few of these men, gleaned from various sources:

R.W. (Robert Wiley) Casteel

Although he is listed as *R.W. Casteel* in the 1850 census, other sources give his full name as *Robert Wiley Casteel*. Despite the similarity of the name, this R.W. Casteel is too young to have been the R.W. Castell who was living in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in 1830, nor did that R.W. Castell have a son in the right age bracket to have been this R.W. Casteel. However, both of these men were slave owners, whereas most of the Casteels we have looked at thus far were not.

(J.) Ezra Casteel

Most sources, including the 1850 census, just list his name as *Ezra Casteel*, but a few (unverified) sources give his name as *J. Ezra Casteel*.

James W. (Wiley) Casteel

Although he is listed as *James W. Casteel* in the 1850 census, other (unverified) sources give his full name as *James Wiley Casteel*.

Calloway Casteel

This *Calloway Casteel* is actually *Abraham Calloway Casteel*, the son (not the brother) of Morris Casteel. According to his obituary, Calloway Casteel arrived in St. Francis County, Arkansas, from Alabama in 1848, so he can't be one of the young Casteel men from the 1840 census. However, the fact that he settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas, is a good indication that he—and therefore his father, Morris Casteel—must have been closely related to the Casteels that migrated from East Tennessee to Arkansas in the 1820s. (Note that, while the 1850 census gives his year of birth as 1819, other sources give it as 1817 or 1818.) In any event, we can exclude him from any further consideration.

Now that we have this information, what conclusions can we draw? In the 1830 census, we had six Casteel boys between the ages of 10 and 15 and three between the ages of 15 and 20, for a total of *nine* between the ages of 10 and 20, living in the Arkansas Territory. In the 1840 census we had six Casteel men between the ages of 20 and 30 living in the state of Arkansas. We can now identify those six men as:

- Madison Casteel (b. c.1813) [in the 15-20 age bracket in 1830]
- Robert Wiley Casteel (b. c.1816) [in the 10-15 age bracket in 1830]
- J. Ezra Casteel (b. c.1818) [in the 10-15 age bracket in 1830]
- James Wiley Casteel (b. c.1818) [in the 10-15 age bracket in 1830]
- Moses Casteel (b. c.1818) [in the 10-15 age bracket in 1830]
- John W. Casteel (b. c.1820) [in the 10-15 age bracket in 1830]

So, we are still missing two Casteel men who would have been born between 1810 and 1815 and one who would have been born between 1815 and 1820. Might the youngest of these have been our Henry Montgomery Casteel? Possibly. But let's not jump to conclusions just yet. We still need a lot more information before we can say anything with confidence. Unfortunately, much of the information that I have been able to dig up thus far about the Arkansas Casteels is either speculative, unverified, or contradictory.

For example, one unverified source claims that J. Ezra Casteel is the son of a *John Henry Casteel, Jr.* (presumably our John Casteel the younger) who is the son of a *John Henry Casteel, Sr.* (John Casteel the elder) who is the son of a *Zachariah Casteel* (not the one we looked at earlier from Roane County, Tennessee, but an older relative of his—perhaps his grandfather). But this doesn't jibe with another unverified source which claims that John Henry Casteel, Sr. (our John the elder) is really the son of a *John Casteel* (not Zachariah Casteel), and that his son, John Henry Casteel, Jr. is not our John the younger but is actually the Henry Casteel who lives in Wayne County, Tennessee (who we met earlier).

Here's the interesting part: *Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, really was the son of John Casteel (the elder) of St. Francis County, Arkansas!* He is mentioned by name in the death records of both John Casteel (the elder) and his widow, Jemima Casteel. Jemima even refers to him as "my son, Henry Casteel, of the County of Wayne, in the State of Tennessee: he being my eldest son." You can't get much clearer than that.

But other (as yet unverified) sources give the full names of the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, as *John Henry Casteel, Sr.* and *John Henry Casteel, Jr.* So, did John Henry Casteel, Sr. really name two of his sons *Henry*? Or did he perhaps name two of his sons *John*? Or are the sources I have come across simply too unreliable for us to trust them at all?

At this point, without additional documentary evidence, it is virtually impossible for us to figure out who's who among the Arkansas Casteels, and to separate fact from speculation in the available sources. But there is at least one conclusion that we can draw from the census records we have: Three Casteel men, born between 1810 and 1820 (two of them born between 1810 and 1815 and one between 1815 and 1820), who are found in the 1830 census, are "missing" from the 1840 census. Might the youngest of these three men be our Henry Montgomery Casteel? We can't rule it out. But without further evidence, we have no grounds to draw any firm conclusions.

Chapter 3 — Casteels in Other States in the 1830 Census

Before we try to find that evidence, let's take just a moment, in the interest of due diligence, to consider those Casteel families who were living outside of Tennessee, Alabama, and the Arkansas Territory in 1830. While it doesn't seem likely, it is at least possible that one of these could have been Henry's family. According to census records, there were Casteel families living in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (including what would later become West Virginia) in 1830. Let us now take a brief look at each of these families, grouping them by state:

Illinois

- Francis Castile of Madison County
[2|-|-|2|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Elijah Casteel of Pike County
[1|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Jacob Casteel of Pike County
[1|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

... *Illinois (continued)*

- Eli Casteel of Pope County
[1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 1 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- William Castille of Randolph County
[1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

~

Indiana

- Elijah Casteel of Delaware County
[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- John Casteel of Delaware County
[1|-|1|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 2 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- William Casteel of Delaware County
[1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Nathan Casteel of Fountain County
[-|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

... *Indiana (continued)*

- George Casteel of Fountain County
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- John Casteel of Fountain County
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Abraham Casteel of Perry County
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Edward Caststeel of Putnam County
[-|1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

~

Kentucky

- Abram Casteel of Caldwell County
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- John Casteel of Jessamine County
[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- William Castile of Pike County
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

... *Kentucky (continued)*

- Augustes Castille (or Castillo) of Pulaski County
[-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

[Note that there is a listing in Scott County, Kentucky, for a *Thomas B. Catlett* followed immediately by a *Winnefred(?) Catlett*. Due to the faded and illegible handwriting, these names can easily be mistaken for *Castell*, though later census records make it clear that the name is actually *Catlett*.]

~

Louisiana

- Alexandre Castille of Lafayette Parish
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-] *slaves:* [1|3|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Francois Castille of St. Landry Parish
[-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-] *slaves:* [-|-|4|4|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Jean B. Castille, *père** of St. Landry Parish
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-] *slaves:* [8|6|6|3|1|-|6|4|7|3|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Jean B. Castille, *fil*s* of St. Landry Parish
[-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-] *slaves:* [-|2|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

(* Note that the census taker has apparently mixed up *père* with *fil*s.)

... *Louisiana (continued)*

- Jarvais Castille of St. Martin Parish
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-] slaves: [1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Joseph Castille (*père*) of St. Martin Parish
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-] slaves: [3|2|1|3|1|-|3|1|2|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Joseph Castille, *fils* of St. Martin Parish
[1|3|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-] slaves: [1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
- Joseph Castille* of St. Martin Parish
[1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-] slaves: [1|2|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
(* This Joseph Castille is found on a different page of the census form from the other two Joseph Castilles, *père* and *fils*.)
- Zenon Castille of St. Martin Parish
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-] slaves: [-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

~

Maryland

- Ach'd (Archibald) Casteel of Allegany County
[-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

... *Maryland (continued)*

- Nath'l (Nathaniel) Casteel of Allegany County
[1|2|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 2 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Thomas Casteel of Allegany County
[-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Thomas Casteel, Jnr. of Allegany County
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Margaret Castells of Baltimore County
[-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

~

Missouri

- Joseph Casteel of Clay County
[1|1|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 2 between the ages of 15 and 20)

... *Missouri (continued)*

- Shadrach* Casteel of Cooper County

[1|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|1|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 10 and 15

(* The actual spelling of the name on the census form is not clear due to barely legible handwriting, though it appears to be spelled *Shedrick*.)

[An interesting side note: According to other sources, this Shadrach Casteel is the brother of Daniel and Abednego Casteel of Knox County, Tennessee, who we've already looked at. Apparently, they had another brother named Meshach Casteel, though it isn't clear what became of him.]

~

New York

- Bartholomew Castille of New York County

[-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- John Castell of New York County

[-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 10 and 15

~

Ohio

- Solomon Castile of Clermont County

[2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

no males between the ages of 10 and 15

... *Ohio (continued)*

- John C. Castell of Harrison County
[-|-|2|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Meshach Casteel of Knox County
[3|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Arch'd (Archibald) Casteel, Sen. of Licking County
[-|-|1|3|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Arch'd (Archibald) Casteel, Jun., of Licking County
[2|1|3|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
3 males between the ages of 10 and 15
(and none between the ages of 15 and 20)

- John Casteel of Muskingum County
[1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

- Phebe Casteel of Muskingum County
[-|1|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 1 between the ages of 15 and 20)

- James Casteel of Wayne County
[2|2|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15

... *Virginia (continued)*

- Jeremiah Casteel of Preston County (which is now in West Virginia)
[1|2|1|1|3|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|]
1 male between the ages of 10 and 15
(and 1 between the ages of 15 and 20)

~ ~ ~

So, it seems that the only Casteel families in the 1830 census outside of Tennessee and the Arkansas Territory with sons in the same age bracket as Henry are:

- Eli Casteel of Pope County, Illinois
- John Casteel of Delaware County, Indiana
- Nathan Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana
- Nathaniel Casteel of Allegany County, Maryland
- Margaret Castells of Baltimore County, Maryland
- Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri
- Joseph Castile of Clermont County, Ohio
- Thomas Casteel of Coshocton County, Ohio
- John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio
- Archibald Casteel, Jr. of Licking County, Ohio
- Phebe Casteel of Muskingum County, Ohio
- Samuel Casteel of Beaver County, Pennsylvania
- John Casteel of Norfolk County, Virginia
- Jeremiah Casteel of Preston County (West) Virginia

Let's now see if we can eliminate any of these names.

Eli Casteel of Pope County, Illinois

Recall that in the 1830 census he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

By 1840, he and his family had moved to Benton County, Tennessee.

Here is his 1840 census record:

[1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|2|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

Certain (unverified) sources suggest that Eli Casteel was from Tennessee, so we can't rule him out as a possible candidate for Henry Montgomery Casteel's father.

~

John Casteel of Delaware County, Indiana

Recall that, in the 1830 census, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

Quite a bit is known about this family from various sources, including the names and birth years of several of their children; however the identity of this particular son is unknown. Nonetheless, since there is no evidence that this family was ever in the state of Tennessee, we can safely rule out this particular John Casteel as the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

~

Nathan Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana

Recall that, in the 1830 census, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

Quite a lot is known about this Nathan (*a.k.a. Nathaniel*) Casteel from various sources. Unfortunately, these sources do not provide the identity of his son who was between the ages of 10 and 15 in 1830. However, these sources do show that the family of Nathan Casteel was living in Ohio, not Tennessee, at the time of his birth. So we can safely rule out Nathan Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana, as a candidate for Henry Montgomery Casteel's father.

~

Nathaniel Casteel of Allegany County, Maryland

Recall that, in the 1830 census, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15, and two between the ages of 15 and 20. So, in 1840, he should have three sons in the 20-30 age bracket.

Here is his census record from 1840:

[|-|1|2|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

But living not far away in the same county is a *Jesse Casteel*:

[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

Assuming that Jesse is Nathaniel's son, then that accounts for two of Nathaniel's three sons in the 20-30 year old range. But what about the third? I haven't been able to find him in the 1840 census, but in the 1850 census we find entries for two Casteel men in the right age range:

- Nathaniel Casteel (b. 1814)
- Meshack Casteel (b. 1815)

Again, we can't be sure that these are the sons of Nathaniel Casteel (the elder), but if they are, that would account for all three of his sons who were in the same broad age range as Henry Montgomery Casteel. Besides, it does not appear that Nathaniel Casteel (the elder) or any member of his family was ever in Tennessee.

Margaret Castells of Baltimore County, Maryland

Recall that in the 1830 census she had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any information about this Margaret Castells other than her 1830 census record. She is not listed in the 1840 census. There is a *Margaret Cassels* living in Baltimore County, Maryland, in 1840, but she appears to be too young to be the same person as this Margaret Castells.

So, unless we are able to find some more information about this Margaret Castells of Baltimore County, Maryland, we can't definitively rule her out as a possible (if unlikely) candidate for Henry Montgomery Casteel's mother. But, to be honest, my instincts tell me that it would probably be a waste of time and effort to try to find out more about this Margaret Castells. It seems implausible that Henry, who we know was born in Tennessee, would have been living in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1830, but would end up in Limestone County, Alabama, by 1840.

~

Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri

Recall that, in the 1830 census, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15 and two sons between the ages of 15 and 20.

In the 1840 census, the Joseph Casteel family is no longer living in Clay County, Missouri, but in neighboring Clinton County.

Here is his census record from 1840:

[-|2|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

However, on the same page of the census we find:

- Alex. (Alexander) Casteel
[-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- David Casteel

[1] 1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

Note that, according to the 1850 census, David Casteel was born around 1811 in Tennessee. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find Alexander Casteel (at least not this particular one) in any census records after 1840, so I cannot determine his year of birth more precisely than somewhere between 1810 and 1820.

So, this accounts for two of the three sons of Joseph Casteel who were in the age range we're interested in, but one is still "missing". Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find any more information about this family that might help us figure out who this third son was or what became of him. So, we can't completely rule out the possibility that this Joseph Casteel of Clay and Clinton Counties in Missouri might have been the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel, but it seems unlikely, especially given how far Clay and Clinton Counties, in the northwestern part of the state of Missouri, are from Limestone County, Alabama, where Henry would settle by 1840.

~

Joseph Castile of Clermont County, Ohio

Recall that, in 1830, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any other information about a Joseph Castile or Casteel of Clermont County, Ohio, other than a marriage record from 1824 (which was most likely for a younger relative of the same name). It appears that all of the Castiles/Casteels left Clermont County before 1840, and I have not been able to track them down. So, without additional information, we are unable to definitively rule out this Joseph Castile/Casteel as Henry's father. He may not be a likely candidate, but we can't yet eliminate him from our list of candidates.

~

Thomas Casteel of Coshocton County, Ohio

Recall that, in the 1830 census, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15 (and none between the ages of 15 and 20). So in 1840 he should have one son between the ages of 20 and 30.

Here is his 1840 census record:

[2|1|1|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|2|1|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

However, living right next to him are:

- Amos Casteel

[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- Jesse Casteel

[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

So, this Amos Casteel would almost certainly have to be the 20-30 year old son of Thomas Casteel, which means that Thomas Casteel is almost certainly not Henry Montgomery Casteel's father.

~

John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio

Recall that, in 1830, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any information about this particular John C. Castell apart from his 1830 census record, so it is impossible to rule him out as a possible candidate for Henry's father. Given how far Harrison County, Ohio, is from Tennessee, much less from North Alabama, I don't consider him a likely candidate; but we can't justify eliminating him from consideration entirely.

Archibald Casteel, Jr. of Licking County, Ohio

Recall that, in the 1830 census, he had three sons between the ages of 10 and 15 (and none between 15 and 20), so in 1840 he should have three sons between the ages of 20 and 30.

Archibald Casteel, Jr. died in 1837, so he does not appear in the 1840 census, but there is a listing for his widow *Abigail* and his son *Josiah*:

- Abigail Casteel
[-|1|2|1|1|_|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-||1|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30
- Josiah Casteel
[2|-|-|-|2|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
2 males between the ages of 20 and 30

So this accounts for all three of Archibald Casteel, Jr.'s sons. Besides, none of the sources we have concerning the Archibald Casteel, Jr. family of Licking County, Ohio, suggests that any of them were ever in Tennessee.

~

Phebe Casteel of Muskingum County, Ohio

Recall that, in 1830, she had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

While there is not a whole lot of information available about this Phebe Casteel (she does not, for example, appear in the 1840 census), we do know that she is the widow of a *Jeremiah Casteel*, that her maiden name was *Barker*, that they were married in Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1816, and that there is no evidence that they ever lived in Tennessee. So we can safely rule them out as Henry's parents.

Samuel Casteel of Beaver County, Pennsylvania

Recall that, in 1830, he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15.

I can find no listing for this Samuel Casteel in the 1840 census; however, he does appear in the 1820 census for Beaver County, Pennsylvania. There aren't many sources of information about this particular Samuel Casteel, but the few that we have suggest that he lived his entire life in Pennsylvania. So, I think it's safe to rule him out as a likely candidate for Henry Montgomery Casteel's father.

~

John Casteel of Norfolk County, Virginia

Recall that in the 1830 census he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15 (and none between the ages of 15 and 20). In the 1840 census, a John Casteel can still be found living in Norfolk County, Virginia.

Here is his census record:

[1|-|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

However, in the same county we also find a listing for a *Thomas Casteel*.

- Tho. Casteel

[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

It seems reasonable to assume that Thomas is John's son, since there are no other Casteel families living in Norfolk County, Virginia, in 1830 or 1840. If so, then this pretty much rules out John Casteel of Norfolk County, Virginia, as the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

Jeremiah Casteel of Preston County (West) Virginia

Recall that in the 1830 census he had one son between the ages of 10 and 15 and one between the ages of 15 and 20.

It appears that the Jeremiah Casteel listed in the 1830 census for Preston County, Virginia, may have died sometime before 1840, since I have not been able to find him in the 1840 census. (There are actually several Jeremiah Casteels in the 1840 census, but none of them appear to be the same Jeremiah Casteel who was listed in the 1830 census for Preston County, Virginia.) However, we do find four other Casteel families listed in the 1840 census for Preston County, Virginia:

- Jeremiah Casteel (*Jr.?*)*
[|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30
(* This Jeremiah Casteel is too young to be the Jeremiah Casteel listed in the 1830 census. However, it seems plausible that this might be his son.)

- Arch. (Archibald?) Casteel
[2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

- Shadrach Casteel
[|-|2|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

- Thomas Casteel
[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male between the ages of 20 and 30

Because we can't be absolutely sure that any of these Casteels are sons of Jeremiah Casteel (the elder), we can't definitively rule out the possibility that the Jeremiah Casteel who was listed in the 1830 census for Preston County, Virginia (now part of West Virginia), might have been the father of our Henry Montgomery Casteel. However, it seems very unlikely; so we will go ahead and eliminate him from our consideration.

~ ~ ~

After eliminating all those Casteel families outside of Tennessee, Alabama, and the Arkansas Territory that we know, based on the evidence available to us, could not be Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents, we are left with this, much shorter, list:

- Eli Casteel of Pope County, Illinois
- Margaret Castells of Baltimore County, Maryland
- Joseph Casteel of Clay (and later Clinton) County, Missouri
- Joseph Castile of Clermont County, Ohio
- John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio

But please keep in mind that, except for Eli Casteel of Illinois and Joseph Casteel of Missouri, our efforts to determine whether any of these people could have been Henry's parents were hampered by the fact that no information about them could be found outside of the 1830 census. Therefore, we should not think of them as *likely* candidates—only as candidates we were unable to rule out.

~ ~ ~

So, where does this leave us? Though we have not yet been able to figure out who Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents were, we have made a great deal of progress in figuring out who they were *not*. By looking at census records (along with other sources of information, where available), we have managed to rule out most of the Casteel families in the United States in 1830 (or at least those who could be found in the 1830 census) as plausible contenders to be Henry's family. While there are still a few Casteel families we have not been able to eliminate from consideration simply because we can't find any information about them, their number is actually much smaller than I had anticipated when I began this research. I thought that we might end up with a list of, perhaps, two or three dozen names and would not be able to narrow that list down any further. So I am quite pleased with the fact that we have managed to whittle down the total number of contenders to fewer than a dozen, and the number of *serious* contenders to a mere handful.

And here are our finalists, arranged into three categories by their relative degrees of likelihood:

Most likely

- John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Moses Casteel (the elder) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Philip Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Willis Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory

Less likely

- Joseph Casteel of Clay (♣ later Clinton) County, Missouri
- Eli Casteel of Pope County, Illinois (♣ later Benton County, Tennessee)

Least likely

- Margaret Castells of Baltimore County, Maryland
- Joseph Castile of Clermont County, Ohio
- John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio

Of course, we can't rule out the possibility that there might have been some other Casteel living somewhere in the United States in 1830 who we've not been able to find in the census for some reason. We must also consider the possibility that it is Henry who is missing from the 1830 census—or perhaps he has been misclassified into the wrong age bracket—which would mean that all of this work has been for naught. But if we're playing the odds, the safest bet is on one of the four names at the top of this list.

It certainly appears that the best place to look for Henry Montgomery Casteel and his parents in 1830 is not, as we first suspected, in Tennessee, or even in Alabama, but rather in the Arkansas Territory—specifically, in St. Francis County, just 20 miles or so west of Memphis, Tennessee. We know that several Casteels migrated there from East Tennessee in the latter half of the 1820s. We don't know for sure that Henry and his family were among them, but we have good reason to suspect that they might have been. But without more information to go on, all we have is guesswork. We have learned just about all we can from the 1830 and 1840 census records. We need a new source of information or else a new approach entirely.

We'll see what other sources of information we can dig up a bit later. But for the moment, I would like to experiment with a totally new approach to trying to find Henry's parents. I'll warn you up front, though, that this idea may strike you as somewhat bizarre—even ridiculous—at first; but if you stick with me to the end, I think I may be able to surprise you with some interesting results.

Chapter 4 — Casteels at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend

The approach I'm about to take is rather unorthodox and highly speculative, but I hope that it will pay off. Ever since we discovered Henry Montgomery Casteel's middle name, I have always been curious about it. It's an unusual name. So, why might his parents have named him *Montgomery*? The most obvious possibility is that it might have been a family name. Perhaps it was his mother's maiden name. Or perhaps it was the name of some other relative. Unfortunately, I've not been able to find any record of a marriage between a *Casteel* and a *Montgomery* in the United States before 1820. Nor have I come across the name *Montgomery* in any of the records I've looked at concerning any of the Casteels. Of course, this does not prove that there is no family connection to the name *Montgomery*, but it does make me wonder if there might be some other explanation for how Henry got his middle name.

We have already seen several Casteels who have been named after famous people, whether it be characters from the Bible, such as *Daniel*, *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*, or highly respected statesmen of the day, such as *James Madison* and *James Monroe*. So, might Henry have been given the middle name *Montgomery* in honor of some famous person? It is certainly possible. But who? Perhaps the most celebrated *Montgomery* around the time Henry was born was *Major Lemuel P. Montgomery* who was one of the first American soldiers killed at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814.

~ ~ ~

The Battle of Horseshoe Bend was the decisive battle of the Creek War (1813-14), which was fought during the War of 1812. (It is often thought of as a part of the War of 1812, though it was really a separate conflict.) The Creek War began as a civil war between two factions within the Creek Nation (which, in 1813, covered a large part of Georgia and most of what would later become Alabama). The *Red Stick* faction wanted to violently resist white encroachment on Indian lands, while

the *White Stick* faction wanted to peacefully coexist with the white settlers. After a series of Red Stick massacres of white settlers and attacks on American soldiers, the United States and its then ally, the Cherokee Nation, would join the fight on the side of the White Sticks. The American forces that fought in the Creek War were led by Major General Andrew Jackson of the Tennessee State Militia (who would later become the seventh President of the United States, and would prove to be no friend of the Cherokees).

The battle that marked the final defeat of the Red Sticks, effectively bringing the Creek War to an end, took place on 27 March 1814 at Horseshoe Bend in what is now east-central Alabama, near the present-day town of Alexander City (about 30 miles northwest of Auburn), when General Jackson's troops, supported by White Stick and Cherokee warriors, attacked the main Red Stick stronghold in a narrow bend of the Tallapoosa River, killing about 800 out of the 1,000 or so Red Stick warriors who were encamped there. This was the bulk of the Red Stick fighting force, and the 200 or so warriors who escaped the battle no longer constituted a major threat to white settlers or the soldiers who protected them. While the Red Stick Creeks suffered devastating losses at Horseshoe Bend, the American troops under the command of General Jackson lost only about 50 men (with about three times that many wounded) during the five hour battle. For the Americans who fought there, it must have seemed like a glorious victory.

One of the most celebrated heroes of Horseshoe Bend was Major Lemuel Purnell Montgomery of the 39th Infantry Regiment, United States Army. Before the war, he was a Nashville lawyer and a personal friend of Andrew Jackson. He enlisted in the army at the start of the War of 1812 and was commissioned as a major. In February of 1814, the 39th Infantry was tasked to join up with General Jackson's Tennessee Militia and assist them in their campaign against the Red Stick Creeks. Within two months of Major Montgomery and the 39th Infantry linking up with Jackson's militiamen, the Red Sticks would be utterly defeated, and Montgomery would be dead.

Major Montgomery was one of the first American soldiers killed in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. He was leading his troops in a bold charge against the heavily-fortified Red Stick defenses and was the first soldier to reach the log barricade that the Red Sticks had erected across the entrance to their camp when he was shot in the head. He was only 28 years old. Standing over his friend's lifeless body after the battle, General Jackson lamented, "I have lost the flower of my army."



The Creek War (1813-14)

Montgomery's courageous charge, which led to his untimely death in battle, made him a hero to many—especially to those who fought alongside him at Horseshoe Bend. After the war, the county and city of Montgomery, Alabama, were named in his honor. Is it possible, then, that Henry Montgomery Casteel, who was born just a few years after the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, might also have been named in his honor?

While there is no way to know for certain, I suspect that it is possible that he was. But it seems far more likely that Henry would be named after Major Montgomery if his father had actually fought at Horseshoe Bend. Again, there is no way for us to prove this, but it seems reasonable to imagine that, if Henry's father had fought in the Creek War and had been at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend himself, he might have chosen to name his son in honor of one of the fallen heroes of that battle.

~ ~ ~

So, were there any Casteels at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend? Actually ... *yes!* A number of Casteels served in the Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War, and some of them definitely served under Major General Andrew Jackson in his campaign against the Red Stick Creeks. A handful of them are known to have served in units that participated in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. While we can't be certain that all of these Casteels saw action in that battle, it is certainly possible that they did. So any one of these Casteel veterans might have had reason to want to name his son after the fallen Major Montgomery.

Here is a list of the Casteels who served in units that fought at Horseshoe Bend:

- Abednego Casteel
- Caleb Casteel
- James Casteel
- John Casteel
- Joseph Casteel
- Meshach Casteel
- Zachariah Casteel

Other Casteels served in the militia during the War of 1812/Creek War, too, but we have no evidence that the units they served in were at Horseshoe Bend.

Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel all served in the same unit at the time of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend: Captain Joseph Duncan's company of Colonel Samuel Bunch's regiment (2nd Regiment) of Brigadier General George Doherty's brigade of the East Tennessee State Militia. (Caleb, John, and Joseph would all be transferred to other units later that same year, but this was the unit they were all serving in at the time of the battle.)

Abednego Casteel served in a different unit from the other Casteels at the time of the battle: Captain John Chiles's company of Colonel John Brown's regiment of Doherty's brigade. Zachariah Casteel served in Colonel Ewen Allison's regiment of Doherty's brigade, but the specific company he served in is not known.

Up until a few weeks before the battle, James Casteel had been serving in Captain Jones Griffin's company of Bunch's (2nd) regiment of Doherty's brigade. But on 4 March 1814, he deserted, along with well over 60 other men. It is unclear why. I have read that many of the desertions during the War of 1812 and Creek War were motivated by the announcement of enlistment bonuses. If the militia offered a bonus for enlisting, soldiers who were already serving would desert and then try to enlist in a different unit in order to collect the bonus. (If they got caught, they were usually court-martialed and forced to pay back the bonus.) But I have seen no evidence that this James Casteel ever tried to re-enlist after deserting (though I suppose he might have done so under an assumed name). In any event, I have no reason to believe that he was still serving under General Jackson at the time of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. And if he did not fight in that battle, then it is unlikely that he would name his son after one of the heroes who fell at Horseshoe Bend.

~ ~ ~

We've met Abednego Casteel before, and we already know that he is not Henry's father. Recall that he is living in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1830 and in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1840. He is believed to have died sometime before 1850.

Meshach Casteel is believed to be his brother, though virtually nothing is known about him. I have not been able to definitively locate him in any census records, but he does appear on an 1806 tax list for Knox County, Tennessee, along with Shadrach and Abednego. A Meshach Casteel can be found in both the 1830 and the 1840 census for Knox County, Ohio, and in an Ohio marriage record from 1823. But we can't be certain that this is the Meshach Casteel we are looking for.

Believe it or not, *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego* were fairly popular names in those days, especially among the various branches of the Casteel family, so we can find more than one Meshach Casteel living in the early 1800s. In fact, there was also a Shadrach Casteel living in Ohio at the time, but we know from other records that this was not the same Shadrach Casteel who had once lived in East Tennessee. So, there's a good chance that the Meshach Casteel living in Ohio in 1830 and 1840 is not the one from East Tennessee. Nonetheless, just in case this is the Meshach Casteel we are interested in, here are his census records:

- Meshach Casteel in Knox County, Ohio, in 1830:

[3|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 10 and 15
(or between the ages of 15 and 20)

- Meshach Casteel in Knox County, Ohio, in 1840:

[-|1|3|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]
no males between the ages of 20 and 30

If this is not the Meshach Casteel we are looking for, then what became of him? It is possible that he died before 1830, but there's really no way for us to be sure without further information. In any event, we have no evidence to suggest that he might have been the father of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

(As a side note, I should mention that Abednego and Meshach Casteel also had two other brothers: *Daniel* and *Shadrach*. We have already seen that Daniel is living in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1830, while Shadrach is living in Cooper County, Missouri.)

Having already eliminated Abednego and James from consideration, and having hit a dead end with Meshach, we are now left with four candidates: *Caleb*, *John*, *Joseph*, and *Zachariah*. What do we know about these four men other than their military service records? Given the fact that three of the four served in the same unit, we might suspect that they are closely related—if not brothers, then at least first cousins. If that is the case, then it is reasonable to look for them in the same places. The obvious first place to look for them is in the 1830 census (recall that all of the census records for East Tennessee before 1830 have been lost).

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find a *Caleb Casteel* anywhere in the 1830 census—perhaps he died before 1830—but there are a number *John Casteels* and *Joseph Casteels* in the 1830 census, and one *Zachariah Casteel*.

Here are all of the *John* and *Joseph* Casteels found in the 1830 census:

- John Castile/Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee (b. 1780s)
 - John Castile of Greene County, Tennessee (b. 1760s)
 - John Casteel of Rhea County, Tennessee (b. 1770s)
 - John Casteel (the elder) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Terr. (b. 1760s)
 - John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Terr. (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Delaware County, Indiana (b. 1760s)
 - John Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Jessamine County, Kentucky (b. 1800s)
 - John Castell of New York County, New York (b. 1760s)
 - John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Muskingum County, Ohio (b. 1800s)
 - John Castile of Fayette County, Pennsylvania (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Norfolk County, Virginia (b. 1770s)
-
- Joseph Casteel of Jackson County, Tennessee (b. 1770s)
 - Joseph Casteel of Rhea County, Tennessee (b. 1800s)
 - Joseph Castille, *père* of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana (b. 1760s)
 - Joseph Castille, *fils* of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana (b. 1790s)
 - Joseph Castille (the other one) of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana (b. 1800s)
 - Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri (b. 1780s)
 - Joseph Castile of Clermont County, Ohio (b. 1760s)

We have already ruled out most—though not all—of these men as candidates for Henry’s father, but we still need to figure out which (if any) of them might have been the *John* and *Joseph Casteel* who served in Duncan’s company of Bunch’s regiment of Doherty’s brigade of the East Tennessee Militia under Major General Andrew Jackson in 1814 during the Creek War, and who may have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. (Keep in mind, though, that it’s entirely possible that *none* of these men are the John and Joseph Casteel we’re looking for. The John and Joseph Casteel who were in Duncan’s company in March of 1814 could very well have died sometime before 1830.) But *if* any of these men happen to be the John and Joseph Casteel we’re looking for, then which ones are they? It would help if we could eliminate some of them from consideration.

Fortunately, some of these men can be ruled out on the basis of age alone. Any of them who were born after 1800 would have been too young to have fought in the Creek War, whereas those born before 1770 would most likely have been too old. This leaves us with:

- John Castile/Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Rhea County, Tennessee (b. 1770s)
 - John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Terr. (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana (b. 1780s)
 - John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio (b. 1780s)
 - John Castile of Fayette County, Pennsylvania (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Norfolk County, Virginia (b. 1770s)
-
- Joseph Casteel of Jackson County, Tennessee (b. 1770s)
 - Joseph Castille, *fiils* of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana (b. 1790s)
 - Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri (b. 1780s)

Now we have a much more manageable list of names to work with.

We can also eliminate anyone who would not have been living in Tennessee at the time of the War of 1812/Creek War, since they would almost certainly not have served in the Tennessee State Militia. Based on census records and other available sources, I think we can safely eliminate the following names:

- John Casteel of Rhea County, Tennessee
He appears to have lived in Kentucky until sometime in the 1820s.
 - John Castile of Fayette County, Pennsylvania
It does not appear that he ever lived in Tennessee.
 - John Casteel of Norfolk County, Virginia
It does not appear that he ever lived in Tennessee.
-
- Joseph Casteel of Jackson County, Tennessee
He appears to have lived in Kentucky until sometime in the 1820s.
 - Joseph Castille, *fls* of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana
It does not appear that he ever lived in Tennessee.

So, that just leaves us with:

- John Castile/Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Terr. (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana (b. 1780s)
 - John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio (b. 1780s)
-
- Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri (b. 1780s)

Now we're getting somewhere.

We know that John Castile/Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee, John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, and Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri, were all living in Tennessee around the time of the War of 1812/Creek War. We know next to nothing, however, about John Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana, or John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio. While we have no evidence that either of these men ever lived in Tennessee, we also have no evidence that they didn't live there. We may have reason to doubt that either of these men served in the East Tennessee Militia in 1814, but unless we can find more information about them, we can't rule out the possibility.

We can rule out another candidate, though. According to some sources, the John Castile/Casteel who can be found living Bedford County, Tennessee, in the 1830 census served in Davis's battalion of the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812. This would mean that he is not likely to be the John Casteel who served in the East Tennessee Militia during that same period of time. So, I think it is safe to eliminate him from further consideration.

That just leaves us with:

- John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Terr. (b. 1780s)
 - John Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana (b. 1780s) — *an unlikely candidate*
 - John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio (b. 1780s) — *an unlikely candidate*
-
- Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri (b. 1780s)

Please bear in mind, though, that we can't be absolutely certain that any of these men were the John and Joseph Casteel who served together in the East Tennessee Militia during the Creek War. Either or both of those two men could have died sometime before the 1830 census was taken. However, what we can say is that, *if* the John and Joseph Casteel who served in the same militia unit in 1814 were still alive in 1830, and *if* they are listed by name in that year's census, *then* their names must be included on the list above.

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Okay. We've learned just about as much as we can by looking at the 1830 census records. Now let us take a step back and see if we can find any other information about the Casteels who may have fought at Horseshoe Bend. Although all of the census records for East Tennessee before 1830 have been lost, there are a number of other records that have survived from East Tennessee from before 1830 that we can examine. In particular, we have marriage records. These names stand out:

- Abednego Casteel married Agnes Hensley in Knox County in 1808
- John Castele married Janey Lane in Roane County in 1809
- Caleb Casteel married Susanna Whittenberger in Roane County in 1817
- Zachariah Caststeel married Rebecca Hartley in Greene County in 1818
- James Casteel married Mary Ann Williams in Blount County in 1825
- Joseph Casteel married Nancy Bandy in Rhea County in 1828

Let's take a closer look at each of these in turn:

Abednego Casteel to Agnes Hensley (Knox County, 1808)

This has to be the same Abednego Casteel we've met on more than one occasion before—the one who could be found in the 1830 census living in Knox County, Tennessee, but who had moved to neighboring Blount County, Tennessee, by the time of the 1840 census; and also, apparently, the same one who served in Chiles's company of Brown's regiment of Doherty's brigade of the East Tennessee Militia during the Creek War.

John Castele to Janey Lane (Roane County, 1809)

There is no way for us to be certain that this is the same John Casteel who served together with Caleb, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel in the East Tennessee Militia in 1814. But this is the only *John Casteel* that I have been able to find in Tennessee marriage records before 1830, and he got married in the same county where Caleb Casteel would later get married (see below). So, I strongly suspect that this is the John Casteel we're looking for.

Caleb Casteel to Susanna Whittenberger (Roane County, 1817)

Since I have not found anyone else named *Caleb Casteel* in any records anywhere in the United States before 1850, this has to be the same Caleb Casteel who served alongside John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel in early 1814 during the Creek War. What became of him is unknown, since he cannot be found in any census records. However, there is a marriage record for a *Susannah Casteel* to a *Robert McClain* in neighboring Blount County, Tennessee, in 1819. If Caleb had died, his widow might have remarried. However, *Susanna(h)* was a common enough name at the time that we can't be certain that this was the same person.

Zachariah Casteel to Rebecca Hartley (Greene County, 1818)

Although there were two different *Zachariah Casteels* living in Tennessee at this time—one born in the 1750s and the other in the 1790s—we have good reason to believe that this was the younger of the two, and that he was the same Zachariah Casteel who served in Allison's regiment during the Creek War and who is listed in the 1830 census for Roane County, Tennessee.

James Casteel to Mary Ann Williams (Blount County, 1825)

Could this have been the same James Casteel who deserted from his militia unit just a few weeks before the Battle of Horseshoe Bend? It's impossible to be sure, but this is the only *James Casteel* I have been able to find in Tennessee marriage records before 1830, and there are surprisingly few *James Casteels* listed in the 1830 census: one in the Arkansas Territory, two in Pennsylvania, two in Ohio, and *none* in Tennessee. (And all but one of these—James Castell of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania—would have been too young to have served in the Creek War.) So, it is quite possible that this is the same James Casteel who, on 4 March 1814, deserted from his East Tennessee Militia unit. But there is no way for us to be sure of this without additional information.

Joseph Casteel to Nancy Bandy (Rhea County, 1828)

In spite of the name, I am fairly confident that this is *not* the same Joseph Casteel who served in the militia during the Creek War. This must be the Joseph Casteel who was living in Rhea County in 1830, and we have already determined that he would have been too young to have served in the militia in 1814 (he would have been less than 14 years old at that time). Nonetheless, this is the only marriage record I have been able to find for a *Joseph Casteel* in Tennessee before 1830.

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So, what can we conclude about the Casteels who might have fought at Horseshoe Bend? The information we have about them is rather limited, but here's what we do know:

We know the most about *Abednego Casteel* (and can rule him out as a candidate for Henry's father), and we know the least about his brother *Meshach*, who we are not able to definitively locate in census records or in marriage records (though it is entirely possible, albeit unlikely, that he is the Meshach Casteel who is living in Knox County, Ohio, in 1830). We also know very little about *Caleb Casteel* except that he got married in 1817 to Susanna Whittenberger in Roane County, Tennessee. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any trace of him in census records, so we can't really draw any conclusions about him.

But we do know a few things about *Zachariah Casteel*, including the fact that he was living in Roane County in 1830 and that he had a son in the same age range as Henry Montgomery Casteel, but we don't know that son's name or what became of him. However, as you may recall, we were able to eliminate Zachariah Casteel from consideration as a possible candidate for Henry's father.

So, if we ignore *James Casteel*, who deserted, along with more than sixty other soldiers, just a few weeks before the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (and I would love to hear the story behind that mass desertion some day), then we are left with only *John* and *Joseph Casteel*. I suspect that this John Casteel is the very same John Casteel who married Janey Lane in Roane County in 1809. Since Caleb Casteel would get married in that very same county less than a decade later, we can't help but wonder if John and Caleb might have been brothers—or a least first cousins. Unfortunately, without more evidence, we simply can't know.

Caleb Casteel can't be found anywhere in the 1830 census (perhaps he died before 1830), and we have no guarantee that any of the John and Joseph Casteels that can be found in the 1830 census are the same ones who served alongside Caleb during the Creek War (they might also have died before 1830—death at a young age was much more common in those days than it is now). Nonetheless, if we assume that John and Joseph can be found in the 1830 census, then we have already narrowed down the possibilities to just three *John Casteels* and only one *Joseph Casteel*.

And, while we might not be able to eliminate John Casteel of Fountain County, Indiana, or John C. Castell of Harrison County, Ohio, from our list of *possible* candidates (at least not until we are able to dig up more information about them), I think we are justified in crossing them off our list of *likely* candidates. (We may have to rethink that decision later, but for now I feel that it's warranted.)

So, that just leaves us with the following *likely* candidates for the John and Joseph Casteel who may have fought at Horseshoe Bend:

- John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri

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So, we have reason to suspect that both John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, and Joseph Casteel of Clay County, Missouri, *might* have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814, so either one of them *might* have chosen to name his son after Major Lemuel P. Montgomery, one of the most celebrated heroes of that battle. And we have already determined that either one of these men *could* have been Henry Montgomery Casteel's father, but that John Casteel appears to be the more likely candidate.

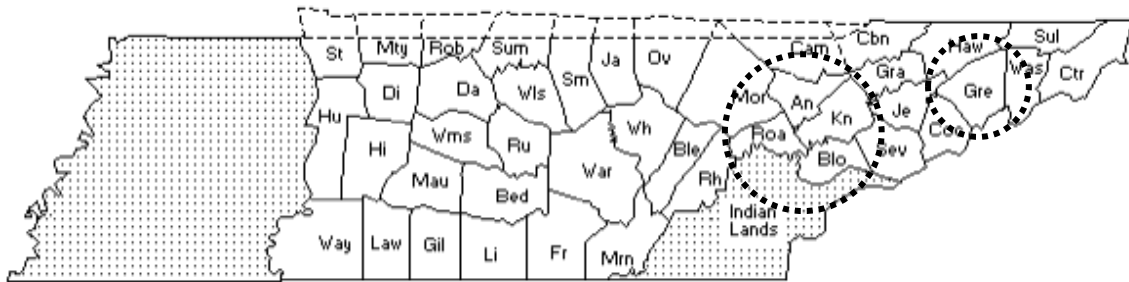
We must be very cautious about drawing any conclusions from this. The method I used here is highly speculative and makes a number of assumptions that may not be warranted. But the results are intriguing, don't you think?

~ ~ ~

Where do we go from here? I think we have to go back to the mountains of East Tennessee and see if we can find any sources that will shed some light on who the Casteel families of East Tennessee were, where they lived, and how they were all interrelated. Maybe this can help us figure out where Henry was born and which branch of the Casteel family he came from.

Chapter 5 — Casteels in East Tennessee in, around, and before 1817

The first thing we need to do is get a sense of the geography of East Tennessee in the early 1800s. Tennessee was just being settled during this period, so political boundaries changed quite a bit as new counties were being created and boundary lines were being redrawn. So, let's focus on the geography of East Tennessee in 1817—which we believe is about the year in which Henry Montgomery Casteel was born. Here is a map of the counties of Tennessee as they appeared in 1817:



Gre = Greene County

Kn = Knox County

Blo = Blount County

Roa = Roane County

The Counties of Tennessee in 1817

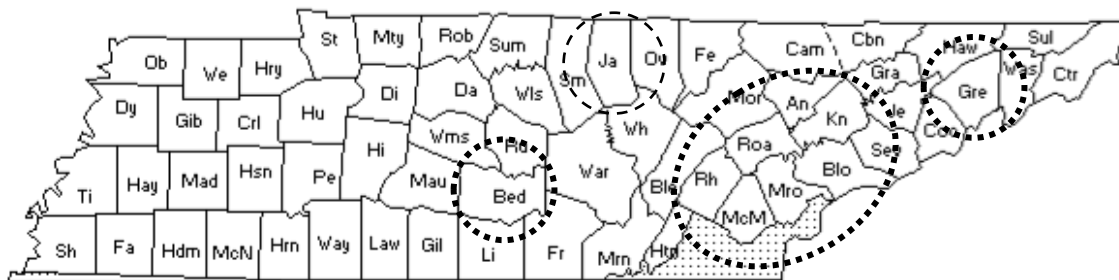
Based on a combination of marriage records, land records, and tax lists, it appears that there were two separate concentrations of Casteels in East Tennessee in 1817: One was in and around Greene County, and the other was in Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties. As you can see on the map above, in those days, Knox, Blount,

and Roane Counties all bordered each other, converging at a single point. (This is no longer the case. In 1870, a new county—Loudon—was formed from parts of Blount, Roane, and Monroe Counties, and now completely separates Blount from Roane County so that they no longer touch; though both of these counties do still border Knox County.) We find no evidence of any Casteels living anywhere else in Tennessee in those days (though they would soon spread to other counties, and even to other states and territories). So, if Henry Montgomery Casteel was born in Tennessee around 1817, we know that he must have been born in one of these two general locations: either in the Greene County area or else in the area around Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties.

But which one? In order to figure that out—much less to figure out who Henry’s parents might have been—we will need to know which Casteels were living where around the time of Henry’s birth. So, the first thing we must do is try to identify as many of the Casteels who were living in East Tennessee in those days as we can using any records we can find—not just census records but also marriage records, tax records, land records, court records, etc.

The obvious place to begin is with census records, and the earliest census records we have for East Tennessee are from 1830. (Recall that all of the census records for the counties of East Tennessee prior to 1830 have been lost.)

~ ~ ~



- Gre = Greene County
- Kn = Knox County
- Bl = Blount County
- Roa = Roane County
- Bed = Bedford County
- Mro = Monroe County
- McM = McMinn County
- Rh = Rhea County
- Ja = Jackson County

The Counties of Tennessee in 1830

Casteels in Census Records

1830

By 1830, the Casteel families of East Tennessee had begun to spread out from the handful of counties where they had previously been concentrated into other parts of Tennessee, and even into other states and territories. In Tennessee alone, there were now eight counties with Casteels living in them: Bedford, Greene, Jackson, Knox, McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, and Roane. A few of these Casteels had migrated to Tennessee from Kentucky in the 1820s and, therefore, could not have been the parents of our Henry Montgomery Casteel, but most of the Casteels who lived in Tennessee in 1830 had been living there in 1817 as well. Of course, many of the Casteels who were living in Tennessee in 1817 had left the state before 1830, and so we will need to look at those Casteels as well. But for now, let's focus on those Casteels who were still living in Tennessee in 1830.

First of all, we know that all of the Casteels who were living in *Jackson County* in Middle Tennessee in 1830 had migrated there from Kentucky sometime in the 1820s, as did most—though not all—of the Casteels we find in *Rhea County* in East Tennessee. The exception is the family of *Morris Casteel* (spelled *Castelee* on the census form) in Rhea County, who were definitely from Tennessee and, at least to the best of our knowledge, never lived in Kentucky.

If you look at the map on the previous page, you will notice that, once again, the Casteels of Tennessee are not evenly distributed around the state, but are clustered into a few, relatively isolated groups. Just as in 1817, there is a cluster of Casteels in *Greene County* and a separate cluster around *Knox County* and the counties to its southwest. This cluster seems to have grown a lot since 1817, when it included only *Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties*. Now it also includes *Monroe, McMinn, and Rhea Counties*, which all neighbor Roane County to the south. And notice that there is now a *third* cluster of Casteels farther to the west in *Bedford County* in Middle Tennessee that wasn't there in 1817.

One of these Bedford County Casteels was the *Henry Casteel* (spelled *Castile* or *Castell* in the 1830 census) who we would later find in Wayne County, just a bit farther to the west in Middle Tennessee. We know that this Henry Casteel is the eldest son of *John Casteel* (the elder) and his wife *Jemima* of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. So, does this mean that the Bedford County Casteels were an offshoot of the Casteels who migrated to the Arkansas Territory in the 1820s?

So clearly, in order to get a complete picture of the Casteels of East Tennessee in the years before 1830, we can't limit our focus to just those families that are still living in Tennessee in 1830. A number of Casteels from Tennessee had migrated to other states and territories by 1830. As you might recall, the 1830 census has listings for *Casteels* (or *Castells*, or *Castiles*, or other variations on the spelling) in *Alabama*, *Kentucky*, *Louisiana*, *Maryland*, *New York*, *Ohio*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Virginia* (including those areas that would later become *West Virginia*). But we have found no evidence to indicate that any of the Casteels in these states had ever lived in Tennessee. But the 1830 census also includes listings for a number of Casteels living in the *Arkansas Territory* and in the states of *Illinois*, *Indiana*, and *Missouri*, and some (though not all) of these Casteels are known to have migrated there from Tennessee.

In particular, we know that Casteel families from East Tennessee had migrated to the following counties outside of Tennessee (see the map on the previous page) by the time of the 1830 census:

- St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Pike County, Illinois
- Pope County, Illinois
- Putnam County, Indiana
- Clay County, Missouri
- Cooper County, Missouri

So, we must include the Casteels from these six counties outside of Tennessee in our list of Casteels in the 1830 census who are believed to have lived in Tennessee at some point before 1820.

What we need to do, then, is to reexamine the 1830 census records for the Casteel families in Tennessee and in these six counties outside of Tennessee and use them to compile a list of names of Casteels who are believed to have lived in Tennessee sometime before 1820. Yes, we have already looked at these records once, but we need to take another look at them—this time in a bit more detail. We'll examine them county-by-county, beginning with the counties of Tennessee.

It looks like we've got our work cut out for us, so let's get started.

Bedford County (in Middle Tennessee)

- Henry Castile (or *Castell*) (b. 1780s) [p. 96]

[4|2|1|1|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|2|1|1|2|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1780s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | 2 females, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | 1 female, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| 2 males, age 5-10 | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 4 males, age 0-5 | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

- John Castile (b. 1780s) [p. 95]

[1|2|-|1|1|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|3|1|1|2|1|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1780s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | 2 females, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| | 1 female, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| 2 males, age 5-10 | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 3 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

In Bedford County we have just two Casteel (*Castile*) families with a total of 31 people (15 male and 16 female), not counting any married daughters who would be enumerated in the census under their husbands' names. We should also note that Henry and John Casteel are listed on consecutive pages of the census. This suggests the possibility that they might have been fairly closely related. In fact, I have seen at least one (unverified) source suggesting that they were brothers. If so, then this *John Casteel* would be the son of John Casteel (the elder) and his wife Jemima of St. Francis County, Arkansas. But this is just speculation at this point.

Blount County (in East Tennessee)

We know from marriage, tax, and land records that there had been Casteels living in Blount County at one time, and we do find Casteels living in Blount County in later census records (1840, 1850, 1860, etc.). But I have not been able to find any Casteels listed in the 1830 census for Blount County. It appears that the Casteels who had previously lived in Blount County migrated elsewhere sometime before 1830, and then a different group of Casteels settled in Blount County after 1830.

Knox County (in East Tennessee)

- Abednego Casteel (b. 1780s) [p. 359]

[|-|1|2|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|3|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-]

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1780s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| 2 males, age 15-20 | | (b. 1810-15) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | | (b. 1815-20) |
| | 3 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

- Daniel Casteel (b. 1790s) [p. 359]

[1|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|2|2|2|2|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1780s) |
| 1 male, age 30-40 | | (b. 1790s) |
| | 2 females, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| | 2 females, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

- Francis Casteel (b. 1750s) [p. 359]

[|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-|2|1|-|1|-|1|-|1|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 male, age 70-80 | 1 female, age 70-80 | (b. 1750s) |
| | 1 female, age 30-40 | (b. 1790s) |
| | 2 females, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |

There are three Casteel families in Knox County, consisting of 28 people in total (nine males and twenty-one females), not counting married daughters living under their husbands' names. All three families are listed on the same page of the census, suggesting that they are closely related. In fact, we know from other sources that Abednego and Daniel Casteel are brothers and that Francis Casteel is their uncle. As we will see later when we look at marriage records, tax lists, and land records, this extended family has been living in Knox county since the early 1800s, perhaps earlier. Abednego and Daniel have two other brothers who are no longer living in Knox County. *Shadrach Casteel* is now living in Cooper County, Missouri, but the whereabouts of *Meshach Casteel* are unknown.

... *Monroe County (continued)*

- Daniel Casteel (b. 1780s) [p. 108]
 [-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | 1 female, age 50-60 | (b. 1770s) |
| 1 male, age 40-50 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| | 2 females, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | 2 females, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | | (b. 1820-25) |

- Edward Casteel (b. 1800s) [p. 108]
 [1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1800s) |
| | 1 female, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | | (b. 1825-30) |

That's three families with 24 people in total (14 male and 10 female), once again excluding any daughters who are married and are enumerated in the census under their husbands' names. We should also note that *Daniel* and *Edward Casteel* are listed on the same page of the census, whereas the listing for *Barney Casteel* is 45 pages away from the others, indicating that he did not live near them.

Rhea County (in East Tennessee)

- Morris Castele (b. 1790s) [p. 355]
 [-|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|3|2|2|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 30-40 | | (b. 1790s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | | (b. 1810-15) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | 2 females, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| | 3 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

That's one family with 11 people (three male and eight female). (Excluding those Casteels who migrated to Rhea County from Kentucky in the 1820s.)

Roane County (in East Tennessee)

- Zachariah Casteel (b. 1790s) [p. 8]
 [-|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|]
 1 male, age 30-40 (b. 1790s)
 1 female, age 20-30 (b. 1800s)
 1 male, age 10-15 (b. 1815-20)
 2 males, age 5-10 (b. 1820-25)
 2 females, age 0-5 (b. 1825-30)

That’s one family with seven people (four male and three female).

So, for the entire state of Tennessee (not counting those Casteels in Jackson and Rhea Counties who migrated from Kentucky in the 1820s), we have 16 Casteel families with 128 people in total (58 male and 70 female).

~

Now let us take a look at the Casteels from East Tennessee who are living outside of the state in 1830:

St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory

- John Casteel (*the elder*) of Franks Township (b. 1760s) [p. 36]
 [-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|] *
 (* not counting slaves or free black persons—see page 23)
 1 male, age 60-70 1 female, age 60-70 (b. 1760s)

- Moses Casteel of Franks Township (b. 1790s) [p. 35]
 [1|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|]
 1 male, age 30-40 1 female, age 30-40 (b. 1790s)
 1 female, age 15-20 (b. 1810-15)
 1 male, age 10-15 2 females, age 10-15 (b. 1815-20)
 1 female, age 5-10 (b. 1820-25)
 1 male, age 0-5 1 female, age 0-5 (b. 1825-30)

... *St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory (continued)*

- Philip Casteel of Franks Township (b. 1780s) [p. 36]

[1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 30-40 | (b. 1790s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | | (b. 1810-15) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | 1 female, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

- James Casteel of Union Township (b. 1800s) [p. 38]

[-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | | (b. 1820-25) |
| | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

- John Casteel (*the younger*) of Union Township (b. 1780s) [p. 39]

[1|-|2|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 30-40 | (b. 1790s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1800s) |
| 2 males, age 15-20 | | (b. 1810-15) |
| 2 males, age 10-15 | 2 females, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | | (b. 1825-30) |

- Washington Casteel of Union Township (b. 1800s) [p. 38]

[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1800s) |
| | 1 female, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |

... *St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory (continued)*

- Willis Casteel of Union Township (b. 1780s) [p. 38]
 [1|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|2|1|-|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| | 2 females, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| 2 males, age 10-15 | | (b. 1815-20) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

So, in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, we have seven Casteel families in 1830, with a total of 46 people (23 male and 23 female), once again not counting any married daughters who are living under their husbands' names. The fact that these Casteels all migrated to the same county and can be found within a few pages of each other in the census suggests that they were probably fairly closely related.

Pike County, Illinois

- Elijah Casteel (b. 1790s) [p. 237]
 [1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 30-40 | | (b. 1790s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| 2 males, age 5-10 | | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | | (b. 1825-30) |

- Jacob Casteel (b. 1790s) [p. 239]
 [1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 30-40 | | (b. 1790s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1825-30) |

That's two families with 11 people in total (seven male and four female). Note that Elijah and Jacob are listed just two pages apart on the census form.

Cooper County, Missouri

- Shadrach Casteel (b. 1780s)

[p. 204]

[1|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 40-50 | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1780s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1800s) |
| | 1 female, age 15-20 | (b. 1810-15) |
| | 2 females, age 10-15 | (b. 1815-20) |
| | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | | (b. 1825-30) |

That's one family with nine people (three male and six female).

~ ~ ~

So, in 1830, 13 Casteel families that are known to have come from Tennessee are living outside of Tennessee—that's a total of 94 people (47 male and 47 female). Adding these to the Casteels who are still living in Tennessee in 1830 (excluding those Casteels in Jackson and Rhea Counties who are known to have migrated to Tennessee from Kentucky in the 1820s) gives us a total of 29 Casteel families with 222 people (105 male and 117 female).

That's a lot of Casteels. But if we exclude children under the age of 15, we are left with just 103 adults (50 male and 53 female). And if we exclude anyone under the age of 30 (*i.e.* anyone born after 1800), that leaves us with just 43 members of the Casteel family (24 male and 19 female) who would have been at least 17 years old in 1817. That is a much more manageable list of names for us to work with.

Of course, we may not be able to identify all of these names. Before 1850, census records listed the name of the head of each household but not the names of other members of the family. So, we have to look to other records in order to identify the names of wives and children. In some cases, we are fortunate enough to find a family in the 1850 census, which gives not only the names of each member of the household, but also their precise ages and their places of birth. Marriage records can be very helpful for identifying wives. And wills can be extremely valuable for identifying children—though, unfortunately, wills are a rare find for genealogists, so we can't expect to find wills for most of the families we'll be looking at. We'll look for any records we can find, of course, but we may end up having to rely on unverified secondary sources in order to identify some of these people.

For now, though, let us focus on the 29 names that we are already able to identify based on the 1830 census alone:

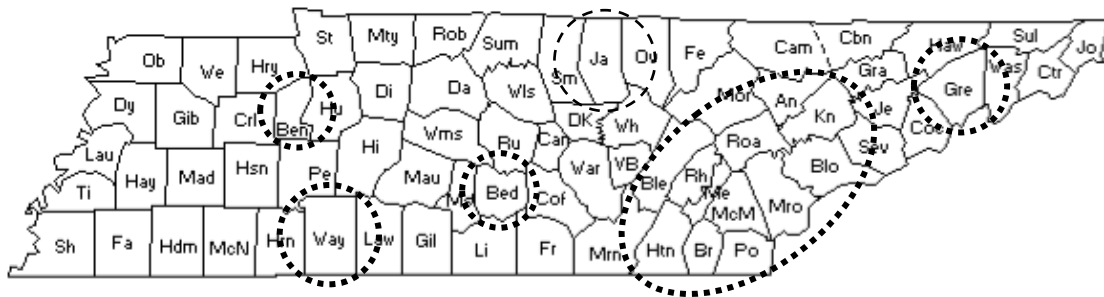
- Abednego Casteel (b. 1780s) of Knox County, Tennessee
- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1800s) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- Barney Casteel (b. 1780s) of Monroe County, Tennessee
- Daniel Casteel (b. 1790s) of Knox County, Tennessee
- Daniel Casteel (b. 1780s) of Monroe County, Tennessee
- Edmond Casteel (b. 1760s) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Monroe County, Tennessee
- Edward Casteel (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- Eli Casteel (b. 1780s) of Pope County, Illinois
- *Elijah Casteel* (b. 1800s) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- Elijah Casteel (b. 1790s) of Pike County, Illinois
- Francis Casteel (b. 1750s) of Knox County, Tennessee
- Henry Casteel (b. 1780s) of Bedford County, Tennessee
- Jacob Casteel (b. 1790s) of Pike County, Illinois
- *James Casteel* (b. 1800s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Jeremiah Casteel (b. 1790s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- John Casteel (b. 1760s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- John Casteel (b. 1780s) of Bedford County, Tennessee
- John Casteel (the elder, b. 1760s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- John Casteel (the younger, b. 1780s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Joseph Casteel (b. 1780s) of Clay County, Missouri
- Morris Casteel (b. 1790s) of Rhea County, Tennessee
- Moses Casteel (b. 1790s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Peter Casteel (b. 1770s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- Philip Casteel (b. 1780s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Shadrach Casteel (b. 1780s) of Cooper County, Missouri
- *Washington Casteel* (b. 1800s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Willis Casteel (b. 1780s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- Zachariah Casteel (b. 1790s) of Roane County, Tennessee

The names in *italics* are those Casteels who would have been under the age of 17 in 1817. They are unlikely to be mentioned in any records before that date.

These are (at least some of) the names we will need to be looking for in early East Tennessee marriage records, land records, court records, tax lists, wills, and other similar documents. But before we do that, let's see if we can find at least some of these names in later census records—particularly from 1840 and 1850. This will, hopefully, give us a little more information to work with as we begin our search through other old records.

1840

By 1840, Casteels had spread to a few more counties in Tennessee: The family of Henry Casteel of Bedford County had moved to Wayne County, and the family of Zachariah Casteel of Roane County had moved to Hamilton County (where he died sometime before 1840—his widow, Rebecca, is listed in his stead in the 1840 census). Also, the Eli Casteel family from Pope County, Illinois has moved back to Tennessee, settling in Benton County. Apart from that, our map hasn't really changed a lot since 1830. We still find the same old cluster of Casteels in Greene County; there are a number of Casteel families spread out among the counties that lie to the south and southwest of Knox County; and there are a couple of Casteel families living in Bedford County.



Gre = Greene County

Kn = Knox County

Blo = Blount County

Roa = Roane County

Htn = Hamilton County

Bed = Bedford County

Ja = Jackson County

Mro = Monroe County

McM = McMinn County

Rh = Rhea County

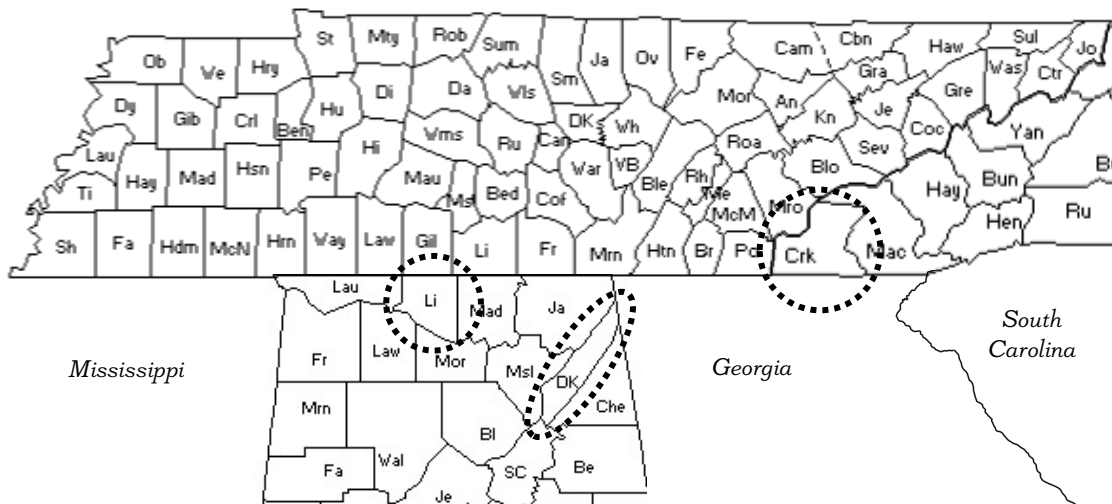
Ben = Benton County

Way = Wayne County

The Counties of Tennessee in 1840

But just because our map of Tennessee hasn't changed all that much doesn't mean that there hasn't been some significant movement since 1830. Some of the Casteel families who were living in Knox County or one of the counties to its southwest in 1830 have either moved to a different county in that same general area or else have migrated out of Tennessee entirely. The Abednego Casteel family of Knox County has moved to neighboring Blount County. His brother, Daniel Casteel, is no longer living in Knox County in 1840, either. According to some sources, the family had moved to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s, where Daniel died not long after arriving there. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to find any trace of this family in the 1840 census. The Barney Casteel family of Monroe County has moved across the state line to neighboring Cherokee County, North Carolina. And the Morris Casteel family of Rhea County has moved to DeKalb County, Alabama. (This means that the only Casteels still living in Rhea County in 1840 are members of the extended family that migrated there from Kentucky in the 1820s; so we will continue to ignore them.)

~ ~ ~



- Li = Limestone County, Alabama
- DK = DeKalb County, Alabama
- Crk = Cherokee County, North Carolina

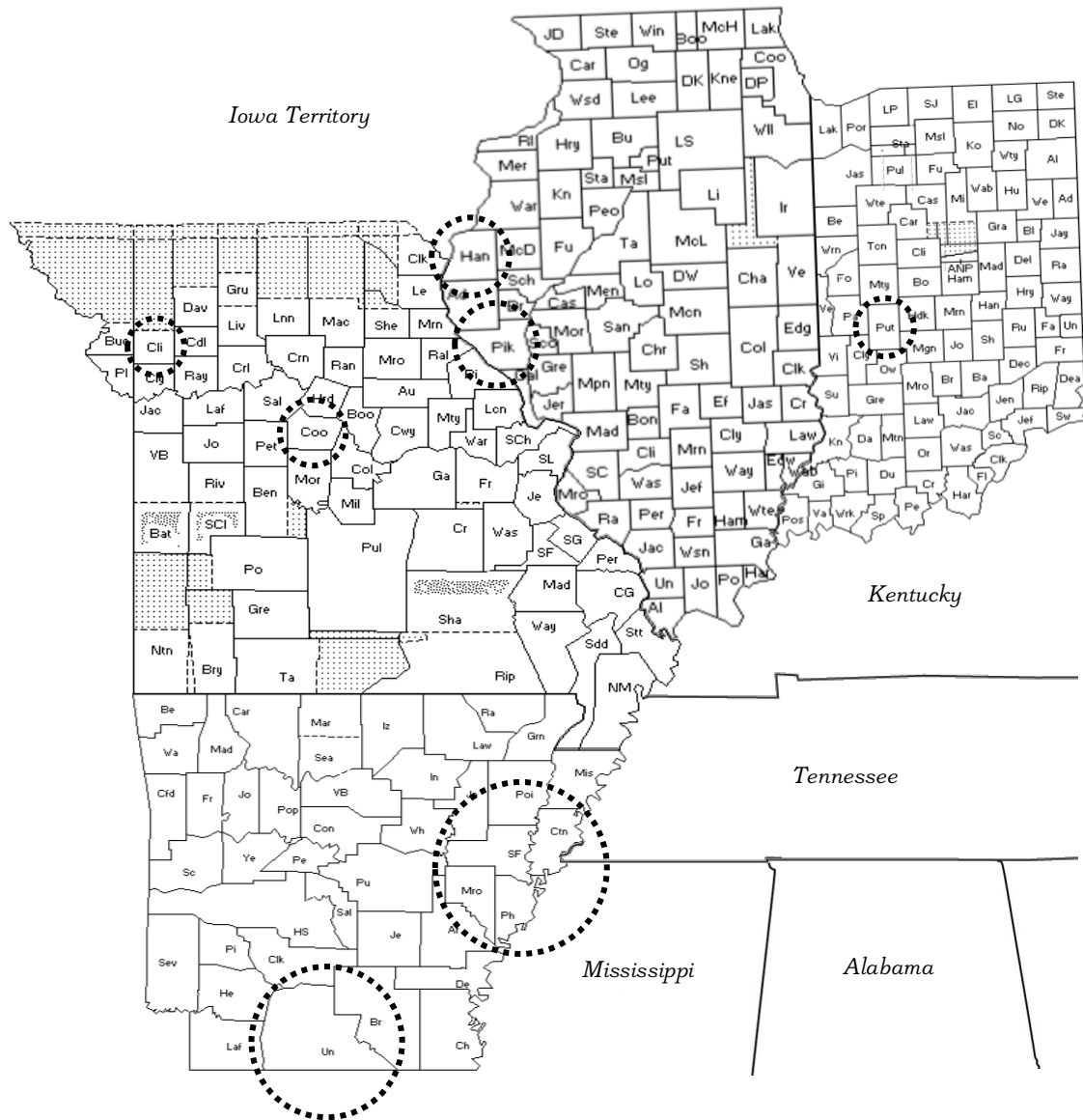
The Counties of Tennessee, North Alabama, and the Westernmost Part of North Carolina in 1840

The Morris Casteel family were not the only Casteels living in Alabama in 1840. Although we still don't know for certain where Henry Montgomery Casteel was living in 1830, we do know that he had migrated to Limestone County, Alabama, by no later than 1840. Although his name does not appear anywhere in the 1840 census (I suspect that he and his new bride were living with his father-in-law at the time), his marriage record definitively proves that he was in Limestone County by April of 1840 at the latest. I have not been able to determine exactly when Henry arrived in Limestone County, but I am confident that he was there in 1840.

But we're not really concerned about Henry right now. We will definitely come back to him later, but for the moment, we want to focus on those Casteel families we have already identified from the 1830 census. So, in addition to the Casteels in Tennessee and those who have moved to Cherokee County, North Carolina, and DeKalb County, Alabama, we will also need to look at the 1840 census records of our Casteel families in Arkansas (which officially became a state in 1836), Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri.

While most of the Arkansas Casteels are still living in St. Francis County in 1840, a couple of families have moved to the neighboring counties of Crittenden (to the east) and Phillips (to the south). There is also a Casteel family in Union County in the southernmost part of Arkansas, down on the Louisiana state line, in 1840, but we have reason to believe that these Casteels were not part of the group that migrated to the Arkansas Territory from East Tennessee in the 1820s. However, there is reason to suspect that this family—the *A. Casteel* family—did migrate to Arkansas from Tennessee at a later date. In fact, I have seen some speculation that this A. Casteel was actually *Abraham Calloway Casteel* (the elder), who was the brother of Morris Casteel—not to be confused Morris Casteel's son, who was also named Abraham Calloway Casteel. While we can't be certain that the A. Casteel in Union County, Arkansas, is the elder Abraham Calloway Casteel, we will take a look at his census record anyway.

In Illinois, Elijah Casteel and family are still living in Pike County in 1840, while Jacob Casteel and family have moved north to Hancock County. In Indiana, the family of Edward Casteel is still living in Putnam County, though Edward himself died before 1840. And, finally, in Missouri, Joseph Casteel and family now live in Clinton County (they were in Clay County in 1830), while Shadrach Casteel and family can still be found in Cooper County.



Ctn = Crittenden County, Arkansas
 SF = St. Francis County, Arkansas

Ph = Phillips County, Arkansas
 Un = Union County, Arkansas

Han = Hancock County, Illinois

Pik = Pike County, Illinois

Put = Putnam County, Indiana

Cli = Clinton County, Missouri

Coo = Cooper County, Missouri

The Counties of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri in 1840

So, now that we know where we need to look, let's get started. We'll begin with the Casteels who are still living in Tennessee in 1840.

Bedford County (in Middle Tennessee)

- John Caststael (b. 1780s) [p. 85]

[1|-|1|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 50-60 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1790s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | | (b. 1820-25) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | 2 females, age 10-15 | (b. 1825-30) |
| | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | | (b. 1835-40) |

- Blanton* Caststael (b. 1800s) [p. 85]

[-|1|-|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]

(* Other sources give his first name as *Braxton* or *Blackstone*.)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 30-40 | | (b. 1800s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |

Benton County (in West Tennessee)

- Eli Caststeel (b. 1780s) [p. 19]

[1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-||2|2|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 50-60 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| | 1 female, age 10-15 | (b. 1825-30) |
| | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

Blount County (in East Tennessee)

- **Abednego Casteel** (b. 1780s) [p. 97]
[|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|]
1 male, age 50-60 (b. 1780s)
1 female, age 40-50 (b. 1790s)
1 male, age 20-30 1 female, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
1 female, age 15-20 (b. 1820-25)
2 females, age 10-15 (b. 1825-30)
1 female, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)

- **James Casteel** (b. 1810s) [p. 94]
[2|-|-|-|2|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|-|-|2|-|-|-|-|-|]
2 males, age 20-30 2 females, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
1 female, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)
2 males, age 0-5 2 females, age 0-5 (b. 1835-40)

Greene County (in East Tennessee)

- **Daniel Casteel** (b. 1800s) [p. 44]
[2|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|]
1 male, age 30-40 1 female, age 30-40 (b. 1800s)
1 male, age 15-20 (b. 1820-25)
1 male, age 10-15 (b. 1825-30)
2 females, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)
2 males, age 0-5 (b. 1835-40)

- **Jeremiah Casteel** (b. 1780s) [p. 44]
[1|1|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|]
1 male, age 50-60 (b. 1780s)
1 female, age 40-50 (b. 1790s)
1 male, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
1 male, age 15-20 1 female, age 15-20 (b. 1820-25)
1 female, age 10-15 (b. 1825-30)
1 male, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)
1 male, age 0-5 (b. 1835-40)

Jackson County (in Middle Tennessee)

(All of the Casteels living in Jackson County in 1840 appear to belong to a family that migrated to Tennessee from Kentucky in the 1820s and would not have been living in East Tennessee before 1820. We shall ignore them.)

Knox County (in East Tennessee)

(There are no Casteels living in Knox County in 1840. The family of Abednego Casteel has moved to neighboring Blount County. The family of Daniel Casteel has apparently moved to Bond County, Illinois. And Francis Casteel and his wife are believed to have died sometime in the 1830s.)

McMinn County (in East Tennessee)

- Alex (*Alexander*) Casteel (*the elder*) (b. 1780s)* [p. 105]

[1|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 50-60 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| 2 males, age 10-15 | | (b. 1825-30) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

(* This is almost certainly the same *Alexander Casteel* who is listed in the 1830 census for McMinn County. However, there is a major discrepancy in age between his 1830 and 1840 census records. His 1830 census record gives his age as between 20 and 30—which suggests that he was born in the 1800s—but here his age is given as between 50 and 60—suggesting that he was born in the 1780s. It is not clear which record, if either, is correct.)

- Alx (*Alexander*) Castell (*the younger*) (b. 1810s) [p. 132]

[1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | | (b. 1835-40) |

Roane County (in East Tennessee)

(There are no Casteels living in Roane County in 1840. The family of Zachariah Casteel has moved south to Hamilton County. Please note that Zachariah Casteel died before 1840, but his widow Rebecca can be found in the 1840 census living in Hamilton County with her children.)

Wayne County (in Middle Tennessee)

- Andrew Casteel (b. 1810s) [p. 79]

[|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

1 male, age 20-30

1 female, age 15-20

(b. 1810s)

(b. 1820-25)

- Henry Casteel (b. 1780s) [p. 74]

[|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]

1 male, age 50-60

1 female, age 50-60

(b. 1780s)

1 male, age 10-15

1 female, age 10-15

(b. 1825-30)

1 female, age 5-10

(b. 1830-35)

~

Now let's take a look at those Casteels who were living in Tennessee in 1830 but are living outside of Tennessee in 1840:

DeKalb County, Alabama

- M (*Morris*) Casteel (b. 1790s) [p. 172]

[1|2|-|-|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-]

1 male, age 40-50

1 female, age 40-50

(b. 1790s)

1 male, age 20-30

(b. 1810s)

1 female, age 15-20

(b. 1820-25)

2 females, age 10-15

(b. 1825-30)

2 males, age 5-10

1 female, age 5-10

(b. 1830-35)

1 male, age 0-5

(b. 1835-40)

Bond County, Illinois

(Although we have reason to believe that the family of Daniel Casteel—formerly of Knox County, Tennessee—had moved to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s, and that Daniel died there before 1840, I have not yet been able to find his widow or children in the 1840 census.)

Cherokee County, North Carolina

- Barney Casteel (b. 1780s) [p. 240]

[|-|2|2|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|1|-|1|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 50-60 | | (b. 1780s) |
| | 1 female, age 40-50 | (b. 1790s) |
| 2 males, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | 1 female, age 15-20 | (b. 1820-25) |
| 2 males, age 10-15 | | (b. 1825-30) |
| 2 males, age 5-10 | | (b. 1830-35) |
| | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

- Edward Casteel (b. 1810s) [p. 240]

[|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

- Henry Casteel (b. 1810s) [p. 240]

[|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1810s) |
| | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

... *St. Francis County, Arkansas (continued)*

- Moses Casteel (*the younger*)* of Franks Township (b. 1810s) [p. 198]
 [-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]
 (* This Moses Casteel is far too young to be the same *Moses Casteel* who we find in the 1830 census.)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1810s) |
| | 1 female, age 15-20 | (b. 1820-25) |
| | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

- James Casteel of Union Township (b. 1800s) [p. 202]
 [-|2|-|1|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 30-40 | 1 female, age 30-40 | (b. 1800s) |
| 1 male, age 20-30 | | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 15-20 | 1 female, age 15-20 | (b. 1820-25) |
| | 1 female, age 10-15 | (b. 1825-30) |
| 2 males, age 5-10 | 1 female, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

- Willis Casteel of Union Township (b. 1780s) [p. 202]
 [1|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-]

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 50-60 | | (b. 1770s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 10-15 | | (b. 1825-30) |
| | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| 1 male, age 0-5 | 1 female, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

Crittenden County, Arkansas

- George W Casteele (b. 1800s) [p. 35]
 [-|1|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|2|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-] *
 (* not counting slaves—see page 26)

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 male, age 30-40 | | (b. 1800s) |
| | 1 female, age 20-30 | (b. 1810s) |
| 1 male, age 5-10 | 2 females, age 5-10 | (b. 1830-35) |
| | 2 females, age 0-5 | (b. 1835-40) |

Putnam County, Indiana

- Elcana Castele (b. 1800s) [p. 371]
[2|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|3|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male, age 30-40 (b. 1800s)
1 male, age 20-30 1 female, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
3 females, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)
2 males, age 0-5 (b. 1835-40)
- Joseph Castele (b. 1800s) [p. 371]
[2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|3|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male, age 30-40 1 female, age 30-40 (b. 1800s)
3 females, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)
2 males, age 0-5 (b. 1835-40)
- Mary Castele* (b. 1770s) [p. 371]
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-]
(* Presumably the widow of *Edward Casteel* from the 1830 census.)
1 male, age 15-20 1 female, age 60-70 (b. 1770s)
(b. 1820-25)

Clinton County, Missouri

- Alex (*Alexander*) Casteel (b. 1810s) [p. 39]
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male, age 20-30 1 female, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
- David Casteel (b. 1810s) [p. 39]
[-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|1|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-]
1 male, age 20-30 1 female, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
1 female, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)
1 female, age 0-5 (b. 1835-40)

... *Clinton County, Missouri (continued)*

- Joseph Casteel (b. 1770s) [p. 39]
 [-|2|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|1|2|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|]
 1 male, age 60-70 (b. 1770s)
 1 female, age 50-60 (b. 1780s)
 2 females, age 15-20 (b. 1820-25)
 1 female, age 10-15 (b. 1825-30)
 2 males, age 5-10 (b. 1830-35)

Cooper County, Missouri

- S (*Shadrach*) Castell (b. 1780s) [p. 120]
 [-|-|1|-|-|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|-|-|2|1|-|-|1|-|-|-|-|]
 1 male, age 50-60 1 female, age 50-60 (b. 1780s)
 1 female, age 20-30 (b. 1810s)
 2 females, age 15-20 (b. 1820-25)
 1 male, age 10-15 (b. 1825-30)

~ ~ ~

Okay. That takes care of the 1840 census. We may have missed a few names here and there, but I think we got enough of them for our purposes.

There are several names in the 1840 census that did not appear in the 1830 census:

- *A. Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Union County, Arkansas
- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Clinton County, Missouri
- *Alexander Casteel* (the younger, b. 1810s) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- *Andrew Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Wayne County, Tennessee
- *Blanton Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Bedford County, Tennessee
- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- *David Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Clinton County, Missouri
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Cherokee County, North Carolina

- *Elcana Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- *George W. Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Crittenden County, Arkansas*
- *G.W. Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Monroe County, Tennessee
- *Henry Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Cherokee County, North Carolina
- *James Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Blount County, Tennessee
- *Jemima Casteel* (b. 1760s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- *Joseph Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- *J.W. Casteel* (b. 1810s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- *Madison Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Phillips County, Arkansas
- *Mary Casteel* (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- *Moses Casteel* (the younger, b. 1810s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- *Peter Casteel* (the younger, b. 1810s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- *Rebecca Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- *Susannah Casteel* (b. 1770s) of Greene County, Tennessee

(* I suspect that this may be the *Washington Casteel* from the 1830 census, but I can't be sure.)

~

There are also a few names that appear in the 1830 census but cannot be found in the 1840 census:

- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1790s) of Knox County, Tennessee
- *Edmond Casteel* (b. 1760s) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- *Francis Casteel* (b. 1750s) of Knox County, Tennessee
- *John Casteel* (the elder, b. 1760s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- *Moses Casteel* (the elder, b. 1790s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
- *Peter Casteel* (the elder, b. 1770s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- *Washington Casteel* (b. 1800s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory*
- *Zachariah Casteel* (b. 1790s) of Roane County, Tennessee

(* I suspect that this may be the *George W. Casteel* from the 1840 census, but I can't be sure.)

A few Casteels had moved to new counties sometime between 1830 and 1840:

- Abednego Casteel (b. 1780s), formerly of Knox County, Tennessee, is now in neighboring Blount County, Tennessee
- Barney Casteel (b. 1780s), formerly of Monroe County, Tennessee, is now in neighboring Cherokee County, North Carolina
- Eli Casteel (b. 1780s), formerly of Pope County, Illinois, is now in Benton County, Tennessee
- Henry Casteel (b. 1780s), formerly of Bedford County, Tennessee, is now in Wayne County, Tennessee
- Jacob Casteel (b. 1790s), formerly of Pike County, Illinois, is now in Hancock County, Illinois
- Joseph Casteel (b. 1780s), formerly of Clay County, Missouri, is now in neighboring Clinton County, Missouri
- Morris Casteel (b. 1790s), formerly of Rhea County, Tennessee, is now in DeKalb County, Alabama

Additionally, sometime before his death, Zachariah Casteel (b. 1790s), formerly of Roane County, Tennessee, had moved to Hamilton County, Tennessee. His widow, Rebecca Casteel (b. 1800s), can be found in the 1840 census in Hamilton County. According to some sources, Daniel Casteel (b. 1790s), formerly of Knox County, Tennessee, moved to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s, where he died not long after his arrival. However, I have not been able to find his widow or children in the 1840 census. I should also note that I suspect that *Washington Casteel* (b. 1800s), formerly of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, moved to Crittenden County, Arkansas, where he is listed in the 1840 census as *George W. Castteele*. However, I have been unable to find any proof that Washington Casteel and George W. Casteel were the same person.

Finally, the 1840 census has also allowed us to identify the widows of four Casteel men who died sometime between 1830 and 1840:

- Jemima Casteel (b. 1760s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, is the widow of John Casteel (the elder, b. 1760s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Terr.
- Mary Casteel (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana, is the widow of Edward Casteel (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- *Rebecca Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Hamilton County, Tennessee, is the widow of Zachariah Casteel (b. 1790s) of Roane County, Tennessee
- Susannah Casteel (b. 1770s) of Greene County, Tennessee, is the widow of Peter Casteel (the elder, b. 1770s) of Greene County, Tennessee

That's just about all we can learn from the 1840 census that might help us sort out who's who among the Casteels of East Tennessee. Now we will take a look at the 1850 census and see what we can learn from it.

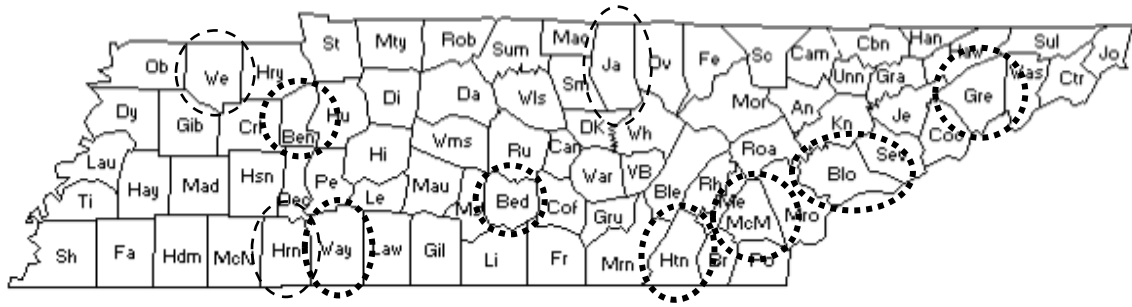
1850

The 1850 census is extremely useful, because it is the first census that includes the names, exact ages, and places of birth of every member of the household. Many of the people we are most interested in have already died by the time the 1850 census was taken, but we can learn quite a bit about those who are still living.

By 1850, Casteels who at one time had lived in the mountains of East Tennessee have spread out far and wide. It might not be possible for us to track all of them down, but we will try to track down as many of them as we can. We will begin, as usual, in Tennessee.

As before, we still find a group of Casteels living in Greene County. We also still have Casteels in Bedford, Benton, and Wayne Counties. But there are no longer any Casteels living in Knox, Roane, Rhea, or Monroe Counties—so the cluster of Casteels that had once spread out from Knox County to the counties to its south and southwest has now been reduced to just three counties: Blount, McMinn, and Hamilton, none of which directly border each other.

~ ~ ~



- Gre = Greene County
- Blo = Blount County
- McM = McMinn County
- Bed = Bedford County
- Ja = Jackson County
- Ben = Benton County
- We = Weakley County
- Htn = Hamilton County
- Way = Wayne County
- Hrn = Hardin County

The Counties of Tennessee in 1850

~ ~ ~

We still have a group of Kentucky Casteels living in Jackson County—which we will continue to ignore. But now we have two or three *Castills* living in Hardin County in West Tennessee, immediately to the west of Wayne County. (There are three *Castills* listed in the census, but it appears as though one of them might have been counted twice.) However, I can find no evidence that would link these *Castills* to any of the other Tennessee Casteels, and they are all much too young to have been part of the group of Casteels who were living in East Tennessee in or before 1817, so I think it is safe for us to ignore them.

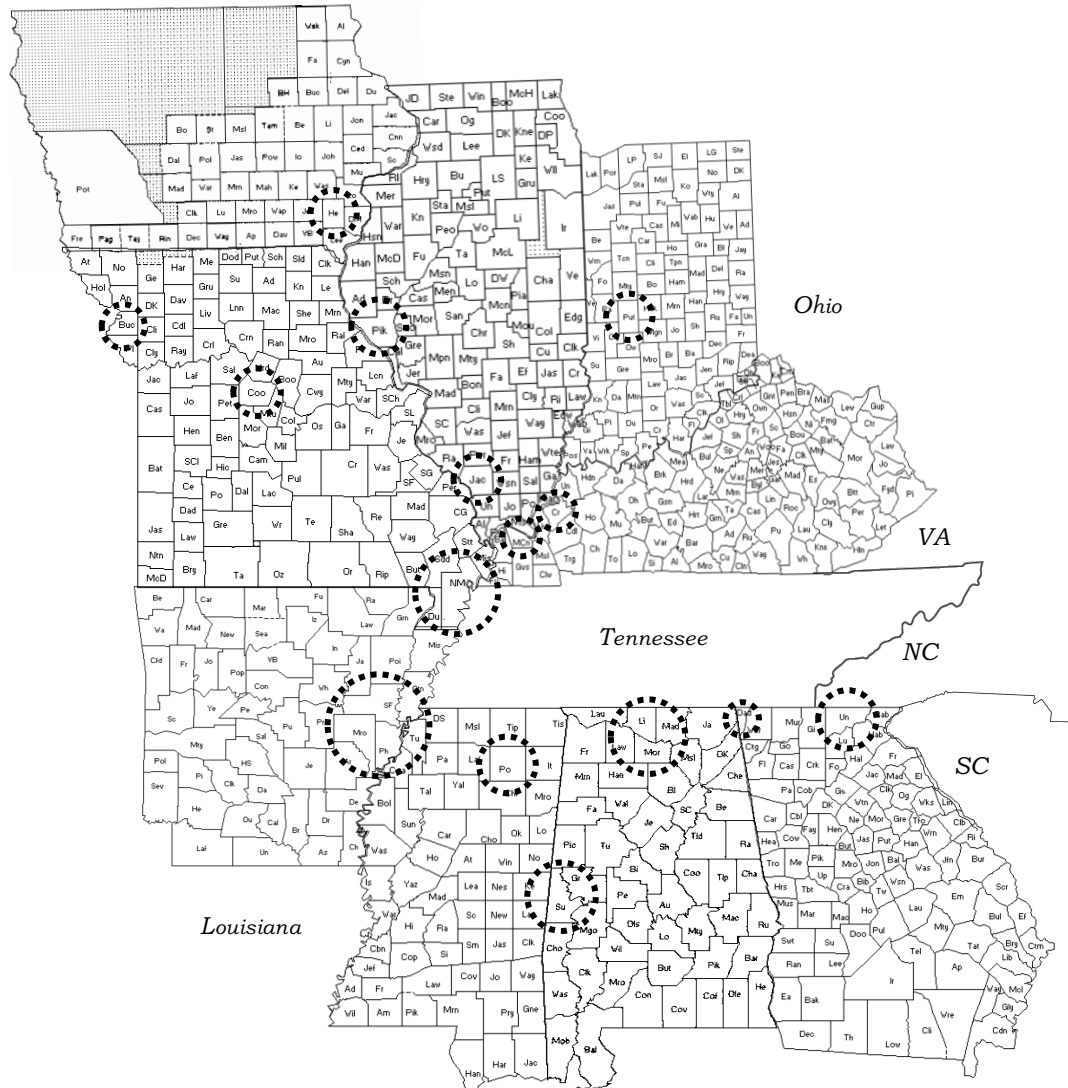
We also find a group of *Castells* living in Weakley County in West Tennessee (on the Kentucky border) who were not there in 1840. In fact, I have been unable to find them anywhere in the 1830 or 1840 census—either in the state of Tennessee or elsewhere—and I have no clue where they came from. The oldest members of this group were born in North Carolina; but the younger members were all born in Tennessee between the years 1829 and 1848. So, if these families were living in Tennessee between 1829 and 1850, why can't they be found in the 1830 or 1840 census? This is a complete mystery, and it's tempting to think that these *Castells* might be connected to our East Tennessee *Casteels* in some way. But since I have been unable to find any evidence of such a connection, I think it would be best to ignore them for now and focus our efforts on tracking down the *Casteel* families we have already identified from previous census records.

Turning our attention to the *Casteels* who are living outside of Tennessee in 1850, we find that there has been quite a lot of movement since 1840, though one thing, at least, has remained unchanged: There is still a large concentration of *Casteels* in and around St. Francis County, Arkansas. We also still find a few *Casteel* families in Pike County, Illinois, Putnam County, Indiana, and Cooper County, Missouri. However, the Barney *Casteel* family, who had been in Cherokee County, North Carolina, have now moved to Georgia; the Morris *Casteel* family has moved from DeKalb County, Alabama, to Pontotoc County, Mississippi; and Jacob *Casteel*, a Mormon, has moved his family from Hancock County, Illinois, all the way to the newly-established Utah Territory. There have also been some deaths since 1840, and a few families have moved to nearby counties within the same state. We will try to keep track as many of these as we can—though a few of them may elude us.

Before we look at these census records, though, we should take a moment to note that 1850 is the first year in which the family of Henry Montgomery *Casteel* can be found in the census. They are living in Limestone County, Alabama. We will include their census record along with all of the others that we will be looking at.

~

Note that the 1850 census gives the name of each member of the household, then indicates their sex (M for *male* or F for *female*), their age (from which we are able to estimate their year of birth), and their place (state or country) of birth. Just as with the 1830 and 1840 census records, we will use *italics* to indicate anyone who would have been less than 17 years old in 1817.



Li = Limestone County, Alabama
 Mor = Morgan County, Alabama
 Su = Sumter County, Alabama
 SF = St. Francis County, Arkansas
 Ph = Phillips County, Arkansas
 Dad = Dade County, Georgia
 Un = Union County, Georgia
 Pik = Pike County, Illinois
 Jac = Jackson County, Illinois

Put = Putnam County, Indiana
 He = Henry County, Iowa
 Cr = Crittenden County, Kentucky
 MCn = McCracken County, Kentucky
 Po = Pontotoc County, Mississippi
 Buc = Buchanan County, Missouri
 Coo = Cooper County, Missouri
 NM = New Madrid County, Missouri
 {not shown: Utah County, Utah Territory}

*The Counties of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana,
 Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Missouri in 1850*

We will begin, as usual, with Tennessee, and we will organize our records first by county and then by house number.

Bedford County (in Middle Tennessee)

- *William Casteel* | M | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #9]
- *Parthenia Casteel* | F | 32 (1818) | Tennessee
- *Patience Casteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
- *Samuel Casteel* | M | 4 (1846) | Tennessee
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee

- *Braxton Casteel** | M | 40 (1810) | Tennessee [House #142]
- *Sarah Casteel* | F | 20 (1830) | Tennessee
- *John Casteel* | M | 18 (1832) | Tennessee
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 13 (1837) | Tennessee
- *Eliza Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee
- *James Casteel* | M | ⁵/₁₂ (1850) | Tennessee

(* Please note that, in the 1840 census, he was listed as Blanton Casteel.)

- *Abraham Casteel* | M | 32 (1818) | Tennessee [House #149]
- *Mahaley Casteel* | F | 24 (1826) | Tennessee
- *Benjamin Casteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
- *Nancy Casteel* | F | 1 (1849) | Tennessee

- *John Casteel* | M | 60 (1790) | Virginia [House #157]
- *Sally Casteel* | F | 20 (1830) | Tennessee
- *Nancy Casteel* | F | 18 (1832) | Tennessee
- *Andrew Casteel* | M | 10 (1840) | Tennessee
- *Preston Casteel* | M | 21 (1829) | Tennessee

Bedford County, Mortality Schedule:

- *Elizabeth Casteel** | F | 52 (1798) | Tennessee | Married
[*died:* February (1850) | *cause:* Ch. Rheum. | *duration of illness:* 1 year]

(* This is almost certainly the wife of *John Casteel*.)

- *Elizabeth Casteel** | F | 25 (1825) | Tennessee | Married
[*died:* March (1850) | *cause:* Labor]

(* This is almost certainly the wife of *Braxton Casteel*.)

Benton County (in West Tennessee)

- *Mary Casteel** | F | 38 (1812) | South Carolina [House #868]
- *Dolly Casteel* | F | 18 (1832) | Tennessee
- *Louisa Casteel* | F | 15 (1835) | Tennessee
- *Mary Casteel* | F | 12 (1838) | Tennessee
- *Martha Casteel* | F | 10 (1840) | Tennessee
- *James Casteel* | M | 8 (1842) | Tennessee
- *Pinkney Casteel* | M | 5 (1845) | Tennessee

(* This is the widow of *Eli Casteel*. She is believed to be his second wife.)

Blount County (in East Tennessee)

- *Benj Casteel* | M | 32 (1818) | Tennessee [House #941]
- *Ann Casteel* | F | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
- *Creed F Casteel* | M | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
- *Alex Casteel* | M | 3 (1847) | Tennessee
- *Berny Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee

- *Agnes Casteel** | F | 57 (1793) | Virginia [House #1216]
- *Hazy Casteel* | F | 26 (1824) | Tennessee
- *Amanda Casteel* | F | 24 (1826) | Tennessee
- *Elza Casteel* | F | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
- *Adaline Casteel* | F | 19 (1831) | Tennessee
- *George W Casteel* | M | 30 (1820) | Tennessee

(* This is the widow of *Abednego Casteel*.)

Greene County (in East Tennessee)

- *Jeremiah Casteel* | M | 64 (1786) | Tennessee [House #570]
- *William Casteel* | M | 36 (1814) | Tennessee
- *Sarah Runnels** | F | 30 (1820) | Tennessee
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
- *Jeremiah Casteel* | M | 19 (1831) | Tennessee
- *Elkama Fulks* | M | 12 (1838) | Tennessee

(* This is almost certainly a misspelling of *Reynolds*.)

... *Greene County (continued)*

- *Judy Casteel** | F | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #571]
- *Mary Casteel* | F | 7 (1843) | Tennessee
- *John Casteel* | M | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
- *Jonathan Casteel* | M | 3 (1847) | Tennessee

(* This is the widow of a *Jonathan Casteel*, whose name is not found in either the 1830 or the 1840 census. He was the son of the elder *Peter Casteel* who is listed in the 1830 census.)

- *John Casteel* | M | 28 (1822) | Tennessee [House #572]
- *Lydia Casteel* | F | 27 (1823) | Tennessee
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
- *William Casteel* | M | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
- *Susannah Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee
- *John Casteel* | M | ³/₁₂ (1850) | Tennessee

- *John Casteel Sen** | M | 80 (1770) | Pennsylvania [House #573]
- *Andy Casteel* | M | 40 (1810) | Tennessee
- *Nancy Casteel* | F | 24 (1826) | Tennessee
- *James Allen Casteel* | M | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
- *Ephraim Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Tennessee
- *Sally Dyke* | F | 45 (1805) | Tennessee

(* Please note that the younger *John Casteel* listed above is the son of the late *Peter Casteel*, the elder, not this *John Casteel, Sen.*)

- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 36 (1814) | Tennessee [House #1481]
- *George H Casteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
- *Thomas Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Tennessee

Greene County, Mortality Schedule:

- *Jemima Casteel** | F | 72 (1778) | Pennsylvania
[*died: July (1849) | cause: Pulmonary | duration of illness: chronic*]

(* This clearly has to be the wife of *John Casteel, Sr.*)

Hamilton County (in East Tennessee)

- *Kezziah Casteel* | F | 37 (1813) | Tennessee [House #602]
- *Hastin Casteel* | M | 16 (1834) | Tennessee
- *Rasin Casteel* | M | 14 (1836) | Tennessee
- *Lurah(?)* Casteel* | F | 6 (1844) | Tennessee

(* This is my best guess. The handwriting on the census form isn't very clear.)

- *Daniel Casteel* | M | 47 (1803) | Tennessee [House #867]
- *Eliza Casteel* | F | 45 (1805) | Tennessee
- *Mary Casteel* | F | 18 (1832) | Tennessee
- *Ellizabeth Casteel* | F | 16 (1834) | Tennessee
- *John Casteel* | M | 11 (1839) | Tennessee
- *William Casteel* | M | 7 (1843) | Tennessee

- *Edward Castell* | M | 47 (1803) | Tennessee [House #1115]
- *Jane Castell* | F | 34 (1816) | Tennessee
- *Jeremiah Castell* | M | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
- *Benjamin Castell* | M | 21 (1829) | Tennessee
- *Joshua Castell* | M | 17 (1833) | Tennessee
- *Sarah Castell* | F | 16 (1834) | Tennessee
- *Margaret Castell* | F | 12 (1838) | Tennessee
- *Martha Castell* | F | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
- *George Castell* | M | 4 (1846) | Tennessee

- *George Slover* | M | 30 (1820) | Tennessee [House #1214]
- *Lauconda Slover* | F | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
- *Sarah Slover* | F | 4 (1846) | Tennessee
- *Jane Slover* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee
- *James Castteel* | M | 32 (1818) | Tennessee
- *Susan Castteel* | F | 29 (1821) | Tennessee
- *Jane Castteel* | F | 15 (1835) | Tennessee
- *Joseph Castteel* | M | 13 (1837) | Tennessee
- *Richard Castteel* | M | 10 (1840) | Tennessee
- *Rutha Castteel* | F | 8 (1842) | Tennessee
- *Lafayett Castteel* | M | 3 (1847) | Tennessee
- *Martha Castteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Tennessee

... *Hamilton County (continued)*

- *John Castteel* | M | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #1234]
 - *Rebecca Castteel* | F | 30 (1820) | Tennessee
 - *Louissa Castteel* | F | 11 (1839) | Tennessee
 - *Camble Castteel* | M | 8 (1842) | Tennessee
 - *George Castteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
 - *Caner Castteel* | M | 4 (1846) | Tennessee
 - *Tennessee Castteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee

- *William Castteel* | M | 28 (1822) | Tennessee [House #1253]
 - *Mary Castteel* | F | 28 (1822) | Tennessee
 - *William Castteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
 - *Jane Castteel* | F | 4 (1846) | Tennessee
 - *Robert Castteel* | M | 2 (1848) | Tennessee
 - *Mary Castteel* | F | ⁹/₁₂ (1850) | Tennessee

Hardin County (in West Tennessee)

(We have chosen to ignore the Castills of Hardin County because we have found no evidence to suggest that any of them were living in East Tennessee before 1820 or that any of them had any connections to the Casteels who did live there.)

Jackson County (in Middle Tennessee)

(We have chosen to ignore the Casteels of Jackson County because we have found no evidence to suggest that any of them were living in East Tennessee before 1820 or that any of them had any connections to the Casteels who did live there.)

McMinn County (in East Tennessee)

- *Danl Casteel* | M | 28 (1822) | Tennessee [House #1620]
 - *Abigail Casteel* | F | 25 (1825) | Tennessee
 - *Elvira Casteel* | F | 15 (1835) | Tennessee
 - *Benjamin Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Tennessee
 - *Cane Sheel* | M | 20 (1830) | Tennessee
 - *Pride Benton* | M | 17 (1833) | Tennessee

... McMinn County (continued)

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| • J Davis* | M | 60 (1790) | North Carolina | [House #2054] |
| • P H Davis* | M | 23 (1827) | Tennessee | |
| - George Davis | M | 20 (1830) | Tennessee | |
| - James Davis | M | 17 (1833) | Tennessee | |
| - Rachel Davis | F | 32 (1818) | Tennessee | |
| - Sarah Davis | F | 15 (1835) | Tennessee | |
| - Mary Davis | F | 9 (1841) | Tennessee | |
| - Solomon Davis | M | 10 (1840) | Tennessee | |
| • Elijah Casteel* | M | 44 (1806) | Tennessee | |
| - Patience Casteel | F | 50 (1800) | Tennessee | |
| - James Casteel | M | 21 (1829) | North Carolina | |
| - Sarah Casteel | F | 16 (1834) | Tennessee | |
| - Elizabeth Casteel | F | 14 (1836) | Tennessee | |
| - John Casteel | M | 11 (1839) | Tennessee | |
| - Mary Casteel | F | 9 (1841) | Tennessee | |
| - Rebecca Casteel | F | 7 (1843) | Tennessee | |

(* If I am reading the census form correctly, there are three different families living in a single house. The head of the house is *J. Davis*, who gets counted by himself as one family. Living with him are the *P.H. Davis* family and the *Elijah Casteel* family.)

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| • Alex Castell* | M | 40 (1810) † | Tennessee | [House #2918] |
| - Susan Castell | F | 49 (1801) | Tennessee | |
| • Mordica Castell* | M | 27 (1823) | Tennessee | [House #2919] |
| - Sarah Castell | F | 25 (1825) | Tennessee | |
| - Elizabeth Castell | F | 20 (1830) | Tennessee | |
| - Joseph Castell | M | 17 (1833) | Tennessee | |
| - Amanda Castell | F | 14 (1836) | Tennessee | |
| - Rebecca Castell | F | 11 (1839) | Tennessee | |
| - Mary Ann Castell | F | 27 (1823) | Tennessee | |
| - Victor Castell | M | 14 (1836) | Tennessee | |

(* If I'm reading the census form correctly, this is a single family living in two different houses. I should also note that the census taker originally listed *Alex Castell* with another family entirely and had to correct the mistake later.)

(† Based on other sources, it is clear that this age and estimated year of birth are incorrect. This Alex Casteel was actually born around 1800.)

Wayne County (in Middle Tennessee)

- *Andrew Casteel* | M | (age not listed) | Tennessee [House #10]
 - *Martha Casteel* | F | (age not listed) | Tennessee
 - *Margaret Casteel* | F | 8 (1842) | Tennessee
 - *Sarah Jane Casteel* | F | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
 - *Leddy Casteel* | F | 4 (1846) | Tennessee
 - *James Casteel* | M | 2 (1848) | Tennessee

- *John J Casteel* | M | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #17]
 - *Nancy Casteel* | F | 35 (1815) | Tennessee
 - *James Casteel* | M | 15 (1835) | Tennessee
 - *Polly Ann Casteel* | F | 13 (1837) | Tennessee
 - *Martha Jane Casteel* | F | 11 (1839) | Tennessee
 - *Sarah R Casteel* | F | 9 (1841) | Tennessee
 - *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
 - _____* | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee

(* The name was left blank on the census form.)

- *Henry Casteel* | M | 64 (1786) | Tennessee [House #393]
 - *Polly Casteel* | F | 66 (1784) | Virginia

- *William Casteel* | M | 22 (1828) | Tennessee [House #394]
 - *Martha Casteel* | F | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
 - *Obitha(?)** *Casteel* † | F | 2 (1848) | Tennessee

(* This is my best guess. The handwriting on the census form isn't very clear.)

(† I believe that this *Obitha Casteel* belongs to the *William Casteel* family, but I can't be sure. Based on the house numbers, it appears that the pages somehow got microfilmed in the wrong order. The page with the entries for houses #419 through #427 got accidentally inserted between the page that had the entry for William and Martha Casteel [house #394] at the very bottom and the page with the entry for Obitha Casteel, followed immediately by the entry for the family of Preston Casteel [house #396], at the very top. Please be aware, though, that I have not been able to find a listing for a house #395, so I can't be certain that there's not another page missing that should go between the entry for William and Martha Casteel and the entry for Obitha Casteel. However, this is highly unlikely. So, Obitha Casteel probably belongs to the William Casteel family.)

... *Wayne County (continued)*

- *Preston Casteel* | M | 27 (1823) | Tennessee [House #396]
- *Nancy Casteel* | F | 26 (1824) | Tennessee
- *John Casteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Tennessee
- *Martha Casteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
- *Liddy Casteel* | F | 1 (1849) | Tennessee

Wayne County, Mortality Schedule:

- *Lyda Casteel* | F | 8 (1842) | Tennessee
[*died:* Feb (1850) | *cause:* worms | *duration of illness:* 2 days]

Weakley County (in West Tennessee)

(We have chosen to ignore the Castells of Weakley County because we've found no evidence to suggest that any of them were living in East Tennessee before 1820 or that any of them had any connections to the Casteels who did live there.)

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Now let's turn to those Tennessee Casteels who are living outside of Tennessee in 1850. We will list them by state (or territory), then by county, then by township (if applicable), and then by house number:

Limestone County, Alabama

- *Henry M Casteal* | M | 30 (1820)* | Tennessee [House #430]
- *Elizabeth J Casteal* | F | 28 (1822) | Tennessee
- *James M Casteal* | M | 9 (1841) | Alabama
- *Henry M Casteal* | M | 5 (1845) | Alabama
- *Jacob C Casteal* | M | 3 (1847) | Alabama
- *Hanna T Casteal* | F | 1 (1849) | Alabama

(* His census record from 1860 gives his age as 43, which would mean that he was born in 1817 instead of 1820. While we can't be certain which record is correct, it seems far more plausible to me that the age 33 would mistakenly be recorded as 30 than that the age 40 would mistakenly be recorded as 43.)

Morgan County, Alabama

- *Franklin Casteel* | M | 31 (1819) | Tennessee [House #86]
- *Susan Casteel* | F | 24 (1826) | Alabama
- *Benjamin F Casteel* | M | 4 (1846) | Alabama
- *Martha Casteel* | F | 3 (1847) | Alabama
- *Burrell A Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Alabama

Sumter County, Alabama

- *Samuel E Casteel* | M | 36 (1814) | Tennessee [House #741]
- *Mary A Casteel* | F | 24 (1826) | Alabama
- *Francis Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Alabama

{Please note that the Samuel E. Casteel household also included a slave who is not listed here. Beginning in 1850, slaves were enumerated in a separate “Slave Schedule” of the census, and were not included on the same census form as the other members of the household.}

St. Francis County, Arkansas

Franks Township

- *Charlotte Casteel** | F | 49 (1801) | South Carolina [House #456]
- *William H Cook* | M | 13 (1837) | Arkansas
- *Louisa Franks* | F | 12 (1838) | Arkansas
- *Sarah Franks* | F | 5 (1845) | Arkansas

(* This is the widow of *Philip Casteel*.)

- *Madison Casteel* | M | 37 (1813) | Tennessee [House #457]
- *Margaret Casteel* | F | 37 (1813) | Tennessee
- *Robert W Casteel* | M | 14 (1836) | Arkansas
- *William A Casteel* | M | 12 (1838) | Mississippi
- *George R Casteel* | M | 8 (1842) | Arkansas
- *Julius M Casteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Arkansas
- *Thomas M Casteel* | M | 2 (1848) | Arkansas

... *St. Francis County, Arkansas (continued)*

... *Franks Township (continued)*

- *John W Casteel* | M | 30 (1820) | Tennessee [House #459]
 - *Mary Casteel* | F | 26 (1824) | Tennessee
 - *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 8 (1842) | Arkansas
 - *Dicy Casteel* | F | 3 (1847) | Arkansas
 - *John O Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Arkansas
 - *Mary J Casteel* | F | 7 (1843) | Arkansas

- *James Casteel* | M | 45 (1805) | Tennessee [House #636]
 - *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 45 (1805) | North Carolina
 - *John H Casteel* | M | 18 (1832) | Arkansas
 - *Jane L Casteel* | M | 17 (1833) | Arkansas
 - *Daphne Casteel* | F | 15 (1835) | Arkansas
 - *Lucinda Casteel* | F | 12 (1838) | Arkansas
 - *Mary Casteel* | F | 9 (1841) | Arkansas
 - *Nancy Casteel* | F | 6 (1844) | Arkansas

Union Township

- *Calloway Casteel* | M | 31 (1819) | Tennessee [House #569]
 - *Isabella Casteel* | F | 28 (1822) | Tennessee
 - *Milton Casteel* | M | 9 (1841) | Alabama
 - *Louisa Casteel* | F | 6 (1844) | Alabama
 - *James Casteel* | M | 4 (1846) | Alabama
 - *Missouri Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Missouri

- *Ezra Casteel* | M | 32 (1818) | Tennessee [House #372]
 - *Lucinda Casteel* | F | 35 (1815) | Tennessee
 - *Joseph Casteel* | M | 11 (1839) | Tennessee
 - *William H Casteel* | M | 3 (1847) | Arkansas
 - *Sarah F Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Arkansas
 - *John B Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Arkansas

... *St. Francis County, Arkansas (continued)*

... *Union Township (continued)*

- *James W Casteel* | M | 32 (1818) | Tennessee [House #483]
- *Julia Casteel* | F | 30 (1820) | Tennessee
- *Ebron Casteel* | M | 7 (1843) | Arkansas
- *Caroline Casteel* | F | 4 (1846) | Arkansas
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Arkansas

Phillips County, Arkansas

- *R W Casteel* | M | 34 (1816) | Tennessee [House #12]
- *Luisa(?)^{*} Casteel* | F | 24 (1826) | Virginia
- *Mary Casteel* | F | 1/12 (1850) | Arkansas
- *R W^{s/o}(?)^{*†} Casteel* | M | 16 (1834) | Arkansas
- *Louisa Hall(?)^{*}* | F | 26 (1824) | Virginia

(* The names on the original census form are barely legible. I've tried to figure out as many of these names as I could, but some are still uncertain.)

(† The abbreviation ^{s/o} apparently stands for "son of" and means "*Junior*".)

{Please note that the R.W. Casteel household also included seven slaves who are not listed here.}

Dade County, Georgia

- *Henry L Casteel* | M | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #198]
- *Hedis(?)^{*} M Casteel* | F | 35 (1815) | North Carolina
- *Philip Casteel* | M | 7 (1843) | Georgia
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Georgia
- *Mary Casteel* | F | 2 (1848) | Georgia
- *Henry Casteel* | M | 6/12 (1850) | Georgia
- *Elizabeth Corfa(?)^{*}* | F | 75 (1775) | South Carolina

(* The names on the original census form are barely legible. I've tried to figure out as many of these names as I could, but some are still uncertain.)

Union County, Georgia

- *Alexar Casteel* | M | 29 (1821) | Tennessee [House #284]
 - *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 29 (1821) | Tennessee
 - *James Casteel* | M | 9 (1841) | Tennessee
 - *Birson Casteel* | M | 7 (1843) | Tennessee
 - *Barney Casteel* | M | 5 (1845) | Tennessee
 - *Nancy Casteel* | F | 1 (1849) | Georgia
 - *John Casteel* | M | ²/₁₂ (1850) | Georgia

- *Allen Casteel* | M | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #285]
 - *Rebecca Casteel* | F | 39 (1811) | unknown
 - *Jane Casteel* | F | 11 (1839) | North Carolina
 - *Mary Casteel* | F | 10 (1840) | North Carolina
 - *Sofronia Casteel* | F | 8 (1842) | Georgia
 - *Francis Casteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Georgia

- *Barney Casteel* | M | 63 (1787) | Tennessee [House #286]
 - *Mary Casteel* | F | 60 (1790) | Virginia
 - *Sophia Casteel* | F | 28 (1822) | Tennessee
 - *Jonas Casteel* | M | 27 (1823) | Tennessee
 - *James Casteel* | M | 22 (1828) | Tennessee
 - *Robert Casteel* | M | 20 (1830) | Tennessee
 - *Charles Casteel* | M | 19 (1831) | Tennessee
 - *William Casteel* | M | 15 (1835) | Tennessee

- *Edward Casteel* | M | 39 (1811) | Tennessee [House #287]
 - *Katharine Casteel* | F | 39 (1811) | South Carolina
 - *Rebecca Casteel* | F | 13 (1837) | Tennessee
 - *Katharine Casteel* | F | 10 (1840) | Georgia
 - *Louisa Casteel* | F | 6 (1844) | Georgia
 - *Sarah Ann Casteel* | F | 4 (1846) | Georgia
 - *James Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Georgia
 - *Eli Kelly* | M | 19 (1831) | Tennessee
 - *Jane Kelly* | F | 19 (1831) | Tennessee

Jackson County, Illinois

- *Elijah Castile* | M | 53 (1797) | Illinois* [House #521]
- *Margaret Castile* | F | 42 (1808) | Illinois*
- *James A Castile* | M | 24 (1826) | Illinois
- *William E Castile* | M | 21 (1829) | Illinois
- *Carolina Castile* | F | 17 (1833) | Illinois
- *J Nicholas Castile* | M | 16 (1834) | Illinois
- *Barbara Castile* | F | 13 (1837) | Illinois
- *Susan Castile* | F | 11 (1839) | Illinois
- *Isaac B Castile* | M | 10 (1840) | Illinois
- *Betsy Castile* | F | 8 (1842) | Illinois
- *Eliza E Castile* | F | 7 (1843) | Illinois

(* This is an error. We know from other sources that this Elijah Casteel was born in Tennessee and that his wife, Margaret, was born in Indiana.)

Pike County, Illinois

- *Francis Casteel* | M | 28 (1822) | Tennessee [House #850]
- *Lucinda Casteel* | F | 25 (1825) | Kentucky
- *Celia A Casteel* | F | 4 (1846) | Illinois
- *Thomas Casteel* | M | 1 (1849) | Illinois

- *David Shular* | M | 32 (1818) | North Carolina [House #1056]
- *Malvina Shular* | F | 20 (1830) | Tennessee
- *Lucinda Shular* | F | 2 (1848) | Illinois
- *Lucinda Casteel* | F | 31 (1819) | Tennessee
- *George Franklin* | M | ¹/₃₆₅ (1850) | Illinois

Putnam County, Indiana

- *Allen Casteel* | M | 28 (1822) | Tennessee [House #188]
- *Martha I Casteel* | F | 23 (1827) | Tennessee
- *Sarah Casteel* | F | 7 (1843) | Georgia
- *Nancy Casteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Georgia
- *Zachariah Casteel* | M | 2 (1848) | Georgia
- *Zachariah Niddle* | M | 18 (1832) | Tennessee

Henry County, Iowa

- *Alcana** *Casteel* | M | 44 (1816) | Tennessee [House #1522]
- *Christina Casteel* | F | 38 (1822) | Tennessee
- *Cynthia A Casteel* | F | 17 (1833) | Indiana
- *Polly Casteel* | F | 15 (1835) | Indiana
- *Allen Casteel* | M | 13 (1837) | Indiana
- *William Casteel* | M | 11 (1839) | Indiana
- *James Casteel* | M | 7 (1843) | Indiana
- *Louisa Casteel* | F | 5 (1845) | Iowa
- *Martha Casteel* | F | 3 (1847) | Iowa

(* This is apparently a misspelling of *Elcana*.)

Crittenden County, Kentucky

- *Peter Casteel* | M | 35 (1815) | Tennessee [House #279]
- *Mary Casteel* | F | 36 (1816) | Tennessee
- *John Casteel* | M | 14 (1836) | Tennessee
- *William Casteel* | M | 12 (1838) | Tennessee
- *Elizabeth Casteel* | F | 10 (1840) | Tennessee
- *B Casteel* | M | 6 (1844) | Tennessee

McCracken County, Kentucky

- *Abraham Casteel* | M | 46 (1804) | Tennessee [House #330]
- *Sarah Casteel* | F | 43 (1807) | North Carolina
- *Abraham M Casteel* | M | 12 (1838) | Louisiana
- *David B Casteel* | M | ¹⁰/₁₂ (1849) | Kentucky

Pontotoc County, Mississippi

- *Morris Casteel* | M | 57 (1793) | Tennessee [House #1246]
- *Sarah Casteel* | F | 54 (1796) | Tennessee
- *Louisa Casteel* | F | 20 (1830) | Tennessee
- *Asbury Casteel* | M | 18 (1832) | Tennessee
- *Marion Casteel* | M | 15 (1835) | Alabama
- *Monroe Casteel* | M | 13 (1837) | Alabama
- *Victoria Casteel* | F | 8 (1842) | Alabama

Buchanan County, Missouri

- *David Castile* | M | 39 (1811) | Tennessee [House #498]
 - *Emily Castile* | F | 35 (1815) | Virginia
 - *Angeline Castile* | F | 19 (1831) | Missouri
 - *Melina Castile* | F | 14 (1836) | Missouri
 - *Martin Castile* | M | 11 (1839) | Missouri
 - *John Castile* | M | 9 (1841) | Missouri
 - *Joseph Castile* | M | 7 (1843) | Missouri
 - *George Castile* | M | 5 (1845) | Missouri
 - *Cynthia Vasser* | F | 1 (1849) | Missouri

- *Frederick Randle* | M | 45 (1805) | Germany [House #500]
 - *Lucinda Randle* | F | 22 (1828) | Missouri
 - *George Castile* | M | 15 (1835) | Missouri

- *Woodfield Castile* | M | 29 (1821) | Missouri [House #501]
 - *Nancy Castile* | F | 22 (1828) | Missouri
 - *Martha Castile* | F | 3 (1847) | Missouri
 - *Mary Castile* | F | 1 (1849) | Missouri

Cooper County, Missouri

- *Larkin Dewitt* | M | 52 (1798) | New York [House #782]
 - *Priscilla Dewitt** | F | 32 (1818) | Missouri
 - *John Dewitt* | M | 17 (1833) | Missouri
 - *Layfayette Dewitt* | M | 15 (1835) | Missouri
 - *Marten Dewitt* | M | 9 (1841) | Missouri
 - *Elizabeth Dewitt* | F | 7 (1843) | Missouri
 - *Ezra Dewitt* | M | 4 (1846) | Missouri
 - *Permela Dewitt* | F | 1 (1849) | Missouri
 - *Monroe Castile** | M | 22 (1828) | Missouri

(* *Priscilla Casteel Dewitt* is the older sister of *Monroe Casteel*.)

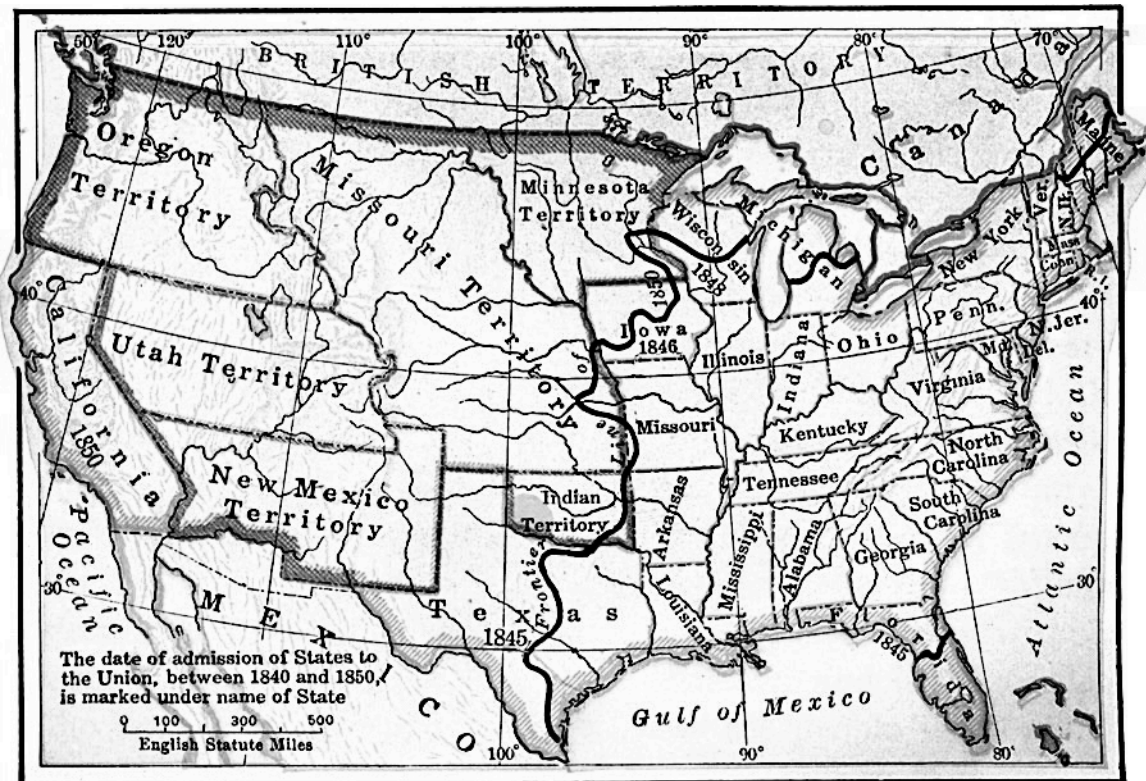
New Madrid County, Missouri

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| • <i>M C Casteel</i> | M | 33 (1817) | Tennessee | [House #60] |
| - <i>Jane Casteel</i> | F | 33 (1817) | Tennessee | |
| - <i>Celeste Casteel</i> | F | 12 (1838) | Arkansas | |
| - <i>Jas D Casteel</i> | M | 9 (1841) | Arkansas | |
| - <i>Louisa Casteel</i> | F | 7 (1843) | Arkansas | |

Utah County, Utah Territory

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| • <i>Jacob R* Casteel</i> | M | 54 (1796) | Tennessee | [House #106] |
| - <i>Sarah Casteel</i> | F | 50 (1800) | Illinois | |
| - <i>Joshua Casteel</i> | M | 19 (1831) | Illinois | |
| - <i>James Casteel</i> | M | 18 (1832) | Illinois | |

(* This is likely an error. Other sources give his middle name as *Israel*.)



The United States in 1850

That's it. While I am fairly certain that this list is incomplete—we can find other Casteels in the 1850 census who were born in Tennessee; we just have no evidence that they were members of any of the Casteel families who were living there in or before 1817—I think we have more than enough names to work with.

So, what do we learn from the 1850 census? Most of the Casteels we find in the 1850 census are too young to be of interest to us—recall that our goal here is to try to identify and learn as much as we can about those Casteels who would have been living in East Tennessee around 1817. Few of the Casteels we find in the 1850 census had even been born by 1817, and very few of them would have been adults (age 17 or older) in 1817. Those who would have been adults in 1817 are:

- Agnes Casteel (b. 1793 in Virginia) of Blount County, Tennessee
(widow of Abednego Casteel, who can be found in the 1830 census in Knox County, Tennessee, and in the 1840 census in Blount County, Tennessee)
- Barney Casteel (b. 1787 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
(who can be found in the 1830 census in Monroe County, Tennessee,
and in the 1840 census in Cherokee County, North Carolina)
+ Mary Casteel (b. 1790 in Virginia), his wife
- Elijah Casteel (b. 1797 in Tennessee*) of Jackson County, Illinois
(who can be found in the 1830 and 1840 census in Pike County, Illinois)
{* Note that his 1850 census record mistakenly says *Illinois*}
- Henry Casteel (b. 1786 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
(who can be found in the 1830 census in Bedford County, Tennessee,
and in the 1840 census in Wayne County, Tennessee)
+ Polly Casteel (b. 1784 in Virginia), his wife
- Jacob Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee) of Utah County, Utah
(who can be found in the 1830 census in Pike County, Illinois,
and in the 1840 census in Hancock County, Illinois)
+ Sarah Casteel (b. 1800 in Illinois), his wife

- Jeremiah Casteel (b. 1786 in Tennessee) of Greene County, Tennessee
(who can be found in the 1830 and 1840 census in Greene County, Tennessee)
- John Casteel (b. 1790 in Virginia) of Bedford County, Tennessee
(who can be found in the 1830 and 1840 census in Bedford County, Tennessee)
+ Elizabeth Casteel (b. 1798 in Tennessee; d. 1850), his late wife
- John Casteel (the elder, b. 1770 in Pennsylvania) of Greene County, Tennessee
(who can be found in the 1830 and 1840 census in Greene County, Tennessee)
+ Jemima Casteel (b. 1778 in Pennsylvania; d. 1849), his late wife
- Morris Casteel (b. 1793 in Tennessee) of Pontotoc County, Mississippi
(who can be found in the 1830 census in Rhea County, Tennessee,
and in the 1840 census in DeKalb County, Alabama)
+ Sarah Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee), his wife

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Other names that we find in either the 1830 or 1840 census that are also found in the 1850 census include:

- *Abraham Casteel* (b. 1804 in Tennessee) of McCracken County, Kentucky
(formerly of Union County, Arkansas—assuming that the *A. Casteel* from the 1840 census really is *Abraham Calloway Casteel*, as some have speculated)
- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1800* in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
(* The 1850 census incorrectly suggests that he was born in 1810.)
- *Andrew Casteel* (b. 1810s* in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
(* Please note that his age was not given in the 1850 census.)
- *Braxton Casteel* (b. 1810 in Tennessee) of Bedford County, Tennessee
(who is listed as *Blanton Casteel* in the 1840 census)
- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1803 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
(who may be the same *Daniel Casteel* who was in Greene County, Tennessee,
in 1840—though we can't be certain of this)

- *David Casteel* (b. 1811 in Tennessee) of Buchanan County, Missouri (formerly of Clinton County, Missouri)
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1811 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina)
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1803 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee (formerly of Monroe County, Tennessee)
- *Elcana Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee) of Henry County, Iowa (formerly of Putnam County, Indiana—note that the first name is misspelled as *Alcana* in the 1850 census)
- *Elijah Casteel* (b. 1806 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- *Henry L. Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Dade County, Georgia (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina)
- *James Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee (formerly of Blount County, Tennessee)
- *James Casteel* (b. 1805 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- *John W. Casteel* (b. 1820 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas (who is listed as *J.W. Casteel* in the 1840 census)
- *Madison Casteel* (b. 1813 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas (formerly of Phillips County, Arkansas)
- *Moses C. Casteel* (b. 1817 in Tennessee) of New Madrid County, Missouri (formerly of St. Francis County, Arkansas—assuming that the *M.C. Casteel* in the 1850 census is the same person as the *Moses Casteel* from the 1840 census)
- *Peter Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Crittenden County, Kentucky (formerly of Greene County, Tennessee)

We also find a number of new names in the 1850 census, but the vast majority of these are of children who are too young to have been living in East Tennessee in, around, or before 1817.

However, we do learn the names of the wives or widows of several of the Casteel men from the 1830 and 1840 censuses:

- Agnes Casteel (b. 1793 in Virginia) of Blount County, Tennessee
- widow of *Abednego Casteel*
- *Charlotte Casteel* (b. 1801 in South Carolina) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- widow of *Philip Casteel*
- *Christina Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Henry County, Iowa
- wife of *Elcana** *Casteel* (formerly of Putnam County, Indiana)
(* Note that the 1850 census misspells his name as *Alcana*.)
- *Eliza Casteel* (b. 1805 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- wife of *Daniel Casteel* (This *may* be the same Daniel Casteel who previously lived in Greene County, Tennessee; but we can't be sure.)
- Elizabeth Casteel (b. 1798 in Tennessee; d. 1850) of Bedford County, Tennessee
- late wife of *John Casteel*
- *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1805 in North Carolina) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- wife of *James Casteel*
- *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1825 in Tennessee; d. 1850) of Bedford County, Tennessee
- late wife of *Braxton/Blanton/Blackstone Casteel*
- *Emily Casteel* (b. 1815 in Virginia) of Buchanan County, Missouri
- wife of *David Casteel* (formerly of Clinton County, Missouri)
- *Hedis(?)** *M. Casteel* (b. 1815 in North Carolina) of Dade County, Georgia
- wife of *Henry L. Casteel* (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina)
(* Note that the name is barely legible on the census form, and I have not been able to verify it using other sources.)
- *Jane Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- wife of *Edward Casteel* (formerly of Monroe County, Tennessee)

- *Jane Casteel* (b. 1817 in Tennessee) of New Madrid County, Missouri
 - wife of *M.C. Casteel* (formerly of St. Francis County, Arkansas—assuming that this is the same person as the *Moses Casteel* in the 1840 census)
- *Jemima Casteel* (b. 1778 in Pennsylvania) of Greene County, Tennessee
 - late wife of *John Casteel* (the elder)
- *Katharine Casteel* (b. 1811 in South Carolina) of Union County, Georgia
 - wife of *Edward Casteel* (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina)
- *Margaret Casteel* (b. 1808 in Indiana*) of Jackson County, Illinois
 - wife of *Elijah Casteel* (formerly of Pike County, Illinois)
 - (* Note that the 1850 census mistakenly gives her place of birth as *Illinois*.)
- *Margaret Casteel* (b. 1813 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
 - wife of *Madison Casteel* (formerly of Phillips County, Arkansas)
- *Martha Casteel* (b. 1820s* in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
 - wife of *Andrew Casteel*
 - (* Please note that her age is not given in the 1850 census.)
- *Mary Casteel* (b. 1790 in Virginia) of Union County, Georgia
 - wife of *Barney Casteel* (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina, and before that, Monroe County, Tennessee)
- *Mary Casteel* (b. 1812 in South Carolina) of Benton County, Tennessee
 - widow of *Eli Casteel*
- *Mary Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee) of Crittenden County, Kentucky
 - wife of *Peter Casteel*, the younger (formerly of Greene County, Tennessee)
- *Mary Casteel* (b. 1824 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
 - wife of *John W. Casteel* (listed as *J.W. Casteel* in the 1840 census)
- *Patience Casteel* (b. 1800 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
 - wife of *Elijah Casteel*
- *Polly Casteel* (b. 1784 in Virginia) of Wayne County, Tennessee
 - wife of *Henry Casteel*

- Sarah Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee) of Pontotoc County, Mississippi
- wife of *Morris Casteel* (formerly of DeKalb County, Alabama, and before that, Rhea County, Tennessee)
- Sarah Casteel (b. 1800 in Illinois) of Utah County, Utah
- wife of *Jacob Casteel* (formerly of Hancock County, Illinois, and before that, Pike County, Illinois)
- *Sarah Casteel* (b. 1807 in North Carolina) of McCracken County, Kentucky
- wife of *Abraham Casteel* (formerly of Union County, Arkansas—assuming that this is the same person as the *A. Casteel* from the 1840 census)
- *Susan Casteel* (b. 1801) of McMinn County, Tennessee
- wife of *Alexander Casteel*
- *Susan Casteel* (b. 1821) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- wife of *James Casteel* (formerly of Blount County, Tennessee)

We also find just a few Casteels in the 1850 census whose names did not appear in either the 1830 or 1840 census, who were born in Tennessee and are old enough (if only barely) to have been living there when Henry Montgomery Casteel was a child, but whose parents we have not yet been able to identify. First and foremost among these, of course, is Henry Montgomery Casteel himself. But in addition to him, we also find:

- *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1814) of Greene County, Tennessee
- *Ezra Casteel* (b. 1818) of St. Francis, County, Arkansas
- *Franklin Casteel* (b. 1819) of Morgan County, Alabama
- *James W. Casteel* (b. 1818) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- *John Casteel* (b. 1815) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- *Kezziah Casteel* (b. 1813) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- *R.W. Casteel* (b. 1816) of Phillips County, Arkansas
- *William Casteel* (b. 1822) of Hamilton County, Tennessee

Obviously, *Elizabeth Casteel* belongs to the Greene County Casteel clan, but we don't know exactly how she fits in. Is she a widow? If so, who was her husband? Or is she, perhaps, an unmarried Casteel daughter? Then who were her parents? We simply don't know.

We know that *Ezra Casteel*, *James W. Casteel*, and *R.W. Casteel* all belong to the Arkansas Casteel clan, but we still don't know exactly who their parents were. (This is also true for *John W. Casteel*, *Madison Casteel*, and *Moses Casteel*, the younger, by the way.) We know that each of these men is a member of one of the families that migrated from East Tennessee to Arkansas in the 1820s, but we don't know which specific family each of these men belongs to.

Franklin Casteel is a complete mystery—and an intriguing one. In 1850, he and his family are living in Morgan County, Alabama, which is the county just to the south of Limestone County. This suggests the possibility of a connection between him and our Henry Montgomery Casteel. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any evidence of such a connection. Nor have I been able to find any evidence that would definitively establish who his parents are or where in Tennessee he was born. However, I have been able to discover a few things about him that hint at a possible connection to some of the Casteels we have already met. We will look at these fascinating pieces of information a bit later.

John Casteel, *Kezziah Casteel*, and *William Casteel*—all of whom are living in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in 1850—are also a mystery. We don't know how they were related to each other or to any of the other Casteels of East Tennessee. Kezziah Casteel appears to be a widow, but I don't have the faintest clue who her husband might have been. And we don't know who the parents of John Casteel or William Casteel were. It seems reasonable to speculate that at least one of them might have been the son of *Zachariah* and *Rebecca Casteel*—their ages would be about right—but without further evidence, we can't really know for sure.

These mysteries are going to have to remain unsolved, at least for the time being. For one thing, we haven't yet found the information that we would need in order to solve them. For another, we can't afford to allow ourselves to get sidetracked when we have so much work that still needs to be done if we ever hope to figure out how all of our East Tennessee Casteel families are interrelated and where each of them lived in, around, and before 1817.

Before we move on to other records, though, let's take a moment to look at just a few more of the things we have learned from the 1850 census.

Some of the Casteels who were listed in the 1840 census are not found in the 1850 census. Most of them probably died sometime between 1840 and 1850, though it is possible that a few have simply slipped through the cracks and eluded my search due to a lost census record, a misspelled name on the census form, or some similar reason. Whatever the explanation for their absence, here is a list of those Casteels whose names appear in the 1840 census but not (as far as I've been able to tell) in the 1850 census:

- Abednego Casteel (b. 1780s) of Blount County, Tennessee
- *Alexander Casteel (the younger, b. 1810s)** of McMinn County, Tennessee
(* Assuming that the *Alex Casteel* of McMinn County, Tennessee, in the 1850 census is *Alexander Casteel the elder*—though we can't be sure of this.)
- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Clinton County, Missouri
- Daniel Casteel (b. 1780s) of Monroe County, Tennessee
- Edward Casteel (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- Eli Casteel (b. 1780s) of Benton County, Tennessee
- *George W. Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Crittenden County, Arkansas
- *G.W. Casteel* (b. 1810s) of Monroe County, Tennessee*
(* Unless this is the *George W. Casteel* who is living with the family of Agnes Casteel in Blount County.)
- Jemima Casteel (b. 1760s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- John Casteel (the younger, b. 1780s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- Joseph Casteel (b. 1770s) of Clinton County, Missouri
- *Joseph Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- Mary Casteel (b. 1770s) of Putnam County, Indiana
- Philip Casteel (b. 1790s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
- *Rebecca Casteel* (b. 1800s) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
- Shadrach Casteel (b. 1780s) of Cooper County, Missouri
- Susannah Casteel (b. 1770s) of Greene County, Tennessee
- Willis Casteel (b. 1770s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas

We should also note that several Casteel families have moved between 1840 and 1850. These include the families of:

- *Abraham Casteel* (b. 1804 in Tennessee)
formerly of Union County, Arkansas*
is now in McCracken County, Kentucky
(* assuming that this is the *A. Casteel* we find in the 1840 census)
- *Barney Casteel* (b. 1787 in Tennessee)
formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina
(and before that, Monroe County, Tennessee)
is now in Union County, Georgia
- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1803 in Tennessee)
formerly of Greene County, Tennessee*
is now in Hamilton County, Tennessee
(* assuming that this is the same *Daniel Casteel*)
- *David Casteel* (b. 1811 in Tennessee)
formerly of Clinton County, Missouri
is now in neighboring Buchanan County, Missouri
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1803 in Tennessee)
formerly of Monroe County, Tennessee,
is now in Hamilton County, Tennessee
- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1811 in Tennessee)
formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina
is now in Union County, Georgia
- *Elcana** *Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee)
formerly of Putnam County, Indiana
is now in Henry County, Iowa
(* Note that his first name is misspelled as *Alcana* in the 1850 census)

- Elijah Casteel (b. 1797 in Tennessee*)
 formerly of Pike County, Illinois
 is now in Jackson County, Illinois
 (* Note that the 1850 census mistakenly gives his place of birth as *Illinois*.)

- *Henry L. Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee)
 formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina
 is now in Dade County, Georgia

- Jacob Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee)
 formerly of Hancock County, Illinois
 (and before that, Pike County, Illinois)
 is now in Utah County, Utah

- *James Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee)
 formerly of Blount County, Tennessee
 is now in Hamilton County, Tennessee

- *Madison Casteel* (b. 1813 in Tennessee)
 formerly of Phillips County, Arkansas,
 is now in neighboring St. Francis County, Arkansas

- Morris Casteel (b. 1793 in Tennessee)
 formerly of DeKalb County, Alabama
 (and before that, Rhea County, Tennessee)
 is now in Pontotoc County, Mississippi

- *Moses C. Casteel* (the younger, b. 1817 in Tennessee)
 formerly of St. Francis County, Arkansas,*
 is now in New Madrid County, Missouri
 (* assuming that the *M.C. Casteel* in the 1850 census is the same person as
 the *Moses Casteel* from the 1840 census)

- *Peter Casteel* (the younger, b. 1815 in Tennessee)
 formerly of Greene County, Tennessee
 is now in Crittenden County, Kentucky

Finally, we have already noted that we find many Casteels in the 1850 census who do not appear in earlier census records. Most of them are children, though several are adults. We have already looked at the few whose parents we have not yet been able to identify. Now let's look at those Casteel adults who are new to the census whose parents we can (perhaps with a little uncertainty here and there) identify:

- *Abraham Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of Bedford County, Tennessee
is the son of
- *John* and the late *Elizabeth Casteel* of Bedford County, Tennessee
- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1821 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
is the son of
- *Barney* and *Mary Casteel* of Union County, Georgia (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina, and before that, Monroe County, Tennessee)
- *Allen Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
is the son of
- *Barney* and *Mary Casteel* of Union County, Georgia (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina, and before that, Monroe County, Tennessee)
- *Allen Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Putnam County, Indiana
is the son of
- the late *Edward Casteel* of Putnam County, Indiana
- *Benjamin Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of Blount County, Tennessee
is the son of
- the late *Abednego* and *Agnes Casteel* of Blount County, Tennessee
(formerly of Knox County, Tennessee)
- *Calloway Casteel* (b. 1819 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas,
is the son of
- *Morris* and *Sarah Casteel* of Pontotoc County, Mississippi (formerly of DeKalb County, Alabama, and before that, Rhea County, Tennessee)
- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
is probably (though there is still some uncertainty) the son of
- the late *Alexander Casteel (the elder)* of McMinn County, Tennessee

- *Francis Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Pike County, Illinois is the son of
 - the late *Daniel Casteel*, formerly of Knox County, Tennessee

- *George Casteel* (b. 1835 in Missouri) of Buchanan County, Missouri is the son of
 - the late *Joseph Casteel* of Clinton County, Missouri (formerly of Clay County, Missouri)

- *George W. Casteel** (b. 1820 in Tennessee) of Blount County, Tennessee is probably (though there is still some uncertainty) the son of
 - the late *Abednego* and *Agnes Casteel* of Blount County, Tennessee (formerly of Knox County, Tennessee)

(* Might this be the *G.W. Casteel* who was in Monroe County, Tennessee, in the 1840 census? There is no way to know without further evidence)

- *John Casteel (the younger)*, b. 1822) of Greene County, Tennessee is the son of
 - the late *Peter* (the elder) and the late *Susannah Casteel* of Greene County, Tennessee

- *John J. Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee is the son of
 - *Henry* and *Polly Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee (formerly of Bedford County, Tennessee)

- *Lucinda Casteel* (b. 1819 in Tennessee) of Pike County, Illinois is probably (though there is still some uncertainty) the daughter of
 - the late *Daniel Casteel*, formerly of Knox County, Tennessee

- *Monroe Casteel* (b. 1828 in Missouri) of Cooper County, Missouri is the son of
 - the late *Shadrach Casteel* of Cooper County, Missouri

- *Mordica Casteel* (b. 1823 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee is probably (though there is still some uncertainty) the son of
 - the late *Alexander Casteel* (the elder) of McMinn County, Tennessee

- *Preston Casteel* (b. 1823 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee is the son of
 - *Henry and Polly Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee (formerly of Bedford County, Tennessee)

- *Samuel E. Casteel* (b. 1814 in Tennessee) of Sumter County, Alabama is the son of
 - *Morris and Sarah Casteel* of Pontotoc County, Mississippi (formerly of DeKalb County, Alabama, and before that, Rhea County, Tennessee)

- *William Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Bedford County, Tennessee is the son of
 - *John and the late Elizabeth Casteel* of Bedford County, Tennessee

- *William Casteel* (b. 1828 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee is the son of
 - *Henry and Polly Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee (formerly of Bedford County, Tennessee)

- *Woodfield Casteel* (b. 1821 in Missouri) of Buchanan County, Missouri is the son of
 - the late *Joseph Casteel* of Clinton County, Missouri (formerly of Clay County, Missouri)

Well, that does it for the 1850 census. That was a lot of work, but I think it was worth it. There is a very good chance that we may have missed a few names here and there, but I think we managed to get enough of them for our purposes.

after 1850

We won't be examining the 1860, 1870, or 1880 census records in quite the same level of detail as we examined the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses. However, there are at least a few useful tidbits of information from these later census records that could prove useful to us. The 1880 census is particularly useful, since it is the first to list where each person's *parents* were born. Unfortunately, most of the people who we are most interested in learning about—including our Henry Montgomery

Casteel—have already died by 1880. However, a few of them do have children who are still living in 1880, so it is possible that we might get some useful information from their census records.

Even though there may be lots of useful information in these later census records, I'm not going to reproduce all of these records like I did with the 1830, 1840, and 1850 census records. Instead, I'm just going to go through our list of Casteels and note any interesting information that can be learned about them from their 1860, 1870, or 1880 census records, or those of their children. For the sake of brevity, I will only make note of the information from the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses that is either new or that contradicts the information we have from earlier census records. So, let's get started:

- Abednego Casteel (b. 1780s; d. 1840s) of Blount County, Tennessee (formerly of Knox County, Tennessee)
+ Agnes Casteel (b. 1793 in Virginia), his wife

Abednego had already died before the 1850 census, and Agnes is not found in the 1860 census, suggesting that she died between 1850 and 1860.

However, we do find a bit of useful information in the 1880 census records of their sons *James Monroe Casteel* and *Benjamin Casteel*. According to those records, Abednego Casteel was born in *Tennessee*.

- *Abraham Casteel* (b. 1804 in Tennessee) of McCracken County, Kentucky (formerly of Union County, Arkansas—assuming that this is the *A. Casteel* from the 1840 census)
+ *Sarah Casteel* (b. 1807 in North Carolina), his wife

From the 1860 census for Genevieve County, Missouri:

- A.C. Casteel—born: 1802
- Sarah Casteel—born: 1808 in Illinois *{likely an error}*

From the 1870 census for Iron County, Missouri:

- Abraham is not listed—he must have died between 1860 and 1870
- Sarah is living with her son *A.M. (Abraham Marshall) Casteel*
- Sarah Casteel—born: 1807 in South Carolina *{likely an error}*

From the 1880 census for Howell County, Missouri:

- Sarah is listed as a widow and is still living with her son
- Sarah Casteel—born: 1806 in North Carolina

- *Abraham Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of Bedford County, Tennessee
+ *Mahaley Casteel* (b. 1826 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Bedford County, Tennessee:

- Abram Casteel—born: 1813
- Mahaley is not listed—she must have died sometime between 1850 and 1860

Abraham can't be found in the 1870 census—he must have died sometime between 1850 and 1860.

- *Alexander Casteel* (b. c.1800?*) in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
+ *Susan Casteel* (b. 1801 in Tennessee), his wife

(* This is uncertain due to a discrepancy in his census records. His 1830 census record suggests that he was born in the 1800s, his 1840 census record suggests that he was born in the 1780s, and his 1850 census record suggests that he was born in 1810. However, as we will see below, his 1860 census record suggests that he was born in 1800. Please note also that we are assuming that this is the elder of the two Alexander Casteels of McMinn County, Tennessee, from the 1840 census. This assumption appears to be justified based on the reported ages of his wife and children; however, we cannot be certain that it is correct.)

From the 1860 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:

- A. Casteel—born: 1800 in North Carolina {*likely an error*}
- Susan Casteel—born: 1802

I have not been able to find this particular Alexander or Susan Casteel in any census records after 1860 (though there is another Alexander Casteel living in McMinn County, Tennessee, in 1860 and 1880, as we will see in just a few moments). However, the 1880 census records of some of their children confirm that Alexander was, in fact, born in *Tennessee*.

- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1810s; d. 1840s?*) of Clinton County, Missouri

(*I have not been able to find him in the 1850 census, which suggests—though it does not prove—that he died sometime in the 1840s.)

I have not been able to find this particular *Alexander Casteel* in any census records after 1840. And since we don't know who his wife was or whether he had any children, there is nothing more that we can say about him.

- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1810s in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee*

(* This is the younger of the two Alexander Casteels of McMinn County from the 1840 census, based on the assumption that the *Alex Casteel* of McMinn County from the 1850 census is the elder of two. However, please be aware that we cannot be certain that this assumption is correct.)

I have not been able to find this particular Alexander Casteel in any census records other than his 1840 census record from McMinn County—unless this is actually the same Alexander Casteel we find living in Union County, Georgia, in 1850 (*see below*). I think it's entirely possible that it could be, though I can find no hard evidence to prove it one way or the other.

- *Alexander Casteel* (b. 1821 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
+ *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1821 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:

- A.W. Casteel—born: 1818
- Elizabeth is not listed—she must have died between 1850 and 1860
- We can be confident that this is the Alexander Casteel who was in Union County, Georgia, in 1850, because of the names and ages of his children

From the 1870 census for Monroe County, Tennessee:

- Alx. Casteel—born: 1818
- Amanda Casteel—born: 1846 in Tennessee

From the 1880 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:

- Alexander Casteel—born: 1818
- Manda Casteel (*wife*)—born: 1845 in Georgia

It appears that Alexander got remarried sometime between 1860 and 1870.

Although I can't yet prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, it seems possible to me that this Alexander Casteel might be the same person as the younger Alexander Casteel who was living in McMinn County in 1840 (*see above*). We know from census records that this Alexander Casteel's oldest son was born in Tennessee around 1841, which suggests that Alexander and his wife were very likely living in Tennessee in 1840. But the 1840 census lists only two Alexander Casteels in the entire state of Tennessee in 1840—and both of those were in McMinn County! Admittedly, this is only circumstantial evidence—it doesn't really prove anything—but it is highly suggestive.

- *Allen Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
+ *Rebecca Casteel* (b. 1811 in *unknown*), his wife

I have not been able to find any census records for this particular *Allen* and *Rebecca Casteel* other than their records from Union County, Georgia, in 1850. It is not known what became of them. But since we already know that this *Allen Casteel* is the son of *Barney Casteel*, we really don't need any additional information about him or his wife.

- *Allen Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Putnam County, Indiana
+ *Martha I. Casteel* (b. 1827 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Putnam County, Indiana:

- *Allen Casteel*—born: 1821
- *Martha J. Casteel*—born: 1822
- *Mary Casteel*—born: 1770 in Tennessee (this appears to be *Allen's* mother, the widow of *Edward Casteel*, who I have been unable to find in the 1850 census for some reason)

From the 1870 census for Vermilion County, Illinois:

- *Allen Casteel*—born: 1817
- *Martha J. Casteel*—born: 1825

I have not been able to find them in the 1880 census, so we can't establish where *Edward Casteel* was born. (The 1880 census was the first to include the birthplace of each person's parents.)

- *Andrew Casteel* (b. 1810s in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
+ *Martha Casteel* (b. 1820s in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Wayne County, Tennessee:

- *Andrew Casteel*—born: 1817
- *Martha Casteel*—born: 1820 in Alabama

From the 1870 census for Wayne County, Tennessee:

- *Martha Casteel*—born: 1820 in Tennessee
- *Andrew* is not listed—he must have died between 1860 and 1870

From the 1880 census for Wayne County, Tennessee:

- *Martha Casteel (widowed)*—born: 1818 in Tennessee (both of her parents were born in North Carolina)

- Barney Casteel (b. 1787 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
(formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina, and before that, Monroe County, Tennessee)
+ Mary Casteel (b. 1790 in Virginia), his wife

From the 1860 census for Cherokee County, North Carolina:

- Barny Casteel—born: 1789 in Blunt [*Blount*] County, Tennessee
- Mary is not listed—she must have died between 1850 and 1860
- Harriet J. (Jane) Casteel—born: 1830 in North Carolina (various sources indicate that this is Barney's new wife)

I can't find Barney Casteel anywhere in the 1870 census. I suspect that he died sometime between 1860 and 1870, because I did find this:

From the 1870 census for Union County, Georgia:

- Jincy Kidd—born: 1828 in North Carolina—wife of Marcus Kidd (note that I have found a record from Union County, Georgia, of a marriage between a *Jinsy Casteel* and a *Marcus Reid* in 1868)
- Living with them are *Dicy J. Casteel*, *Jasper Casteel*, *Barney S. Casteel*, and *Mary Casteel*, who are the children of Barney and Harriet Jane Casteel
- I strongly suspect that this *Jincy Kidd* (or *Reid*) is actually *Harriet Jane Casteel* who has remarried

From the 1880 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:

- Jane Casteel (*widowed*)—born: 1830 in North Carolina—is living with the family of her son, *Jasper Casteel*

- *Benjamin Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of Blount County, Tennessee
+ *Ann Casteel* (b. 1828 in Tennessee), his wife

Benjamin and *Ann* (or *Annie*) *Casteel* appear not only in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses, but also in the 1900 and 1910 censuses. (We don't have a census record for them from 1890 because virtually all of the 1890 census records were destroyed in a warehouse fire before they could be preserved on microfilm.) However, there is nothing in these later census records that would significantly add to or change anything that we already know about their origins. The only thing we need to mention is that, sometime before 1860, they moved from Blount County, Tennessee, to neighboring Knox County, where they can be found in 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910.

- *Braxton** *Casteel* (b. 1810 in Tennessee) of Bedford County, Tennessee
+ *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1825 in Tennessee; d. 1850), his wife

(* This is his first name as it is listed in the 1850 census; however, please note that the 1840 census has *Blanton*, while other sources give his first name as *Blackstone*—which is probably his correct first name.)

From the 1860 census for Franklin County, Tennessee:

- B. Casteel—born: 1815
- Emily Casteel—born: 1830 in Tennessee (apparently Blackstone/Braxton/Blanton Casteel must have remarried between 1850 and 1860 and this is his new wife)

From the 1870 census for Franklin County, Tennessee:

- Blackston Casteel—born: 1809
- Emily Casteel—born: 1830 in Virginia

I have not been able to find either of them in the 1880 census.

- *Calloway Casteel* (b. 1819 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
+ *Isabella Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee), his wife

(*Abraham*) *Calloway* and *Isabella Casteel* can be found in census records from 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900. (Recall that the 1890 census was lost.) In all of these records, they are still living in St. Francis County, Arkansas. However, the only information we can find in these census records that we need to note is that (a) Calloway's name is sometimes listed as *Abraham* or *A.C.*, and (b) according to the 1900 census, Calloway was born in August of 1817 and Isabella was born in October of 1820.

- Daniel Casteel (b. 1780s; d. 1850s*) of Monroe County, Tennessee

(*I have not been able to find him in the 1860 census, which suggests—though it does not prove—that he died sometime in the 1850s.)

From the 1850 census for Russell County, Kentucky:

- Daniel Casteel—born: 1785 in Tennessee
- Rebecca A. Casteel—born: 1808 in Tennessee

- Daniel Casteel (b. 1790s; d. 1830s) of Knox County, Tennessee

According to various sources, this *Daniel Casteel* moved his family from Knox County, Tennessee, to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s, and died there only a year or two after arriving. However, I have not been able to find his widow (known from other sources to be *Rhoda Casteel*) in any census records. However, some of their children do appear in later census records, and from these we learn that both Daniel and Rhoda were born in *Tennessee*.

- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1803 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
(formerly of Greene County, Tennessee—assuming that this is the same *Daniel Casteel* we find in the 1840 census living in Greene County)
+ *Eliza Casteel* (b. 1805 in Tennessee)

We really have no way of knowing for certain if the *Daniel Casteel* who is living in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in 1850 is the same *Daniel Casteel* who was living in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1840. However, both of these Daniel Casteels were born between 1800 and 1810; both have wives who were born in that same decade; both have two daughters born between 1830 and 1835; and both have at least one son born between 1835 and '40. (Tough the Daniel Casteel in Greene County actually has *two* sons in this age range—however, one of them could have died sometime before 1850.) More importantly, the Daniel Casteel of Hamilton County in 1850 doesn't have any "extra" children (born before 1840) who don't correspond in sex and age range to the children that the Daniel Casteel of Greene County had in 1840. But perhaps the strongest piece of evidence we have in support of the notion that these two Daniel Casteels were actually the same person is simply the fact that the 1840 census lists only one *Daniel Casteel* between the ages of 30 and 40 in the entire state of Tennessee, and the 1850 census lists only one *Daniel Casteel* between the ages of 40 and 50. If the Daniel Casteel we find in Hamilton County in 1850 were not the same person as the Daniel Casteel we find in Greene County in 1840, we would have two mysteries to solve: (1) Where did the Daniel Casteel of Greene County go to after 1840? *and* (2) Where did the Daniel Casteel of Hamilton County come from before 1850? If they are, in fact, one and the same person, then both of these mysteries are solved.

(continued on next page...)

... *Daniel & Eliza Casteel of Hamilton County, Tennessee (continued)*

From the 1860 census for Davidson County, Tennessee:

- Daniel Casteen—born: 1804
- Eliza Casteen—born: 1807
- Despite the misspelling of the last name, we can be fairly confident that this is the Daniel and Eliza Casteel we're looking for because of the names and ages of their children who are living with them

Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to find them in the 1870 or 1880 census. Given their ages—both were approaching 60 in 1860—it is quite likely that they both died sometime between 1860 and 1870. I should also mention that, while I haven't been able to definitively locate their children in census records after 1860, there is a *William Casteel* in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1880, who is the same age as their son William would be. Of course, this might not be their son. Even if it is, the fact that he ended up in Greene County does not prove that his father came from there.

- *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
+ *Abigail Casteel* (b. 1825 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Hamilton County, Tennessee:

- Danl Casteel
- Abigail Casteel—born: 1823 in North Carolina

I have not been able to find them in any census records after 1860. So we don't know what became of them, nor do we discover where their parents were born. (You'll recall that the 1880 census was the first to identify the birthplace of each person's parents.)

- *David Casteel* (b. 1811 in Tennessee) of Buchanan County, Missouri
(formerly of Clinton County, Missouri)
+ *Emily Casteel* (b. 1815 in Virginia), his wife

I have not been able to find this particular *David* and *Emily Casteel* in any census records after 1850. However, at least some of their children are still living in Buchanan County, Missouri, in 1860. But, I can find nothing in their census records that tells us anything of value about David and Emily.

- Edmond Casteel (b. 1760s; d. 1830s) of McMinn County, Tennessee

This particular *Edmond Casteel* is known to have died in 1831, so it does us no good to search for any census records for him after 1830. However, he did have several (known or suspected) children who do appear in census records after 1830, but the only one of them that contains any information that is relevant to our purposes here is that of *Barney Casteel* (who we've looked at already). Barney Casteel is believed to be the son of this Edmond Casteel, and we know from Barney's 1860 census record that he was born in Blount County, Tennessee. This would place Edmond Casteel in Blount County at the time of Barney's birth—around 1787 or 1789, depending on which census record you go by. Unfortunately, that's about all we can say about Edmond Casteel based on census records.

- Edward Casteel (b. 1770s; d. 1830s) of Putnam County, Indiana
+ Mary Casteel (b. 1770s), his wife

Edward died before the 1840 census. I have not been able to find Mary in the 1850 census, but she is in the 1860 census, living with the family of her son, *Allen Casteel* (who we have already looked at).

From the 1860 census for Putnam County, Indiana:
- Mary Casteel—born: 1770 in Tennessee

- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1803 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
(formerly of Monroe County, Tennessee)
+ *Jane Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Hamilton County, Tennessee:
- Edward Casteel—born: 1815
- Jane Casteel—born: 1816

From the 1870 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:
- Jane Casteel—born: 1810
- Edward is not listed—he must have died between 1860 and 1870
- We know that this is the correct Jane Casteel because of the names and ages of her children who are still living with her

I can't find Jane in the 1880 census, suggesting that she probably died in the 1870s. Some of her children are still living in McMinn County, Tennessee, in 1880, but their census records contain no additional information that we would find useful for our purposes here.

- *Edward Casteel* (b. 1811 in Tennessee) of Union County, Georgia
(formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina)
+ *Katherine Casteel* (b. 1811 in South Carolina), his wife

Unfortunately, I have thus far not been able to find this particular *Edward* and *Katherine Casteel*, or any of their children, in any census records after 1850. However, we already know who Edward's parents are (*Barney* and *Mary Casteel*), which is the main thing we care about.

- *Elcana Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee) of Henry County, Iowa
(formerly of Putnam County, Indiana)
+ *Christina Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Webster County, Missouri:

- *Acana Casteel*—born: 1807
- *Christina Casteel*—born: 1811

From the 1870 census for Webster County, Missouri:

- *Elkanah Casteel*—born: 1807
- *Christina* is not listed—she must have died between 1860 and 1870

I have not been able to find *Elcana Casteel* in the 1880 census.

- *Eli Casteel* (b. 1780s; d. 1840s) of Benton County, Tennessee
(formerly of Pope County, Illinois)
+ *Mary Casteel* (b. 1812 in South Carolina), his (second) wife

Eli died before the 1850 census, and I have not been able to find *Mary* in any census records after 1850. However, there is a census record for their youngest son, *Pinkney Alexander Casteel*, from 1900, which states that both of his parents were born in *Tennessee*.

- *Elijah Casteel* (b. 1797 in Tennessee*) of Jackson County, Illinois
(formerly of Pike County, Illinois)
+ *Margaret Casteel* (b. 1808 in Indiana*), his wife

(* Note that the 1850 census incorrectly states that both were born in *Illinois*.)

From the 1860 census for Jackson County, Illinois:

- *Elijah Casteel*—born: 1797 in Tennessee
- *Margaret Casteel*—born: 1807 in Indiana

I have not been able to find them in any census records after 1860.

- *Elijah Casteel* (b. 1806 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
+ *Patience Casteel* (b. 1800 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Murray County, Georgia:

- *Elijah Casteel*—born: 1798
- *Patience Casteel*—born: 1798

From the 1870 census for Whitfield County, Georgia:

- *Patience Casteel*—born 1795
- *Elijah* is not listed—he must have died between 1860 and 1870
- *Patience* appears to be living with the family of her daughter and son-in-law (*Rebecca* and *John McCurdy*); one of her adult sons (*James Casteel*, age 43), who is mentally challenged (“idiotic” in the parlance of the day), is also living with them

I have not been able to find *Patience* in the 1880 census.

- *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1814 in Tennessee) of Greene County, Tennessee

I can't find her or her children in any census records after 1850.

- *Ezra Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of St. Francis, County, Arkansas
+ *Lucinda Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee), his wife

Neither *Ezra* nor *Lucinda* can be found in the 1860 census, and they are both believed to have died sometime in the 1850s. None of their children's census records includes any additional information about them.

- *Francis Casteel* (b. 1750s; d. 1830s) of Knox County, Tennessee

We know that this *Francis Casteel* died before 1840, so he doesn't appear in any census records after 1830, and the only thing of value we can learn about him from the census records of his (known or suspected) children is that he was living in Tennessee at least as early as the late 1790s, when two of his children (*Jacob Israel Casteel* and *Elijah Casteel*) were born there.

- *Francis Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Pike County, Illinois
+ *Lucinda Casteel* (b. 1825 in Kentucky), his wife

Francis and *Lucinda* appear in both the 1860 and 1870 censuses for Pike County, Illinois, and *Francis* also appears in the 1880 census, in that same county, listed as a widower. However, we don't really learn much about their origins from these later census records that we didn't already know. However, we do learn that *Francis's* parents were both born in Tennessee; and since *Francis* is known (from other sources) to be the son of *Daniel* and *Rhoda Casteel* of Knox County, Tennessee, this helps to shed some light on their origins.

- *Franklin Casteel* (b. 1819 in Tennessee) of Morgan County, Alabama
+ *Susan Casteel* (b. 1826 in Alabama), his wife

From the 1860 census for Morgan County, Alabama:

- *Frank Casteel*—born: 1814 in Virginia {likely an error}
- *Susan Casteel*—born: 1825 in Alabama

From the 1870 census for (neighboring) Lawrence County, Alabama:

- *Frank Castile*—born: 1810 in Tennessee
- *Sarah Castile*—born: 1821 in Alabama (Is this *Susan*? Or might *Susan* have died and this is *Franklin's* second wife?)
- We know that this is the right *Casteel* family because of the names and ages of the children
- Note that one of their sons is named *Daniel*

From the 1880 census for Morgan County, Alabama:

- *Franklin Casteel*—born: 1813 in Tennessee
 - » Father's birthplace: Virginia
 - » Mother's birthplace: South Carolina
- *Sarah J Casteel (wife)*—born: 1834 in Alabama (her parents' places of birth are not given)
- Note that one of their sons is named *Bednigo*

As promised, we have managed to find some intriguing information about the mysterious *Franklin Casteel* of Morgan County, Alabama. If the 1880 census is correct, then we know that his father was born in *Virginia* and his mother was born in *South Carolina*. So, we are looking for a *Casteel* from *Virginia* with a wife from *South Carolina* who were living in *Tennessee* in the 1810s and who had at least one son born in that decade. We don't have

enough information on where each of our Casteels were born to be able to narrow down the list of candidates to fewer than about half-a-dozen names, but at least that gives us a place to start. Another clue to Franklin Casteel's possible origins is to be found in the names of some of his children. In the 1870 census, we see that he has a son named *Daniel*—which is a common enough name that we probably shouldn't read too much into it. But in the 1880 census, he has a son named *Bednego*—which is presumably short for *Abednego*. Now, while the name *Abednego* was certainly more common in those days than it is today, it was not especially common even back then. So, it seems reasonable to suspect that this *Bednego Casteel* was probably named after a relative—perhaps a grandfather, uncle, or great-grandfather. So, it seems likely that our Franklin Casteel is closely related in some way to the brothers *Abednego* and *Daniel Casteel* who lived in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1830. We don't yet know quite how they were related, but some sort of relationship seems probable. So, while we haven't completely solved the mystery of Franklin Casteel, we are much closer than we were.

- *George Casteel* (b. 1835 in Missouri) of Buchanan County, Missouri

We learn several things about *George Casteel* from his later census records (e.g. his middle initial is *W.*; his wife's name was *Christine*; he lived at least until 1900), but the single most important thing we learn is that both of his parents were born in *Pennsylvania*. You'll recall that *George* is the son of the *Joseph Casteel* who lived in Clinton County, Missouri, in 1840.

- *George W. Casteel* (b. 1800s, d. 1840s?*) of Crittenden County, Arkansas (formerly of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory—assuming that this is the same person as *Washington Casteel* from the 1830 census)

(*I have not been able to find him in the 1850 census, which suggests—though it does not prove—that he died sometime in the 1840s.)

I can't find this particular *George W. Casteel* in census records after 1840.

- *G.W. Casteel* (b. 1810s; d. 1840s?*) of Monroe County, Tennessee

(*I have not been able to find him in the 1850 census, which suggests—though it does not prove—that he died sometime in the 1840s.)

I can't find this particular *G.W. Casteel* in census records after 1840.

- Henry Casteel (b. 1786 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee (formerly of Bedford County, Tennessee)
+ Polly Casteel (b. 1784 in Virginia), his wife

From the 1860 census for Wayne County, Tennessee:

- Henry Casteel—born: 1784
- Polly is not listed—she must have died between 1850 and 1860
- Martha Casteel—born: 1819 in Tennessee (this would appear to be Henry's new wife)

From the 1870 census for Wayne County, Tennessee:

- Henry Casteel—born: 1784
- Martha J. Casteel—born: 1825
- Elizabeth Casteel—born: 1852 in Arkansas
- Tennessee Casteel—born: 1855 in Arkansas
- Thomas C. Casteel—born: 1861 in Tennessee

Elizabeth and *Tennessee Casteel* are Martha's daughters from a previous marriage. (The 1860 census gives their last name as *Pratt*.) *Thomas* must be Henry and Martha's son. But note that, in the 1880 census, his name is given as *Frank Casteel*.

From the 1880 census for Wayne County, Tennessee:

- Martha Casteel (*widowed*)—born: 1818 in Tennessee (both of her parents were born in North Carolina)
- Henry must have died sometime between 1870 and 1880

- *Henry L. Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Dade County, Georgia (formerly of Cherokee County, North Carolina)
+ *Hedis(?) M. Casteel* (b. 1815 in North Carolina)
(* Uncertain—her name on the 1850 census form was barely legible.)

From the 1860 census for Tishomingo County, Mississippi:

- Henry Castile—born: 1817
- Emily Castile—born: 1810 in Georgia (It is not clear if this is the same person as *Hedis M. Casteel* from the 1850 census, or if she died and this is Henry's new wife.)
- We know that this is the correct Henry Casteel due to the names, ages, and birthplaces of his children

I have not been able to find this Henry Casteel or his wife in census records after 1860.

- *Henry M. Casteel* (b. 1820 * in Tennessee) of Limestone County, Alabama
+ *Elizabeth J. Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee), his wife

(* According to the 1850 census—though I suspect that this date is incorrect.)

This is our ***Henry Montgomery Casteel*** and his wife *Elizabeth “Betty” Jane (Hicks) Casteel*.

From the 1860 census for Limestone County, Alabama:

- Henry M. Casteel—born: 1817
- Elizabeth J. Casteel—born: 1823

Henry died in 1865, so he doesn’t appear in the 1870 census.

From the 1870 census for Limestone County, Alabama:

- Elizabeth Casteel—born: 1822
- She is living with the family of her oldest son, *James Casteel*

Betty died in 1872, so she doesn’t appear in the 1880 census. We do have census records for several of their children, but none of these adds anything new to our understanding of Henry’s or Betty’s origins—we already knew that both of them were born in Tennessee and that they settled in Alabama by the early 1840s at the latest, and these are just about the only things that we can learn about them from their children’s census records.

- Jacob * Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee) of Utah County, Utah Territory
(formerly of Hancock County, Illinois, and before that, Pike County, Illinois)
+ Sarah Casteel (b. 1800 in Illinois), his wife

(* The 1850 census gives his middle initial as *R*, but this appears to be an error, since we know from other sources that his middle name was *Israel*.)

Jacob is known to have died in San Bernardino County, California, in May of 1860, and it appears that he must have died before the census was taken, since he can’t be found in the 1860 census.

From the 1860 census for San Bernardino County, California:

- Sarah Casteel—she is listed as the head of the household; several of her children are living with her

I have not been able to find Sarah in either the 1870 or the 1880 census.

- *James Casteel* (b. 1805 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
+ *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1805 in North Carolina), his wife

I have not been able to find any census records for this particular *James* and *Elizabeth Casteel* after 1850.

- *James Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
(formerly of Blount County, Tennessee)
+ *Susan Casteel* (b. 1821 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Macoupin County, Illinois:

- James Casteel—born: 1813 in Tennessee
- Susan Casteel—born: 1816 in Tennessee
- We know that this is the same *James* and *Susan Casteel* not only because they both were born in Tennessee, but also because of the names and ages of their children

From the 1870 census for Macoupin County, Illinois:

- J.M. Castile—born: 1813
- Susannah Castile—born 1816

From the 1880 census for Macoupin County, Illinois:

- James M. Casteel—born: 1812
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Virginia
- Susan Casteel—born: 1816
 - » Father's birthplace: North Carolina
 - » Mother's birthplace: North Carolina

Please note that this *James M. (Monroe) Casteel* is known to be the son of *Abednego* and *Agnes Casteel* of Blount County, Tennessee (formerly of Knox County, Tennessee); so this confirms what we already knew about where the two of them were born.

- *James W. Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
+ *Julia Casteel* (b. 1820 in Tennessee), his wife

I have not been able to find either *James W. (Wiley)* or *Julia Casteel* in the 1860 census, though James is believed to have died in 1861. Julia can be found in the 1870 census, though we learn nothing new about her.

- Jeremiah Casteel (b. 1786 in Tennessee) of Greene County, Tennessee

This particular *Jeremiah Casteel* cannot be found in census records after 1850. Fortunately, we already know his year and place of birth.

- John Casteel (b. 1760s; d. 1830s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory
+ Jemima Casteel (b. 1760s; d. 1840s), his wife

Please note that this is the elder of the two *John Casteels* who lived in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in 1830. (The younger John Casteel in St. Francis County may be his son, or possibly his nephew.)

Unfortunately, this particular *John Casteel* does not appear in any census records after 1830, and his wife *Jemima* does not appear in census records after 1840. (We know from other sources that John died in either 1839 or 1840, while Jemima died in 1843.) Nor do the later census records of any of their (known or suspected) children contain any information that would shed any additional light on their origins.

- John Casteel (b. 1770 in Pennsylvania) of Greene County, Tennessee
+ Jemima Casteel (b. 1778 in Pennsylvania; d. 1849), his wife

Please note that this is the elder of the two *John Casteels* who were living in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1850. (The 1850 census lists his name as *John Casteel Sen*, but he is the uncle, not the father, of the younger John Casteel who we find in the 1850 census for Greene County.)

Unfortunately, this particular *John Casteel* does not appear in any census records after 1850 (and neither, of course, does his wife *Jemima*, who died in 1849 and appears in the 1850 census only on the Mortality Schedule).

- John Casteel (b. 1780s; d. 1840s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas

Please note that this is the younger of the two *John Casteels* living in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in 1830. (The elder John Casteel in St. Francis County may be his father, or possibly his uncle.) This is also the John Casteel who was in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in 1840.

Unfortunately this particular *John Casteel* does not appear in any census records after 1840. He is believed to have died in the 1840s. And since we don't know the name of his wife or any of his children, we can't find them in later census records, either. So we appear to be at a dead end once again.

- John Casteel (b. 1790 in Virginia) of Bedford County, Tennessee
+ Elizabeth Casteel (b. 1798 in Tennessee; d. 1850), his wife

Unfortunately, *John* died before the 1860 census (his wife *Elizabeth* died in 1850). And there is no additional information in the census records of any of their children that would help us figure out who his parents might have been. But at least we know his (approximate) year of birth and where he was born.

- *John Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee
+ *Rebecca Casteel* (b. 1820 in Tennessee), his wife

Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any trace of this family in census records after 1850.

- *John J. Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
+ *Nancy Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for (neighboring) Hardin County, Tennessee:

- John Castell—born: 1812
- Nancy Castell—born: 1812 in North Carolina {likely an error}

I have not yet been able to find them anywhere in the 1870 census.

From the 1880 census for Hardin County, Tennessee:

- John Casteel—born: 1812
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Virginia
- Nancy Casteel—born: 1813 in Tennessee
 - » Father's birthplace: North Carolina
 - » Mother's birthplace: North Carolina

This confirms what we already knew about where John's parents—*Henry* and *Polly Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee—were born.

- *John W. Casteel* (b. 1820 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
+ *Mary Casteel* (b. 1824 in Tennessee), his wife

Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any trace of this family in census records after 1850.

- *John Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Greene County, Tennessee
+ *Lydia Casteel* (b. 1823 in Tennessee), his wife

Please note that this is the younger of the two *John Casteels* who live in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1850. (The elder John Casteel of Greene County is his uncle.)

From the 1860 census for Greene County, Tennessee:

- John Casteel—born: 1824
- Lydia is not listed—she must have died between 1850 and 1860
- Although there are other, younger *John Casteels* living in Greene County in 1860, we know that this is the one we're looking for, not only because of his age, but also because of the names and ages of his children

From the 1870 census for Greene County, Tennessee:

- John Casteel—born: 1822
- Manda Casteel—born: 1825 in Tennessee (John's new wife)

From the 1880 census for Greene County, Tennessee:

- John Casteel—born: 1823
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee
- Manda Casteel (*wife*)—born: 1826
 - » Father's birthplace: Virginia
 - » Mother's birthplace: Virginia

Since we have reason to believe that this *John Casteel*, is the son of the elder *Peter Casteel* from the 1830 census of Greene County, Tennessee, this suggests that this Peter Casteel (the elder) was born in *Tennessee*.

- Joseph Casteel (b. 1780s; d. 1840s) of Clinton County, Missouri
(formerly of Clay County, Missouri)

Neither *Joseph* nor his wife (who has yet to be identified) can be found in any census records after 1840, though we do find some of their children in the 1850 census. Joseph and his wife both must have died sometime in the 1840s. We do learn at least one thing of value about them, however, from the 1880 census record of their youngest son, *George Washington Casteel*: Joseph Casteel and his wife were both born in *Pennsylvania*.

- *Joseph Casteel* (b. 1800s; d. 1840s?*) of Putnam County, Indiana
 (* I have not been able to find him in the 1850 census, which suggests—though it does not prove—that he died sometime in the 1840s.)

Not only do we have no census records for this Joseph Casteel after 1840, since we don't know the names of his wife or children, we can't track them down in later census records, either.

- *Kezziah Casteel* (b. 1813 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee

I have not been able to find *Kezziah Casteel* in census records after 1850, nor have I been able to *definitively* track down any of her children. But, I do find census records from 1860, 1870, and 1880 for a *Charles Hasting Casteel* (who appears to have gone by his middle name) who was born in McMinn County, Tennessee, in about 1834 or '36. According to the 1850 census, Kezziah Casteel had a son named *Hastin* who was born in 1834 in Tennessee. Could this be the same person? We can't be certain, but it does seem plausible. In any event, according to his 1880 census record, both of Charles Hasting Casteel's parents were born in *Tennessee*.

- *Lucinda Casteel* (b. 1819 in Tennessee) of Pike County, Illinois

Lucinda married a *William Morton* in Pike County, Illinois, in 1856.

From the 1860 census for Pike County, Illinois:

- William Morton—born: 1803 in North Carolina
- Lucinda Morton—born: 1820

From the 1870 census for Pike County, Illinois:

- William Morton—born: 1800
- Lucinda Morton—born: 1820

From the 1880 census for Pike County, Illinois:

- William Morton—born: 1800
- Lucinda Morton—born: 1819
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee

Lucinda is probably the daughter of *Daniel* and *Rhoda Casteel*, formerly of Knox County, Tennessee (though we can't be sure about this).

- *Madison Casteel* (b. 1813 in Tennessee) of St. Francis County, Arkansas (formerly of Phillips County, Arkansas)
+ *Margaret Casteel* (b. 1813 in Tennessee), his wife

Madison and *Margaret* appear in the 1860 census for St. Francis County, Arkansas, but it contains no new information about them. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find them or any of their children in census records after 1860.

- *Monroe Casteel* (b. 1828 in Missouri) of Cooper County, Missouri

From the 1860 census for Barry County, Missouri:

- Monroe Casteel—born: 1832
- He is living with the *E.A. Hole* family and is listed as *farm labor*

I have been unable to find him in any census records after 1860.

- *Mordica Casteel* (b. 1823 in Tennessee) of McMinn County, Tennessee
+ *Mary Ann Casteel* (b. 1823 in Tennessee), his wife*

(* She is not listed immediately after her husband in the 1850 census—some of his siblings are listed between his name and hers—but it is clear from other sources that she is his wife. They were married in January of 1850.)

From the 1860 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:

- M.H. Casteel—born: 1824 in Tennessee
- Mary Casteel—born: 1826 in Tennessee

From the 1870 census for McMinn County, Tennessee:

- M.H. Casteel—born: 1821 in Tennessee
- Maryann Casteel—born: 1826 in Pennsylvania
- Please note that their youngest child is named *Morris*.

I have not yet been able to find them in the 1880 census.

The fact that they named one of their sons *Morris* suggests a possible close relationship to *Morris Casteel* of Pontotoc County, Mississippi (who we will look at next).

- Morris Casteel (b. 1793 in Tennessee) of Pontotoc County, Mississippi (formerly of DeKalb County, Alabama, and before that, Rhea County, Tennessee)
+ Sarah Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee), his wife

From the 1860 census for Pontotoc County, Mississippi:

- Morris Casteel—born: 1791
- Sarah Casteel—born: 1795

I have not been able to find either *Morris* or *Sarah* in census records after 1860, and the census records of their children don't tell us anything about them that we don't already know.

- Moses Casteel (b. 1790s; d. 1830s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory

Please note that this is the elder of the two *Moses Casteels* we find in St. Francis County—the one we find in the 1830 census, not the one we find in the 1840 census. (It is unclear at this point how he might be related to the younger Moses Casteel—he could be his father, or possibly his uncle.)

Moses Casteel (the elder) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, does not appear in any census records after 1830. He is believed to have died in the 1830s. We don't know who his wife was, and we don't know with any certainty who any of his children were—though it is certainly possible that the Moses Casteel (the younger) was his son. So, there is nothing else that we can learn about him from census records.

- *Moses C. Casteel* (b. 1817 in Tennessee) of New Madrid County, Missouri (formerly of St. Francis County, Arkansas—assuming that the *M.C. Casteel* in the 1850 census is the same person as the *Moses Casteel* in the 1840 census)
+ *Jane Casteel* (b. 1817 in Tennessee), his wife

Please note that this is the younger of the two *Moses Casteels* we find in St. Francis County—the one we find in the 1840 census, not the one we find in the 1830 census. (It is unclear at this point how he might be related to the elder Moses Casteel—he could be his son, or possibly his nephew.)

Unfortunately, I have not been able to find this *Moses* (or *M.C.*) and *Jane Casteel*, or their children, in any census records after 1850.

- Peter Casteel (b. 1770s; d. 1830s) of Greene County, Tennessee
+ Susannah Casteel (b. 1770s; d. 1840s), his wife

Please note that this is the elder of the two *Peter Casteels* we find living in Greene County—the one we find in the 1830 census, not the one we find in the 1840 census.

This *Peter Casteel* is known to have died in 1833, so he does not appear in census records after 1830. His wife, *Susannah*, can be found in the 1840 census but not in any census records after that. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any of their children in the 1880 census, so I am unable to determine their places of birth at this time.

- *Peter Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Crittenden County, Kentucky
(formerly of Greene County, Tennessee)
+ *Mary Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee), his wife

Please note that this is the younger of the two *Peter Casteels* we find living in Greene County—the one we find there in the 1840 census, not the one we find in the 1830 census.

From the 1860 census for Greene County, Tennessee:

- Peter Casteel—born: 1815
- Mary Casteel—born: 1815

From the 1870 census for Greene County, Tennessee:

- Mary Casteel—born: 1814
- Peter is not listed—he must have died between 1860 and 1870

From the 1880 census for Greene County, Tennessee:

- Marey Casteel (*widowed*)—born: 1814
 - » Father's birthplace: Virginia
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee

- Philip Casteel (b. 1780s or 1790s, d. 1840s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas
+ *Charlotte Casteel* (b. 1801 in South Carolina), his wife

Philip does not appear in census records after 1840, and Charlotte does not appear in census records after 1850. And since we don't know the names of their children, we find ourselves at yet another dead end.

- *Preston Casteel* (b. 1823 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
+ *Nancy Casteel* (b. 1824 in Tennessee), his wife

I have not been able to find this Preston or Nancy Casteel, or any of their children, in census records after 1850.

- *R.W. Casteel* (b. 1816 in Tennessee) of Phillips County, Arkansas
+ *Luisa(?)** *Casteel* (b. 1826 in Virginia), his wife

(* Uncertain—her name on the 1850 census form was barely legible.)

From the 1860 census for Phillips County, Arkansas:

- Robt. (*Robert*) *Casteel*—born: 1815 in Tennessee
- Eliza *Casteel*—born: 1825 in North Carolina
- It is not clear if this *Eliza Casteel* is the same person as the *Luisa Casteel* (or whatever her name was) from the 1850 census, or if R.W. *Casteel* remarried and this is his new wife
- Although we don't find many similarities between the 1850 census record of *R.W. Casteel* and the this 1860 census record of *Robert Casteel*, there are at least three good reasons for us to believe that they are the same person:
 - 1) This is the only *Casteel* family I can find in Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1860 (and the R.W. *Casteel* family was the only *Casteel* family I could find in Phillips County in 1850).
 - 2) I have found no one else in the 1860 census who could possibly be the R.W. *Casteel* from the 1850 census, nor have I been able to find anyone else in the 1850 census who could be the Robert *Casteel* from the 1860 census.
 - 3) Both *R.W. Casteel* of Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1850 and *Robt. W. Casteel* of Phillips County, Arkansas, in 1860 were slave owners, according to the Slave Schedules of the 1850 and 1860 censuses. In fact, the R.W. *Casteel* in 1850 owned seven slaves, and the Robt. W. *Casteel* in 1860 owned thirty. There were very few *Casteels* at that time who were wealthy enough to own even one slave, so the idea that there might have been two different R.W. *Casteels* in Phillips County, Arkansas, who were both born in Tennessee in the mid-1810s, and who both owned multiple slaves seems highly improbable. This has to be the same person.

(continued on the next page...)

... *R.W. Casteel of Phillips County, Arkansas (continued)*

From the 1870 census for (neighboring) St. Francis County, Arkansas:

- R.W. Casteel—born: 1817
- Eliza is not listed for some reason
- However, living with R.W. Casteel are two of his sons—*John B. Casteel* and *Robert Casteel (Jr.)*—whose names also appear in the 1860 census record for Robt. Casteel; so we can be reasonably confident that this *R.W. Casteel* is the same person as the *Robt. Casteel* above
- Also living with them are several people with other last names. It is not clear if these are relatives, boarders, or hired hands on R.W. Casteel's farm (since all of his slaves were freed at the end of the Civil War)
- R.W. Casteel's younger children all appear to be living in boarding schools in Kentucky at this time

From the 1880 census for St. Francis County, Arkansas:

- R.W. Casteel—born: 1816
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee
- E.G. Casteel (*wife*)—born: 1821 in Tennessee
 - » Father's birthplace: North Carolina
 - » Mother's birthplace: North Carolina
- Some (unverified) sources claim that this *E.G. Casteel* is actually *Eliza Casteel*—the same one we find in the 1860 census. Her full name is reported to be *Elizabeth (Goodwin) Casteel*. If this really is her, it is unclear why she is not listed with her husband in the 1870 census.

There are still quite a number of unanswered questions about this Robert W. Casteel. For one thing, how might he be related (if at all) to the *R.W. Castell* who was in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in 1830? (The fact that he was also a slave owner strikes me as an odd coincidence if there were no connection between the two men.) And, although we now know that both of Robert W. Casteel's parents were born in *Tennessee* (assuming that the information on his 1880 census record is correct), we still don't know who his parents were—though it is reasonable to suspect that they were one of the Casteel families that had migrated from East Tennessee to the Arkansas Territory in the late 1820s. However, we simply do not know for certain.

- *Samuel E. Casteel* (b. 1814 in Tennessee) of Sumter County, Alabama
+ *Mary A. Casteel* (b. 1826 in Alabama), his (second) wife

Samuel and *Mary* can be found in the 1860 census living in Jasper County, Mississippi, and in the 1870 census living in Rankin County, Mississippi, but these records contain no new information about them that is relevant to our purposes here. They also appear in the 1880 census for Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, where we learn that Samuel's parents were both born in *Tennessee*—however, we knew that already, since Samuel E. Casteel is the son of *Morris* and *Sarah Casteel* (who we've already seen).

- Shadrach Casteel (b. 1780s; d. 1840s) of Cooper County, Missouri

Neither *Shadrach* nor his wife can be found in census records after 1840. However, according to the 1880 census record of his daughter, *Priscilla (Casteel) Dewitt*—widow of *Larkin Dewitt*—Shadrach and his wife were both born in *Tennessee*. Note that Priscilla was born in Missouri in 1818, while her older sister, *Jane S. (Casteel) Howerton*, was born in Tennessee in 1816. So Shadrach Casteel must have moved his family from Tennessee to Missouri sometime between 1816 and 1818.

- *William Casteel* (b. 1815 in Tennessee) of Bedford County, Tennessee

Please note that the 1850 census shows this *William Casteel* living with a *Parthenia Casteel* (b. 1818 in Tennessee) and three small children, which might lead one to think that William and Parthenia were husband and wife. But we have reason to believe that they were actually brother and sister. It is possible that William's wife died, and that Parthenia moved in with him for a while to help take care of the children. But in 1860, 1870, and 1880, Parthenia (who appears to have lived up to her name—*parthenia* being the Greek word for “maidenhood” or “virginity”) is living with her (similarly unmarried) sister *Sarah* (or *Sally/Sallie*) *Casteel*.

From the 1860 census for Bedford County, Tennessee:

- William Casteel—born: 1844 *{clearly an error}* (He is also listed on the census form as *female*—so it looks as if the census taker was being rather careless with his work that day.)
- He does not appear to have a wife, but he has several small children living with him, suggesting that he might have remarried and then lost his second wife sometime between 1850 and 1860

(continued on the next page...)

... *William Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee (continued)*

From the 1870 census for Bedford County, Tennessee:

- William Casteel—born: 1818
- Sarah Casteel—born: 1831 in Tennessee (this has to be William's new wife, since they have several small children in the household, including a 5-month old)

From the 1880 census for Bedford County, Tennessee:

- Wm. Casteel—born: 1820
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee *{clearly an error}*
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee
- Sally Casteel—born: 1835
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee

Since this *William Casteel* is known to be the son of the *John Casteel* of Bedford County, Tennessee, who is known to have been born in *Virginia*, we can be fairly confident that William's 1880 census record is incorrect when it gives his father's place of birth as *Tennessee*.

- *William Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee) of Hamilton County, Tennessee + *Mary Casteel* (b. 1822 in Tennessee), his wife

I have not been able to find this family anywhere in the 1860 census, but I have found a family in the 1870 and 1880 census that *might* be them—but we can't really be sure. The names and ages of a couple of the children are similar, but it's entirely possible that this is a completely different family.

From the 1870 census for Jefferson County, Missouri:

- Wm. H. Casteel—born: 1821 in Tennessee
- Polly A. Casteel—born: 1821 in Tennessee

From the 1880 census for Jefferson County, Missouri:

- Wm. H. Castile—born: 1820 in Tennessee
 - » Father's birthplace: (United States)
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee
- Polly A. Castile (*wife*)—born: 1822 in Tennessee
 - » Father's birthplace: North Carolina
 - » Mother's birthplace: Kentucky

- *William Casteel* (b. 1828 in Tennessee) of Wayne County, Tennessee
+ *Martha Casteel* (b. 1828 in Tennessee), his wife

I have not been able to find them in the 1860 census, but they do appear in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses.

From the 1870 census for Madison County, Arkansas:

- William Casteel—born: 1825
- Marth A. Casteel—born: 1827
- Please note that their oldest daughter is named *Tabbitha*—this has to be the child whose name appeared to be spelled *Obitha Casteel* in the 1850 census (see page 115)

From the 1880 census for Baxter County, Arkansas:

- Wm. R. Castile—born: 1824
 - » Father's birthplace: [*left blank*]
 - » Mother's birthplace: [*left blank*]
- Martha A. Casteel—born: 1826
 - » Father's birthplace: Virginia
 - » Mother's birthplace: Virginia

From the 1900 census for Logan County, Arkansas:

- William Casteel—born: 1822
 - » Father's birthplace: Tennessee
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee
- Martha Casteel—born: 1823
 - » Father's birthplace: Virginia
 - » Mother's birthplace: Tennessee

- Willis Casteel (b. 1780s; d. 1840s) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory

Willis Casteel died in the 1840s and, therefore, does not appear in census records after 1830. Since we don't know for certain who is wife or any of his children were, it looks like we are at a dead end with Willis.

- *Woodfield Casteel* (b. 1821 in Missouri) of Buchanan County, Missouri
+ *Nancy Casteel* (b. 1828 in Missouri), his wife

I have not been able to find this *Woodfield* or *Nancy Casteel* in any census records after 1850. So we have reached another dead end.

- Zachariah Casteel (b. 1790s; d. 1830s) of Roane County, Tennessee
+ *Rebecca Casteel* (b. 1800s; d. 1840s?*) of Hamilton County, Tennessee,
his wife

(* I have not been able to find her in the 1850 census, which suggests—though it does not prove—that she died sometime in the 1840s.)

Zachariah Casteel died before 1840, and his wife *Rebecca* appears to have died before 1850, so we do not find either of them in later census records. We do, however, have census records for their two youngest sons—*James Madison Casteel* and *William Daniel Casteel*—including records from the 1880 census and later which list the parents' place of birth. Unfortunately, there is a bit of a disagreement between these records, at least in the case of Zachariah Casteel's place of birth. While all of these records seem to agree that Rebecca Casteel was born in *Tennessee*, it appears that James Madison Casteel was under the impression that his father, Zachariah, had been born in *North Carolina*, William Daniel Casteel seemed to think he was born in *Tennessee*. (To complicate matters further, other sources suggest that he was born in *Virginia*—though these sources are unverified.) So, we don't really know for certain where Zachariah Casteel was born.

Casteels in Marriage Records

Well, that does it for our census records (*thank goodness*). That took a lot more effort—and many more pages of text—than I had originally intended, but I think it was worth it. Now, at least, we have a list of names to work with, and we have learned a thing or two about most of the names on that list. Of course, our list is not complete. Thus far, we have only been able to include those Casteels who can be found in census records starting in 1830. (Recall that all census records for the counties of East Tennessee before 1830 have been lost.) So, our list of names does not include anyone who may have died before 1830—or anyone else who was not listed by name in census records for whatever reason. (Recall that census records before 1850 listed only the head of each household by name; all other members of the household were enumerated by sex and age bracket, but were not named.) So, there are certainly many other Casteels who were living in the mountains of East Tennessee in the decades before 1820 whose names are not (yet) included on our list. But we've made a pretty good start, nonetheless.

Our next task is to examine other records—marriage records, land records, court records, tax lists, wills, *etc.*—from the counties of East Tennessee (and elsewhere, as may be warranted) in the decades before 1830, to see if we can: (a) identify any additional Casteels whose names need to be added to our list; (b) determine which Casteels lived in which counties at any given point in time; and (c) figure out how all of these Casteels are related to each other.

We will begin with marriage records. Why? Well, when we search through old records from East Tennessee looking for the name *Casteel* (or any of its various spellings and misspellings), we find many more marriage records than any other type of record. Wills are extremely rare. Tax lists, property records, and court records are more common, but even so, there are still far fewer of them than we would hope for. But we have Casteel marriage records from East Tennessee in abundance. Next to the census records that we have already looked at, marriage records will be our most valuable source for helping us to figure out who's who among the early Casteel families of East Tennessee. So that's where we'll start.

But before we begin, let me refer you back to the maps on pages 71 and 72, which show the counties of Tennessee as they were in 1817 and 1830, respectively. We need to keep these maps in mind as we examine these marriage records. You will notice on the map on page 71 that, in 1817, the Casteel families of East Tennessee were concentrated in just two areas: the area around *Greene County* and the area around *Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties*. Things hadn't really changed all that much by 1830. There was still a group of Casteels living in Greene County, up in the northeastern corner of Tennessee, on the border with North Carolina and not far from Virginia, seemingly isolated from all of the other Casteel families of East Tennessee. And there were still a few Casteel families living in the Knox County area in 1830, including one Casteel family in neighboring Roane County (though none were living in Blount County at the time). But by 1830, we also find several Casteels living in newly-formed *McMinn* and *Monroe Counties*, just to the south of Roane County. We also find a number of Casteels in *Rhea County*, just to the west of McMinn County, though most of these are known to have migrated there from Kentucky in the 1820s—however, one of the families living in Rhea County in 1830 (the Morris Casteel family) is known to have come from East Tennessee. There are also a couple of Casteel families now living much farther to the west in *Bedford County* in Middle Tennessee. (As usual, we are ignoring the Casteels of Jackson County, who migrated there from Kentucky in the 1820s.) We don't yet know exactly where the Casteels of Bedford, McMinn, and Monroe Counties, and the Morris Casteel family of Rhea County, came from—though it must have been either the Knox/Blount/Roane County area or the Greene County area. We will

try to figure it out, as best we can, from the various records we will be examining for the remainder of this chapter. But for now, we just need to be aware that the Casteel families of East Tennessee in the decades before 1830 were concentrated in only a handful of counties: the *Greene County* area and the *Knox/Blount/Roane County* area (by 1817), plus the *McMinn/Monroe/Rhea County* area along with *Bedford County* (by 1830).

We need to take this geographical distribution of Casteel families into account as we begin our examination of early marriage records (as well as any other records we are able to dig up). While we won't limit our search for records to just these few counties, we do want to make sure we have uncovered as many records from these particular counties as we possibly can. So, we will begin by listing all of the Casteel marriages we can find in the *Greene County* area (including the counties that border *Greene County*) through 1850. (Although we are mainly interested in marriages before 1830—and especially before 1817—we will include marriage records through 1850 just to make sure we haven't missed anyone.) After we've listed the marriages in the *Greene County* area, we will examine the marriages in the *Knox/Blount/Roane County* area, then those in the *McMinn/Monroe/Rhea County* area, then those in the *Bedford County* area, and then finally we will take a look at other counties in Tennessee and elsewhere to see if we can find marriage records for any of the other East Tennessee Casteels we have been able to identify from census records. Let's begin.

Early Casteel marriage records from the *Greene County* area

(All records are from *Greene County* itself unless otherwise noted.)

1797 — Naomi Casteel to Abner Aires

1798 — Rachel Casteel to Zachariah Malone

1800 — Peter Casteel to Susanna Richardson

1800 — Margery Casteel to John Malone

1806 — Ruth Casteel to Hezekiah Brown (*Jefferson County*)

1813 — Jeremiah Casteel to Susanna Jones

1818 — Zachariah Caststeel to Rebecca Hartley

- 1820 — Amy Casteel to Solomon Malone
- 1821 — Comfort Casteel to Reubin Long
- 1821 — Margaret Casteel to Edward Malone (*Washington County*)
- 1825 — Peggy Casteel to Caleb Jones
- 1829 — Jemima Casteel to David Key

- 1830 — Rachel Casteel to Samuel C. Jones
- 1833 — Peter Casteel to Polly Basinger
- 1833 — Saml. S. Castille to Sarah Reeves (*Jefferson County*)
- 1835 — Rinda Casteel to Nathan Brumley

- 1841 — Polly Casteel to Isaac Brumley
- 1842 — John Casteel to Lydia Stine
- 1842 — Jonathan Casteel to Judy Grant
- 1842 — Sally Casteel to George Malone
- 1847 — Sarah Casteel to Joseph Reynolds

The first thing we should notice from this list is that the first Casteel marriage to take place in Greene County, Tennessee, was in 1797. So, we are now able to say with confidence that the first Casteels to settle in East Tennessee had arrived there by no later than 1797. Of course, this doesn't mean that all of the Casteel families who were living in East Tennessee around 1817 had been there for two decades or more—some may have migrated there later—but it is entirely possible that Henry Montgomery Casteel's father was born in Tennessee, or that he arrived there as a small child. In any event, we now know that, by the time Henry was born, there had been Casteels living in the mountains and valleys of East Tennessee for at least twenty years, and perhaps much longer.

The next thing we should notice from this list is that there are a number of names on it that we ought to recognize from census records. These include:

- 1800 — Peter Casteel to Susanna Richardson

This is the *Peter Casteel* from the 1830 census (the elder of the two Peter Casteels) and his widow, *Susannah Casteel*, from the 1840 census.

- 1813 — Jeremiah Casteel to Susanna Jones

This is the *Jeremiah Casteel* who we find in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses. *Susanna* must have died before the 1850 census.

1818 — Zachariah Caststeel to Rebecca Hartley

This is the *Zachariah Casteel* who we find in the 1830 census in Roane County, and his widow, *Rebecca Casteel*, who we find in the 1840 census in Hamilton County. (*This is noteworthy: This is the first piece of evidence we have come across that proves that at least some of the Casteels we find in the Knox/Blount/Roane County area in 1830 migrated there from Greene County.*)

1833 — Peter Casteel to Polly Basinger

This is the younger of the *Peter Casteels*—the one we find in the 1840 and 1860 censuses living in Greene County, Tennessee, and in the 1850 census living in Crittenden County, Kentucky—and his wife/widow *Mary Casteel* (*Polly* is a common nickname for *Mary*), who we find in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

1842 — John Casteel to Lydia Stine

This is the younger of the two *John Casteels* we find in the 1850 census in Greene County (he can also be found in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses in that same county), and his wife *Lydia*, who is found in the 1850 census (though not in later census records).

1842 — Jonathan Casteel to Judy Grant

This is the *Judy Casteel* we find in the 1850 census (she can also be found in later census records, though we didn't bother to look at those earlier). Her husband, *Jonathan Casteel*, is believed to have died sometime before 1850. He does not appear by name in any census records (recall that, before 1850, only the head of each household was listed by name in the census).

1847 — Sarah Casteel to Joseph Reynolds

This is the *Sarah Reynolds* (misspelled as *Runnels*) who is living with the Jeremiah Casteel family in the 1850 census. Presumably, she is his daughter. Her husband, *Joseph Reynolds*, is not listed; so it's possible that he may have died sometime before 1850.

The other names on this list of marriages do not appear in the census records that we have examined thus far, but that's not really all that surprising. All but one of these marriages involved a Casteel woman (presumably the daughter—or possibly

the widow—of a Casteel) marrying a man with some other last name. And since we were only looking at the census records of people with the last name *Casteel* (along with its various alternative spellings and misspellings), we would not have been able to find very many of these Casteel women who are now going by some other last name.

But what about the *Saml. (Samuel) L. Castille* who married a *Sarah Reeves* in Jefferson County in 1833? We are not able to find him in the 1840 census. What happened to him? Did he die before 1840? And how is he related—if at all—to the Greene County Casteels? I think I may have found an answer. According to one (unverified) source, the groom's name was not actually *Samuel L. Castille*, as it is written on the marriage record, but rather *Samuel L. Castillen*. So, as far as we can tell, he is not related to the Casteel family at all.

Before we move on, let us note a few other interesting bits of information we find in some of these marriage records. Back in the old days, in order to get a marriage license, the would-be groom would have to pledge to the county court that he and his prospective bride were legally eligible to get married—that both of them were of age; that neither of them was already married; and that they weren't too closely related to each other—and he would have to post a bond in order to back up that pledge. This “marriage bond” was a sum of money that would be forfeited to the court if it turned out that the bride and groom were not legally entitled to marry each other. (After a certain amount of time had passed, if no one could produce any evidence showing that the marriage wasn't valid, the bond would be returned to the groom.) But the groom was not usually required to pay the full amount of the bond up front. He would pay a certain percentage of it to the court when he got the marriage license, but would promise to pay the remainder if the marriage had to be invalidated by the court. In order to ensure that he paid, the groom had to get another person—usually a friend or a family member, or perhaps a member of the bride's family—to serve as “surety” for the bond, pledging to pay what the groom owed the court in the event that the groom is unable or unwilling to do so. Many early marriage records include not only the names of the bride and groom, but also the name of the person who has agreed to serve as surety on the marriage bond. Since this person is often a close relative (father, brother, *etc.*) of either the bride or the groom, the name of the surety on a marriage record can sometimes be used to help us figure out who is related to whom.

Several (though not all) of the marriage records from the Greene County area list the name of the surety along with the names of the bride and groom. And in four of the marriages on our list, the person who served as surety was a Casteel. Here are those four marriages with the name of the surety for each:

1800 — Margery Casteel to John Malone

- John Casteel, *surety*

Unless there was an older *John Casteel* who died before 1830, this must be the *John Casteel* of Greene County who we find in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses. It seems reasonable for us to suspect that *Margery Casteel Malone* was his daughter.

1821 — Comfort Casteel to Reubin Long

- Edward Casteel, *surety*

This almost certainly has to be the *Edward Casteel* we find in Putnam County, Indiana, in 1830. Other sources suggest that *Comfort Casteel Long* was his daughter.

1829 — Jemima Casteel to David Key

- Jeremiah Casteel, *surety*

This has to be the *Jeremiah Casteel* who we find in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 census in Greene County. It seems reasonable to suspect that *Jemima Casteel Key* was his daughter.

1830 — Rachel Casteel to Samuel C. Jones

- Jeremiah Casteel, *surety*

This is the same *Jeremiah Casteel*. It seems reasonable for us to suspect that *Rachel Casteel Jones* was also his daughter.

Okay, that's about as much as we can learn from Greene County marriage records for now. Let's move on and turn our attention to...

Early Casteel marriage records from *Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties*

- 1798 — David Casteel to Sarah Mitchell (*Knox County*)
1798 — Nancy Casteel to Mordecai Mitchell (*Knox County*)
- 1800 — Liddy Casteel to Francisco Piñexo (*Blount County*)
1808 — Abednego Casteel to Agnes Hensley (*Knox County*)
1809 — Daniel Casteel to Rody (*Rhoda*) Hensley (*Knox County*)
1809 — John Castele to Janey Lane (*Roane County*)
- 1812 — Elizabeth (Betsy) Castele to James Dunlap (*Knox County*)
1817 — Caleb Casteel to Susanna Whittenberger (*Roane County*)
1818 — Abram Casteel to Mary Whittenberger (*Blount County*)
1818 — Mary Casteel to Luke Lytle (*Roane County*)
1818 — Philip Casteel to Charlotte Franks (*Blount County*)
1819 — Susannah Casteel to Robert McClain (*Blount County*)
- 1823 — Elijah Casteel to Sally Fairchild (*Knox County*)
1825 — James Casteel to Mary Ann Williams (*Blount County*)
1826 — Isabella Casteel to James Sutton (*Blount County*)
1828 — Elizabeth Casteel to Isaac Hood (*Knox County*)
- 1832 — Mary Casteel to Alfred Henley (*Knox County*)
1833 — James Casteel to Susannah Underwood (*Knox County*)
1833 — Sarah Casteel to Joseph French (*Blount County*)
- 1840 — Elizabeth D. Casteel to James Bell (*Knox County*)
1843 — Benjamin Casteel to Anna Crews (*Knox County*)
1845 — Melissa Ann Casteel to Lewis M. Stanberry (*Knox County*)
1848 — Mary L. Casteel to James T. Saffell (*Blount County*)
- 1850 — Amanda J. Casteel to James P. Doltirrey (*Blount County*)

The first thing we notice from this list is that there were two Casteel marriages in Knox County in 1798—just one year after the first Casteel marriage to take place in Greene County. This tells us that there were Casteels in the Knox County area by as early as 1798, if not earlier, suggesting that there have been Casteels in Knox County for nearly as long as there have been Casteels in Greene County.

The next thing we notice is that the first marriage in neighboring Blount County took place just two years later, in 1800. The first Casteel marriage to take place in Roane County wouldn't be for nearly another decade, though, in 1809.

Thirdly, we notice a number of names that ought to look familiar to us from their census records. These include:

1808 — Abednego Casteel to Agnes Hensley (*Knox County*)

This is the *Abednego Casteel* we find living in Knox County in the 1830 census and in neighboring Blount County in the 1840 census, and his widow *Agnes*, who we find in Blount County in the 1850 census.

1809 — Daniel Casteel to Rody (*Rhoda*) Hensley (*Knox County*)

This is the *Daniel Casteel* we find in Knox County in 1830. He is the brother of Abednego Casteel. Various sources claim that he moved his family to Bond County, Illinois, in the 1830s, and that he died there not too many years after his arrival. I have not been able to locate his widow *Rhoda* in any census records, but at least some of his children can be found in Pike County in 1850.

1818 — Philip Casteel to Charlotte Franks (*Blount County*)

This is the *Philip Casteel* we find in the 1830 and 1840 census in St. Francis County, Arkansas, and his widow *Charlotte*, who we find in the 1850 census. (*This is noteworthy:* Here we have the first piece of evidence showing where in Tennessee the Arkansas Casteels might have migrated from. We now know that at least some of them were in the Blount County area around 1818.)

1823 — Elijah Casteel to Sally Fairchild (*Knox County*)

This is the *Elijah Casteel* who is living in Pike County, Illinois, in 1830 and 1840, and in Jackson County, Illinois, in 1850 and 1860. *Sally* must have died sometime before 1850, because in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, Elijah's wife is named *Margaret*, and she is believed to have been born in Indiana.

1833 — James Casteel to Susannah Underwood (*Knox County*)

This is the *James Casteel* we find in the 1840 census in Blount County. He is the son of Abednego and Agnes Casteel. He and his wife *Susannah/Susan* can also be found in the 1850 census in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses in Macoupin County, Illinois.

1843 — Benjamin Casteel to Anna Crews (*Knox County*)

This is the *Benjamin* and *Ann/Annie Casteel* we find in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1850, and in neighboring Knox County in 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910. Benjamin is thought to be the son of Abednego and Agnes Casteel.

In addition to these, there are a couple of other names on this list that we *might* have seen in census records, but we simply can't be sure at this point. They are:

1809 — John Castele to Janey Lane (*Roane County*)

It is possible that this is the younger *John Casteel* of St. Francis County, Arkansas, but we have no evidence to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. What we can say, though, is that he is the only *John Casteel* we can find in census records who could plausibly be the one who married *Janey Lane* in Roane County in 1809.

1825 — James Casteel to Mary Ann Williams (*Blount County*)

It is possible that this is the older *James Casteel* of St. Francis County, Arkansas, but we have no evidence to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. What we can say, though, is that he is the only *James Casteel* we can find in census records who could plausibly be the one who married *Mary Ann Williams* in Blount County in 1825. However, if this is the same James Casteel, then Mary Ann must have died, and James must have remarried, sometime before 1850, because according to the 1850 census, James Casteel's wife was named *Elizabeth*.

The other names on our list of marriages from the Knox/Blount/Roane County area do not appear in any of the census records we have examined thus far. Most of these are cases where the bride was a Casteel and she married a man with some other last name. (Recall that we only searched for census records for people with the last name *Casteel*—or variations on that name.) However, we do find three Casteel grooms on this list that do not appear in census records—or at least not in any that we have been able to find thus far:

1798 — David Casteel to Sarah Mitchell (*Knox County*)

Given the early date of this marriage, it is entirely possible—even likely—that this *David* and *Sarah Casteel* had both died before the 1830 census was taken. (Recall that all census records for East Tennessee before 1830 have been lost.)

1817 — Caleb Casteel to Susanna Whittenberger (*Roane County*)

As you may recall from our discussion of Casteels at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, this has to be the very same *Caleb Casteel* who fought in the Creek War in 1814, serving in the same unit of the East Tennessee Militia as a *John*, *Joseph*, and *Meshach Casteel*. Recall that we were never able to find this *Caleb Casteel* in any census records, and we assumed that he must have died sometime before 1830. If you'll take another look at our list of marriages you'll notice that a *Susannah Casteel* married a *Robert McClain* in Blount County in 1819. While we can't know for certain that this is Caleb Casteel's widow, it very well could be. But without additional information, we will never know for sure.

1818 — Abram Casteel to Mary Whittenberger (*Blount County*)

It is not at all clear who this *Abram Casteel* was. We do find a few *Abraham Casteels* in census records, but most of them are too young to have gotten married in 1818. The only one who comes remotely close to being old enough is the elder *Abraham Calloway Casteel* (the brother, not the son, of Morris Casteel), and he was only 14-16 years old in 1818. And we know that his wife was named *Sarah*. (Of course, it's possible that Mary died, and that Sarah was his second wife.) It seems more likely that this

particular *Abram Casteel* is someone who doesn't show up in our census records at all—presumably because he died before 1830. I do find it intriguing, though, that Abram Casteel's bride has the same maiden name as Caleb Casteel's bride: *Whittenberger*. Were they sisters, perhaps? And, if so, might Abram and Caleb Casteel have been brothers? We may never know, but this is certainly an interesting coincidence.

Just as we saw in Greene County, a number of the Casteel marriage records from Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties include, in addition to the names of the bride and groom, the name of the friend or relative who has agreed to serve as surety for the marriage bond. A few of these are worth our attention. They include:

1798 — Nancy Casteel to Mordecai Mitchell (*Knox County*)

- David Casteel, *surety*

This must be the *David Casteel* who was also married in 1798 in Knox County. You will recall that we have not been able to find him in any census records; so we suspect that he may have died sometime before 1830. Given the fact that he and *Nancy Casteel* got married in the same year, it seems more likely that he is her brother than her father (though we can't rule out the possibility that they were father and daughter, and that he got remarried in the same year that his daughter got married).

1800 — Liddy Casteel to Francisco Piñexo (*Blount County*)

- Joseph Casteel, *surety*

The only *Joseph Casteel* we find in census records who could possibly have served as the surety on a marriage bond in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1800 is the one who is in Clay County, Missouri, in 1830, and in Clinton County, Missouri, in 1840. He is not old enough, however, to have a daughter who is old enough to get married in 1800; so that would mean that *Liddy Casteel Piñexo* is most likely his sister. (I have not been able to find a *Francisco* or a *Liddy Piñexo* in any census records.)

1808 — Abednego Casteel to Agnes Hensley (*Knox County*)

- Daniel Casteel, *surety*

This is Abednego Casteel's brother. (He also married Agnes Hensley's sister, *Rhoda*.) He is the *Daniel Casteel* we find in Knox County in the 1830 census—the one who, according to various sources, moved his family to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s, where he died not long after his arrival.

1818 — Mary Casteel to Luke Lytle (*Roane County*)

- Edmond Casteel, *surety*

This has to be the same *Edmond Casteel* we find in McMinn County in the 1830 census. He is believed to have died in the 1830s. *Mary Casteel Lytle* may be his daughter.

Well, that does it for the Casteel marriages in Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties. Now we're ready to move on to...

Early Casteel marriage records from McMinn, Monroe, and Rhea Counties

1828 — *Joseph Casteel** to *Nancy Bandy* (*Rhea County*)

1828 — *Margaret Casteel** to *David Bandy* (*Rhea County*)

1829 — *Andrew Casteel** to *Elizabeth Lisenby* (*Rhea County*)

1829 — *David Casteel** to *Jane Sykes* (*Rhea County*)

1833 — *Jamima Casteel* to *William Simpson* (*Rhea County*)

1834 — *Green Berry Casteel** to *Judy Clough* (*Rhea County*)

1834 — *Peggy Casteel** to *James Griffie* (*Rhea County*)

1834 — *Sarah Casteel** to *Jesse W. Bandy* (*Rhea County*)

1838 — *Allen Casteel* to *Rebecca Randolph* (*Monroe County*)

1838 — *Mary Casteel** to *Joseph D. Broyles* (*Rhea County*)

1839 — *John R. Casteel** to *Nancy Clough* (*Rhea County*)

1839 — *Sarah Casteel* to *John W. Malone* (*McMinn County*)

1839 — *Washington Casteel* to *Hetty Malone* (*McMinn County*)

1839 — *William Casteel* to *Elizabeth Elliot* (*McMinn County*)

- 1840 — *Elizabeth Casteel* to Jacob C. Gwinn (Rhea County)*
 1840 — *Freeland Casteel* to Martha Cates (Rhea County)*
 1841 — Daniel Casteel to Dorcas Martin (*Monroe County*)
 1841 — Elizabeth Casteel to William Malone (*McMinn County*)
 1844 — *Nancy Casteel* to Fredrick Williams (Rhea County)*
 1850 — B. J. Casteel to E. J. McKinzie (*Monroe County*)
 1850 — M. H. Casteel to Mary N. Elbert (*McMinn County*)

(* We have reason to believe that the Casteels shown in *italics* are members of the group that migrated to Rhea County, Tennessee, from Kentucky in the 1820s.)

The first thing we notice from this list is that the earliest Casteel marriages to take place in the McMinn/Monroe/Rhea County region were not until the late 1820s, and most of them are in Rhea County. The earliest Casteel marriages we find in McMinn and Monroe Counties don't take place until the late 1830s. (And yet we know from census records that there were Casteels living in McMinn and Monroe Counties at least as early as 1830.) All but one of the Casteels who got married in Rhea County (the exception being *Jamima Casteel*, who may be the daughter of Morris Casteel) appear to be members of one of the Casteel families that migrated there from Kentucky in the 1820s.

If we eliminate all of the Kentucky Casteels in Rhea County from our list, we are left with nine marriages in McMinn, Monroe, and Rhea Counties through 1850:

- 1833 — Jamima Casteel to William Simpson (*Rhea County*)
 1838 — Allen Casteel to Rebecca Randolph (*Monroe County*)
 1839 — Sarah Casteel to John W. Malone (*McMinn County*)
 1839 — Washington Casteel to Hetty Malone (*McMinn County*)
 1839 — William Casteel to Elizabeth Elliot (*McMinn County*)
 1841 — Daniel Casteel to Dorcas Martin (*Monroe County*)
 1841 — Elizabeth Casteel to William Malone (*McMinn County*)
 1850 — B. J. Casteel to E. J. McKinzie (*Monroe County*)
 1850 — M. H. Casteel to Mary N. Elbert (*McMinn County*)

We recognize a couple of these names from census records, though others are a little less certain.

1838 — Allen Casteel to Rebecca Randolph (*Monroe County*)

This is the *Allen and Rebecca Casteel* we find in Union County, Georgia in 1850. Allen is the son of Barney and Mary Casteel.

1839 — Washington Casteel to Hetty Malone (*McMinn County*)

It is not clear who this *Washington Casteel* may be. I can't find any *Washington Casteel* in the 1840 census, in McMinn County, Tennessee, or anywhere else in the United States, for that matter. We might speculate, of course, that this Washington Casteel's full name is actually *George Washington Casteel*, but there is no one named *George Casteel* living in McMinn County in 1840, either. There is a *G.W. Casteel* in neighboring Monroe County, but he has three children, one of whom is over 5 years old—so if this is the person we're looking for, this could not be his first marriage. But are there any other candidates? I can find no other *George* or *G.W. Casteels* anywhere in the 1840 census. However, there are four *Malone* families living in McMinn County in 1840, and they are all listed on the same page of the census—suggesting that they are closely related. The *William Malone* household may be worth taking a look at. William Malone appears to be in his 50s, and his wife appears to be in her 40s, and they have several children living with them, but they also have two other adults in the household: a male and a female, both in their 20s. Could this be *Washington* and *Hetty Casteel*? We simply have no way of knowing. I have been unable to find a *Washington* or *Hetty Casteel* in any census records after 1840, so it looks as if we've reached a dead end.

1839 — William Casteel to Elizabeth Elliot (*McMinn County*)

It is not clear who this particular *William Casteel* is. I can't find any *William Casteel* in McMinn County in the 1840 census. In fact, there appear to be only four *William Casteels* in the United States in 1840—two of them are in Kentucky, one in Indiana, and one in Virginia—none of whom seem like likely candidates. But I have found several *Elliot*s living in McMinn County, Tennessee, in 1840, and some of them appear to be neighbors of the younger *Alexander Casteel* who lived in McMinn County at the time. As you may recall, we suspect that this Alexander Casteel may be the

same *Alexander Casteel* who we find in Union County, Georgia, in the 1850 census. (We believe that he is the son of Barney and Mary Casteel.) We know from census records that the Alexander Casteel of Union County, Georgia, had a wife named *Elizabeth*, and we also know that his middle initial was *W*. Apparently, this *W* stands for *Willis*, which could easily be mistaken for *William*. While we certainly can't prove that the William Casteel named in this marriage record is the same person as the younger Alexander Casteel we find in the 1840 census in McMinn County, much less that he is the same person as the Alexander Casteel we find in the 1850 census living in Union County, Georgia (and in later census records living in McMinn and Monroe Counties, in Tennessee), I feel that we are justified in suspecting that he very well might be.

1841 — Daniel Casteel to Dorcas Martin (*Monroe County*)

This could be the *Daniel Casteel* we find in Monroe County in the 1830 and 1840 censuses, though this seems unlikely, given his age and fact that he is already married in 1840. Sure, his first wife could have died sometime after the 1840 census was taken, and he could have remarried the very next year, but it seems more likely that this was some other *Daniel Casteel*—perhaps the son of the Daniel Casteel we find in the 1840 census. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a *Dorcas Casteel* in census records. We do find a few *Daniel Casteels* in the 1850 census—including one in McMinn County and another in Hamilton County—but neither of them has a wife named *Dorcas*. (Of course, we can't rule out the possibility that Dorcas died and Daniel remarried sometime between 1841 and 1850.) Without additional information, we are simply not able to determine exactly who this *Daniel* and *Dorcas Casteel* might have been.

1850 — B. J. Casteel to E. J. McKinzie (*Monroe County*)

It's not entirely clear who this might be, though we can certainly try to speculate based on what we can find in census records. We don't find any Casteels living in Monroe County in 1850, but we do find an *Elizabeth J. McKenzie* (b. 1824). It appears that she is still living with her parents when the census was taken in August,

but that's not a problem since the marriage of B.J. Casteel to E.J. McKinzie didn't take place until November. In the 1860 census for Monroe County we can find an *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1830) with a young son named *Benjamin*. They are living next door to the *McKenzie* family—apparently the same family that Elizabeth J. McKenzie was living with in 1850. There is no sign, however, of Elizabeth's husband; he may have died sometime between 1850 and 1860. In the 1870 census, Elizabeth and young Benjamin are living with the McKenzie family. In the 1880 census, Elizabeth is living with her son Benjamin and his wife and children in DeKalb County, Missouri. According to Benjamin's 1880 census record, his father was born in Tennessee. But who was B.J. Casteel? We can speculate that his first name was most likely *Benjamin*. The only *Benjamin Casteel* I've been able to find in the 1850 census who seems like a plausible candidate is the son of Edward Casteel of Hamilton County, Tennessee. We can't be certain that this is him, but he does appear to be the most likely candidate.

1850 — M. H. Casteel to Mary N. Elbert (*McMinn County*)

This is the *Mordica H.* and *Mary Ann Casteel* who are living in McMinn County in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses.

Well, that's pretty much all there is to learn from the Casteel marriage records we were able to find in McMinn, Monroe, and Rhea Counties. Unfortunately, none of the marriage records from these counties includes the name of the surety for the marriage bond—which is not surprising, since the practice of requiring a marriage bond and surety had largely died out by the 1830s. Now, let us move on and take a quick look at early Casteel marriage records from other parts of Tennessee and elsewhere. We won't spend very much time and effort on this task, since there's not really a whole lot for us to find.

For example, I can find no Casteel marriages in *Bedford County* through 1850. It seems highly improbable that there were no Casteels who got married in Bedford County until after 1850, since we know that there were Casteels living there since at least 1830—so I have to assume that these early marriage records from Bedford

County have either been lost or else have not been made available online. (Please note, however, that I have come across a few early marriage records from Bedford County—just not very many, and none that include the name *Casteel*, or any of its variant spellings or misspellings—so I’m not really sure what’s going on here.) In fact, I can find only two other Casteel marriages in the entire state of Tennessee before 1850:

1826 — Abram Castell to Racheal Hays (*Hardeman County*)

1836 — General L. Castile to Ollie Mae Brown (*Coffee County*)

Again, we can’t be sure that these are the only Casteel marriages to take place in Tennessee outside of Blount, Greene, Jefferson, Knox, McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, Roane, and Washington Counties through 1850—that seems unlikely—but they are the only ones we can find records for. We must keep in mind, though, that some marriage records from Tennessee may have been lost during the Civil War when court houses were sometimes burned down, or else lost over the years due to misfortune or neglect, so it is possible that there were other Casteel marriages in Tennessee, but that we will never be able to find records of them. And we also can’t overlook the possibility that some of these records do exist, but they simply haven’t yet been made available to search online.

So, what can we say about this *Abram and Racheal (Hays) Castell* and about this *General L. and Ollie Mae (Brown) Castile*? Not a whole lot.

I can find no listing in the 1830 census for an *Abram* or an *Abraham Castell* (or for anyone else named *Castell* or *Casteel*, for that matter) in Hardeman County, Tennessee. There is an *Abram Casteel* in Caldwell County, Kentucky, in 1830, and there is also an *Abraham Casteel* in Perry County, Indiana. Either one of these could be the *Abram Castell* we’re looking for. Both are in their 20s, and neither of them has any children over the age of 5. But before we conclude that one of them must be the *Abram Castell* who married *Racheal Hays* in 1826, we should also note that, in the 1830 census for Hardeman County, Tennessee, we can find listings for three *Hays* households: *Robert Hays, Senior*, *Robert Hays* (presumably *Junior*), and *William Hays*. In the *Robert Hays, Senior* household, in addition to Robert (who is in his 50s), his wife (who is in her 40s), and a 10-15 year old daughter, we also find a male in his 20s and a female between the ages of 15 and 20. Is it possible that the male in his 20s is Abram Castell and the female

between the ages of 15 and 20 is Racheal Hays Castell? We have no way to know for sure, but we certainly can't rule out the possibility at this point. We just don't yet have enough information to be able to determine who this Abram Castell was or what became of him and his wife. I should point out, though, that Hardeman County—which is in West Tennessee on the Mississippi state line—does lie along the route that settlers from East Tennessee might have taken when they migrated to the Arkansas Territory. This proves nothing, of course, but it does suggest the possibility that this Abram Castell might be connected in some way to one of the Casteel families who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in the late 1820s. But, as I said, we simply can't be sure.

But what about the *General L. Castile* who married *Ollie Mae Brown* in Coffee County in 1836? The thing I find most intriguing about this particular marriage is the fact that it took place in Coffee County, which borders Bedford County to the east. This suggests that this General L. Castile might have been a member of one of the Casteel families of Bedford County. Unfortunately, I can find no trace of a *General L.* or *Ollie Mae Castile* (or any other spellings of the names) in any census records. (I'm not even sure if *General* is actually supposed to be his name or his military rank.) And *Brown* is far too common a name—there are a dozen *Brown* households listed in the 1840 census for Coffee County alone—for us to even attempt to figure out who Ollie Mae's parents might have been. So it looks, once again, as if we have found ourselves at a dead end.

So, we haven't had much luck tracking down early Casteel marriages in Tennessee outside of Blount, Greene, Jefferson, Knox, McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, Roane, and Washington Counties. But what about Casteel marriages outside of Tennessee?

Of course, we don't want to waste our time and effort trying to track down every Casteel marriage record in the United States before 1850, but we do want to see if we can find any records from those few places outside of Tennessee where Casteels who migrated from East Tennessee are known to have been living by 1830. That would include: the Arkansas Territory (particularly St. Francis County), Illinois (particularly Pike and Pope Counties), Indiana (particularly Putnam County), and Missouri (particularly Clay and Cooper Counties). Since our goal here is to track down those Casteel families who had left Tennessee before 1830, we will limit our search to marriage records from 1830 and earlier.

But there appear to be no Casteel marriage records at all from either the Arkansas Territory or the state of Missouri until well after 1830. Does this mean that there were no Casteel marriages in either of these places until after 1830? It *could* mean that, of course—after all, we have reason to believe that the Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, didn't arrive there until the late 1820s—but it could also mean that at least some of the earliest marriage records from Arkansas and/or Missouri have been lost over the years, or it could simply mean that they are to be found in some dusty old book in the basement of a county courthouse or on a roll of microfilm locked away in a filing cabinet in the state archives, and have not yet been digitized and made available online. At this point, we really can't know.

We do, however, find at least a few early Casteel marriage records in both Illinois and Indiana. Let's begin with the Casteel marriages in *Indiana*. I am able to find eight marriage records from Indiana through 1830 in which either the bride or the groom was named *Casteel*. However, only three of those appear to have a direct connection to the Casteels of East Tennessee:

1828 — Elcana Casteel to Christeene Estlinger (*Putnam County*)

1829 — Joseph Casteel to Elizabeth Estlinger (*Putnam County*)

1830 — Mehala Casteel to Levy Wells (*Putnam County*)

All three of these are believed to be the children of the *Edward Casteel* who we find listed in the 1830 census for Putnam County, Indiana, and his widow *Mary*, who we find in the 1840 and 1860 censuses in that same county. You may recall that we examined the census records for *Elcana* and *Christina Casteel* as well. In 1840 they were still living in Putnam County, Indiana; by 1850 they had moved to Henry County, Iowa; and in 1860 we found them living in Webster County, Missouri. (Elcana was still living there in 1870, though Christina appears to have died by then.)

As you may recall, we could not find any census records for the *Joseph Casteel* of Putnam County, Indiana, after 1840. And since, at the time, we didn't know the name of his wife or any of his children, we found ourselves at a dead end. But now we've discovered that his wife's name was *Elizabeth*. Does that help us any? Do we find any census records in 1850 for an *Elizabeth Casteel* who appears to be widowed? Not in Indiana. But as you may recall, we do find an apparently

widowed *Elizabeth Casteel* in Greene County, Tennessee, which is where Joseph Casteel's father, Edward, is believed to have come from. (Joseph was most likely born there, too, though we don't yet have the evidence to prove it.) Is it possible that the Elizabeth Casteel we find in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1850, could be the widow of Joseph Casteel of Putnam County, Indiana? Well, we can't rule out the possibility, but it doesn't seem very likely. For one thing, the Elizabeth Casteel of Greene County was (at least according to her 1850 census record) born in 1814, whereas Joseph Casteel's wife (according to his 1840 census record) was born sometime between 1800 and 1810. (But of course, as we have seen countless times already, census records are not always reliable when it comes to estimating when someone was born.) Then there's the fact that the Elizabeth Casteel we find in Greene County, Tennessee, has two young children, ages 6 and 1, both born in Tennessee, but does not have any older children living with her, whereas in 1840, Joseph Casteel had five children under the age of ten, including two under the age of five (all of whom were presumably born in Indiana). If the Elizabeth Casteel in Greene County really were Joseph Casteel's widow, then what happened to these children? Perhaps one or two of them were old enough to get married and move out of their mother's home by 1850, but the youngest—who would be between the ages of 10 and 15—should still be living with her (unless, of course, they died in childhood). In any event, we can't really be certain one way or the other. It is entirely possible that the Elizabeth Casteel who we find living in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1850 is the widow of Joseph Casteel of Putnam County, Indiana, but that strikes me as highly unlikely. Nonetheless, I can find no other Elizabeth Casteel in the 1850 census who could even plausibly be his widow. So it appears that we find ourselves, once again, at a dead end.

Let's move on, now to *Illinois*. Here we have:

1816 — Abraham Casteel to Polly Nowland (*Madison County*)

1818 — Isaac Casteel to Betsey Allard (*Madison County*)

That's it. Those are the only two Casteel marriages in Illinois through 1830 that I have been able to find records of. (Once again, this does not mean that there were no others; it just means that these are the only Casteel marriage records in Illinois through 1830 that can currently be found by means of an online search.) So, what do we know about the *Abraham* and *Isaac Casteel* who got married in Madison

County, Illinois, in 1816 and 1818? Specifically, how were they related (if at all) to the Casteels of East Tennessee? According to various (unconfirmed) sources, it is believed that this Abraham and Isaac Casteel were brothers and that they did, in fact, have a connection to the Casteels of East Tennessee—supposedly, they were the sons of Francis Casteel of Knox County, Tennessee, and the brothers of Jacob Israel Casteel of Utah County, Utah (formerly of Hancock County, Illinois, and before that, Pike County, Illinois) and Elijah Casteel of Jackson County, Illinois (formerly of Pike County, Illinois). Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any census records for this *Isaac* and *Betsey (Allard) Casteel*, so there's nothing more we can say about them. I can, however, find census records for an *Abraham Casteel* in Illinois in both 1820 and 1830, as well as records for an *A. Casteel* in the Iowa Territory in 1840, and a *Mary Casteel* in Iowa in 1850. According to some (unverified) sources, these records belong to the *Abraham* and *Polly Casteel* who got married in Madison County, Illinois, in 1816. Let's take a look at them:

- Abraham Casteel of Madison County, Illinois
+ Polly (Nowland) Casteel, his wife

From the 1820 census for St. Clair County, Illinois:

- Abraham Casteel—born: before 1775 *{likely an error}*

[-|-|-|-|1||2|-|-|1|-] *

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 male, age 45+ † | | (b. bef. 1775) |
| | 1 female, age 26-45 | (b. 1775-94) |
| | 2 females, age 0-14 | (b. 1806-20) |

(* Please note that the age brackets that are used on the 1820 census form do not follow the same format as those we are familiar with from the 1830 and 1840 census forms. The age brackets used on the 1820 census form are: [A|B|C|D|E|F||G|H|I|J|K], where A = males under age 10; B = males age 10-16; C = males age 16-18; D = males age 16-26; E = males age 26-45; F = males age 45+; G = females under age 10; H = females age 10-16; I = females age 16-26; J = females age 26-45; and K = females age 45+.)

(† Assuming that this really is the *Abraham Casteel* we're looking for, and not some other Abraham Casteel, his age as reported on the 1820 census would almost certainly have to be incorrect.)

(continued on next page ...)

What is a tax list? Put simply, it's a just list of all the taxpayers in a given county in a given year. In times past, just as today, taxes had to be collected on a regular basis, and tax collectors had to keep records so they would know who owed taxes, how much each person owed, and whether or not they have paid. These records were kept on a county-by-county basis. So, every year, the tax collector for each county would make a list of everyone in that county who owed taxes, noting the amount that was owed and whether or not the tax had been paid. Since just about every household had to pay taxes of one sort or another, tax lists could, at least in theory, be an even more valuable resource than census records for helping us track down who was living where in any given year. Unfortunately, early tax lists have not been as well preserved as census records have been, so it turns out that they're far less useful in practice than they promise to be in theory. We have no surviving early tax lists at all for some counties. For other counties, we do have tax lists for some years but not for others. It's really hit-or-miss, and there's no guarantee that we'll be able to find tax lists for the counties or the years we're most interested in. So, we have to make do with what we can find, and we're actually pretty lucky to have as many early tax lists for the counties of East Tennessee as we do have. So, let's take a look at the tax lists that we do have and see what we can find.

But before we begin, a word of caution: While we are fortunate enough to have a number of surviving tax lists from the counties of East Tennessee, not all of them are available online. Many exist only on microfilm at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville or in transcriptions that have been compiled by various genealogists over the years. Circumstances have made it impossible for me to visit my beloved city of Nashville (home of my graduate school alma mater, Vanderbilt University) in recent years, so I have been unable to personally search through the microfilm collection at the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and have instead had to rely entirely on whatever sources I have been able to dig up online. While I have good reason to trust many of these sources (*e.g.* the records that have been compiled by FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com), I am somewhat more skeptical of other sources—particularly online postings by other amateur genealogists. In some cases, their work is clearly well-sourced. In other cases, though, information may be posted without any indication of where it came from. But in either case, I always prefer to see the original source myself before relying on it in my research. Unfortunately, that has not been possible when it comes to these tax lists, because the original sources are simply not available online. Therefore, I have been forced to rely on whatever sources of information I could find online. While I trust that most of this information is reliable, I have been able to verify only a small portion of it with my own eyes by examining the original sources, so I can't vouch for its accuracy or completeness. With that said, let's begin and take a look at...

Casteels on *Greene County* Tax Lists

1783-a (*Washington County, North Carolina*)*

- John Castile Ser (*John Casteel-A*)
- John Castile (*John Casteel-B*)

(* Much of what is now East Tennessee was once part of North Carolina, and what is now Greene County was once part of Washington County, North Carolina. Please note that this list may be incomplete, since the only transcriptions of this 1783 tax list that I could find online included only certain portions of Washington County.)

1783-b (*Greene County, North Carolina*)*

- John Casteel (*John Casteel-A*)
- John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*)
- William Casteel

(* Greene County was formed in 1783 from Washington County. It was still officially part of North Carolina at this time. Please note that this tax list and the previous one are both from the year 1783. Presumably, the previous list was drawn up by Washington County officials before Greene County had officially been established, and this one was drawn up by Greene County officials later that same year. It seems likely that the *John Castile Ser* and *John Castile* from the earlier tax list are the same people as the *John Casteel* and *John Casteel, Jr.* from this list, though we can't be absolutely certain about this.)

1793 (*Greene County, Tennessee*)*

- William Casteel

(* Tennessee officially separated from North Carolina in 1790, though it was not yet formally recognized as a state.)

1797 (*Greene County, Tennessee*)*

- Zakeriah Casteel

(* Tennessee is now a state, having officially been admitted to the Union in 1796. All of the tax lists that follow are from Greene County in the state of Tennessee.)

1798

- John Casteel (*John Casteel-C*)
- Zecheria Casteel

1805

- John Casteel (*John Casteel-C*)
- Peter Casteel, Junr.*
- *Peter Castle* †

(* This is most likely an error. Other sources suggest that the only *Peter Casteel* living in Greene County at this time was the son of *Zachariah Casteel* and was, therefore, not a *Junior*. Though we can't be certain, it is possible that the tax collector got the names confused and thought that *Peter Casteel* was the son of *Peter Castle*.)

(† This *Peter Castle* is probably not a member of the Casteel family, but I am including him just in case.)

1809

- John Casteel (*John Casteel-C*)
- John Casteel (*John Casteel-D*)
- Peter Casteel
- Zachariah Casteel
- *Peter Castle*

1810

- John Casteel (John Casteel-C)
- Peter Casteel
- Zachariah Casteel
- *Peter Cassel**

(* Presumably, this is the same person who has previously been identified as *Peter Castle*.)

1811

- John Casteel (John Casteel-C)
- John Casteel (John Casteel-E)
- Zachariah Casteel
- *Peter Cassell*

1812

- Edward Casteel
- Jeremiah Casteel
- John Casteel (John Casteel-C)
- Peter Casteel
- Zachari Casteel
- *Peter Carrel**

(* Presumably, this is the same person who has previously been identified as *Peter Castle* or *Cassel/Cassell*.)

1813

- Edward Casteel
- John Casteel (John Casteel-C)
- Peter Casteel
- *Peter Casteel**

(* I suspect that this is actually *Peter Castle/Cassel/Cassell/Carrel*.)

1814

- Edward Casteel
- Jeremiah Casteel
- Zachariah Casteel
- *Peter Cassle*

1815

- Edward Casteel
- Zachariah Casteel
- *Peter Cassell*

1816

- Edward Casteel
- Jeremiah Casteel
- Zachariah Casteel

Let's summarize the names from these tax lists:

- Edward Casteel (1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816)
- Jeremiah Casteel (1812, 1814, 1816)
- John Casteel-A (1783a, 1783b)
- John Casteel-B (1783a, 1783b)
- John Casteel-C (1798, 1805, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813)
- John Casteel-D (1809)
- John Casteel-E (1811)
- Peter Casteel (1805, 1809, 1810, 1812, 1813)
- *Peter Castle/Cassel/Carrel (1805, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815)*
- William Casteel (1783b, 1793)
- Zachariah Casteel (1797, 1798, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1814, 1815, 1816)

We have reason to believe, based on various sources, that the *Edward Casteel* on the 1812-1816 Greene County tax lists is the same Edward Casteel who served as surety for his daughter Comfort Casteel's marriage bond in 1821 and who can be found in the 1830 census living in Putnam County, Indiana.

The *Jeremiah Casteel* on the 1812, 1814, and 1816 Greene County tax lists has to be the same Jeremiah Casteel we find in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses for Greene County. (It is unclear why we don't find him on the 1813 or 1815 lists.)

We will save our discussion of the various *John Casteels* until last—because that's gonna get messy.

We have reason to believe that *Peter Casteel* from the 1805, 1809, 1810, 1812, and 1813 tax lists is the same Peter Casteel we find in the 1830 census for Greene County (the elder of the two Peter Casteels who appear in Greene County census records). Please note that, although the 1805 tax list mistakenly gives his name as *Peter Casteel, Junr*, we know from other sources (which we have not yet looked at) that this particular Peter Casteel was not a *Junior*. I'm not sure why his name is recorded as *Peter Casteel, Junr*, on this tax list; he is the only Peter Casteel on the list—there is no *Peter Casteel, Senior*. There is, however, a *Peter Castle*. I have to wonder if the tax collector might have confused the names and mistakenly assumed that Peter Casteel was the son of Peter Castle. We can't know for sure, of course. But I do find it interesting that, on the 1813 tax list, this *Peter Castle* (also spelled *Cassel*, *Cassell*, *Cassle*, and even *Carrel*) has apparently been listed as *Peter Casteel* by mistake. (Details from the entry for this extra *Peter Casteel* on the 1813 tax list match those from the entries for *Peter Castle/Cassel/etc.* on previous tax lists). So, mistakes like this do happen from time to time. Before we move on to the next name on our list, I should note that, apart from that little bit of confusion with the names, I have found no evidence whatsoever to suggest that Peter Castle/Cassel/Carrel is actually a *Casteel* or is connected in any way to the Casteel families of Greene County. I chose to include his name on our list mainly just to show how the mix-up with the names on the 1805 and 1813 tax lists might have occurred, but I also wanted to cover our bases just in case it turns out that he is related to the Casteels in some way. However, we won't be spending any more time discussing him.

The *William Casteel* from the 1783-b and 1793 tax lists does not appear in any of our census records. I believe that this is the same William Casteel who, according to various sources, died (along with most of his family) in 1794. We will discuss the tragic deaths of this unfortunate William Casteel and family a bit later.

Next, we come to *Zachariah Casteel*, who is on the 1797, 1798, 1809-1812, and 1814-1816 tax lists. Here we run into a tiny bit of a problem, because there have actually been two different *Zachariah Casteels* living in Greene County over the years. We have encountered one of them many times before: He is the Zachariah Casteel we find in the 1830 census for Roane County; he is the Zachariah Casteel who married Rebecca Hartley in Greene County in 1818; and he is the Zachariah Casteel who may have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. But there was apparently another, much older, Zachariah Casteel who, according to various sources, also lived in Greene County. He is believed to have died sometime in the 1820s, which is why he doesn't appear in any of our census records. I suspect that the younger Zachariah Casteel is the elder Zachariah Casteel's grandson, though I have found no evidence to prove it. So, which of these two Zachariah Casteels do we find on the various tax lists for Greene County? It would have to be the *elder* Zachariah Casteel. The younger Zachariah Casteel was born in the 1790s, which means that he could have been no more than 7 years old in 1797, and would have been somewhere between the ages of 16 and 26 in 1816. He wouldn't get married until 1818. So, he couldn't possibly have paid taxes before, say, 1805 or so, and it seems unlikely that he paid taxes before 1818. Details from the various entries for *Zachariah Casteel* on Greene County tax lists between 1797 and 1816—such as how many acres of land he owned and where his farm was located—make it clear that it must have been the same Zachariah Casteel on each of these lists. So, I am convinced that the Zachariah Casteel whose name we find on Greene County tax lists had to have been the elder of the two Zachariahs, and not the one who fought in the Creek War in 1814, got married in Greene County in 1818, and was living in Roane County in 1830.

Okay. We left off our discussion of the various *John Casteels* until last, but now we have no choice but to tackle this mess head-on.

There are clearly at least two *John Casteels* whose names can be found on Greene County tax lists. Personally, I believe that there are at least *three*, and it's possible that there might even be as many as *five* (though I am not yet convinced that there were more than *four*). Trying to sort them all out has been a major headache, and I'm still not at all sure of who's who among the *John Casteels* on Greene County tax lists. But let's at least take a crack at this.

First, we have the two *John Castiles/Casteels*—*Senior* and *Junior*—we find in the 1783 tax lists for Washington/Greene County, back when it was still part of North Carolina. These appear to be father and son, and I have labeled them *John Casteel-A* and *John Casteel-B*, respectively. Who could these John Casteels be?

Do they correspond with any of the John Casteels that we have found in census records? The only John Casteel we have seen who would have been old enough to pay taxes in 1783 is John Casteel (the elder) of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, who was born in the 1760s. The John Casteel we find in 1830, 1840, and 1850 in Greene County, Tennessee, was born in the 1770s, so he would have been too young (between the ages of 3 and 13) to pay taxes in 1783. The younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, was born in the 1780s. And all of the other John Casteels we have looked at were born in the 1790s or later. So, it is *possible* that the younger of the two John Castiles/Casteels we find in the 1783 tax lists (*John Casteel-B*) is the elder of the two John Casteels who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, sometime before 1830. We can't be certain at this point, but it is possible. I hesitate to mention that I have come across some (unverified) sources claiming that *John Casteel-B* really is the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. I hesitate to mention that because we just don't have the evidence to prove it right now, and I don't want us to get into the bad habit of trusting unverified sources just because they happen to agree with our own speculations. But we do have reason to suspect that this is a possibility.

Regardless of whether or not we have been able to find *John Casteel-B* in census records, I think we can say with some confidence that *John Casteel-A* must have died sometime before 1830, because none of the John Casteels we find in the 1830 census is old enough to be the father of someone who was old enough to pay taxes in 1783. It seems reasonable to assume that *John Casteel-A* is the father of *John Casteel-B*, but without additional information, that's pretty much all we can say about him with any confidence.

That's pretty much all we can say for now about the two *John Castiles/Casteels* we find on the 1783 tax lists. Let's move on to the *John Casteels* we find in later tax lists. As you'll notice, there are no John Casteels on the 1793 or 1797 tax lists for Greene County. This suggests that *John Casteel-A* and *John Casteel-B* had moved out of the county sometime between 1783 and 1793. But the 1798 tax list for Greene County does include a *John Casteel*—though only one this time. So, did one of the two *John Castiles/Casteels* from the 1783 tax lists move back to Greene County in late 1797 or early 1798? Perhaps. We certainly can't rule out the possibility. But I don't think so. I think this is another John Casteel—who I have labeled *John Casteel-C*. While I can't be absolutely certain, I believe (based on similarities in the details from the various tax lists) that this *John Casteel-C* is the *John Casteel* (or one of the *John Casteels*, if there happens to be more than one) whose name we find on Greene County tax lists in 1798, 1805, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, and 1813.

So, who is this *John Casteel-C*? Once again, let me be clear that I have no proof that this *John Casteel-C* is not really the same person as either *John Casteel-A* or *John Casteel-B*. But I strongly suspect that this is a different John Casteel. In fact, I strongly suspect that this *John Casteel-C* is the John Casteel we find living in Greene County in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses (*i.e.* the *elder* of the two John Casteels from the 1850 census). Why do I suspect this? Here is my line of reasoning: From other sources (which we have not yet looked at) we have reason to believe that the elder John Casteel of Greene County from our census records is the son of the elder Zachariah Casteel, whose name we find on the 1797, 1798, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1814, 1815, and 1816 tax lists for Greene County. This suggests (though it does not prove) that the John Casteel who we find in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses had likely been living in the Greene County area at least since the late 1790s. (Of course, this doesn't mean that he never lived outside of Greene County in all those years. It is quite possible that he lived in some other county at some point before finally returning to Greene County by 1830.) We know from his census records that this John Casteel was born in or around 1770. That means that he would have come of age and begun to pay taxes in the 1790s. So, if he was living in Greene County (as his father, Zachariah Casteel, is known to have been at the time), we should be able to find his name on Greene County tax lists beginning sometime in the 1790s and continuing for as long as he lived in that county. Well, we are able to find only one *John Casteel* on Greene County tax lists in the years 1798, 1805, 1810, 1812, and 1813 (and only two in the years 1809 and 1811), and that's the one I've labeled *John Casteel-C*. Does this *prove* that *John Casteel-C* is the elder John Casteel of Greene County who we find in census records? No. But it does suggest that he is the most likely candidate.

This does raise a question, though. *John Casteel-C* does not appear on the 1797, 1814, 1815, or 1816 tax lists for Greene County. So where was in in those years? Without additional information, it is impossible for us to say. It's possible that he was living outside of Greene County in those years; we simply don't know. This is an intriguing mystery, but it is one that we are going to have to leave unsolved, at least for now, because we need to move on to an even bigger mystery: Who are the additional *John Casteels* whose names appear on the 1809 and 1811 tax lists?

In the years 1798, 1805, 1810, 1812, and 1813, we find only one John Casteel in Greene County tax records: *John Casteel-C*. But the 1809 tax list has two John Casteels: *John Casteel-C* and another one, who I have labeled *John Casteel-D*. Likewise, the 1811 tax list has two John Casteels: *John Casteel-C* and one other, who I have labeled *John Casteel-E*. Now, let's be clear here: I don't know who either of these two John Casteels—*John Casteel-D* or *John Casteel-E*—really

is. In fact, it is entirely possible that they are the same person. There are enough differences in the details from their entries on the 1809 and 1811 tax lists to make me think that they *might* be two different people, but I really can't be sure about this, and I am more than a bit skeptical of the idea that two completely different John Casteels suddenly appeared on the Greene County tax list, two years apart, only to disappear just as suddenly.

So, who is/are *John Casteel-D* and *John Casteel-E*? To be perfectly honest, I don't have a clue. But, of course, that's not going to stop me from speculating. Is it possible that one (or both) of them might be one of the *John Castiles/Casteels* from the 1783 tax list—*John Casteel-A* or *John Casteel-B*—who has returned to Greene County after all these years? Yes, I suppose it's possible; at least I can't think of any reason why it wouldn't be. But it doesn't strike me as very likely. I have a feeling that the second John Casteel on the 1809 tax list (*John Casteel-D*), and probably also the second John Casteel on the 1811 tax list (*John Casteel-E*), who I suspect was the same person, was someone from Greene County—someone who grew up there—who had just come of age and started paying taxes sometime between 1805 and 1809. In fact, I suspect that this might have been the son or the nephew of *John Casteel-C*. I can't prove it, but I have a hunch that I'm right.

Assuming I am right, then either this John Casteel must have died before 1830 or else he must be one of the John Casteels we find in the 1830 census. So, which of the John Casteels from the 1830 census would have been old enough to have been paying taxes in 1809? He would have to be someone who was born no later than the early 1790s—and probably no earlier than the late 1780s. I count nine John Casteels in the 1830 census who were born in the 1790s or earlier, five of whom were born in either the 1780s or 1790s. But only two of these five are on our list of Casteels who are believed to have lived in East Tennessee at some point before 1817: the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, who was born in the 1780s, and the John Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee, who was born in 1790. Either of these men could have been the second John Casteel on the 1809 and 1811 Greene County tax lists—or possibly even *both* of them, if *John Casteel-D* and *John Casteel-E* were, in fact, two different people—but it is impossible for us to know for sure without additional information.

Well, that's pretty much all we can say about the various John Casteels we find on Greene County tax lists, at least for the moment. And that concludes our look at the tax lists that we have been able to dig up from Greene County. But we're not quite done with tax lists yet. We will look at the tax lists from Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties in just a moment. But first, I want to briefly make note of...

A Casteel on a *Sullivan County* Tax List

(*Sullivan County, Tennessee*, neighbors *Greene County* to the northeast.)

1812

- Daniel Casteel

It is unclear who the *Daniel Casteel* from the 1812 tax list for *Sullivan County* is. Of the five Daniel Casteels we have found in census records, only two would have been old enough to appear on a tax list in 1812: the Daniel Casteel who we find in *Monroe County* in the 1830 and 1840 censuses (who was born in the 1780s), and the Daniel Casteel we find in *Knox County* in the 1830 census (who was born in the 1790s). So, if the Daniel Casteel who paid taxes in *Sullivan County* in 1812 is still alive in 1830, he would almost certainly have to be one of these two men. Of the two, the Daniel Casteel of *Monroe County* would seem to be the more likely candidate, especially since we know from marriage records that the other Daniel Casteel was already in *Knox County* by 1809. While it is certainly possible that he moved from *Knox County* (in 1809) to *Sullivan County* (by 1812), then back to *Knox County* (by 1830), that strikes me as less likely than the possibility that he remained in *Knox County* between 1809 and 1830, and that it was the other Daniel Casteel—the one we find in *Monroe County* in 1830—who paid taxes in *Sullivan County* in 1812.

~ ~ ~

Okay. That takes care of all of the tax lists I've been able to find from the *Greene County* area, including neighboring counties. There may be others out there, but these are the only ones I have been able to track down thus far. But, to be honest, we are fortunate to have as many tax lists from the *Greene County* area as we do. I'm afraid we won't be quite so lucky with tax lists from the *Knox/Blount/Roane County* area or from other parts of *Tennessee*. Nonetheless, let's now take a look at what we can find there.

We will begin with ...

Casteels on *Blount County* Tax Lists

1800

- Edward Casteel

1801

- Edward Casteel
- John Casteel
- Joseph Casteel

1805

- David Casteel
- Jessee(?) Castele
- John Casteel

That's it. That's all I could find for Blount County, I'm afraid. So, assuming that these tax lists are complete, it appears that there was an *Edward Casteel* living in Blount County as early as 1800, then a *John* and a *Joseph Casteel* either moved there or else came of age there and began paying taxes the following year. Then a *David Casteel* arrived, or came of age, by 1805, as did another Casteel whose first name is barely legible on the handwritten tax list—though it looks like it might be *Jessee*. (I considered the possibility that it might be *Joseph*, but it really doesn't look like it to me.) It appears that both Edward and Joseph Casteel must have left Blount County sometime between 1801 and 1805 (or at least I wasn't able to find their names on the 1805 tax list), though it looks like John Casteel is still there.

So, just who are the Edward, John, and Joseph Casteel we find in Blount County in 1801 and the David and Jesse Casteel we find there in 1805? Assuming that all of them lived until at least 1830, we should be able to find them in census records. Unfortunately, there are not any Casteels living in Blount County in 1830, so we will have to look for them elsewhere.

There is only one *Edward Casteel* in the 1830 census who would have been old enough to be paying taxes in 1800, and that's the Edward Casteel who is living in Putnam County, Indiana. We have already decided that this is the same Edward Casteel who served as surety for his daughter Comfort Casteel's marriage bond in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1821 and who can be found on Greene County tax lists from 1812 through 1816. He was born in the 1770s, so it's entirely possible that this is the same Edward Casteel who paid taxes in Blount County in 1800 and 1801. But it's also possible that it was someone else entirely. For example, I have seen some speculation that the *Edward Casteel* from these Blount County tax lists might actually have been *Edmond Casteel*—the one who is in McMinn County in 1830. This Edmond Casteel was born sometime in the 1760s, so he was definitely old enough to be paying taxes in 1800 and 1801. Let's be careful, though: This is only speculation. I have seen no actual evidence to support the suggestion that the Edward Casteel from the Blount County tax lists was actually Edmond Casteel. It is an intriguing idea, though.

So, what about the *John* and *Joseph Casteel* we find on the 1801 tax list? Since we've already discovered that sorting out all of the various John Casteels can be a bit of a headache, let's begin with Joseph. While there are seven *Joseph Casteels* (or *Castiles* or *Castilles*) in the 1830 census, we can rule out three of them on the basis of age (they would have been too young to be paying taxes in 1801) and two others because we have evidence to suggest that they were not living in Tennessee in 1801. That just leaves us with two possible candidates. But one of those—the Joseph Castile we find in Clermont County, Ohio, in the 1830 census—does not strike me as a likely candidate, mainly because we have no evidence to suggest that he ever lived in Tennessee. But we do find one other Joseph Casteel in the 1830 census, and we know that he did live in Tennessee at one time—in fact, his oldest children were born there. I am referring, of course, to the Joseph Casteel who is living in Clay County, Missouri, in 1830 (and in neighboring Clinton County in 1840). According to his census records, he was born in the 1780s, which would make him just old enough to begin paying taxes around 1801. So, assuming that the Joseph Casteel whose name appears on the 1801 tax list in Blount County is still alive in 1830, I strongly suspect that he is the Joseph Casteel who is living in Clay County, Missouri. But, as is usual with my suspicions, I can't actually prove it beyond a reasonable doubt.

Now, alas, we must deal with John Casteel. We have already seen how difficult it can be to sort out all of the different John Casteels, so I'm not looking forward to this. But let's go ahead and take a crack at it, anyway. First of all, we are looking for a John Casteel who is old enough to be paying taxes in 1801, so he must have

been born in the 1780s or earlier. We are also looking for a John Casteel who is likely to have been living in East Tennessee in the early 1800s. That narrows our list of likely candidates down to only a few possibilities: the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory (the elder and the younger); John Casteel of Greene County, Tennessee; and John Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee.

As you'll recall, we suspect that the John Casteel of Greene County, Tennessee, is the same John Casteel who we find on Greene County tax lists in the years 1798, 1805, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, and 1813. So, it doesn't seem likely that he would be on a tax list in Blount County in 1801, and he certainly wouldn't be on one in 1805. That just leaves us with the two John Casteels (the elder and the younger) who ended up in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, the one who ended up in Bedford County, Tennessee, or else a John Casteel who died before 1830 (such as *John Casteel-A*) as likely candidates to be the John Casteel from the 1801 and 1805 Blount County tax lists. We'll need more information if we hope to narrow this list down any further. But at least we've been able to narrow it down to only four likely candidates.

The *David Casteel* who appears on the 1805 tax list almost certainly has to be the David Casteel who married Sarah Mitchell in neighboring Knox County in 1798, and who served as surety on the marriage bond of Nancy Casteel (presumably his sister) in Knox county in that same year. This is the only David Casteel we have come across thus far, except for the one we find in the 1830 census living in Rhea County, Tennessee—one of the Casteels who had migrated there from Kentucky in the 1820s—and he wasn't born until the 1800s, so he couldn't have paid taxes in 1805. So the only real candidate we have is the David Casteel who we find in Knox County in 1798. Unfortunately, he can't be found in the 1830 census, so it seems likely that he died sometime before 1830.

Jesse Casteel (assuming that is even his name—the handwriting on the tax list is not at all clear) is a complete mystery. We have seen only one Jesse Casteel in the course of our research thus far, and that is the one who can be found in the 1830 census living in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. According to his census record, he was born in the 1770s, so he is definitely old enough to have been paying taxes in 1805. But I have found no evidence to suggest that this particular Jesse Casteel had ever lived in Tennessee. So, this was probably not the Jesse Casteel who paid taxes in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1805. The Jesse Casteel we're looking for may have died sometime before 1830, or he may not have existed at all. I suspect that this might actually have been *Joseph Casteel*, and the tax collector was just careless when writing down the name.

Okay, that's about all we can say about Blount County. Now let's turn to ...

Casteels on *Knox County* Tax Lists

1796

{none found—though the tax list I looked at appears to be incomplete}

1804

{none found}

1806

- Abednego Casteel
- Abednego Casteel, Junior
- Francis Casteel
- Mesheck Casteel
- Shadrack Casteel

1808

- Abednego Casteel
- Daniel Casteel
- Francis Casteel
- John Casteel
- Mesheck Casteel
- Shedrick Casteel

Okay, now we're getting somewhere. We actually learn a lot from these tax lists.

I'm not really sure how much stock we ought to put in the 1796 tax list. It looks incomplete to me—or at least there aren't anywhere near as many names on it as I would expect there to be—so I suspect that it is a partial list which covers certain portions of Knox County but not the entire county. Nonetheless, I could find no Casteels on this list. But neither could I find any Casteels on the 1804 list, which does appear to be complete. Yet we know from marriage records that there were Casteels in Knox County in 1798, when a *David* and a *Nancy Casteel* (who we suspect were brother and sister, or possibly father and daughter) both got married there. Of course, we now know that David Casteel moved to neighboring Blount County by 1805. So, that might explain why he can't be found on the 1804 tax list for Knox County. But what about all of the other Casteels in Knox County? Other sources (which we will examine later) suggest that there was an *Abednego Casteel* in Knox County in 1799 and 1800. It is possible, of course, that he left Knox County sometime between 1800 and 1804 only to return by 1806 (when he appears on the Knox County tax list), but that seems unlikely. Nonetheless, the fact remains that there are no Casteels to be found on the 1804 tax list for Knox County. So, where were they? That is a mystery that I'm afraid we may not be able to solve—at least not unless we get lucky and stumble upon a treasure trove of more information.

So, if we set aside the 1796 and 1804 tax lists, what do we learn about the Casteels of Knox County from the 1806 and 1808 tax lists? Well, of course, the first thing we learn is that there were Casteels living in Knox County in 1806 and 1808, and that most of the Casteels who we find on the 1806 tax list also appear on the 1808 list. The second thing we learn is that this group of Casteels includes a number of names that ought to be very familiar to us by now, because we have encountered them many times already:

- *Abednego Casteel (Junior)* — who we find in the 1830 census in Knox County and in the 1840 census in neighboring Blount County; who got married in Knox County in 1808 to *Agnes Hensley*; and who served in the Tennessee Militia in 1814 during the Creek War and may even have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. He was born in the 1780s, and at least one source claims that he was born in Tennessee. He died in the 1840s, presumably in Blount County. His widow, Agnes, and several of their children, are still living in Blount County as of the 1850 census.

- *Daniel Casteel* — who is Abednego's brother; who served as surety on his marriage bond; who married Agnes Hensley's sister *Rhoda* in Knox County in 1809; who can be found in the 1830 census in Knox County; and who supposedly moved to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s, where he died not very long after his arrival. He was born in the 1790s.
- *Francis Casteel* — who appears to be Abednego and Daniel's uncle; and who we also find in the 1830 census in Knox County. According to his census record, he was born in the 1750s. He died in the 1830s.
- *Meshach Casteel* — who is the brother of Abednego and Daniel Casteel and the nephew of Francis Casteel; who served in the Tennessee Militia in 1814 during the Creek War (in the same unit as a *Caleb*, a *John*, and a *Joseph Casteel*) and may even have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend; and who may have died before 1830, since we have not been able to find him in the 1830 census (unless he is the Meshach Casteel of Knox County, Ohio—which doesn't seem likely; though we can't rule it out).
- *Shadrach Casteel* — who is Abednego, Daniel, and Meshach Casteel's brother and Francis Casteel's nephew; and who we find in the 1830 and 1840 censuses in Cooper County, Missouri. He was born in the 1780s and appears to have died in the 1840s.

It appears that all of these Casteels were living in Knox County in 1806 and 1808. Daniel doesn't appear on the 1806 tax list, but that may have been because he was still too young to pay taxes in 1806 (recall that he was born in the 1790s) and had just come of age and begun to pay taxes around 1808, which is the year before he got married. The fact that Abednego, Daniel, and Francis Casteel were all living in Knox County in 1808 and also in 1830 doesn't mean that they must have been living there for the entire period from 1808 to 1830—they could have moved out of Knox County for a few years and then moved back—but it does give us at least some reason to suspect that they *might* have been living in Knox County for that entire period of time.

You will have noticed that, in addition to the names listed above, we also have yet another *John Casteel* to deal with. Since it is not immediately clear which of our many John Casteels this might be, I did not include him above when I listed those Casteels from Knox County tax records who we could easily identify. But now it is time for us to try to figure out who this John Casteel might have been.

This John Casteel has to be old enough to pay taxes in 1808 and cannot be living in some other county in 1808. So, we can eliminate all of the John Casteels who were born after 1800, and I think we can also safely eliminate the John Casteel of Greene County, who we have labeled *John Casteel-C*, who was almost certainly living in Greene County in 1808. That leaves us with the same list of candidates we came up with when we were trying to figure out which John Casteel appeared on the Blount County tax lists in 1801 and 1805: the two in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, the one in Bedford County, Tennessee, or some other John Casteel (such as *John Casteel-A*) who died before 1830. If we want to narrow down this list any further, we will need more information than we currently have.

Okay, now that we've got that out of the way, we are ready to talk about what is, without question, the most interesting—and most valuable—thing we learn from the Knox County tax lists. Looking at the 1806 tax list, we find not just one but *two* Abednego Casteels: *Abednego Casteel* and *Abednego Casteel, Junior*, who appear to be father and son. Since the Abednego Casteel we've become so familiar with is too young to have been the father, he must have been the son—*Abednego, Junior*. This means that the elder Abednego Casteel must have been the father of all four of the Knox County Casteel brothers: Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel. And, of course, this would also make him the brother of Francis Casteel.

Now, as you have no doubt noticed, only one Abednego Casteel can be found on the 1808 tax list. But which one? While I can't be absolutely sure, by comparing the details from the two lists, it looks to me like it's the younger of the two. If so, then what happened to the elder Abednego Casteel between 1806 and 1808? Did he die? Or did he, perhaps, move away from Knox County, leaving his sons and his brother behind? Either is possible, and there is really no way for us to know for sure without additional information.

Well, that's about all we can learn from the various Knox County tax lists. Now, let's move on to ...

Casteels on *Roane County* Tax Lists

1802

{*none found*}

1805

{none found}

1808

{none found}

Yeah ... that's disappointing. I can't vouch for the completeness of these tax lists, but I can say with some confidence that no Casteels can be found on any of them. This suggests that there were no Casteels in Roane County until after 1808. We know that a John Casteel married a Janey Lane in Roane County in 1809. Yet I can find no one named Lane on the 1808 Roane County tax list, either. I suspect that the copy of the 1808 tax list that I was able to look at was incomplete, but I can't be sure. It is certainly possible that both John and Janey had been living in a neighboring county, such as Knox or Blount, but decided to get married in Roane County, and possibly settle there. We simply don't know, and without additional information, we can't know.

Well, that does it for Roane County. We didn't learn much of value, but as I said earlier, we are lucky to have any of these tax lists, so we should be grateful that we can learn anything from them at all.

Unfortunately, no tax lists are available for either McMinn or Monroe Counties for the period of time we are interested in. However, we do have a few tax lists for Rhea County. No Casteels can be found on either the 1808 or the 1819 tax lists, but we do find an *Andrew Casteel* and a *John Casteel* on the 1825 tax list. However, we have reason to believe that this Andrew and John Casteel migrated to Rhea County from Kentucky in the 1820s, and so we are not considering them at the present time.

I could find no Casteels listed on either the 1812 or the 1814 tax lists for Bedford County. (However, the handwriting was so bad on the 1812 tax list that I could easily have missed a name. But the handwriting on the 1814 tax list was perfectly legible, and there were definitely no Casteels on that list.) Those are the only tax lists I could find for Bedford County before 1830.

So, what about other Tennessee counties? I have certainly not taken the time and effort to personally read every name on every surviving tax list from before 1830 from every county in the state of Tennessee, so it is quite possible that I may have missed something. But none of the online searches I have done has turned up any Casteels on early Tennessee tax lists other than the ones we have already seen. So it looks like we're done with Tennessee tax lists and are ready to move on.

But before we begin our examination of land records from Tennessee, let us take a brief look at just a few tax lists from outside of Tennessee. I have not been able to find any tax lists for the period of time we're interested in from Alabama, Illinois, or Indiana, but I was fortunate to find a few from St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, and from Clay County, Missouri. We will look at St. Francis County tax lists first. These mostly just confirm what we already know—we see the same names there that we find in the 1830 census. But there may be one or two things we can learn from these lists. Although we are primarily interested in the period before 1830, for the sake of thoroughness, I have decided to include all of the tax lists I could find for St. Francis County, which go through the year 1835.

Please be aware, though, that I was not able to examine the original, handwritten tax lists; nor have I seen a complete transcript of those lists—I simply did a search for the name *Casteel* (including variant spellings) on Arkansas tax lists, and these are the results that I got—so I cannot be sure that these lists are complete, nor can I vouch for the spellings of the names. Also note that, for the 1832 tax list, there were at least two, and sometimes three or more, records produced for each name. I suspect that these were simply duplicates, so I have chosen to list each name only once—except for *John Casteel/Castill* which I list twice because (a) there were about twice as many records for this name as there were for any other name; and (b) we know that there were two John Casteels (the elder and the younger) living in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, at this time; so it stands to reason that this name would be listed twice. However, please note that I was only able to find a single listing for a *John Casteel* on either the 1828 or the 1830 tax lists. I don't know whether this was an error or if, perhaps, one of the two John Casteels who is listed in the 1830 census for St. Francis County was living elsewhere when these two tax lists were compiled. In any event, let's now take a quick look at ...

Casteels on *St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory*, Tax Lists

1828

- James Casteel (*Union Township*)
- John Casteel (*Union Township*)
- Moses Casteel (*Franks Township*)
- Phillip Casteel (*Franks Township*)
- Washington Casteel (*Union Township*)
- Willis Casteel (*Union Township*)

1830

- James Casteel (*Union Township*)
- John Casteel (*Union Township*)
- Moses Casteel (*Franks Township*)
- Phillip Casteel (*Franks Township*)
- Washington Casteel (*Union Township*)
- Willis Casteel (*Union Township*)

1832

- Charles Casteel*
- James Casteel (*Union Township*)
- John Casteel (*Union Township*)
- John Castill*
- Moses Casteel (*Franks Township*)
- Philip Casteel (*Franks Township*)
- Washington Casteel (*Union Township*)
- Willis Casteel (*Union Township*)

(* township not identified)

1833

- James Casteel
- John Castal, Sr.
- John Casteel
- M. Casteel (this is probably *Moses Casteel*)
- Madison Casteel
- Phillip Casteel
- Willis Casteel

1834

- Charles Castul
- James Casteel
- John J. Castal
- John Castal, Jr.
- Moses Castal
- Moses Castul
- Phillip Casteal
- Washington Castal
- Willis Castal

1835

- James Castal
- John Castal, Sr.
- John Castal, Jr.
- Washington Castal
- Willis Castal

For the most part, this just confirms what we already knew about the Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, based on census records. However, there are a few points of interest here that are worth a brief mention. For one thing, we learn that the Casteels had arrived in St. Francis County by 1828 at the latest.

More importantly, we learn that there was a *Charles Casteel* living in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in 1832 and 1834. This is the first time we've come across anyone named Charles Casteel in St. Francis County—or anywhere else in Arkansas, for that matter. It is unclear who this Charles Casteel might be or what might have become of him. One possibility, though, is that this *Charles Casteel* is actually the same person as *Madison Casteel* (perhaps his full name was Charles Madison Casteel and he went by his middle name). Notice that Charles Casteel's name first appears on the 1832 tax list, is missing from the 1833 tax list, and then reappears on the 1834 tax list, only to disappear again the following year. Notice also that Madison Casteel's name first appears on the 1833 tax list—which doesn't include a listing for a Charles Casteel—but his name does not appear on the 1834 tax list—which *does* include a listing for Charles Casteel. This could be nothing more than a coincidence, and it certainly doesn't prove anything; but it just might explain the mysterious appearance and disappearance of this heretofore unknown Charles Casteel. (So where was Madison Casteel in 1835? Neither his name nor the name Charles Casteel appears on the 1835 tax list for St. Francis County. It is possible that Madison Casteel had moved to neighboring Phillips County by then, which is where we find him in the 1840 census. And, if Madison and Charles were the same person, that would account for Charles Casteel's whereabouts, too. But if they were actually two different people, then I really have no clue what became of Charles Casteel in 1835.)

What else do we learn from these tax lists? We learn several things: We learn that the elder John Casteel—who cannot be found in the 1840 census—was still alive in 1835. We learn that Washington Casteel—who cannot be found in St. Francis County in the 1840 census—is still there in 1835. (As you may recall, we suspect that this Washington Casteel may be the George W. Casteel who we find living in Crittenden County, Arkansas, in the 1840 census; however, we cannot prove this beyond a reasonable doubt.) We learn that the elder Moses Casteel—who appears to have died sometime before 1840—is still alive in 1834. It also appears that the younger Moses Casteel who we find in the 1840 census has come of age and begun to pay taxes in 1834 (unless the second record for a *Moses Casteel*—or *Castal* or *Castul*—in 1834 is a duplicate). It is unclear where the two Moses Casteels were in 1835. The elder of the two may have died by then, but what happened to the younger Moses Casteel in 1835? It is possible that he was living another county in 1835, but we have no way of knowing for sure. Philip Casteel is also missing from the 1835 tax list. We know that he was still alive at the time, since he can be found in the 1840 census in St. Francis County; so, it is not clear where he could have been living in 1835. Finally, we learn from the 1834 tax list (assuming that this is not an error) that the elder John Casteel's middle initial is *J*.

Turning now to Missouri, the only thing of any real interest we learn from Clay County tax lists is that *Joseph Casteel* had settled there by at 1825 at the latest.

Okay, before we move on to land records, I need to briefly mention one last thing concerning tax lists. An *Abednego Casteel* can be found on tax lists from Henry County, Virginia (on the border with North Carolina), in 1778, 1779, and 1780. An *Abednego Casteel* can also be found on a 1787 tax list from Amherst County, Virginia (in the central part of the state). There is also a tax record from Augusta County, Virginia (just to the north of Amherst County), from 1796, which lists an *Abednego Casteel* as delinquent in paying his taxes, listing him as a “runaway”. An *Abednego Casteel* can also be found on an 1810 tax list in Grayson County, Virginia (on the North Carolina state line, not far to the west of Henry County). It is not known if all of the *Abednego Casteels* we find in Virginia tax records are the same person. (While *Abednego* wasn’t a common name back then, we know from various sources that the biblical names *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, *Abednego*, and *Daniel*—which are all taken from the Old Testament book of Daniel—were used repeatedly in the *Casteel* family.) And, of course, we don’t know if any of these *Abednego Casteels* might be the same person as *Abednego Casteel (Sr.)* from the 1806 Knox County, Tennessee, tax list. It is possible, but we just can’t be sure. If it turns out that the elder *Abednego Casteel* of Knox County, Tennessee, is really the same person as one (or perhaps all) of the *Abednego Casteels* whose name we find on Virginia tax lists, then that would mean that the *Abednego Casteel* family must have migrated to Knox County, Tennessee, from Virginia sometime between 1780 (or 1787 or 1796) and 1799. (We know from other sources, which we will look at in a few moments, that there was an *Abednego Casteel* in Knox County in 1799 and 1804—and of course, we know from tax lists that he was still there as of 1806.) It is also possible that one of the two *Abednego Casteels* of Knox County (most likely *Abednego Casteel, Sr.*) moved away from Knox County, Tennessee, sometime between 1806 and 1808, and wound up in Grayson County, Virginia, by 1810. But without additional information, we have no way to know for sure. Nonetheless, it is an intriguing possibility.

Casteels in Land Records

Now let’s turn to *land records*. These can be an excellent resource for helping us to figure out where a particular land owner lived and when they lived there. Let’s see what we can find. We will begin, as usual, in Greene County, Tennessee.

Casteels in Greene County Land Records

1784 — *John Casteel, Sr.*

John Casteel, Sr. acquired 311¼ acres of land in Greene County by *military bounty-land warrant*—a special type of land grant awarded to former soldiers. (Please note that I have not seen the original warrant, only the entry in the registry of land ownership, so I am not sure about all of the details. Some sources I have come across date the warrant to 1783, but the registry of land ownership dates the warrant to 1784.)

1787 — *John Casteel, Sr.*

John Casteel, Sr. acquired 311¼ acres of land in Greene County from the state of North Carolina by land grant. (Recall that Greene County was still part of North Carolina at that time. A *land grant* is a transfer of public land from the state to a private owner. This may be either a sale or a gift, but in either case, the new landowner is expected to make improvements to the land and to pay taxes on it. Please note that the original document is faded and very difficult to read, so I am not sure of all of the details; but the name and the year are both quite legible.)

John Casteel, Sr. may also have acquired another plot of land in 1787, but the sources I have looked at are not clear about this.

1796 — *John Casteel, Sr.*

John Casteel, Sr. of *Blount County* (according to the deed) sold 100 acres of his land in Greene County to Jacob Gray. (This was part of the tract that he acquired in 1787.)

1809 — *John Casteel* (also: *Edward Casteel, Zachariah Casteel*)

John Casteel acquired a tract of land from Edward Casteel. This land was located between land owned by Edward Casteel and land owned by Zachariah Casteel. (Please note that the handwriting on the deed was very difficult to read, so I was not able to make out some of the details, such as how many acres of land were transferred.)

1811 — *Edward Casteel* (also: *Jeremiah Casteel, Zachariah Casteel*)

Edward Casteel and Hugh Maloney bought 100 acres of land in Greene County next to the property of Zachariah Casteel. Jeremiah Casteel is named as one of the witnesses to the deed.

1821 — *Zachariah Casteel*

Zachariah Castel acquired 30 acres in Greene County from John Gass.

1825 — *Jeremiah Casteel* (also: *Edward Casteel, the late Zachariah Casteel*)

Jeremiah Casteel and John Malone bought 200 acres of land in Greene County from the estate of the late Zachariah Casteel. Edward Casteel is named as one of the witnesses to the deed.

These are all of the Casteel land records that I was able to find for Greene County before 1830, though there could very well be others that I have missed. I did find a few later records, but they don't really help us establish who was living where in the decades before 1830.

We learn several things of value from these land records:

First, they confirm the fact that Zachariah Casteel (the elder) was living in Greene County in 1809 and 1811—which we already knew from tax lists—but they also tell us that he died by 1825 at the latest, when his land was sold by his estate. It is not clear if the Zachariah Casteel who acquired land in 1821 was the elder or the younger of the two Zachariah Casteels.

Second, they tell us that both Edward and Jeremiah Casteel were living in Greene County in 1811, even though their names did not appear on the 1811 tax list. In fact, neither of their names can be found on Greene County tax lists before 1812. It is unclear why this may be. But it looks as though Edward Casteel owned land in Greene County as early as 1809.

Third, they tell us that both Edward and Jeremiah were still in Greene County in 1825. This is not surprising in the case of Jeremiah Casteel—after all, we can find him in census records from Greene County in 1830, 1840, and 1850. To the best of our knowledge, he never left Greene County. It is a bit surprising, however, in the case of Edward Casteel, because we know that he and his family were living in Putnam County, Indiana, in 1830. (Of course, we already knew that they could not have left Greene County until after 1821, when Edward served as surety for the marriage bond of his daughter, Comfort Casteel.) So, they must have moved from Greene County, Tennessee, to Putnam County, Indiana, sometime between 1825 and 1830.

Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, we learn that John Casteel, Sr. (this would have to be *John Casteel-A*) was still living in Greene County as late as 1787, but he had moved to Blount County by 1796. This suggests that the John Casteel we find on the 1801 and 1805 Blount County tax lists is likely to be either this *John Casteel-A* or else his son, *John Casteel-B* (who we suspect, but are not yet able to prove, might be the elder of the two John Casteels who ended up in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, by 1830). Note that John Casteel, Sr. acquired his land in 1784 by means of a *military bounty-land warrant*. These were issued only to veterans of certain wars (or their surviving heirs), and the only war before 1784 whose veterans were eligible for military bounty-land warrants was the American Revolution. So, the fact that John Casteel, Sr. received one of these warrants tells us that he must have fought in the Revolution.

Please note that we also find a John Casteel in an 1809 land record, but this has to be a different John Casteel. The John Casteel, Sr. we find in earlier land records (*John Casteel-A*) is no longer living in Greene County in 1809. Neither is this his son, *John Casteel-B*. Rather, the John Casteel who we find in the 1809 land record has to be the John Casteel we find in the Greene County census records in 1830, 1840, and 1850 (*i.e.* the elder of the two John Casteels in the 1850 census), who we have labeled *John Casteel-C*. He is known (from various sources) to be the brother of Edward Casteel and the son of Zachariah Casteel, whose names also appear in his 1809 land record.

That's about all we can learn from Greene County land records. Let us now turn to the Knox/Blount/Roane County area and take a look at the ...

Casteels in *Blount County* Land Records

1807 — *Edmond Casteel* (also: *Wiley Casteel*)

Edmond Casteel acquired 198½ acres of land near the Tennessee River in Blount County from the state of Tennessee by land grant. At least one source indicates that a *Wiley Casteel* served as chain carrier on the survey of the land. (A “chain carrier” was a trusted person—usually a member of the family—chosen by the landowner to assist the surveyor in his work, ensuring that the survey was conducted properly and that all of the measurements were correct, so that the landowner would not be able to claim at some later date that the survey had been mishandled. The chain carrier would serve as legal witness to the survey, and he had to take an oath beforehand pledging to be honest in his work. So, as a general rule, only someone of legal age could serve as a chain carrier.)

1807 — *John Casteel*

John Casteel acquired 305½ acres of land near the Tennessee River in Blount County from the state of Tennessee by land grant. (Note that John and Edmond Casteel acquired their land just two days apart.)

1810 — *Joseph Casteel*

Joseph Casteel acquired 165 acres of land near the Holston River in Blount County by land grant.

1810 — *Joseph Casteel*

Joseph Casteel sold 160 acres of land near the Holston River in Blount County to William Turk.

1824 — *John Casteel*

John Casteel acquired two tracts of land in Blount County—a 50 acre tract and a 150 acre tract—by land grant.

1825 — *Edward Casteel*

Edward Casteel’s land near the Tennessee River in Blount County was sold at public auction in 1825. It was bought by John McClain.

The first thing we learn from these land records is that *Edmond Casteel*, who we find in the 1830 census in McMinn County, was living in Blount County in 1807. This lends some credence to the speculation that the *Edward Casteel* whose name we found on the 1800 and 1801 Blount County tax lists might actually have been *Edmond Casteel*. If so, that would suggest that the land that was sold at auction in 1825 might actually have belonged to *Edmond* rather than *Edward Casteel*.

The second thing we learn is that there was a *Wiley Casteel* in Blount County in 1807. The fact that he served as chain carrier on the survey of Edmond Casteel's land suggests that he was likely a member of Edmond Casteel's family and that he was almost certainly an adult in 1807. Who was this *Wiley Casteel*? We don't find a *Wiley Casteel* in any census records, but we do find a *Willis Casteel* in the 1830 and 1840 censuses (recall that he is one of the Casteels we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas). He would be about the right age—he was born in the 1780s, which would make him somewhere between the ages of 17 and 27 in 1807—and I have come across some speculation online suggesting that *Willis Casteel* and *Wiley Casteel* might have been the same person. We can't be sure, but it certainly seems plausible. As you may recall from our discussion of the Arkansas Casteels, two of the younger Casteels in Arkansas had *Wiley* as their middle name: R.W. (*Robert Wiley*) Casteel, who was born in Tennessee around 1816, and James W. (*Wiley*) Casteel, who was born in Tennessee around 1818. They are both obviously too young to have been the *Wiley Casteel* we find in Blount County in 1807, but it seems plausible that they could have been named after him, suggesting that they might have been members of the same extended family—if not father and sons, then perhaps uncle and nephews. The fact that *Robert Wiley Casteel* and *James Wiley Casteel* both end up in Arkansas, where *Willis Casteel* has settled, may not prove that they are all closely related, but it is certainly highly suggestive.

The *John* and *Joseph Casteel* we find in Blount County land records from 1810 and 1824 have to be the same *John* and *Joseph Casteel* we find on Blount County tax lists in 1801 and 1805. (And I suspect even more strongly now that the *Jesse Casteel* we find on the 1805 tax list was actually *Joseph Casteel*.) We've already decided that the *Joseph Casteel* from the Blount County tax lists is most likely the *Joseph Casteel* we find in census records living in Clay County, Missouri, in 1830 (and in neighboring Clinton County in 1840). But what about *John Casteel*?

We know from Greene County land records that *John Casteel-A* (i.e. the *John Casteel, Sr.* we find in the earliest Greene County land records and tax lists) had moved to Blount County by 1796. It seems likely that his son, *John Casteel-B*, would have moved with him, though we can't be sure of this. (You'll recall that

we suspect, but cannot prove, that *John Casteel-B* is the elder of the two John Casteels we find in the 1830 census in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory.) So, the John Casteel we find in Blount County land records and tax lists could be either of these two John Casteels. But it could also be the younger John Casteel we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in 1830 (who is still living in that same county in 1840). Or it could be the John Casteel who ended up living in Bedford County. At this point, we simply can't be sure.

Now let us turn our attention to ...

Casteels in *Knox County* Land Records

1807 — *Shadrach Casteel* (also: *Abednego Casteel*)

Shadrach Casteel acquired 140 acres of land on Stock Creek, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, in Knox County, by land grant. Abednego Casteel served as chain carrier on the survey. (It is not clear if this was Abednego, *Sr.* or Abednego, *Jr.*)

1808 — *Francis Casteel*

Francis Casteel acquired 390³/₄ acres of land on Stock Creek, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, in Knox County, by land grant.

1812 — *Daniel Casteel*

Daniel Casteel acquired 138 acres of land on Stock Creek, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, in Knox County, by land grant.

1822 — *John Casteel*

John Casteel acquired 37 acres of land south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, in Knox County, by land grant.

unknown — *Meshach Casteel*

Meshach Casteel is recorded as the owner of 108 acres of land in Knox County. The date on which the land was acquired is not recorded.

We don't really learn much from these records that we didn't already know. We knew from tax lists, for example, that Francis, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel Casteel all lived in Knox County at one time. These land records confirm that they were there, and that they appear to have lived very close to each other.

As for the John Casteel we find in an 1822 land record, we still don't really know for sure exactly which John Casteel this was. Was this the same John Casteel who acquired land in neighboring Blount County just two years later, or was this some other John Casteel? We simply don't know. Once again, we have four candidates for who this John Casteel might be: (1) the John Casteel, Sr. who we find in the earliest Greene County land records and tax lists (*John Casteel-A*); (2) the elder of the two John Casteels who we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in 1830 (who we suspect, but cannot prove, was *John Casteel-B*, the son of *John Casteel-A*); (3) the younger of the two John Casteels of St. Francis County; or (4) the John Casteel who ended up in Bedford County, Tennessee. We won't be able to narrow this list of candidates down any further without more information.

That does it for Knox County. I have not been able to find any Casteels in Roane County land records, so let us now turn our attention southward to the McMinn, Monroe, and Rhea County area. We will begin with ...

Casteels in McMinn County Land Records

1820 — *Willis Casteel*

Willis Casteel bought 160 acres of land in McMinn County.

That's it. That's all I could find. This has to be the same Willis Casteel we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in 1830 and 1840. So, could this be the *Wiley Casteel* who served as chain carrier on the survey of Edmond Casteel's land in Blount County in 1807? It is certainly possible. We know from census records that Edmond Casteel had moved to McMinn County by 1830, where he appears to have lived until his death just a few months later. Of course, the mere fact that Edmond Casteel and Willis Casteel are known to have lived in the same county at some point in their lives does not, in and of itself, prove that they are related, and it certainly doesn't prove that Willis Casteel is the same person as Wiley Casteel. But it does at least suggest a possible connection.

Now, let's turn to ...

Casteels in *Monroe County* Land Records

1828 — *Morris Casteel*

Morris Casteel conveyed 78 acres of land in Monroe County to John Dyer. (If I am reading the description of the land correctly, it was in the northernmost part of the county, near the Blount County line, in a corner of the county that would later become part of Loudon County.)

That's it. This is, obviously, the very same Morris Casteel we find living in Rhea County in 1830, in DeKalb County, Alabama, in 1840, and in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in 1850. It is not known how long Morris Casteel had been living in Monroe County before selling his land there and moving to Rhea County, but it appears that he must have moved to Rhea County around 1828.

Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to find any Casteels in Rhea County land records. So, now it is time for us to look farther westward to ...

Casteels in *Bedford County* Land Records

1825 — *John Casteel*

John Casteel acquired 30 acres of land in Bedford County from the state of Tennessee by two separate land grants—one for 11 acres and the other for 19 acres.

1831 — *John Casteel*

John Casteel acquired 150 acres of land in Bedford County from the state of Tennessee by two separate land grants—one for 100 acres and the other for 50 acres.

This is obviously the John Casteel we find in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses in Bedford County. So, we know that he had settled in Bedford County by 1825 at the latest. This suggests—though it does not prove—that the John Casteel who acquired land in Blount County in 1824 was probably *not* the same John Casteel who ended up settling in Bedford County the very next year.

Okay. That appears to be all there is to learn from Bedford County land records. So, are there any other Casteel land records in Tennessee that we need to look at? Yes—I've found at least one that merits our attention. It is from Sullivan County in the northeastern corner of Tennessee, just to the north of Greene County:

Casteels in Sullivan County Land Records

1824 — *Daniel Casteel*

Daniel Casteel acquired 30 acres of land in Sullivan County.

As you may recall, we found a *Daniel Casteel* on an 1812 tax list for Sullivan County. This would almost certainly have to be the same Daniel Casteel. So, which Daniel Casteel is this? As you may recall from our earlier discussion, we were able to rule out all but two of the Daniel Casteels who we find in the 1830 census—the Daniel Casteel we find in Knox County and the Daniel Casteel we find in Monroe County—and we concluded that the Daniel Casteel of Monroe County was the more likely of these two candidates. Well, now I think we can say with some certainty that the Daniel Casteel of Knox County could *not* have been the Daniel Casteel who appeared on an 1812 tax list in Sullivan County: We now have land records proving that Daniel Casteel was in Knox County in 1812. So, assuming that the Daniel Casteel we find in Sullivan County in 1812 and 1824 is still alive in 1830, then he would have to be the Daniel Casteel who we find in the 1830 census living in Monroe County.

Okay. That's it for Tennessee. So, what about elsewhere? Although we do find a few Casteel land records from Arkansas, Indiana, and Missouri that are relevant to our purposes here, they really just confirm what we already know. I don't see anything in them that is worth our attention, so we will just skip them and move on to our next topic: *court records* and other state and county records.

Court Records and Other State & County Records

Casteels in Greene County Court Records etc.

1784 — *Francis Casteel*

Francis Casteel was the defendant in a 1784 lawsuit in Greene County. He was sued by a Jacob Carter, who was one of his neighbors. (I have not seen the original court document, only references to it, so I don't know what the cause of action might have been.) The jury found for the plaintiff and ordered Francis Casteel to pay 1 penny in damages.

1786 — *Zachariah Casteel*

Zachariah Casteel's name is mentioned, along with several other names, in the minutes of the Greene County Court of Common Pleas. (I have not seen the original document, only references to it, so I do not know why his name was included in the record.)

1787 — *Francis Casteel*

Francis Casteel's name appears on a petition that was sent to the North Carolina legislature demanding recognition for the "*State of Franklin*." (For several years, the counties on the western side of the Appalachian Mountains had been trying to secede from North Carolina in order to form their own separate state. All of their previous petitions had been rejected. So, in 1784, they decided to just go ahead and establish their own "state" anyway, which they called *Franklin* in honor of Benjamin Franklin, setting up a provisional capital in the town of Jonesborough, and electing their own governor and legislature. But the government in Raleigh refused to recognize Franklin as a separate state, so in 1787, the citizens of Franklin decided to send one more petition demanding that their independence be recognized. This petition was rejected. But just a couple of years later, North Carolina would cede its territory west of the Appalachians to the federal government, and in less than a decade, this territory would become the new state of Tennessee.)

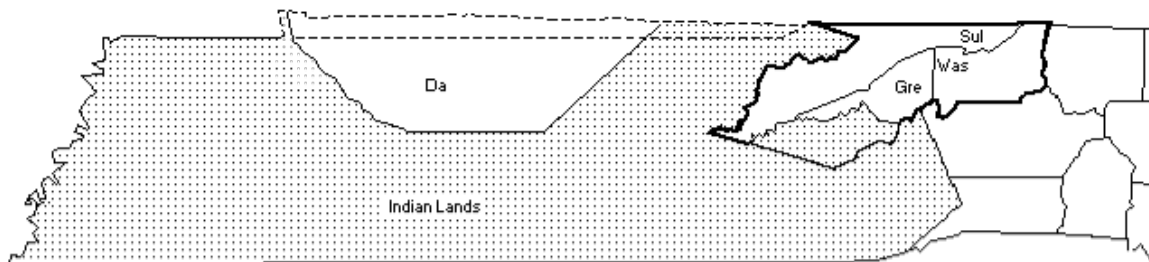
1789 — *Zachariah Casteel*

Zachariah Casteel served on a jury in Greene County.

Here we learn that Zachariah Casteel (the elder) was in Greene County as early as 1786 and 1789. However, as we have seen, his name does not appear on the 1793 Greene County tax list (which is the first one we have after 1783); though it does appear on the 1797 tax list (which is the next one we have after 1793). So, where was he in 1793? It is possible that he was living outside of Greene County at that time, but it is also possible that he was still there and that his name was either left off of the tax list for some reason or else was entered on the list incorrectly. We may never know for sure. Nonetheless, we now know that Zachariah Casteel was definitely in Tennessee—specifically, in Greene County—by as early as 1786.

More importantly than that, we learn that Francis Casteel—who we find in Knox County by 1806—was living in Greene County in 1784 and 1787. This is not as significant a finding as you might at first imagine, though, since Knox County was not founded until 1792, and Greene County, at that time, was much larger than it is now, with a portion of it stretching as far to the southwest as present-day Knox County. So it is quite possible that, in 1784 and 1787, Francis Casteel was living not far from where he would be living in 1806 or even in 1830—it was just called *Greene County* at the time rather than *Knox County*.

Let me also note here that, according to one (unverified) source I've seen, Francis Casteel's name can also be found on a 1782 bail bond from Greene County. I am skeptical of this claim, though, for three main reasons: First, Greene County was not formed until 1783. Second, Francis Casteel's name is not found on the 1783 tax list for Greene County. And third, another source, which we will examine a bit later, suggests that Francis Casteel was living in Pennsylvania at the time.



- Gre = Greene County
- Sul = Sullivan County
- Was = Washington County
- Da = Davidson County

The Counties of "Tennessee" (Then Part of North Carolina) in 1784

Now let's turn to the Knox/Blount/Roane County area and look at ...

Casteels in *Blount County* Court Records *etc.*

1809 — *Edward Casteel, John Casteel*

Edward (*Edmond?*) Casteel and John Casteel were among the signers of a petition that the residents of Blount County sent to the Tennessee legislature. (I have not seen the petition myself, only a reference to it which does not give any details, so I don't know what it was about.)

That's all I could find for Blount County, and it doesn't really tell us much more than we already knew. We knew from land records that both Edmond and John Casteel were in Blount County in 1807. (And it is looking more and more likely that the *Edward* Casteel we find in Blount County records is the same person as *Edmond* Casteel.) We knew from tax lists that *Edward* and John Casteel were in Blount County in 1801. (John was there in 1805 as well, though I could not find an *Edward* or an *Edmond Casteel* on the 1805 tax list—though the handwriting on that list was so bad that it's possible that I simply overlooked the name.) Also, we find a John Casteel in Blount County land records in 1824 (though, given the fact that there are so many John Casteels in Tennessee at this time, we can't really be sure that this is the same John Casteel whose name appears on the 1801 tax list, the 1807 land record, or the 1809 petition). We also find a land record showing that Edward Casteel's land in Blount County was sold at public auction in 1825. (Of course, this does not prove that Edward/Edmond himself was still living in Blount County at the time, since his land could have been auctioned off even if he was living elsewhere.) So, I'm not sure if this petition adds all that much to what we already knew, but it does at least give us confirmation that a John Casteel and an Edward (or possibly Edmond) Casteel were living in Blount County in 1809.

Now let us turn to ...

Casteels in *Knox County Court Records etc.*

1799 — *Abednego & Sarah Casteel*

Knox County court records from 1800 mention a court order that was issued in 1799 for the county sheriff to seize certain property belonging to Abednego Casteel and his wife Sarah as payment for a one-thousand dollar judgment against them in a lawsuit.

1801 — *David Casteel*

David Casteel's name appears on a petition to the Tennessee legislature to split Knox County in two, and to form a new county in the Clinch River area from the northwestern parts of Knox County. This would happen later that same year with the formation of Anderson County from portions of Knox and Grainger Counties.

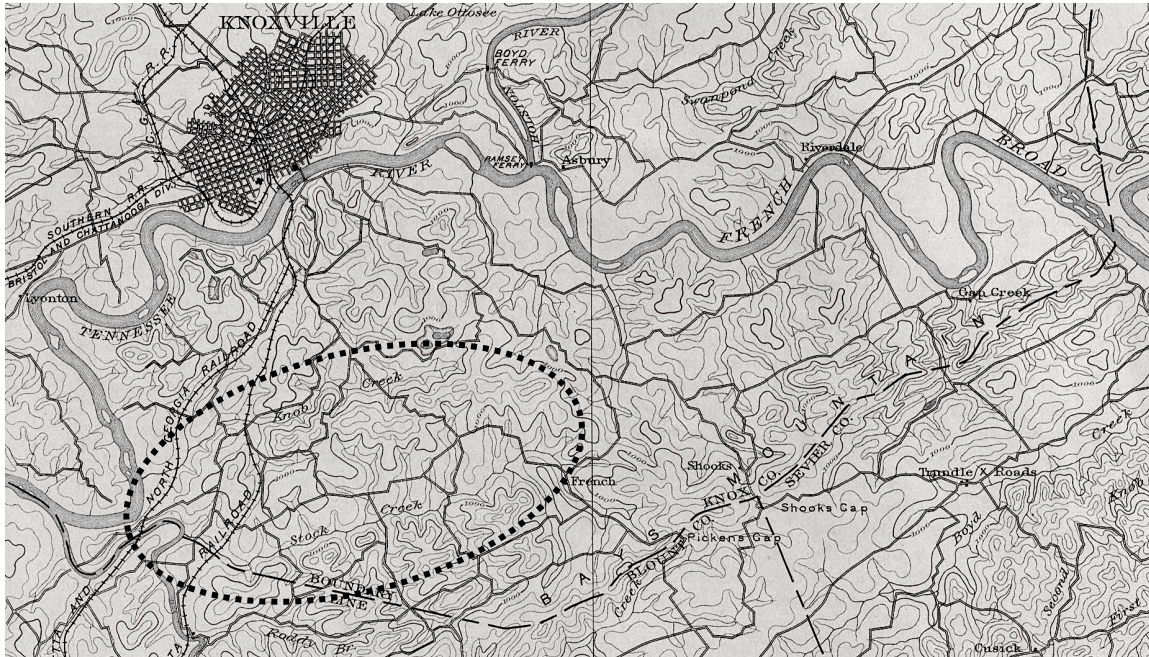
1804 — *Abednego Casteel*

Knox County records show that Abednego Casteel requested and was granted permission from the county to build a public grist mill on his property in the Stock Creek settlement in the southeastern corner of Knox County, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers.

1807 — *Abednego Casteel, John Casteel*

A Knox County court ordered the public auction of a 100 acre tract of land on Knob Creek, owned by Abednego Casteel, to pay a debt. John Casteel was living on the land at the time.

We can learn several things of value from these records. First of all, we learn that Abednego Casteel, Sr. and his wife (and presumably their children as well) were living in Knox County at least as early as 1799. (You might recall us mentioning this in passing earlier when we were talking about Knox County tax lists. Well, this court record is how we know it to be true.) Second, we learn that the wife of Abednego Casteel, Sr., and presumably the mother of his four children (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jr., and Daniel), was named *Sarah*. Third, we discover that Abednego, Sr. owned land in Knox County at least as early as 1804 (though we were not able to find any land records for him). Fourth, we get confirmation that Abednego, Sr. was living in the Stock Creek area, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, in the southeastern corner of Knox County. (We already knew from land records that Shadrach, Francis, and Daniel Casteel lived in that area.)



*The Southeastern Corner of Knox County, Tennessee,
South of the French Broad & Holston (Tennessee) Rivers*

(detail of a U.S. Geological Survey topographical map from 1890)

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The French Broad River flows down from the Great Smokey Mountains, running generally from east to west, towards Knoxville, where it merges with the Holston River just to the east of the city to form the Tennessee River (see the map above). But back in the old days, this stretch of river wasn't called the *Tennessee* until it merged with the Clinch River near the town of Kingston in Roane County to the southwest of Knox County. The portion of the river between the French Broad and the Clinch was still called the *Holston*. So, instead of saying that the French Broad and Holston Rivers merged to form the Tennessee, back then we would say that the French Broad flowed into the Holston River just to the east of Knoxville, and the Holston River continued to flow on to the southwest until it merged with the Clinch River to form the Tennessee. In any event, the southeastern corner of Knox County is bounded by the French Broad River to its north and the Holston (now the Tennessee) River to its northwest and west, and by Blount County to its south and Sevier County to its east and southeast. Abednego Casteel, Sr. and his brother Francis, along with their families, settled in this corner of Knox County, in the Stock Creek area, near the Blount County line (see the map above).

Another thing we learn from these records is that David Casteel, who we find on a Blount County tax list in 1805, was living in Knox County in 1801. Of course, we already knew from marriage records that he was living in Knox County three years earlier, in 1798. The fact that he signed this 1801 petition seems to suggest that he might have been living in the Clinch River area in the northwestern part of Knox County (*i.e.* the part of the county that would be carved off and turned into Anderson County by the end of 1801). This would put him on the opposite side of Knox County from the Casteels who lived in the Stock Creek area, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers. Does this mean that he was not part of their extended family? Or does it simply mean that he decided, for some reason, to set out on his own and settle in a different part of the county? We may never know. But I find it interesting that, just a few years later, he apparently ended up in Blount County, which is not too far from where the Casteels of Stock Creek in Knox County lived. This David Casteel remains something a mystery (recall that he cannot be found in the 1830 census), and one that I really wish we could solve.

We also learn that, in 1807, a *John Casteel* was living on land that was owned by an Abednego Casteel (presumably, Abednego Casteel, Sr.) on Knob Creek (near Stock Creek, as you can see from the map on the previous page). Abednego does not appear to have been living there at the time, and the (unverified) source that I consulted seems to suggest that he was not in Knox County when the court order was handed down. He may have died by then, or else he may have moved out of the county. Without additional information, we can't know for sure.

The John Casteel who is living on Abednego's land must be the same John Casteel whose name appears on the 1808 Knox County tax list. As we have noted before, we don't know which John Casteel this is, but there are really only four plausible candidates: *John Casteel-A* (who likely died sometime before 1830); one of the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory; or the John Casteel who ended up in Bedford County, Tennessee. But whichever John Casteel it was, he must have been connected to Abednego Casteel in some way, and he must have either just arrived in Knox County from somewhere else around 1807, or else just came of age and began paying taxes around 1807 or 1808, because he is not on the 1806 tax list for Knox County. Figuring out who's who among the various John Casteels is definitely proving to be a challenge, but every bit of new information we manage to dig up gets us a step closer to solving this fascinating puzzle.

Okay, that's pretty much all there is to learn from Knox County court (and other miscellaneous) records. Now let us turn to the fascinating tale of ...

Casteels in Roane County Court Records etc.

1819-

1820 — *Barney Casteel, Edward Casteel, Mary Casteel Little, Willis Casteel*

In July of 1819, a Roane County grand jury handed down a criminal indictment against five people, including Edward (*Edmond?*) Casteel, Mary (*Casteel*) Little, and Willis Casteel for rioting and committing assault and battery against a man named James Carden, who they had apparently beaten half to death for some reason. (The motive for the attack is not stated in any of the court records I have been able to look at.) The incident occurred on the 1st of July, 1819, and the grand jury handed down an indictment that same month. (Indicted along with the Casteels were Carter Twin and Anderson Twin, though the indictment indicates that other unknown persons were involved as well.) It looks as if all of the defendants fled the county immediately after the incident in order to avoid arrest, since the indictment describes each of them as being “late of [Roane] County,” which indicates that they had recently lived there but were no longer living there at the time the indictment was handed down, less than a month after the incident took place. The case was scheduled to go to trial in 1820, and warrants were apparently issued for the arrest of the defendants. I’ve seen the warrants for Willis Casteel, but not for any of the others; however, I have to presume that warrants were issued for their arrest as well. Multiple warrants appear to have been issued for Willis, but each was returned to the court with a note saying that he couldn’t be found. However, I have found court orders that were issued to the sheriffs of Roane and Monroe Counties in 1820, instructing them to seize property belonging to Willis Casteel and Barney Casteel as payment for fines and legal fees. It would seem reasonable to presume that this has something to do with the assault on James Carden. (But please note that *Barney Casteel* was not named in the original indictment; so it’s not clear why his property would have been seized.) There are also a few documents from 1820 relating to the case of *The State vs. Edward Casteel*, one of which does include the name James Carden. However, these documents are so vague (and the handwriting on them is so sloppy) that I can’t make heads nor tails of them. Without further information, we may never know what really happened in Roane County on 1 July 1819, or why, or how the case turned out, or even whether Willis Casteel ever got caught.

1820 — *Barney Casteel*

Barney Casteel served as surety on a Roane County marriage bond for William Caves and Jenny Irland.

1832-

1833 — *Zachariah Casteel*

Zachariah Casteel was accused by a man named Littleberry Roberts of threatening to do him, his family, or his property some sort of injury. He was arrested and put in the Roane County jail, and he had to post bond in order to be released until his trial. The warrant for his arrest was issued in July of 1832, and trial was scheduled for January of 1833. Unfortunately, I could not find any documents about the trial itself, so I don't know what the outcome might have been or what might have motivated Zachariah Casteel to threaten Littleberry Roberts.

1850 — *Barney & Mary Casteel*

Barney Casteel and his wife Mary, of Union County, Georgia, testified (by written affidavit rather than in person) in a lawsuit that was being tried in Roane County, Tennessee. The details of the lawsuit are not relevant to our purposes here. What is relevant, though, is that their testimony clearly establishes that they were living in Roane County in 1819-20. (There is one other interesting point about their testimony, though: *James Carden's* name came up. He was apparently another one of the witnesses in the case, and Barney Casteel was asked whether he knew him, for how long, and whether he could be trusted to tell the truth under oath. Barney said that he had known Carden for about 32 years—which would suggest that they had first met somewhere around 1818—and that he would *not* trust Carden to tell the truth under oath. So it looks as if there still may have been some bad blood between the Casteels and James Carden three decades after they allegedly rioted and beat him half to death.)

Wow. That was unexpected. I didn't realize that I had such violent people in my family tree. The Casteels of Roane County certainly were an interesting bunch. I only wish I could find more information about the 1819 riot and assault on James Carden and about the incident between Zachariah Casteel and Littleberry Roberts in 1832. But I'm very glad that I was able to find these records. And we actually learn quite a bit from these records.

First of all, we learn that Barney Casteel and his wife Mary, Edward (or Edmond) Casteel, Mary Casteel Little, and Willis Casteel, were all living in Roane County in 1819. You may recall from our examination of marriage records that Edmond Casteel served as surety for the marriage bond of a *Mary Casteel*, who married a *Luke Lytle* in Roane County in 1818. We suspected that Mary might have been Edmond's daughter. We now find evidence that an *Edward Casteel* and a *Mary Little* were both living in Roane County in 1819, and that they were apparently involved in the same incident on the 1st of July of that year, along with a *Willis Casteel* (who we now know to be connected in some way to *Barney Casteel*), who may be the same person as the *Wiley Casteel* who served as chain carrier on the survey of *Edmond Casteel's* land in Blount County. This is just too much of a coincidence to dismiss. I think we are now justified in concluding that *Edward Casteel* = *Edmond Casteel*; that *Wiley Casteel* = *Willis Casteel*; and that *Mary Little* = *Mary Casteel Lytle*. And all of them lived in Roane County in 1818-19.

We also learn that Barney and Mary Casteel were still living in Roane County as of 1820, though the others may have fled the county by then. And since Barney Casteel testified in 1850 that he had known James Carden of Roane County for about 32 years, that would suggest that Barney had first arrived in Roane County somewhere around 1818. Since Barney is clearly connected to Edmond and Willis Casteel and to Mary Casteel Lytle/Little (we know from other sources, which we will look at soon, that Barney was the son of Edmond Casteel and the brother of Willis and Mary), it is reasonable to speculate that all of them might have arrived in Roane County at about the same time—perhaps they even migrated there from Blount County together.

A decade after the (alleged) riot and assault on James Carden, census records show Edmond living in McMinn County, Barney in Monroe County, and Willis in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. I have not been able to track down Mary in the 1830 census, but other sources suggest that she had gotten remarried (her first husband must have died) and was now living in Kentucky with her new husband, John Jackson. (Unfortunately, the 1830 census lists nearly 40 *John Jacksons* in the state of Kentucky, and I have no information that would help me narrow that

list of candidates down to a more manageable number.) There is no mention of a *Morris Casteel* in any of the Roane County court records we have looked at, but we know (once again, from sources that we will examine shortly) that Morris was the son of Edmond Casteel and the brother of Willis, Barney, and Mary. We find him in the 1830 census living in Rhea County. I have to wonder if the incident in Roane County in 1819 might have been what prompted the members of Edmond Casteel's family to scatter off in so many different directions. Barney and Morris would stay on the move for decades to come: Barney could be found in Cherokee County, North Carolina, in 1840, and then in Union County, Georgia, in 1850; Morris would go to DeKalb County, Alabama, by 1840, and then on to Pontotoc County, Mississippi, by 1850. I don't mean to suggest that the whole family was on the run from the law, or anything quite so dramatic. But it's possible that the Roane County incident had an effect on the family, causing them to part ways and to put some distance between themselves and Roane County (and James Carden in particular). Of course, I'm just speculating here. There's simply no way for us to know for sure.

But as long as I'm speculating, I've got to wonder if something similar might have happened in the case of Zachariah Casteel (the younger). We already knew from census records that he was in Roane County in 1830, so finding him there in 1832 and 1833 is not all that surprising. But we also know that he moved his family to Hamilton County in the 1830s, where he died sometime before 1840. (His name can be found on a Hamilton County tax list in 1836, and his widow Rebecca can be found in the 1840 census living in Hamilton County.) So, why did they move to Hamilton County? Again, I am not suggesting that Zachariah Casteel was on the run from justice. But he had moved to Hamilton County within three years of his trial for threatening Littleberry Roberts. It seems plausible that he decided that he ought to put some distance between himself and Roberts, and perhaps also to put some distance between himself and everyone who knew about the incident. But, once again, this is just idle speculation on my part.

I have not been able to find any reference to Casteels in any court records or other miscellaneous official records in McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, or Bedford Counties, or anywhere else in the state of Tennessee. Nor have I found any relevant records in Arkansas, Illinois, or Indiana.

I did, however, find one record from Missouri that might be of some interest.

Casteels in *Clay County, Missouri* Court Records *etc.*

1824 — *Joseph Casteel & daughter Mary*

It reads: “Joseph Casteel binds his daughter Mary, as apprentice with William Powe from this date until 27 Feb 1827, to learn to knit, sew, etc. William Powe agrees to prevent and prohibit any communications between the said Mary Casteel and Page Stanley and said Stanley’s wife during the term aforesaid.” (9 August 1824)

Interesting. And I would love to find out what had been going on between Mary Casteel and Page Stanley (and his wife) that would have prompted Joseph Casteel to forbid any communication between them. But setting aside the juicy gossip for now, what we learn from this record is that the Joseph Casteel family was living in Clay County, Missouri, at least as early as 1824, and perhaps even earlier. As you may recall, the last record we have of him from Tennessee was in 1810 when he bought and sold some land in Blount County. So, Joseph and his family must have moved from Tennessee to Missouri sometime between 1810 and 1824. We can even narrow this down a bit further, since we know that Joseph’s son, David, was born in Tennessee around 1811, and that his other son, Woodfield, was born in Missouri around 1821. So they must have moved between 1811 and 1821.

Before we move on to other types of records, let’s look at just a couple of records that we find from Pennsylvania and Virginia that include some familiar names:

Casteels in “*Washington County,*” *Pennsylvania* Court Records *etc.*

1776-

1780 — *Francis Casteel*

Francis Casteel (*Castile*) is listed among the signers of a petition to the Continental Congress for a new state, called *Westsylvania*, to be created out of the counties in the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania and the northwestern corner of Virginia (now West Virginia). (I have not been able to discover the exact year in which this petition was signed, but it

appears to have been sometime between 1776 and 1780. It should be noted that, although the source I consulted claims that this petition was from *Washington County*, Pennsylvania, that county was not officially formed until 1781. So, presumably, it must have been from the part of southwestern Pennsylvania that would become Washington County.)

While we can't be 100% certain, we have good reason to suspect that the *Francis Castile* whose name appears on this Pennsylvania petition from the late 1770s is the same *Francis Casteel* whose name we can find in court records from Greene County, North Carolina (*i.e. Tennessee*), in 1784, and in various other records from Greene and Knox Counties between 1784 and 1830. For one thing, I have not been able to find any other *Francis Casteel* (or *Castile*, or any other variant on the name) in any record before 1830, and the Francis Casteel of Knox County, Tennessee, is the only Francis Casteel I can find in the 1830 census except for the one in Madison County, Illinois, who is much too young to have been the Francis Castile from the Pennsylvania petition. So, this suggests that the Francis Casteel of Knox County, Tennessee—the brother of Abednego Casteel—had previously lived in Washington County in southwestern Pennsylvania, and that he migrated from there to Greene County, Tennessee, sometime between 1776 and 1804.

Now, let us look at ...

Casteels in *Botetourt County, Virginia* Court Records *etc.*

1798 — *Abednego Casteel, Nancy Casteel*

An *Abednego C. Casteel* served as surety for the marriage bond of a *Nancy Casteel* who married a *Francis Greenlee*.

The first thing we have to ask is: Is this the *Abednego Casteel (Sr.)* who we find in records from Knox County, Tennessee, in 1799, 1804, and 1806? Although it may be hard to imagine, he and his son, *Abednego Casteel, Jr.* are not the only *Abednego Casteels* we can find in early records. (As I've mentioned before, the biblical names *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, *Abednego*, and *Daniel*—which come from the book of Daniel in the Old Testament—seem to have been popular among the

Casteels in those days for some reason.) But I think we can be relatively confident that the Abednego C. Casteel who served as surety on this 1798 marriage bond in Botetourt County, Virginia, is indeed the Abednego Casteel, Sr. who can later be found in Knox County, Tennessee. Why? Because the name of the groom from this marriage record, *Francis Greenlee*, can also be found on the 1806 tax list for Knox County, living in the same district as the Casteels. So, it seems reasonable for us to conclude that the Abednego C. Casteel who served as surety on Francis Greenlee's marriage bond in 1798 might very well be the same Abednego Casteel we find living near Francis Greenlee eight years later, in 1806. We can't rule out the possibility that it is just a coincidence, but the odds against that are staggering.

So, assuming that the Abednego C. Casteel from this marriage record is the same person as the Abednego Casteel, Sr. of Knox County, what do we learn from this marriage record? First, we learn that his middle initial was C—though I have no clue what this C might have stood for. Second, we learn that he must have moved from Botetourt County, Virginia (which at that time was in the south-central part of the state*), to Knox County, Tennessee, sometime between December of 1798 (when Francis Greenlee married Nancy Casteel) and November of 1799 (when a Knox County court ordered the seizure of some of Abednego and Sarah Casteel's property in order to pay damages in a lawsuit they lost).

(* Please bear in mind that what is now the state of West Virginia was still part of Virginia at this time—it would take another 65 years, and a Civil War, before the northwestern counties of Virginia would split off to form a separate state. Today, Botetourt County is in the western-central part of Virginia, not far from the West Virginia state line.)

Now that we know (or at least have a very good reason to believe) that Abednego Casteel, Sr. of Knox County, Tennessee, was living in Virginia until 1798 or '99, that gives us a reason to suspect that he might very well be the Abednego Casteel whose name appears in a number of Virginia tax lists between the years 1778 and 1810. We find an Abednego Casteel on tax lists from Henry County, Virginia, in 1778, 1779, and 1780. Henry County is in the southernmost part of Virginia, on the North Carolina state line. It is not very far to the south of Botetourt County. In fact, from 1776 to 1785, Botetourt and Henry Counties actually bordered each other—though in 1785, a new county was created from the southernmost parts of Botetourt County and the northernmost parts of Henry County, so that the two counties were now separated. So, in 1798, only one county (*Franklin*) separated Botetourt from Henry County. (Today, though, Botetourt and Henry Counties

are separated by *two* counties: Franklin and *Roanoke*. In 1838, Roanoke County was created from the southernmost parts of Botetourt County. But that was long after the time period we're concerned about right now.) In the years in which we find an Abednego Casteel on Henry County tax lists, Botetourt County directly bordered Henry County; and in the year in which we find an Abednego Casteel in a Botetourt County marriage record, only one county—Franklin—separated Henry from Botetourt County. Does the fact that Henry and Botetourt Counties were so near each other *prove* that the Abednego Casteel we find in one must also be the Abednego Casteel we find in the other? Of course not. But it is suggestive.

An Abednego Casteel can also be found on a 1787 tax list from Amherst County, Virginia. Amherst County is due east of Botetourt County, and there's not much distance between the two. (The separation between them was essentially the same in 1787 as it is today, so if you look at a modern map of Virginia, you'll be able to see how close they are.) Again, this doesn't prove anything, but it is suggestive.

We also find a 1796 record from Augusta County, Virginia, which shows that an Abednego Casteel was delinquent in paying his taxes, listing him as a "runaway". Augusta County was due north of Amherst County—in fact, in 1796, these two counties directly bordered each other. (Though they would be separated in 1807, when *Nelson County* was created from parts of Amherst County.) Once again, this proves nothing, but it is highly suggestive.

Finally, an Abednego Casteel can also be found on an 1810 tax list from Grayson County, Virginia. Grayson County is in the southwestern part of the state, right on the North Carolina state line. It lies west of Henry County, and in 1810, only one county (*Patrick*) separated them. (In 1842, *Carroll County* would be formed from eastern Grayson County, further separating it from Henry County, but that is well after the period of time we're interested in.) Again, we can't conclude that the Abednego Casteel we find in Grayson County in 1810 is the same Abednego Casteel we find in Henry County in 1778-1780 solely on the basis of the distance between these two counties, but we do have reason to suspect that they *might* be the same person.

Let's assume, for the sake of argument, that this was the same Abednego Casteel in all of these places. That would mean that he was in Henry County, Virginia, from 1778 to 1780; that he moved to Amherst County by 1787; then he moved to neighboring Augusta County sometime before 1796 but then fled the county in 1796 to avoid paying taxes, ending up in Botetourt County by 1798; and then he migrated all the way to Knox County, Tennessee, by the next year (1799), where

he appears to have settled down, along with his (now grown) children (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jr., and Daniel) and his brother Francis, in the Stock Creek area south of the French Broad and Holston, remaining there until sometime after 1806; but sometime before 1808 he decided to leave his sons and brother behind in Tennessee and return to Virginia, ending up in Grayson County by 1810.

This is certainly *possible*—I can see no reason why he would not have been *able* to do this—but it just doesn't seem very *likely* to me. I have to suspect that there might have been another Abednego Casteel living in Virginia at the time, and that at least one or two of the references to an *Abednego Casteel* that can be found in Virginia records are actually references to him. I have no proof of this. But I can find a few records of a *William Casteel* living in Virginia during this time period, and I have come across one (unverified) source that gives his full name as *William Abednego Casteel*. So, I am not going to make any assumptions about whether the Abednego Casteel we find in various records from Virginia between 1778 and 1810 is the same Abednego Casteel (Sr.) we find in Knox County records between the years 1799 and 1806. I'm just going to say, "I don't know," and move on.

Casteels in Military Records

Okay, now let us take a look at *military records*. We will not be looking at these very closely—we are not really concerned, right now, with the details of anyone's service record, such as their rank, which battles they fought in, or whether or not they were wounded in action—we just want to see if we can use military records to help us figure out who was living where at various points in time before 1830.

Unfortunately, military records aren't always arranged by county—some are, but most are not—so we will make a county-by-county search first, and then we will look at the various military records that do not specify which county the soldier was from.

Let's begin with ...

Casteels in *Greene County* Military Records

1813-1814 — Jeremiah Casteel

Jeremiah Casteel's name can be found listed on the "*Muster Roll of a Company of Volunteer militia under the Command of Captain Robert Maloney in a Regiment of Tennessee militia under the command of Colo. William Lillard. In the service of the United States from the 14th day of October 1813 untill the 18th day of February 1814 inclusive.*" (This militia unit was organized in Greene County, and most of its members are believed to have been from that county.)

1814 — Zachariah Casteel

Zachariah Casteel is one of the names listed in a "*Report of the Men in the Service of the U. States,*" which appears to have been drawn up as a part of the 1814 Greene County tax list. (Presumably this is because those who were out of the county on militia service during the *War of 1812* and *Creek War* were exempt from having to pay their taxes that year—or at least were given an extension until they had returned home from service.)

The Jeremiah Casteel who served in the militia from 1813 to 1814 is undoubtedly the same Jeremiah Casteel we have encountered countless times before in Greene County census records, tax lists, and land records. The Zachariah Casteel whose name we find on the list of Greene County taxpayers who were in service of the United States in 1814 has to be Zachariah Casteel *the younger*—*i.e.* the one who married Rebecca Hartley in Greene County in 1818, who can be found living in Roane County in the 1830 census, who was arrested in that county in 1832, and who moved to Hamilton County by 1836, where he died sometime before 1840.

That does it for Greene County military records. Now let us now turn to ...

Casteels in *Blount County* Military Records

1801 — Edward Casteel

Edward (*Edmond?*) Casteel is listed on the 1801 Blount County tax list as an Ensign in the Blount County militia.

Now, let us turn to ...

Casteels in *Knox County* Military Records

1794 (April-May) — *John Casteel*

John Casteel can be found on the muster roll of Capt. Joseph Black's company of mounted infantry in the Knox County Regiment of the Hamilton District Militia for the Territory South of the Ohio River. He appears to have served for only a few days.

1794 (August-September) — *John Casteel*

John Castile can be found on the muster roll of Capt. John Singleton's detachment of mounted infantry in the Knox County Regiment of the Hamilton District Militia for the Territory South of the Ohio River. He appears to have served for only a few days.

1838 — *Rebecca Casteel* (widow of *Zachariah Casteel*)

Rebecca Casteel applied for, and was granted, a military pension as the widow of former soldier Zachariah Casteel. According to one record, this pension commenced on 22 April 1838 and was terminated in 1843.

1839 — *Rebecca Casteel* (widow of *Zachariah Casteel*)

Another record shows that Rebecca Casteel's application for a widow's pension was filed in December of 1839.

1843 — *Rebecca Casteel* (widow of *Zachariah Casteel*)

A third record shows Rebecca Casteel receiving a widow's pension that commenced on 23 April 1843 and was terminated on 23 April 1848.

unknown (but after 1844) — *Rebecca Casteel* (widow of *Zachariah Casteel*)

A fourth record simply notes that Rebecca Casteel's pension has been paid, and refers the reader back to the previous record.

The first thing we see here is that a John Casteel—or perhaps two different John Casteels—served (albeit briefly) in a Knox County militia unit in 1794. So, once again, we find ourselves having to try to figure out which John Casteel this might have been. We can safely rule out anyone who was born after 1780, because they would have been too young to serve in the militia in 1794. That just leaves *John Casteel-A*, *John Casteel-B*, and *John Casteel-C*. All of them would have been old enough to serve. *John Casteel-C*, who was the youngest of the three, would have been about 24 years old in 1794. *John Casteel-B* would likely have been in his mid-to-late 20s, or possibly his early 30s. We don't know for certain just how old *John Casteel-A* would have been, but since we have reason to believe that he is the father of *John Casteel-B*, it seems reasonable to estimate that he was likely somewhere in his 50s in 1794—perhaps a bit on the old side to serve as a private in a militia unit, but certainly not out of the question, especially for someone who had fought in the American Revolution a little over a decade earlier. (Recall that he received a military land-bounty warrant for his service during the Revolution.) I must admit that I am tempted to eliminate *John Casteel-C* from consideration on the grounds that we have seen no evidence that he ever lived outside of Greene County. However, neither have we seen any evidence that he did *not* live outside of Greene County at some point in time. In fact, he does not show up on Greene County tax lists until 1798, so we can't know for certain where he was living four years before that. So, without further information, we simply can't narrow down this list of candidates any further. But at least we can be reasonably confident that one (or perhaps two) of these three John Casteels—*A*, *B*, or *C*—served (for a few days) in a Knox County militia unit in 1794.

Now let's turn to Rebecca Casteel and take a look at her widow's pension, which she obtained as a consequence of her husband Zachariah Casteel's military service. First of all, we should note that this is the same Zachariah Casteel who appears in Greene County military records. Second, we should note that, just because these pension files were handled by the pension office that was located in Knox County, that does not imply that Zachariah Casteel or his widow, Rebecca, lived in Knox County. The pension office in Knox County would almost certainly have been a regional office that handled pension claims from throughout East Tennessee. (It would have been impractical to have a pension office in every county.) We have reason to believe that Zachariah Casteel died while he and his family were living in Hamilton County, and we have evidence that Rebecca Casteel was still living there in 1840. These records from Knox County give us no reason to question our previous beliefs about where Zachariah died or where Rebecca lived after his death. Nor, unfortunately, do they give us any clues about when Rebecca and her children might left Hamilton County or where they might have gone to.

There is a bit of confusion in these records concerning exactly when Rebecca filed the application for this pension, and when she started receiving benefits. The first record says that the pension commenced on 22 April 1838. But the second record says that the application was filed in December of 1839. Of course, we can't rule out the possibility that one of these records is simply in error—after all, mistakes do happen from time to time, even in official records. But assuming that this isn't a mistake, how might we reconcile these two dates? I see two possibilities: First, it is possible that Zachariah Casteel died on 22 April 1838, but Rebecca didn't get around to applying for her widow's pension until December of 1839, and the first record simply backdates the start of the pension to the date of Zachariah's death. Second, it is also possible that Rebecca's pension application was actually approved on 22 April 1838, and the file was officially entered into the government archives in December of 1839, which would explain the date on the second record. Either of these explanations seems plausible to me, but I have no way of knowing which (if either) of them might be true.

You will notice from the first record that Rebecca's pension was terminated after five years, but then the third record indicates that it was renewed for another five years. I'm afraid I don't know enough about these old military pensions to know if this was standard practice or not. But, in any event, this would seem to prove that Rebecca Casteel lived until at least 1848. What happened to her after that is not known. There is a note on the third record that (if I'm reading it correctly) seems to suggest that her pension might have been renewed once again in 1853. However, I have not been able to find any records of this renewed pension, if it even exists, nor have I been able to find any other references to either Rebecca or Zachariah Casteel in military pension records.

Before we leave our discussion of Rebecca Casteel's pension, I do need to note one thing that is rather curious. Rebecca Casteel was the widow of Zachariah Casteel *the younger* (i.e. the one we find in the 1830 census in Roane County) who served in the War of 1812/Creek War. But the specific pension that she applied for was for widows of soldiers who had fought in the *American Revolution*! The younger Zachariah Casteel was too young to have fought in the Revolution. However, the elder Zachariah Casteel (i.e. the one we find in early records from Greene County but who appears to have died sometime before 1825) is believed to have fought in the Revolution. So, it looks as though the pension office must have mixed up the two Zachariah Casteels when they were processing Rebecca's pension application, and they ended up awarding her the pension that was intended for the widow of Zachariah Casteel *the elder*. So, it appears that bureaucracy was no less prone to error back then than it is today.

Now let's move on. I have not found any Casteel military records from Roane, McMinn, Monroe, Rhea, or Bedford Counties, or any other county in Tennessee. However, I was able to find one record from Pennsylvania that looks like it might be of some relevance.

Casteels in Washington County, Pennsylvania Military Records

1781-

1783 — *Francis Casteel*

Francis Casteel's name can be found in the *Revolutionary War Military Abstract Card File*, where he is listed as a private in the 2nd Company of the Washington County 5th Battalion of the Pennsylvania Militia for the years 1781-83 (*i.e.* the last three years of the American Revolution).

This would have to be the same Francis Casteel whose name appears on a petition from (what would become) Washington County, Pennsylvania, signed sometime between 1776 and 1780. But is this the same Francis Casteel whose name can be found in a Greene County, North Carolina (*i.e.* Tennessee) court record in 1784? While it is impossible to be 100% certain, it seems reasonable to believe that this is, indeed, the same Francis Casteel, since he would have been about the right age, and since we can find no records of anyone else named Francis Casteel in the same age range. So, I think we can safely conclude that Francis Casteel migrated from Washington County in Pennsylvania, to Greene County in what was then North Carolina (but would later become Tennessee) around 1783 or 1784. (Note that we have reason to believe that his brother, Abednego Casteel, Sr., was not with him at the time, but was living in Virginia until 1798 or 1799, when he migrated to Knox County, Tennessee, settling in the Stock Creek area south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, which is also where his brother Francis would settle.)

Okay, that does it for all the Casteel military records that have been organized by county. Now let us turn to those military records that don't specify the name of any particular county. We'll see if we can use various clues in order to figure out where the soldiers in these military records might have lived.

Casteels in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812 & Creek War

1 Reg't (Wear's) East Tennessee Vols.

- *Barney Casteal*
- *Caleb Casteal*

2 Reg't (Lillard's) East Tennessee Vols.

- *Daniel Casteel*
- *Jeremiah Casteel (or Casteal)*

2 Reg't Mounted Gunmen (Brown's) East Tennessee Vols.

- *Abednigo Casteel*

3 Reg't (Johnson's) E. Tennessee Militia

- *Daniel Casteel*
- *Zachariah Casteel*

5 Reg't (Booth's) East Tennessee Militia

- *Caleb Casteel*
- *Henry Casteel*
- *Jacob Casteel*

Allison's Reg't, East Tennessee Militia

- *Zachariah Casteel*

Bunch's Reg't (1814), E. Tennessee Mil.

- *Caleb Casteel (or Casteel)*
- *James Casteel*
- *John Casteel (or Casteel)*
- *Joseph Casteel (or Casteel)*
- *Meshac Casteel (or Casteel)*

Clark's Battalion, East Tennessee Militia

- *Caleb Casteel*

Casteels in the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812 & Creek War

1 Reg't (Pipkin's) West Tennessee Militia

- *Isaac Casteel*

2 Reg't (Pillow's) West Tennessee Militia

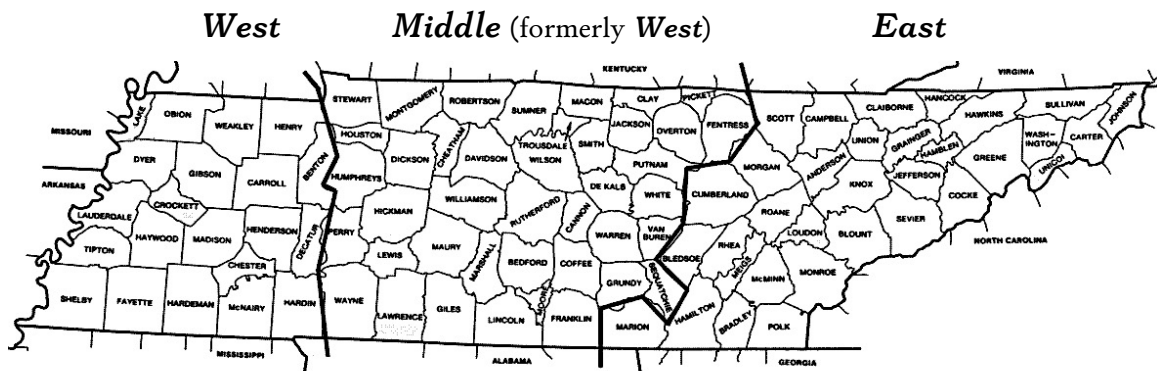
- *Isaac Castill (or Castell)*

Davis' Battalion, West Tennessee Militia

- *John Castell*

The first thing that we should note is that some soldiers served in more than one militia unit over the course of the War of 1812/Creek War. So, when you see a name, like *Caleb Casteel*, on the roster of more than one regiment, that does not mean that there were several different Caleb Casteels serving in the East Tennessee militia during the war—it just means that Caleb Casteel was transferred from one regiment to another to another to another over the course of the war. However, this is not always the case. For example, we have reason to believe that the *John Casteel* who served in Bunch's Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia is not the same *John Castell* who served in Davis's Battalion of the West Tennessee Militia.

The second thing we should note is that the *West Tennessee Militia* was actually from the portion of Tennessee that is today known as *Middle Tennessee*. (What we now call *West Tennessee* had not yet been established at that time.)



*The Three "Grand Divisions" of Tennessee: West, Middle, & East
(showing the counties of Tennessee as they appear today)*

Okay, let's try to figure out which counties in Tennessee each of these regiments might have come from. Keep in mind, though, that none of these regiments was composed exclusively of soldiers from a single county. The regiment might have been formed in a particular county, but men from neighboring counties are likely to have joined as well. And as the war progressed, soldiers were often transferred from one regiment to another; so by the end of the war, a typical regiment might have included men from a number of different counties. Nonetheless, each militia regiment had to have been formed somewhere, and most of the original members of that regiment would have been recruited from the county where that regiment was formed. So, let's see if we can figure out where each of the regiments on our list had been formed. This will not be easy, since I have not been able to find any single source that lists where each of these regiments was formed. We will have to piece together information gathered from a variety of different sources in order to solve this puzzle. Let's begin.

First, we have the 1st Regiment of the East Tennessee Volunteer Militia under the command of Col. Samuel Wear. It was active from September through December of 1813. According to one (seemingly trustworthy) source, most of the men who served in this regiment came from Knox, Sevier, Blount, Washington, Anderson, Campbell, Carter, and Jefferson Counties, in that order. Col. Wear himself lived (and would eventually die) in Sevier County, which is just to the east of Knox and Blount Counties. I have not been able to find any sources that clearly state where this regiment was formed, but I did manage to find a source that suggests that the regiment mustered out (*i.e.* disbanded) in Knoxville in January of 1814. Militia units during the War of 1812/Creek War didn't always muster out in the same location where they mustered in (*i.e.* formed), but they often did. So, this would seem to suggest that Wear's regiment was likely formed in Knoxville. Given the fact that Knoxville is the principal city in the region, this makes sense. We can't be sure without further information, of course, but it seems reasonable to assume that this regiment was formed somewhere in the Knox County area, at least.

We are fortunate to have already learned from Greene County sources that the 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Volunteer Militia, which was under the command of Col. William Lillard, was formed in Greene County. (Apparently Col. Lillard himself was from that county.) According to other sources, most of the men who served in this regiment were from Greene, Jefferson, Sullivan, Cocke, Grainger, Hawkins, and Washington Counties, in that order. Lillard's regiment was active from October of 1813 through February of 1814.

Col. John Brown's 2nd Regiment of East Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Gunmen was active from January through May of 1814. The soldiers in this regiment were mainly from Bledsoe, Roane, Anderson, Blount, and Cocke Counties. Before the war, Col. Brown was the sheriff of Roane County. While I have not been able to find any source that explicitly states where this regiment was formed, a number of sources seem to *imply* that it was formed in Roane County. So, unless we manage to find a source that clearly states the location where this regiment mustered in, it looks like the best we can do is say that it was *probably* formed in Roane County, or perhaps one of the neighboring counties.

The 3rd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia, which was under the command of Col. William Johnson, served from September of 1814 through May of 1815. We are fortunate to have a source which clearly states that this regiment was mustered in at Knoxville. The soldiers in this regiment were mostly from Knox, Claiborne, Greene, Jefferson, Anderson, Blount, Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Hawkins, Rhea, Roane, and Sevier Counties.

Col. Edwin Booth's 5th Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia is known to have been formed in Knoxville. It was active late in the war, from November of 1814 through May of 1815. The men who served in this regiment came mostly from Knox, Blount, Sevier, Anderson, Bledsoe, Hawkins, Rhea, and Roane Counties.

Col. Ewen Allison's 1st Regiment of the East Tennessee Drafted Militia was active from January through May of 1814. Most of the men in this regiment were from Greene, Sullivan, Washington, Carter, and Hawkins Counties. While I have seen no official document that specifies where this regiment mustered in, an account in the diary of one of the soldiers who served in this regiment seems to suggest that it was formed in Rogersville in Hawkins County, which borders Greene County to the northeast.

Col. Samuel Bunch's 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia was active from January to May of 1814. Most of the men in this regiment came from Claiborne, Grainger, Washington, Jefferson, Knox, Blount, Cocke, Greene, Hawkins, Rhea, and Sevier Counties. Col. Bunch was from Grainger County, where he served as sheriff for a number of years. (He later served in the Tennessee Senate, where he represented Campbell, Claiborne, and Grainger Counties, and then as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented a large portion of East Tennessee.) While we don't know for certain where this regiment was formed, it seems most likely that it would have been formed in or near Grainger County.

Maj. Thomas C. Clark's battalion of the East Tennessee Militia was active from January through July of 1814. The soldiers in this battalion came mainly from Roane, Bledsoe, and Rhea Counties. It is not known exactly where this battalion was formed. In fact, very little is known about this battalion at all.

We are very fortunate to have a very reliable source that gives quite a lot of details about the 1st Regiment of the West Tennessee Militia under the command of Col. Philip Pipkin. We know that it was formed in Fayetteville in Lincoln County on 20 June 1814. However, we also know that it was formed by transferring soldiers from other militia units, not by recruiting new volunteers. So, the fact that it was formed in Fayetteville tells us nothing about where the soldiers who served in this regiment came from. (However, another trustworthy source tells us that most of the men who served in Col. Pipkin's regiment came from Robertson, Williamson, Davidson, Giles, Hickman, Maury, Sumner, and Wilson Counties.) The muster roll for this regiment shows a Private Isaac Casteel serving in a company under the command of Capt. William McKay.

The 2nd Regiment of the West Tennessee Militia, which was commanded by Col. William Pillow, served from September through December of 1813. Most of the soldiers who served in this regiment came from Rutherford, White, Williamson, Davidson, Franklin, Lincoln, and Maury Counties. Col. Pillow may have lived in Maury County (at least his brother, Gideon, who served under William, is known to have lived there before moving to neighboring Giles County). But I have seen no records indicating exactly where this regiment mustered in.

Unfortunately, I haven't had any luck finding information about Davis's battalion of the West Tennessee Militia. Not only do I have no idea where it mustered in, I don't even know who Davis was, when the battalion was active, or what counties the men of this battalion came from. I've just hit a complete dead end on this one, I'm afraid; so we will just have to move on.

Okay, this has helped us somewhat, but not as much as we might have hoped. At best, we get a rough idea of the general area where the men in these military units might have come from. But maybe, when combined with information from other sources, this will be enough to help us locate at least some of these men. So, let's look at each of the Casteels we find in these military records and see what we can learn about where they might have lived from which militia units they served in.

- *Abednego Casteel*

This is almost certainly Abednego Casteel, *Jr.*, who is known from a variety of other records to have been living in Knox County in 1806, 1808, and 1830.

In early 1814, he served in Col. John Brown's 2nd Regiment of East Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Gunmen. We *suspect* (though we aren't certain) that this regiment was formed in Roane County, which neighbors Knox County to the southwest. So, we have every reason to believe that Abednego was still living in the Knox County area in 1814.

- *Barney Casteel*

We know from census records that Barney Casteel was born in Blount County. We also know that he moved to Roane County sometime around 1818, where his father, *Edmond/Edward Casteel*, his brother *Willis/Wiley Casteel*, and his sister *Mary Casteel Little/Lytle*, were also living. We can't be sure where he was living before he moved to Roane County, but there is evidence that his father lived in Blount County at least until 1809, so it seems likely that Barney was still living there as well.

In late 1813, Barney Casteel served in Col. Samuel Wear's 1st Regiment of the East Tennessee Volunteer Militia. We have reason to suspect that this regiment was formed in Knoxville (though we can't be certain about this). We do know, however, men from Knox, Sevier, Blount, Washington, Anderson, Campbell, Carter, and Jefferson Counties served in this regiment. So, this gives us reason to suspect that Barney Casteel was still living in the Blount County area at the time. Please note that Caleb Casteel also served in this regiment (see below). It is not known if or how Barney and Caleb Casteel might have been related, but we do know that Caleb Casteel was in Roane County in 1817—pretty close to the time when Barney Casteel moved there.

- *Caleb Casteel*

Caleb Casteel is a complete mystery. The only thing that we know about him, apart from his military service record, is that he got married in Roane County in 1817. We haven't been able to find him in any census records, so we suspect that he might have died sometime before 1830.

Caleb served in several militia units over the course of the War of 1812/Creek War—far more than any of the other Tennessee Casteels that we know of:

In late 1813, he served in Wear's Regiment (along with Barney Casteel).

In early 1814, he served in Bunch's Regiment (along with James, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel—in fact, he served in the same company as John, Joseph, and Meshach).

In mid 1814, he served in Clark's Battalion. (It appears that he was transferred to Clark's Battalion from Bunch's Regiment several months after the battalion had been formed, so he wasn't an original member of Clark's Battalion.)

And in late 1814 through mid 1815, he served in Booth's Regiment (along with Henry and Jacob Casteel).

If we ignore Clark's Battalion (since Caleb was not one of its original members) and focus only on those regiments that Caleb appears to have volunteered for at the time of their formation, we notice that all three of these regiments (Wear's, Bunch's, and Booth's) included men from Blount, Knox, and Sevier Counties. This doesn't *prove* that Caleb Casteel came from one of those three counties, of course, but it does at least raise the possibility that he might have.

And we can't overlook the fact that, when he was serving in Bunch's Regiment, Caleb served in the same company with John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel. Is this just a coincidence? Possibly, but I doubt it. In those days, the members of a militia company were usually (not always, but *usually*) neighbors—recruited not only from the same county, but often from the same part of the county. It seems quite likely, then, that Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel lived in the same general area, suggesting that they were probably related in some way. We know from various records that Joseph Casteel lived in Blount County in 1801 and 1810 and that Meshach Casteel lived in neighboring Knox County in 1808. We also have records of a John Casteel in Blount County in 1801, 1805, 1807, and 1809, in Knox County in 1807 and 1808, and in Roane County in 1809, though we can't be sure if all these records are for the same John Casteel or for two (or perhaps even three or more) different John Casteels, nor can we know which, if any, of these records belong to the John Casteel who served in Bunch's Regiment with Caleb Casteel. Nonetheless, I think we are justified in concluding that Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel all probably lived in the Knox or Blount County area (and probably near the border between those two counties) at the beginning of 1814 when they all joined Bunch's Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia.

- *Daniel Casteel*

This might have been the same Daniel Casteel whose name we find on a tax list from Sullivan County in 1812 and on a land record from that same county in 1824. (You'll recall that we suspect, but cannot prove, that this is the Daniel Casteel who we find living in Monroe County in the 1830 and 1840 censuses.) But it might also have been the Daniel Casteel of Knox County (*i.e.* the son of Abednego Casteel, Sr., the brother of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Jr., and the nephew of Francis Casteel), who can be found in Knox County records in 1808, 1809, 1812, and 1830. It is not at all clear which of these two Daniel Casteels this might have been.

From late 1814 through mid 1815, Daniel Casteel served in Col. Johnson's 3rd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia, which was formed in Knoxville. Also serving in this regiment was Zachariah Casteel (the younger), who is known to have come from Greene County. Most of the men in Johnson's regiment were from Knox, Claiborne, Greene, Jefferson, Anderson, Blount, Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Hawkins, Rhea, Roane, and Sevier Counties. This gives us reason to suspect that the Daniel Casteel who served in this regiment was most likely the one from Knox County. However, we can't rule out the possibility that it was the Daniel Casteel of Sullivan County. After all, Sullivan County is very near to Greene County, and we know that this regiment included men from Green County. Without additional information, we simply can't know which of the two Daniel Casteels served in this regiment.

- *Henry Casteel*

This has to be the same Henry Casteel we find in Bedford County in the 1830 census and in Wayne County in the 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. You may recall that this Henry Casteel is known to have been the son of the elder John Casteel, and his wife Jemima, of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. This is the first time we have encountered his name in any official records prior to the 1830 census.

From late 1814 to mid 1815, Henry Casteel served in Col. Edwin Booth's 5th Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia. This regiment is known to have been formed in Knoxville, and it included men recruited from Knox, Blount, Sevier, Anderson, Bledsoe, Hawkins, Rhea, and Roane Counties. Note that Caleb and Jacob Casteel also served in this same regiment.

Recall that we have records of a John Casteel from Blount, Knox, and Roane Counties in the years before the war. However, the only record from Roane County is an 1809 marriage record. I think we can safely assume that the John Casteel who got married in 1809 is unlikely to be the father of Henry Casteel, who was born around 1784 or 1786. So that leaves us with Blount and Knox Counties as likely candidates for where Henry Casteel was likely to have been living when he joined the militia in 1814.

- *Isaac Casteel*

The only Isaac Casteel we have come across thus far is the one that we found in an 1818 marriage record from Madison County, Illinois. According to various sources, this Isaac Casteel is believed to have been the son of Francis Casteel of Knox County. (His name doesn't show up in any of the records we have seen from Knox County, but that could just mean that he was too young to appear on the 1806 and 1808 tax lists and that he never owned land in Knox County.) Although we can't be sure that this is the same Isaac Casteel who served in the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War, he seems to be the most likely candidate—especially given the fact that I can find no trace of any other Isaac Casteel in Tennessee records from this era.

In late 1813, Isaac Casteel served in Col. William Pillow's 2nd Regiment of the West Tennessee Militia, and in mid 1814 he was apparently transferred to Col. Philip Pipkin's 1st Regiment of the West Tennessee Militia. (I say "apparently" because, although I have not been able to find a detailed copy of Isaac Casteel's service record, a reliable source tells us that Col. Pipkin's regiment was formed by transferring men from other units. We know for certain that Isaac Casteel served in Pipkin's regiment; in fact, we even know which company he served in—the one under the command of Capt. William McKay.) Although we have a reliable source that tells us that most of the soldiers in Pipkin's regiment came from Robertson, Williamson, Davidson, Giles, Hickman, Maury, Sumner, and Wilson Counties, I think it is better for us to look at Pillow's regiment, which is the one that Isaac Casteel originally joined. Most of the men who served in that regiment came from Rutherford, White, Williamson, Davidson, Franklin, Lincoln, and Maury Counties. This tells us that Isaac Casteel must have been living in what we now call *Middle Tennessee* in 1813 (though back then it was known as *West Tennessee*), and was most likely living in one of the counties that lie to the southeast of Nashville, though we can't be sure which one.

- *Jacob Casteel*

The only Jacob Casteel we have come across thus far is *Jacob Israel Casteel*, who was living in Pike County, Illinois, in 1830, in Hancock County, Illinois, in 1840, and then in the Utah Territory in 1850, ending up in San Bernardino County, California, where he died sometime before 1860. This Jacob Casteel is believed to be the son of Francis Casteel of Knox County and the brother of Isaac Casteel. (As with Isaac Casteel, we have found no trace of Jacob Casteel in Knox County records; but given the fact that he was born around 1796, he would have been much too young to show up on the 1806 or 1808 tax lists for Knox County.) While we can't be sure that this is the same Jacob Casteel who served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War, he is the only Jacob Casteel we have come across who seems like a likely candidate.

Starting in late 1814, Jacob Casteel served in Col. Booth's 5th Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia. As you'll recall, Caleb and Henry Casteel also served in this regiment. Booth's regiment mustered in at Knoxville, and most of the men who served in this regiment came from Knox, Blount, Sevier, Anderson, Bledsoe, Hawkins, Rhea, and Roane Counties. So, we have no reason to doubt that Jacob Casteel was living in Knox County at the time.

- *James Casteel*

It's not at all clear who this particular James Casteel might have been. We have found a number of James Casteels in census records, but most of those had not yet been born at the time of the War of 1812/Creek War. And of the few that were alive in 1814, only one—the James Casteel we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses—is known to have been living in Tennessee at the time. But at least according to census records, he was born in 1805, making him far too young to have served in the militia in 1814. So, if we can trust that the age given in his census records is correct, he can't possibly be the James Casteel we're looking for. There are a few other James Casteels in the 1830 census, but only one of them—James Castell of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania—would have been old enough to fight in the War of 1812/Creek War. But I have seen no evidence to suggest that he ever lived in Tennessee, so he does appear to be a likely candidate. It is possible, of course, that the James Casteel who served in the East Tennessee Militia in early 1814 died sometime before 1830, which would explain why he can't be found in census records. It is not possible for us to know for sure without additional information.

We do have an 1825 marriage record for a James Casteel from Blount County, though. It is not clear which James Casteel this is. It's possible that it might be the one who ended up in St. Francis County, Arkansas, but there's at least one reason to be skeptical about this: According to the 1850 census, James Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, had a wife named *Elizabeth*; but according to this marriage record, the bride of the James Casteel who got married in Blount County in 1825 was named *Mary Ann*. (Of course, it is entirely possible that Mary Ann died and that Elizabeth was James Casteel's second wife, but we do have reason to suspect that this might have been a different James Casteel.) If the James Casteel who got married in Blount County in 1825 was not the one who ended up in St. Francis County, Arkansas, then who was he? He might have been the one who served (briefly) in the East Tennessee Militia in 1814. But we simply can't be sure.

In any event, in early 1814, a James Casteel served in Col. Samuel Bunch's 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia. However, he apparently did not serve out his full term of enlistment. He was one of nearly 70 soldiers who deserted on 4 March 1814. I have not been able to find any source that gives an account of this mass desertion, nor have I been able to find any information about what might have happened to James Casteel after he deserted. However, some of the deserters apparently tried to reenlist and were court-martialed and forced to pay back their enlistment bonuses. This suggests that the mass desertion might have been prompted by the announcement of a substantial enlistment bonus for new recruits. From what I've read, it was not uncommon during the War of 1812/Creek War for soldiers to desert from one unit and reenlist in another in order to collect the enlistment bonus. However, none of the records I have looked at indicate that James Casteel ever tried to reenlist, so we simply don't know what might have motivated him to participate in the mass desertion of 4 March 1814 or what became of him afterward. It's a complete mystery.

We don't know where Bunch's regiment mustered in, though it was likely in or near Grainger County. We do know that most of the soldiers in this regiment came from Claiborne, Grainger, Washington, Jefferson, Knox, Blount, Cocke, Greene, Hawkins, Rhea, and Sevier Counties. We also know that Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel served in this same regiment, and we suspect that they were from Knox and/or Blount County. However, James Casteel did not serve in the same company as Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel, so it is quite possible that he was from another county. We simply don't know. What we do know is that the identity and whereabouts of this James Casteel is one of the biggest unsolved mysteries that we have encountered in this research.

- *Jeremiah Casteel*

This is clearly the Jeremiah Casteel of Greene County, who we've encountered many times before. We have already seen that he was living in Greene County at the time of his enlistment into the East Tennessee Volunteer Militia.

From late 1813 to early 1814, Jeremiah Casteel served in Lillard's 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Volunteer Militia. We also find a Daniel Casteel serving in this same regiment, though we can't be sure if this was the Daniel Casteel of Sullivan County or the Daniel Casteel of Knox County.

- *John Casteel* (East Tennessee Militia)

As we've seen many times before, it's not easy to sort out who's who among the various John Casteels who lived in Tennessee before 1830. This could, in principle, be any of the John Casteels who were born before 1800. I strongly *suspect* (but cannot prove) that this was the same John Casteel who married Janey Lane in Roane County in 1809. I also suspect (but cannot prove) that this was the younger of the two John Casteels who we find in the 1830 census in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. (And I also suspect, but definitely cannot prove, that this *might* actually be the father of our Henry Montgomery Casteel.) But all of this is just speculation on my part. All I can say for certain is that we have records of John Casteels from Greene County, Blount County, Knox County, and Roane County from the years before the start of the War of 1812/Creek War. So, it is likely that the John Casteel who served in Bunch's regiment in early 1814 came from one of these four counties.

In the first half of 1814, a John Casteel served in Col. Bunch's 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia. In fact, he served in the same company that Caleb, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel were in. We know from tax lists and land records that Joseph Casteel was living in Blount County at least as late as 1810 and that Meshach Casteel was living in neighboring Knox County (very near the Blount County line, in fact) at least as late as 1808, which suggests that all four of these Casteel men—Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach—were probably living in the Knox/Blount County area when the war started. (James Casteel also served in Bunch's regiment, but he was in a different company from the other Casteels.)

Please note that there was also another John Casteel in the Tennessee Militia at the time, though he was serving in the *West Tennessee Militia* (see below). We have reason to believe that this is a completely different John Casteel

- *John Casteel* (West Tennessee Militia)

This is almost certainly a different John Casteel from the one who served in the East Tennessee Militia. Some (unverified) sources claim that this was the John Casteel who ended up in Bedford County. I don't really know what evidence they used to reach this conclusion, so I don't know how much credence to give it. But it does at least seem reasonable to suspect that the John Casteel who had settled in Bedford County in Middle (formerly *West*) Tennessee by 1825 might be the same John Casteel who had served in the West Tennessee Militia about a decade earlier during the War of 1812/Creek War. We can't be sure, but it is a plausible hypothesis.

We know that this John Casteel served in the West Tennessee Militia. We even know that he served in Davis's battalion. The problem is that I have been able to find no information whatsoever about this battalion. I don't know when it was active, where it was formed, which counties its soldiers came from, which brigade it belonged to, or even who Davis was. We can be fairly confident that this battalion was created for a special purpose and was not a permanent part of a regiment, otherwise John Casteel's military record would list the name of the regiment he belonged to rather than the name of his battalion. (In most cases, a battalion is a part of a regiment—there are typically two or three companies in a battalion, two or three battalions in a regiment, and two or three regiments in a brigade—but on occasion, special battalions might be formed within a brigade that are not associated with any particular regiment.) Unfortunately, that's just about all I can say about Davis's battalion, since I haven't been able to find any sources that provide any details about this battalion.

- *Joseph Casteel*

This has to be the same Joseph Casteel who we find in Blount County in 1810 and who is known to have migrated to Missouri by 1821 at the latest, settling in Clay county by 1824 and moving to neighboring Clinton County sometime between 1830 and 1840.

In early 1814, Joseph Casteel served in the same company as Caleb, John, and Meshach Casteel in Bunch's 2nd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia. (James Casteel also served in Bunch's regiment, but in another company.) We suspect that Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel were all from the Knox/Blount County area.

- *Meshach Casteel*

This must be the Meshach Casteel of Knox County—*i.e.* the son of Abednego Casteel, Sr., the brother of Shadrach, Abednego, Jr., and Daniel Casteel, and the nephew of Francis Casteel. You'll recall that we have not been able to find him (at least not definitively) in any census records, so we suspect that he might have died sometime before 1830.

In early 1814, Meshach Casteel served in the same militia company with Caleb, John, and Joseph Casteel in Col. Bunch's regiment. (James Casteel also served in that same regiment, but in a different company.) We have reason to believe that Caleb, John, Joseph, and Meshach were all from the Knox/Blount County area. What became of Meshach Casteel after the war ended is not known.

- *Zachariah Casteel*

Last but not least we come to Zachariah Casteel (the younger) who we already know was living in Greene County at the time of his service during the War of 1812/Creek War. This is the Zachariah Casteel who married Rebecca Hartley in Greene County in 1818, who was living in Roane County in 1830, who got arrested in that same county in 1832 and was tried (or at least was scheduled to be tried) there in 1833, who was living in Hamilton County by 1836, who died in or before April of 1838, and whose widow, Rebecca, was living in Hamilton County with her children in 1840 and was drawing a widow's pension until at least 1848 (perhaps longer, though we can't be sure).

In early 1814, Zachariah Casteel served with Col. Allison's 1st Regiment of the East Tennessee Drafted Militia. In late 1814 through mid 1815, he served with Col. Johnson's 3rd Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia. (A Daniel Casteel also served in Johnson's regiment, but we are not certain if this was the Daniel Casteel of Sullivan County or the Daniel Casteel of Knox County. At present, I don't know whether Zachariah and Daniel served in the same company or in different companies. Assuming they served in different companies, it is entirely possible that they never even met during their time in the militia. It is possible that they might not have even known each other.)

That's pretty much all we can learn from military records. Now let's turn to ...

Casteels in Death Records

Here we will be looking mainly at *wills* and *probate records*, but if we are able to find any *death certificates*, *tombstone inscriptions*, *obituaries*, *etc.*, we will take a look at them as well. Let us begin, as usual, in Greene County, Tennessee.

Casteels in *Greene County* Death Records

1781-1843 — *Jemima “Mimey” Casteel Key*

A tombstone inscription from the grave of “Mimey Key” in the Cross Anchor Cemetery in Greene County notes that she was 62 years old when she died. At the bottom there is an inscription noting that the tombstone was erected by her daughter, “Evaline Runnels” (*Eveline Key Reynolds*). This has to be the same Jemima Casteel who married a David Key in Greene County in 1829. In fact, her *Find-A-Grave* page notes that her husband was David M. Key (1760-1842) and that she was born in 1781 and died in 1843.

1811 — *Zachariah Casteel*

On 26 April 1811, the elder Zachariah Casteel made a will. This was a decade before he died. However, there is no indication of when this will was executed. In it, he names his wife, *Elizabeth*, and all of his children. Here they are in the order in which they are named in the will:

- John Casteel
- Peter Casteel
- Edward Casteel
- Daniel Casteel
- Jeremiah Casteel
- Rachel (*Casteel*) Malone
- Nancy (*Casteel*) Acres
- Margery (*Casteel*) Malone
- Ruth (*Casteel*) Brown
- Mary Casteel
- Margaret Casteel

1815-1899 — *Judy Grant Casteel*

A tombstone inscription from the grave of Judy Grant Casteel informs us that she was born in Ireland in 1815 and that she died in 1899. Her grave is in the New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Cemetery in Greene County. You may recall that she can be found in the 1850 census as the head of a household. She was apparently the widow of a *Jonathan Casteel* of Greene County who died in the 1840s. He was the son of the elder *Peter Casteel* of Greene County.

1816-1904 — *John Casteel* (and first wife: *Lydia Casteel*, died 1859)

A tombstone inscription from the grave of John and Lydia Casteel notes that John was born in 1816 and died in 1904, and that his (first) wife, Lydia, died on 10 November 1859 at age 36 years, 6 months, and 23 days. Their grave is located in the Cross Anchor Cemetery in Greene County. This has to be the younger of the two John Casteels we find the 1850 census for Greene County. (But note that, according to census records, John was born between 1822 and 1826.) This John Casteel is believed to have been the son of Peter Casteel, the elder, of Greene County. A John Casteel is mentioned in Peter Casteel's will (see below) as one of his children. Lydia Casteel's maiden name was *Stine*. John's second wife, *Amanda (Henry) Casteel* is buried in a different cemetery in Greene County. She lived from 1826 to 1900. According to a note on her *Find-A-Grave* page, she and John Casteel were married in Greene County on 10 October 1860.

1833 — *Peter Casteel*

On 11 February 1833, the elder Peter Casteel made a will. It was executed just five months later, on 22 July 1833. In it, he names his wife, *Susannah*, and all of his children. Here they are in the order in which they are named in the will:

- Daniel Casteel
- Edward Casteel
- John Casteel
- Washington Casteel
- Polly Casteel
- Elizabeth Casteel
- Peter Casteel
- Jonathan Casteel

Now we are getting somewhere! Based on these records—especially on Zachariah Casteel’s will—I think we can safely conclude that most, if not all, of the Casteels we have encountered in Greene County records are the children or grandchildren of Zachariah Casteel, the elder. There are still a few Greene County Casteels who we can’t definitively connect to the rest of the family, but we have good reason to believe that they are all part of this same extended family.

I strongly suspect, for example, that Jemima “Mimey” Casteel Key and Zachariah Casteel, the younger, were the children of John and Jemima Casteel, which would make them the grandchildren of Zachariah Casteel, the elder. I can’t yet prove it, but based on their names and ages, it strikes me as the most likely possibility.

Nonetheless, in spite of the fact that we still have a few unsolved mysteries on our hands, I think it is reasonable for us to conclude that the Greene County Casteels were all members of a single, extended family, with the elder Zachariah Casteel as its patriarch. We don’t (yet) know how this family might have been connected to the Casteel families who settled in Knox and Blount Counties and elsewhere, but it seems fairly clear now that all of the Casteels of Greene County are descendants of Zachariah Casteel, the elder, and his wife, Elizabeth.

Okay, that pretty much does it for Greene County death records. Now let’s turn our attention to the Knox/Blount/Roane county area. I haven’t been able to find any Casteel death records from either Blount or Roane Counties, but I have found a couple of ...

Casteels in *Knox County* Death Records

c.1819-1911 — *Benjamin Casteel*

This was the son of *Abednego Casteel, Jr.* and *Agnes Hensley Casteel*. You may recall that we found him in census records in Blount County in 1850 and in Knox County in 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900. (Recall that the 1890 census was lost.) According to his death record, he was born near Knoxville in Knox County, around 1819 (however, according to census records, he was born in or around 1817), and he died in Knoxville on 23 January 1911. This establishes that *Abednego Casteel, Jr.* was living in Knox County around 1819. We had reason to suspect this already, but here we find some actual evidence to validate our suspicion.

1833 — *Francis Casteel*

Francis Casteel—the brother of Abednego Casteel, Sr.—of Knox County died in early 1833. His will was written in January of that year and was probated in April. It gives the names of his children, as follows:

- Abraham Casteel
- Isaac Casteel—father of Francis and David*
- Jacob Casteel
- Elijah Casteel
- Rebecca Casteel
- Mary Casteel
- Charity Casteel

(* Note that the will lists Isaac Casteel only as the father of Francis and David, who receive his share of the inheritance. This suggests that Isaac must have died sometime before 1833.)

Okay, we learn a few things of interest here. For one thing, we get more evidence that Abednego Casteel, Jr. spent most of his life in Knox County. He appears to have been living there in 1817 or 1819 when his son, Benjamin, was born.

We also learn that Abednego's uncle, Francis Casteel, died in early 1833. But the most important thing we learn is that Francis had seven children, including at least a few names we have encountered before in the course of our research. We found Abraham and Isaac Casteel in marriage records from Madison County, Illinois, in 1816 and 1818, respectively. We were then able to track down census records for Abraham and his wife from Illinois and Iowa. We couldn't find Isaac or his wife in any census records, though, but we did find an Isaac Casteel in military records. He served in the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812 and Creek War. Jacob and Elijah Casteel could both be found in Pike County, Illinois, in 1830. Jacob Israel Casteel would then move to Hancock County, Illinois, then to Utah County, Utah Territory (he is believed to have been a Mormon), and finally to San Bernardino, California, where he died sometime before 1860. Elijah Casteel would move to Jackson County, Illinois, by 1850, where he would remain for the remainder of his life (at least as far as I have been able to tell). We find a marriage record for an Elijah Casteel to a Sally Fairchild in Knox County, Tennessee, from 1823. Census records show that the wife of the Elijah Casteel of Pike and Jackson Counties in Illinois was named *Margaret*, but perhaps she was his second wife.

Now let us take a look at ...

Casteels in McMinn County Death Records

1831 — *Edmond Casteel*

Edmond Casteel died in 1831, and for the next three decades, his heirs fought a long, complicated, and bitter legal battle over his estate. We won't go into all of the sordid details, but there seems to have been a dispute between Edmond's second wife and his children by his first wife over who should inherit the bulk of his estate, and there also seems to have been an accusation that the estate was being mismanaged by its executors. In any event, during the court battle over the estate, a witness testified that there had been an eclipse of the sun on the day that Edmond died. The only solar eclipse in 1831 that would have been visible in Tennessee occurred on 12 February. So, if we assume that this witness had a reliable memory (given the fact that her testimony was given a quarter century after Edmond's death), Edmond Casteel of McMinn County, Tennessee, must have died on 12 February 1831. Another thing we learn from the various legal documents associated with this case are the names of Edmond's second wife and his children. His second wife's name was Elizabeth. (We still don't know the name of his first wife.) And, in no particular order, his children's names were:

- Abraham C. Casteel
- Barney Casteel
- Morris Casteel
- Willis Casteel
- Mary (*Casteel*) Jackson
- Nancy Casteel
- Melissa Ann Casteel (Edmond's daughter by his second wife, Elizabeth)
- Edward James Casteel (Edmond's son by his second wife, Elizabeth)

1862-1927 — *Frances Marian Casteel*

According to his death certificate, this is the son of *Barney Casteel* and *Jency Simpon* (presumably this was meant to be *Simpson*). This proves that Barney Casteel did marry a woman named *Jency* (or *Jincy* or *Jinsy*) after the death of his first wife, *Mary*, as we suspected based on census records. (Please note that we can find a marriage record from Union County, Georgia, from 1853, for a *Berney Casteel* to a *Jenny Simpson*. This must be Barney and Jency.)

We learn a great deal from these death records. Okay, perhaps it's more accurate to say that we learn a great deal from Edmond Casteel's death record. The death record of Frances Marian Casteel confirms our belief that Barney Casteel's second wife (whose real name was *Harriet Jane*) went by the nickname *Jenny* or *Jency* (or *Jincy* or *Jinsy*), but we don't really learn anything new from it. But Edmond Casteel's death record tells us many things of value, and ties up a number of loose ends. We know now that several of the Casteels we have encountered in records from places as far apart as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, and North Carolina—not to mention Tennessee—are all part of one big family whose patriarch is Edmond Casteel.

First of all, we have Abraham Calloway Casteel (*the elder*—*i.e.* the brother, not the son, of Morris Casteel) who ended up in Missouri. (The younger Abraham Calloway Casteel—Morris Casteel's son—ended up in Arkansas.) Then we have Barney Casteel, who was in Roane County, Tennessee, from about 1818 until at least 1820; was in Monroe County, Tennessee, in 1830; was in Cherokee County, North Carolina, in 1840; in Union County, Georgia, in 1850; and in Cherokee County, North Carolina, once again, in 1860. Then there is Morris Casteel, who was in Monroe County, Tennessee, in 1828; then in Rhea County, Tennessee, in 1830; then in DeKalb County, Alabama, in 1840; ending up in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in 1850 and 1860. Then there is Willis Casteel, who appears to have been in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1807 (assuming that *Wiley* Casteel was the same person as *Willis* Casteel); was in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1819, until he had to flee the county to avoid arrest; was then in McMinn County, Tennessee, in 1820; and finally ended up in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in 1830 and 1840. It seems reasonable to suspect that Mary (Casteel) Jackson must have been the Mary Casteel who married Luke Lytle in Roane County in 1818 (with Edmond Casteel serving as surety on the marriage bond), who must have been the Mary Little who was indicted by a Roane County grand jury in July of 1819 (along with Edmond and Willis Casteel) for rioting and committing assault and battery. She must have remarried sometime between 1818 and 1831. (To the best of my recollection, we have not encountered any of Edmond's other children—*Nancy*, *Melissa Ann*, or *Edward James*—previously in this research, so I think we can safely ignore them for now.) It is amazing to finally have conclusive proof that all of these different Casteels, who we have encountered in so many different places, were members of the same extended family.

We don't find any Casteel death records in Monroe, Rhea, or Hamilton Counties, so let us now turn our attention a bit farther to the west and take a look at ...

Casteels in *Bedford County* Death Records

1858 — *John Casteel*

John Casteel of Bedford County, Tennessee, died in 1858. (Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find a source that gives the exact date.) He apparently left a will, which I have not seen myself, but according to one (unverified) source, it includes the names of all of his children. These are their names in the order in which they were listed in the source I consulted:

- Patience Casteel
- Sarah Casteel
- Mary Casteel
- James P. Casteel
- William Casteel
- Abraham Casteel
- Parthena Casteel
- Nancy Casteel
- Blackstone Casteel

We still don't know exactly how this particular John Casteel might be connected to the other Casteels of East Tennessee. But we do learn something of value from this will: We learn that all of the Casteels we find in the 1840 and 1850 censuses in Bedford County are members of the same extended family, with John Casteel as their patriarch.

Let's now head even farther west and look at ...

Casteels in *Wayne County* Death Records

1818-1902 — *Martha Caroline "Patsy" Hardin Casteel*

This was the wife of Andrew Casteel, who was the son of the Henry Casteel of Wayne County (previously of Bedford County). Her *Find-A-Grave* page says that she was born in Lauderdale County, Alabama (which is just to the south of Wayne County, Tennessee), and that she died in Waynesboro, Wayne County, Tennessee. Unfortunately, her *Find-A-Grave* page does not tell us anything of value about her husband or his parents, and I have not yet been able to discover where they are buried.

No luck there. So let's continue our journey westward and take a look at ...

Casteels in *St. Francis County, Arkansas* Death Records

1816-1891 — *Robert Wiley Casteel*

This must be the R.W. Casteel who we find in the 1850 and 1860 censuses in Phillips County, Arkansas, and in the 1870 and 1880 censuses in neighboring St. Francis County. We learn from the inscription on his tombstone that he was born on 20 May 1816 and that he died on 9 March 1891. We also learn that his wife, *Elizabeth Goodwin Casteel*, was born on 20 April 1822 and died on 17 March 1882 (I think—the inscription is difficult to read from the photo posted on Robert Wiley Casteel's *Find-A-Grave* page).

1817-1901 — *Abraham Calloway Casteel*

This is the younger of the two Abraham Calloway Casteels we have met—the son, not the brother, of Morris Casteel. (The elder Abraham Calloway Casteel ended up in Missouri.) Recall that we found a *Calloway* and *Isabella Casteel* in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in the 1850 census. They could also be found there in the 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses. (You'll recall that the 1890 census was lost.) According his obituary, Calloway Casteel was born in 1817 in East Tennessee, and he died peacefully in his sleep on 27 December 1901 in St. Francis County, Arkansas. It also says that, when he was a young man, he lived in Alabama for a few years, where he met and married his wife, *Isabella Simpson*, and where he was converted to Methodism at a camp meeting. He and his family arrived in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in 1848, settling near what would later become Forest City, where he would spend the remainder of his life as a farmer and a faithful, "old-line" Methodist.

1820-1903 — *Isabella "Grandma" Simpson Casteel*

This was the wife of Abraham Calloway Casteel (see above). According to her obituary, she was born on 12 October 1820 and she died on 8 July 1903. Her place of birth is not stated, but she died in St. Francis County, Arkansas. She married Calloway Casteel in 1843. She was the mother of ten children, all of whom died before she did.

1840 — *John Casteel (the elder)*

Though the exact date of his death is unknown, sources indicate that the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, died sometime before 5 August 1840. On that date, the administrators of the late John Casteel's estate sent out a notice to concerned parties informing them of their plan to ask the St. Francis County Probate Court to equitably divide the estate—or the proceeds from its sale—among John Casteel's heirs. The administrators of the estate were *Philip Casteel* and *Robert W. Casteel*. The concerned parties addressed in the notice were *Henry Casteel*, *John Varvel* (on behalf of his wife, *Patience Varvel*, alias *Patience Casteel*), *Robert Haslip* (on behalf of his wife, *Nancy Haslip*, alias *Nancy Casteel*), and *Elizabeth Gilbreath*. John Casteel's widow, *Jemima*, is not mentioned at all in this notice. It is not clear why, since she was still living at the time. Another point worth noting is that, in this notice, the elder John Casteel is referred to as *John Casteel, Sr.*, yet there is no mention in the notice of a *John Casteel, Jr.*

1843 — *Jemima Casteel*

Jemima Casteel, the widow of the elder *John Casteel* of St. Francis County, Arkansas, is believed to have died in 1843. On 19 October 1842, she made a special bequest to her eldest son, *Henry Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee, deeding him one of her slaves (a 29 year old man named Alexander), provided that he be allowed to remain with her until her death. The deed of ownership was filed in Wayne County on 1 November 1843. This would seem to suggest that Jemima Casteel died sometime between October of 1842 and November of 1843. (And, according to an unverified source, Jemima Casteel paid taxes in St. Francis County in 1843; so it would seem that she must have died sometime in 1843.) In her bequest, she refers to Henry Casteel as “my son, Henry Casteel, of the County of Wayne, in the State of Tennessee: he being my eldest son...” The deed was even witnessed by Preston H. Casteel, who was Henry Casteel's son. So, now there can be no doubt that the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, was in fact the eldest son of John and Jemima Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas.

We got lucky here and were able to find several death records with quite a bit of information in them. Let's see if we can piece together some of this information.

First, the tombstone of Robert Wiley Casteel clears up his dates of birth and death and the name of his wife. Unfortunately, it does not tell us who his parents were, nor does it help us figure out how he might have been related to the *R.W. Castell* we found in the 1830 census in Lauderdale County, Alabama, if at all. But we do learn something of interest about Robert Wiley Casteel from the death record of the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County. You'll notice from that record that Robert W. Casteel is named as one of the administrators of John Casteel's estate. That would seem to suggest (though it does not prove) that Robert Wiley Casteel was fairly closely related to the elder John Casteel. There are good reasons for us to doubt that he was the elder John Casteel's son—he is a bit too young, and he is clearly not living with the elder John Casteel in 1830, at least according to census records—but he might be his grandson, or possibly his nephew. We'll need more information in order to be sure.

We learn quite a lot about Abraham Calloway Casteel and his wife Isabella from their obituaries. First of all, we get confirmation that they were living in Alabama before migrating to Arkansas in 1848, which is further evidence in support of the view that Abraham Calloway Casteel was the son of Morris Casteel. (You might recall that Morris Casteel and his family were living in DeKalb County, Alabama, in 1840, but then migrated to Pontotoc County, Mississippi, by 1850. Pontotoc County, Mississippi, lies almost directly between DeKalb County, Alabama, and St. Francis County, Arkansas.) We also get confirmation that Abraham Calloway Casteel was born in East Tennessee in 1817, as we had already suspected.

But perhaps the most interesting death records we find from St. Francis County, Arkansas, are those of the elder John Casteel and his wife Jemima. Let's look at Jemima's first. Here we have about the most ironclad proof we could possibly ask for that the Henry Casteel who we find in Wayne County, Tennessee (and before that, in Bedford County), was the eldest son of the elder John Casteel and his wife Jemima of St. Francis County, Arkansas. Unfortunately, the only record we have for Jemima doesn't mention any of her other children. But fortunately, we have a record for John Casteel that does appear to name his children—or at least we have reason to suspect that they are his children. Philip Casteel and Robert W. Casteel were the administrators of John Casteel's estate. They sent out a notice to several individuals about how they were planning to have the estate probated. The names that were specifically mentioned included: Henry Casteel, Patience Casteel Varvel, Nancy Casteel Haslip, and Elizabeth Gilbreath. We already know for certain that Henry Casteel (of Wayne County, Tennessee) was John Casteel's son. We might have reason to surmise, therefore, that Patience Casteel Varvel and Nancy Casteel Haslip were John Casteel's daughters. But what about Elizabeth Gilbreath? It is

reasonable to suspect that she was also John Casteel's daughter, but she is never referred to as "alias Elizabeth Casteel" in the notice. Nor is her husband's name given. Was she, perhaps, a widow? It is unclear exactly how she is connected to the John Casteel family. And what about Philip Casteel and Robert W. Casteel? They were the administrators of the estate. Does this mean that they, too, were among John Casteel's heirs? It certainly seems plausible, but we can't know for certain without more information. Philip Casteel might have been John Casteel's son—they lived near each other in 1830 (they were listed on the same page of the census)—but we can't be sure. Robert Wiley Casteel was a bit too young to have been the elder John Casteel's son—he would have been 14 years old in 1830, but the 1830 census does not show a boy in that age range (or any other children for that matter) living in the John Casteel household—but he might have been John Casteel's grandson or nephew. Again, we simply can't know without additional information. Another curious thing is that there is no mention in this notice of the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County? Does this indicate that he was not the son of the elder John Casteel? Perhaps. But the notice refers to the late John Casteel as *John Casteel, Sr.* So, who is *John Casteel, Jr.*, then? (I have seen some speculation that the elder John Casteel's full name was actually *John Henry Casteel, Sr.*, and that the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, was *John Henry Casteel, Jr.* However, I have seen no evidence to substantiate this claim.) And if the younger John Casteel was not the son of the elder John Casteel, then who was his father? We still have many unsolved mysteries about the Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas.

Let us now look at a few miscellaneous death records, beginning with ...

Casteels in Macoupin County, Illinois Death Records

1812-1886 — *James Monroe Casteel*

This is the son of Abednego Casteel, Jr. and Agnes (Hensley) Casteel of Knox County, Tennessee. You'll recall that we found this James Casteel in the 1840 census living in Blount County, Tennessee, and in the 1850 census in Hamilton County, Tennessee. According to the information on his *Find-A-Grave* page, he was born in Knox County on 24 February 1812, and he died in Macoupin County, Illinois, on 19 May 1886. His wife was *Susannah E. (Underwood) Casteel*. She was born in May of 1816 in Tennessee and died on 7 July 1903 in Macoupin County, Illinois. This confirms that the family of Abednego Casteel, Jr. was living in Knox County in 1812, which we already had ample reason to suspect.

Casteels in Putnam County, Indiana Death Records

1835 — *Edward Casteel*

Edward Casteel's will, which was written on 9 October 1834, was executed on 7 March 1835 (and recorded on 11 March of that same year). It gives his wife's name as *Mary* and also lists each of his children. In the order in which they are mentioned, they are:

- Joseph Casteel
- Comfort (Casteel) Long
- Elkany Casteel
- Mahala (Casteel) Wells
- Calloway Casteel
- Allen Casteel

Casteels in Lauderdale County, Mississippi Death Records

1794-1875 — *Sarah (Eddings) Casteel*

This Sarah Casteel is the wife of Morris Casteel, who we last saw in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. She is buried next to her son, Samuel E. Casteel, and they share a (rather large and fancy) tombstone. According to the inscription on the tombstone, she died on 1 March 1875 at the age of 80 years and 5 months.

1813-1885 — *Samuel E. Casteel*

Samuel Eddings Casteel is the eldest son of Morris and Sarah (Eddings) Casteel, who we last saw in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, and the brother of Abraham Calloway Casteel, who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas. According to the inscription on his tombstone, he was born on 5 December 1813 and died on 19 April 1885. He is buried next to his mother, Sarah (see above), and his (second) wife, Mary Ann (*Grayson*) Casteel (1825-1917), and all three share a rather large and fancy tombstone.

Casteels in *Iron County, Missouri* Death Records

1833-1912 — *James Madison Casteel*

According to his death certificate, this James Madison Casteel was the son of *Zachariah Casteel* (who was born in Tennessee) and *Rebecca Hurley* (who was also born in Tennessee). This must be Zachariah Casteel, the younger, and his wife, *Rebecca (Hartley) Casteel*. According to his death certificate, James Madison Casteel was born on 11 June 1833 in Tennessee and died on 26 March 1912 in Iron County, Missouri.

These miscellaneous death records basically just confirm things we already knew. There is no need for us to examine them in any detail.

But there is one more death record that I want to look at before we move on. It is from Prince George's County, Maryland, and it contains some information that I think you'll find very interesting.

A Very Special Casteel in *Prince George's County, Maryland* Death Records

1773 — *Edmond Casteel III*

This is *not* the same Edmond Casteel we have encountered many times already in the course of this research. This is a different, much older Edmond Casteel, who almost certainly never set foot in Tennessee. Who is this older Edmond Casteel, then? Casteel family genealogists refer to him as Edmond Casteel *III*. (Though there is no evidence that he ever used the suffix himself.) Edmond *III* of Prince George's County, Maryland, was the son of Edmond Casteel *II* of the same county, who was the son of Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval of Philadelphia, who was also known as Edmond du Castell (or Casteel). Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval was (as far as we can tell) the first Casteel to arrive in America. We don't know exactly where he came from personally, but the ancestral home of the du Chastel de Blangerval family was in the village of Blangerval in the County of Artois, which is now in northern France. Captain

Edmond was one of the original settlers of Philadelphia and, by the time of his death, was one of the city's wealthiest and most prominent citizens. He was a merchant seaman, a privateer, and (according to official reports) a pirate. His son, Edmond Casteel II, was born in Philadelphia, but after his father's death, he moved to Prince George's County, Maryland, where he bought a large tract of land and turned it into a tobacco plantation. His son, Edmond Casteel III, was born in Prince George's County, Maryland, and apparently lived his entire life there. However, we have reason to believe that some of his children chose to move away from Prince George's County and migrate westward, toward the new frontier that was just being opened up for settlement on the far side of the Appalachian Mountains. Edmond Casteel III died in Prince George's County, Maryland, in early 1773. Fortunately, he left a will (written on 7 April 1772 and proved on 24 March 1773) that names his wife—*Rebecca*—and also gives the names of his children. They are, in the order in which they are named in the will:

- Shadrach Casteel
- Meshach Casteel
- Abednego Casteel
- Francis Casteel
- Lucy (*Casteel*) Athey
- Keziah (*Casteel*) Mitchell
- Susannah (*Casteel*) Searce
- Sarah (*Casteel*) Medly
- Cassandra Casteel
- Charity Casteel

There can be little doubt that the Abednego and Francis Casteel who are named in the will of Edmond Casteel III must be the very same Abednego (*Sr.*) and Francis Casteel who end up settling in the Stock Creek area of Knox County, Tennessee. So, now we know with a high degree of confidence where Abednego and Francis Casteel originally came from: Prince George's County, Maryland. And we know who their father was: Edmond Casteel III, son of Edmond Casteel II, son of Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval.

There are records of a Shadrach Casteel in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, who is believed to be the Shadrach Casteel named in this will. Bedford County is not too very far from Washington County, where Francis Casteel is believed to have lived

for a while in the early 1780s. Once he settled there, Shadrach Casteel is believed to have spent the remainder of his life in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. As far as we know, none of his children ever lived in Tennessee.

Meshach Casteel appears to have remained in Prince George's County, Maryland, for the rest of his life. What became of the other children named in Edmond III's will—Lucy, Keziah, Susannah, Sarah, Cassandra, and Charity—is not known.

Okay, that about does it for death records. Let us now move on to ...

Casteels in Other Sources

Here we will look at those sources that don't quite fall into any of the categories we have already examined. We will also consider dubious or unverified sources, as well as speculation that has been posted online by other genealogists. Let us begin by taking a look at this fascinating account of ...

The Massacre of the William Casteel Family

Amongst other acts of Indian hostility perpetrated in Knox county, was one which occurred on the 2nd April, 1794. William Casteel lived south of French Broad, about nine miles above Knoxville, and two miles from the then residence of Doctor Cozby. The latter had been an old Indian fighter, from the first settlement of the country, and was, of course, held in deadly hatred by the Indians, and had often been selected as the victim of their vengeance. He had his house always well prepared for defence, and never allowed himself to be taken by surprise. At evening, of the 22d, his domestic animals gave the usual tokens of the presence of Indians, when, observing from his house, he could discern, obscurely, the stealthy march, in Indian file, of twenty warriors passing across the end of a short lane, and concealing themselves in the fence corners and the adjoining woods. The door was at once barricaded, the fire extinguished, two guns primed afresh, and with these he prepared to defend his castle and his family, consisting of his wife and several children, one of whom only could shoot. A space of more than one hundred yards had been cleared around his building, and there was light enough to see the approach of an assailant within that distance. From the port-holes, in each angle of the house, a constant watch was kept, and orders were given by Cozby, in a loud voice, to the members of his family, as if commanding a platoon of soldiers. The stratagem succeeded. An hour before day the Indians withdrew, and went off in the direction of Casteel's cabin. Early next morning Anthony Ra-

gan came to Casteel's, and found him dead, from a lick received on his head from a war club; he was scalped, and lying near the fire, dressed, and with leggins on, having arose early for the purpose, as was supposed, of accompanying Reagan to a hunt, which had been agreed on the preceding day. Mrs. Casteel was found on the floor, scalped in two places—a proof that it required to two warriors to conquer her—her nightcap with several holes cut through it, a butcher knife stuck into her side, one arm broken, and a part of the hand of the other arm cut off. She seemed to have made resistance with an axe, found near her, stained with blood. One of the daughters received a stab, which, piercing through the body, went into the bed-clothes. She said two brothers were scalped. The youngest child, two years old, having the cranium entirely denuded of the scalp, was thrown into the chimney corner. Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, ten years old, now Mrs. Dunlap, still living near the scene of the horrid massacre of her father's whole family, was found weltering in her blood, flowing from six wounds inflicted with a tomahawk. Besides these, she was also scalped. Reagan gave the alarm to the settlement; urgent pursuit was immediately made, but the savages escaped. While preparations were made for the interment of the massacred family, Elizabeth showed signs of life, moaning when an attempt was made, by Col. Ramsey, who was present, to close one of the gashes upon her head. She was taken to Mr. Shook's, who then owned Major Swan's mills, where Doctor Cozby dressed her wounds. She did not recover for two years. The rest of the family, six in number, were buried in one grave, under a black-oak tree, still standing. Mr. Casteel was a soldier of the Revolution, from Green Brier county, Va., and had never received any thing for his services. Of the heroic wife and mother, nothing more is known. An effort has been made to procure a pension for the surviving daughter. Thus far it has been fruitless.

Governor Blount found it almost impossible to restrain the inhabitants south of French Broad, where this massacre took place, from an immediate invasion of the Indian territory. His efforts in this would not have succeeded, but for the timely assistance and advice of the civil officers of Knox county, south of the river. ...

(*Ramsey's Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century*, 1853, pp. 592-593)

This has to be the same William Casteel whose name we find on Greene County tax lists in 1783 and 1793. Since this tragic incident took place in Knox County in 1794, we can be fairly certain that William Casteel and his family moved from Greene County to Knox County between 1793 and 1794. The ill-fated William Casteel and his family settled in the southeastern part of Knox County, south of the French Broad River. This is the same corner of the county where Francis and Abednego Casteel settled with their families. Does this mean that William Casteel was closely related to Francis and Abednego? Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any evidence that would definitively link them to each other. The fact that

they happened to settle in the same corner of Knox County might very well have been a coincidence. We simply can't say. However, it does at least give us reason to suspect a possible connection between these Casteels.

We also learn that William Casteel was from Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia, and that he had fought in the American Revolution. (Please note, though, that in those days, Greenbrier County was vastly larger than it is today, stretching from what is now the Virginia-West Virginia border in the east all the way to the Ohio River in the west, and covering territory that is now divided between a dozen or more West Virginia counties.)

Before we move on, we should also note that William Casteel's daughter Elizabeth "Betsey" Casteel, who was the only member of the family to survive the massacre, married James Dunlap in Knox County in 1812.

Okay, now let us take a look at ...

A Biographical Sketch of the Sons of Daniel Casteel in *Pike County, Illinois*

Francis Casteel, farmer, sec. 14; P.O. Detroit; Mr. C. was born in Knox Co., Tenn, in 1822, the son of Daniel Casteel, who settled in Bond Co., Ill., where he died July, 1834. The same year Francis came to this county and settled north of Detroit, where he resided 8 years. He moved upon his present estate in 1848, consisting of 200 acres of highly improved and well cultivated land, the soil of which then held the grim grasp of might monarchs, the growth of centuries. Mr. C. was married to Miss Lucinda Cooper, a native of Kentucky, and is the father of 4 children. Is school Director. Belongs to the Methodist Church, and is identified with the Republican party.

Stephen Casteel, farmer, sec. 9; P.O. Pittsfield; owns 160 acres of land, valued at \$50 per acre. He is the son of Daniel and Roda (Hensley) Casteel, both natives of Tennessee; he was born in Knox Co., Tenn., Oct. 15, 1824; he was married in this county March 8, 1849, to Elizabeth Bush, who was born in Indiana in 1819; they are the parents of 5 children, and has as members of their family two grandchildren. Mr. C. has held local offices, and is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

(History of Pike County, Illinois: Together with Sketches of Its Cities, Villages and Townships, Educational, Religious, Civil, Military, and Political History; Portraits of Prominent Persons and Biographies of Representative Citizens, Chapman, Chas. C. & Co.: Chicago. 1880; pp. 574-575)

This confirms that the Daniel Casteel of Knox County, Tennessee—*i.e.* the son of Abednego Castel, Sr., nephew of Francis Casteel, brother of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (*Jr.*) Casteel, and husband of Rhoda Hensley—really did move his family to Bond County, Illinois, in the early 1830s (recall that we can find him in the 1830 census still living in Knox County, Tennessee), where he died not long after his arrival. And it also confirms that at least some of his children ended up in Pike County, Illinois (which is the same county where two of Francis Casteel’s sons—Elijah and Jacob Israel—were living in 1830). We learn that Daniel died in July of 1834. We also learn that his sons, Francis and Stephen, were born in 1822 and 1824, respectively. Presumably, Francis was named after his father’s uncle.

Now let us take a look at ...

A Mention of John Casteel Among the Early Settlers of *Bedford County*

Upon the formation of Bedford County, in 1807, the territory embraced in her boundaries was made up of dense canebrakes and vast forests, both almost impenetrable, and was but sparsely settled. From information gleaned from such men as Nimrod Burrow and Thomas S. Word, Esqs., of Flat Creek, and J. E. Scruggs, Esq., of Fairfield, who are among, if not the oldest citizens now living, the writer is of the opinion that the first settlement of the county was made about 1805 and 1806, as follows; Clement Cannon settled near the present site of Shelbyville, in the Seventh District; Philip Burrow, William, Wilbourn and Freeman Burrow settled on Thompson Creek, in the Twenty-fifth District; John Blackwell settled near Three Forks of Duck River; Capt. Mat Martin and brother, Barkley, and William McMahan settled on Garrison Fork of Duck River, in the First District. The above settlements were all made at about the same time, and if any were made prior to them, no information of the same can now be found.

Among the other early settlers were ... John Casteel

*(History of Tennessee Illustrated, Nashville,
The Goodspeed Publishing Company,
1887, page number unknown)*

This doesn’t tell us exactly when John Casteel arrived in Bedford County, but he is listed as one of the “early” settlers. However, his name can’t be found on the 1812 or 1814 tax lists for Bedford County, nor is it found in the 1820 census for

Bedford County. (Although the 1820 census was lost for the counties of East Tennessee, it does survive for several counties in Middle Tennessee, including Bedford.) So it is still not clear when John Casteel arrived in Bedford County or where he was living before then.

Okay, that's pretty much it for verified sources. Now let's take a brief look at a few sources that are a bit more dubious, or at least somewhat speculative. These are sources that don't provide enough information to allow us to evaluate their reliability, are based on questionable assumptions, or appear to contradict more reliable sources. Let us begin with ...

A Questionable Source Concerning Eli Casteel of *Benton County, Tennessee*

You may recall that, in the 1830 census, Eli Casteel and family were living in Pope County, Illinois, but by 1840 they were in Benton County, Tennessee. Eli must have died sometime before 1850, because he is not listed in the 1850 census, but his wife, *Mary*, and his children are still living in Benton County.

According to one unverified source, Eli Casteel left a will that named Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel as his parents. Unless there is some other Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel that I am not aware of, this would have to be the elder of the two Zachariah Casteels of Greene County, Tennessee, and his wife, Elizabeth. (The younger Zachariah Casteel would have been far too young to have a son Eli Casteel's age. Besides that, his wife's name was Rebecca.) This source even claims that Eli Casteel lived with his parents for ten days before he died.

This claim raises all sorts of problems. First of all, Eli Casteel died in the 1840s (he can be found in the 1840 census but not in the 1850 census), but the elder Zachariah Casteel is known to have died in the early 1820s, and neither he nor his wife, Elizabeth, can be found in the 1830 census, much less the 1840 census. Second, Eli Casteel is not named in Zachariah Casteel's will. So, I find it hard to believe that Eli Casteel could have been Zachariah and Elizabeth's son, and I find it impossible to believe that he lived with them for the last ten days of his life. I don't know where this source got its information, but I can't trust it.

According to this same source, after Eli's death, his widow, Mary, petitioned the court to find new homes for her children because she was destitute and was not able to raise them herself. Apparently, a man named James F. Cooper was appointed as their guardian. Frankly, I don't know how much I can trust this information, given that it came from the same source that claimed that Eli was the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel and that he lived with them for ten days before he died. But, for what it's worth, that's what the source claims.

Let's now move on to ...

Speculations About the Elder John Casteel of *St. Francis County, Arkansas*

As we have seen, sorting out all of the different John Casteels we find in early East Tennessee records can be something of a challenge. We have good reason to believe that all of the Casteels who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, originally came from East Tennessee. But where, exactly, did they come from? Did they all migrate together, or did different groups of Casteels migrate at different times and from different places in East Tennessee? Perhaps more importantly, how were all of these Casteels related to each other and to the other Casteel families of East Tennessee? We are fortunate to have learned a few things already. We have learned, for example, that Willis Casteel was the son of the Edmond/Edward Casteel who we find, at various times, in Blount, Roane, and McMinn Counties. We have also learned that Abraham Calloway Casteel, who arrived in St. Francis County, Arkansas, from Alabama in 1848 was Willis Casteel's nephew—the son of Willis's brother, Morris. We know from marriage records that Philip Casteel was in Blount County in 1818. We know that John and Jemima Casteel's oldest son was Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee. We have reason to suspect that Philip Casteel might also have been their son (or perhaps their nephew) and that Robert Wiley Casteel might have been either their grandson or their nephew. But who exactly was the elder John Casteel who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, and where did he come from?

I have read some speculation that he was the John Casteel, Jr. whose name we find on the earliest Greene County tax lists, from 1783 (*i.e. John Casteel-B*), which would make him the son of the John Casteel, Sr. whose name we find on

those same tax lists (*i.e.* *John Casteel-A*). According to this speculation, both of these John Casteels—father and son—had migrated from Greene County to Blount County at some point (recall that we found a land record from Greene County indicating that John Casteel, Sr. was living in Blount County in 1796), where John Casteel, Sr. (*John Casteel-A*), would spend the remainder of his life. His son, John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*), continued to live in Blount County, raising a family there, until the late-1820s when he sold his land, and the entire family packed up and migrated westward to the Arkansas Territory, which had only recently been opened up for settlement. So, that would mean that the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, was the John Casteel who we find in Blount County records in the 1810s and 1820s, and was the younger of the two John Casteels we find on the earliest Greene County tax lists.

Personally, I find this bit of speculation very plausible. In fact, I am inclined to simply accept it as true, barring any evidence to the contrary. I only wish that we had a little more evidence to support this supposition. After all, there were so many John Casteels living in East Tennessee before 1830 that it is extremely difficult to figure out which ones were living where at any given time. Was the John Casteel who was in Blount County in 1801, 1805, 1807, 1809, and 1824 the same John Casteel we find in neighboring Knox County in 1807, 1808, and 1822, or were they two (or more) different John Casteels? And what about the John Casteel who got married in Roane County in 1809? Sorting them all out is no simple task. How can we be sure that the John Casteel of Blount County is one of the John Casteels who moved to St. Francis County, Arkansas? Even a single piece of additional evidence would help.

Well, according to one (unverified) source, there is another piece of evidence in support of the view that John Casteel of Blount County was one of the Casteels who migrated to the Arkansas Territory. At least according to this source, the John Casteel of Blount County sold all of his land there in 1828, which was the same year that the elder John Casteel supposedly migrated from East Tennessee to the Arkansas Territory. If true, that would be a pretty compelling piece of evidence in favor of the notion that John Casteel of Blount County migrated to the Arkansas Territory. The only problem is that I have not been able to find any records to verify that John Casteel sold his land in Blount County in 1828, nor have I been able to verify that the elder John Casteel migrated to Arkansas in 1828. (We know from tax lists that there was a John Casteel in St. Francis County in 1828, but we don't know which John Casteel it was—the elder or the younger—or exactly when he arrived there.)

Now let us look at a couple of speculative—or at least unverified—genealogies. I found these posted online, but they included no information that would allow me to evaluate how reliable they were. In the absence of any supporting evidence, it is impossible to regard these genealogies as anything more than speculation. First, let us take a look at ...

A Line of Descent from Maximillien du Chastel to William A. Casteel

1. **Maximillien du Chastel** (b. 1610, Blangerval, France)
(+ *Suzanne d'Andrea de Petrieu*, b. 1612)
2. **Corbelius du Chastel** (b. 1635, Blangerval, France)
(+ *Marie-anne-Michelle de Gand*, b. 1637, Brabant, Belgium)
3. **Captain Edmond du Chastel** (b. 1660)*
(+ *Christian Bonde*, b. 1678)*
4. **Edmond Casteel II** (b. 1694, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
(+ *Johanna "Hanna" Acres*, b. 1695, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
5. **Zachariah Casteel** (b. 1722, Prince George's County, Maryland)
(+ *Elizabeth*, b. 1726)
6. **Edward B. Casteel** (b. 1775, Prince George's County, Maryland)
(+ *Mary Amos*, b. 1784, Pennsylvania)
7. **Elcana Casteel** (b. 1806, Greene County, Tennessee)
(+ *Christina Eslinger*, b. c.1810)
8. **William A. Casteel** (b. 1837, Washington County, Iowa)

(* This source incorrectly states that both Captain Edmond du Chastel and his wife, Christian, were born in Philadelphia. But the city of Philadelphia was not founded until 1682. No one really knows for sure where Capt. Edmond was born, though his family's ancestral home was the village of Blangerval in the County of Artois, which is now in northern France. Although we can't be certain, we have reason to believe that Captain Edmond's wife, Christian, was born in the Netherlands—most likely in the city of Rotterdam.)

Well, if this genealogy turns out to be even remotely correct, it would represent a major breakthrough in our understanding of the Casteel family line. Not only do we discover how the elder Zachariah Casteel of Greene County fits into the larger Casteel line (if he really is the son of Edmond Casteel II, that would make him the brother of Edmond Casteel III and, thus, the uncle of Abednego, Sr. and Francis Casteel), we also discover who Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval's parents and grandparents are—a mystery that Casteel family researchers have been trying to solve for decades. We also discover when and where the Casteels in this line of descent were born and who they married, and we even discover Edward Casteel's middle initial. Unfortunately, whoever posted this genealogy online neglected to provide us with any details about how they came up with these names, dates, and relationships, so we have no way of verifying any of the information that is shown in this line of descent. That doesn't necessarily mean that all of this information is wrong; it just means that we have to take all of it with a very large grain of salt.

Okay, now let's take a look at another genealogy I found online. This one comes from a different source from the previous one, and is much more comprehensive, but it suffers from the same basic shortcoming: It doesn't tell us where any of its information came from, so we can't evaluate how reliable that information is. But let's go ahead and take a look at this genealogy anyway. Please note that, because there are so many names on this genealogy, and so many "levels" to it, I am going to alter the format a bit from the way it was originally presented. However, I am only changing how the information is presented; the information itself will remain unchanged. So, here goes ...

The Descendants of Edmond (du Chastel de Blangerval) Casteel

1. ***Edmond (du Chastel de Blangerval) Casteel***
(+ *Christian Bom*, b. 1678)*
 - 2a. *Samuel Casteel* (b. 1694)
 - 2b. ***Edmond Casteel II*** (b. 1696)
 - 2c. *Christian Casteel Allen* (b. 1700) [+ *James Allen*]

(* This source states that Christian Bom was born in Philadelphia, but as we have previously noted, Philadelphia was not founded until 1682.)

- 2b. **Edmond Casteel II** (b. 1696)
 —son of *Edmond (du Chastel de Blangerval) Casteel*
 (+ *Johanna “Hannah” ???*)
- 3a. *Joseph Casteel*
 3b. *Meshach Casteel*
 3c. *Peter Casteel*
 3d. **Edmond Casteel III** (b. c.1716, Prince George’s County, Maryland)
 3e. *John Casteel* (b. 1722)
 3f. **Zachariah Casteel** (b. 1724, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

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- 3d. **Edmond Casteel III** (b. c.1716, Prince George’s County, Maryland)
 —son of *Edmond Casteel II*, son of *Edmond (du Chastel de Blangerval) Casteel*
 (+ *Rebecca ???*)
- 4a. *Francis Casteel*
 4b. *Lucy Casteel*
 4c. *Meshach Casteel*
 4d. *Susanne Casteel*
 4e. *Sarah Casteel*
 4f. *Cassandra Casteel*
 4g. *Abednego Casteel*
 4h. *Kezia Casteel*
 4i. **Shadrach Casteel** (b. c.1735, Prince George’s County, Maryland)
- 3f. **Zachariah Casteel** (b. 1724, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
 —son of *Edmond Casteel II*, son of *Edmond (du Chastel de Blangerval) Casteel*
 (+ *Elizabeth ???*)
- 4j. **John Casteel** (b. 1770, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
 4k. *Jeremiah Casteel*
 4l. *Rachel Casteel Malone*
 4m. *Naomy Casteel Acres*
 4n. *Margery Casteel Malone*
 4o. *Ruth Casteel Brown*
 4p. *Mary Casteel*
 4q. *Margaret Casteel*
 4r. **Edward Casteel**

- 4i. **Shadrach Casteel** (b. c.1735, Prince George's County, Maryland)
 —son of *Edmond Casteel* III, son of *Edmond Casteel* II
 (+ *Laurena* ???)*
- 5a. *Ezedoch (Zadoc) Casteel*
 5b. **Jesse Casteel***
 5c. **Thomas Casteel** (b. c.1753, Prince George's County, Maryland)*
 5d. *Archibald Casteel**
 5e. *Elizabeth Casteel**

(* Please note that, in the original source, all of these names were repeated for some unknown reason: *Laurena* was listed both as Shadrach's *first* wife and as his *second* wife; likewise, *Jesse*, *Thomas*, *Archibald*, and *Elizabeth* were listed as the children of Shadrach's first wife, *Laurena*, and also as the children of his second wife, *Laurena*. *Ezedoch/Zadoc* was the only one who was not listed twice. Since this had to have been an error, I have listed each name only once here.)

- 4j. **John Casteel** (b. 1770, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
 —son of *Zachariah Casteel*, son of *Edmond Casteel* II
 (+ *Jemima* ???, b. 1777, Pennsylvania)
- 5f. **James John Casteel** (b. c.1790 in Tennessee or Virginia)
 5g. *Amy Casteel Malone* (b. 1790) [+ *Solomon Malone*]
 5h. **Jemima Casteel Key** (b. 1795)
 5i. *Zachariah Casteel* (b. 1795) [+ *Margaret Hartley*]
 5j. *Rebecca Casteel Kellier* (b. 1797) [+ *Samuel Kellier*]
 5k. *Sarah "Sally" Casteel Dyke* (b. 1805)
 5l. **Andrew Casteel** (b. 1810)

- 4r. **Edward Casteel**
 —son of *Zachariah Casteel*, son of *Edmond Casteel* II
 (+ *Mary* ???)
- 5m. **Joseph Casteel**

5b. **Jesse Casteel**

—son of *Shadrach Casteel*, son of *Edmond Casteel III*

(+ *Sarah*)

6a. **Thomas Casteel** (b. 1818, Bedford County, Pennsylvania)

5c. **Thomas Casteel** (b. c.1753, Prince George's County, Maryland)

—son of *Shadrach Casteel*, son of *Edmond Casteel III*

(+ *Margaret Shelling*)

6b. *Shadrach Casteel*

6c. *Jesse Casteel*

6d. *John Casteel*

6e. *Nathaniel Casteel*

6f. *Meshach Casteel*

6g. *Thomas Casteel*

6h. *UNKNOWN Casteel* [daughter]

6i. **Jeremiah Casteel** (b. c.1780)

5f. **James John Casteel** (b. c.1790 in Tennessee or Virginia)

—son of *John Casteel*, son of *Zachariah Casteel*

(+ *Elizabeth ???*, b. c.1790)

6j. **Blackstone (Braxton) Casteel** (b. 1810)

6k. **William Casteel** (b. 1815, Bedford County, Tennessee)

6l. **Jemima Casteel Burrow** (b. 1815, Bedford County, Tennessee)

6m. *Patience Casteel* (b. c.1816)

6n. *Parthenia Casteel* (b. 1817)

6o. **Abraham Casteel** (b. c.1818)

6p. *Mary Casteel* (b. c.1819)

6q. *Sarah "Sally" Casteel* (b. Tennessee)*

6r. **James Preston Casteel** (b. c.1830)

6s. *Nancy Casteel* (b. c.1834)

6t. *Andrew Casteel* (b. 1840, Tennessee)

(* Please note that Sarah or "Sally" Casteel is listed multiple times with various birth years: 1820, 1829, 1832, and 1832 again. This has to be an error.)

5h. **Jemima Casteel Key** (b. 1795)
—daughter of *John Casteel*, son of *Zachariah Casteel*
(+ *David Key*)

6u. *Creline Key* (b. 1838)

6v. *Hugh Key* (b. 1842)

5l. **Andrew Casteel** (b. 1810)
—son of *John Casteel*, son of *Zachariah Casteel*
(+ *Nancy ???*)

6w. *James Allen Casteel* (b. 1844)

6x. *Ephram Casteel* (b. 1849)

6y. *John Casteel* (b. 1856)

5m. **Joseph Casteel**
—son of *Edward Casteel*, son of *Zachariah Casteel*
(+ *Elizabeth Enslinger*)

6z. *Francis Marion Casteel* [+ *Patience Delila Williams*]

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6a. **Thomas Casteel** (b. 1818, Bedford County, Pennsylvania)
—son of *Jesse Casteel*, son of *Shadrach Casteel*
(+ *Ruth Dicken*)

7. *Perry Tamador Casteel* [+ *Emeline Harrod*]

6i. **Jeremiah Casteel** (b. c.1780)
—son of *Thomas Casteel*, son of *Shadrach Casteel*
(+ *Lina “Lenny” Spurgeon*, b. 1779)

7. *James Casteel* (b. c.1802)

7. *Amos Casteel* (b. c.1804) [+ *Drusilla*]

7. *Hezekiah Casteel* (b. c.1809, Maryland) [+ *Catherine*]

7. *Catherine Casteel Savage* (b. c.1813)

7. *Nathaniel Casteel* (b. c.1818)

7. *Jacob Casteel* (b. 1820, Virginia) [+ *Louisa*]

7. *Jeremiah Casteel, Jr.* (b. 1820, [West] Virginia) [+ *Sarah Miller*]

- 6j. **Blackstone (Braxton) Casteel** (b. 1810)
 —son of *James John Casteel*, son of *John Casteel*
 (+ *Emly ???*)
- 7. *Sarah Casteel* (b. 1830)
 - 7. *John W. Casteel* (b. 1833 in Tennessee) [+ *Eliza Jane Parks*, b. 1835]
 - 7. *Elizabeth Casteel* (b. 1835)
 - 7. *Eliza Casteel* (b. 1848)
- 6k. **William Casteel** (b. 1815, Bedford County, Tennessee)
 —son of *James John Casteel*, son of *John Casteel*
 (+ first wife: *Elizabeth Burdett*, b. c.1825, Bedford, County, Tennessee)
- 7. *Patience Casteel Bruton Weaver* (b. 1843)
 - 7. *Samuel Casteel* (b. 1845, Tennessee) [+ *Sarah Jane Montgomery*]
 - 7. *Eliza Casteel* (b. c.1847, Tennessee)
 - 7. *Elizabeth “Bettie” Casteel Wise* (b. 1849, Tennessee)
- (+ second wife: *Sarah Womack*, b. c.1852, Bedford, County, Tennessee)
- 7. *Lucretia Casteel* (b. c.1852 in Bedford County, Tennessee)
 - 7. *Pickney Casteel* (b. c.1853 in Bedford County, Tennessee)
 - 7. *John C. Casteel* (b. c.1854 in Bedford County, Tennessee)
 - 7. *James Casteel* (b. c.1856 in Bedford County, Tennessee)
- 6l. **Jemima Casteel Burrow** (b. 1815, Bedford County, Tennessee)
 —daughter of *James John Casteel*, son of *James Casteel*
 (+ *Banks A. Burrow*, b. 1838, Bedford County, Tennessee)
- 7. *Nancy Caroline Burrow Patterson* (b. 1838)
 - 7. *Rebecca Adaline Burrow Hasty* (b. 1842)
 - 7. *Elenor Caldonia Burrow Patterson Arnold* (b. 1843)
 - 7. *Malinda Angeline Burrow Harris* (b. 1846)
 - 7. *Pathenia Burrow Mullins* (b. 1849)
 - 7. *Matilda A. Burrow Hasty* (b. 1855)
 - 7. *Mary Evaline Burrow Davis* (b. 1856)

60. **Abraham Casteel** (b. c.1818)

—son of *James John Casteel*, son of *John Casteel*

(+ *Mahala Burdett*, b. c. 1826, Bedford County, Tennessee)

7. *Benjamin Casteel* (b. 1843) [+ *Jane Montgomery*]

7. *Nancy Lucretia Casteel Bledsoe Burton* (b. 1849)

7. *James Manuel Casteel* (b. 1853) [+ *Mary Ellen Warren*]

6r. **James Preston Casteel** (b. c.1830)

—son of *James John Casteel*, son of *John Casteel*

(+ first wife: *Elizabeth Bruton*, b. 1832)

7. *Thomas Marion Casteel* (b. 1859) [+ *Nancy Jenkins, Nancy Woodard*]

7. *James Calvin Casteel* (b. 1863) [+ *Mary Ann Wooley, Ida Bell Lee*]

7. *Mary Frances Casteel Johnson* (b. c.1864)

7. *George Casteel* (b. c.1866) [+ *Betty Surratt*]

7. *Franklin Casteel* (b. c.1867)

7. *Sarah Casteel* (b. c.1869)

(+ second wife: *Hannah Low Reed*, b. 1855, Tennessee)

7. *James Peyton Casteel* (b. 1876) [+ *Louisa Wilma Womack*]

7. *Eliza Casteel* (b. c.1877, Bedford County, Tennessee)

7. *Mary C. Casteel* (b. c.1879)

7. *Samuel Casteel* (b. c.1883)

7. *Harvey Casteel* (b. c. 1885)

Please note that there were even more names than this in the original source, but I decided to cut it off at the 7th generation because we were already getting well past the time period that we are interested in, and because the list of names was starting to get rather unwieldy. Before we discuss this genealogy, let me caution you, once again, to take everything we find here with a grain of salt: We don't know where any of this information came from or how reliable it might be. Unless we are able to find evidence to support the claims made in this genealogy, we should treat it as nothing more than the speculations of some amateur genealogist. That being said, I must admit that this genealogy is pretty much the single most exciting thing I've come across in the course of this research. If it is reliable, it is priceless.

So, assuming that it's reliable, what do we learn from this genealogy? First of all, we learn that Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval had three children: *Samuel*, *Edmond II*, and *Christian*. (This can be confirmed through other sources, so it is reliable.) We know virtually nothing about Samuel except that he existed. What became of him is unknown, nor do we know who his descendants were. (Though I seem to recall, years ago, reading some speculation that he might not have called himself *Casteel* but might instead have gone by the name *Duchastel* or *Ducastel*. If so, then his descendants are likely to have done the same.) We know that Capt. Edmond's daughter, Christian, married a man named James Allen, but little more is known about them. We do, however, know quite a bit about Capt. Edmond's second son, *Edmond Casteel*, known to Casteel family researchers as *Edmond II*.

Not long after his father's death, Edmond Casteel II, moved from Philadelphia to Prince George's County, Maryland, where he bought a tract of land and turned it into a tobacco plantation. He named this plantation *Casteel*. Some time later, he bought even more land and started a second plantation, which he called *Edmond's Frolic Enlarged*. (So, where exactly were these plantations located? According to some sources I have come across, they were located on land that is now part of the U.S. military's Joint Base Andrews, just outside of Washington, DC, which is best known as the base that the president's plane, Air Force One, operates out of.)

According to this genealogy, Edmond II married a woman named *Johanna* (who was apparently called *Hanna*), and they had five sons: *Joseph*, *Meshach*, *Peter*, *Edmond III*, *John*, and *Zachariah*. This genealogy gives us no information at all about the first three sons, apart from their names. But we are told that Edmond III was born around 1716 in Prince George's County, that John was born in 1722 (the location is not given), and that Zachariah was born in 1724 in Philadelphia. I don't know where this information came from or how reliable it might be.

But let's assume that it's true. We know who Edmond Casteel III was, because we have his will. He was the father of *Abednego Casteel, Sr.* and *Francis Casteel*, who both ended up in Knox County, Tennessee. We also know who Zachariah Casteel was because we have encountered him many times already. He ended up in Greene County, Tennessee, and was the patriarch of the Casteel family in that county. But what about John Casteel? Could he have been the John Casteel, Sr. who lived in Greene County for a while before moving to Blount County (*John Casteel-A*)? The father of John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*), who we suspect to have been the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas? It certainly seems plausible. But this genealogy doesn't tell us enough about Edmond II's son, John, for us to draw any firm conclusions about who he might have been.

Let's move on to the next generation. We'll begin with the children of Edmond Casteel III. You'll notice that the names of Edmond III's children as listed in this genealogy match those from Edmond III's will, except that *Charity Casteel*, who is named in Edmond III's will, is not included. You will note that both *Abednego* and *Francis* are included, as we would expect—but unfortunately, this genealogy provides no information about either of them, nor does it give the names of their descendants. It does, however, trace—in considerable detail—the descendants of *Shadrach Casteel*, who settled in western Pennsylvania, where he appears to have lived until his death. However, since none of his descendants are believed to have lived in East Tennessee before 1820, we can safely ignore them for now.

Let us move on, then, to Zachariah Casteel, who does show up in East Tennessee, along with his children, by the mid-1780s at the latest, settling in Greene County. According to this genealogy, Zachariah had 9 children: *John*, *Jeremiah*, *Rachel*, *Naomy*, *Margery*, *Ruth*, *Mary*, *Margaret*, and *Edward*. Recall that Zachariah's will included the names of 11 children. The two names that are missing from this genealogy are *Peter* and *Daniel*. Also, Zachariah's daughter *Nancy Casteel Acres* (which is the name given in Zachariah's will) is listed as *Naomy Casteel Acres* in this genealogy. Other than that, the two lists coincide quite well. Unfortunately, we are told very little about most of Zachariah's children. This genealogy lists the descendants of John Casteel and Edward Casteel, but it doesn't list the descendants of any of Zachariah Casteel's other children.

In fact, the treatment of Edward Casteel's descendants is rather limited. We know from Edward's will that he had six children: *Joseph*, *Comfort*, *Elcana (Elkany)*, *Mahala*, *Calloway*, and *Allen*. But this genealogy lists only one: *Joseph*. (And it lists only one son for Joseph: *Francis Marion Casteel*. It does not list the names of any of Francis's children.)

The treatment of Zachariah's eldest son, *John Casteel*, is quite extensive, though. (Recall that this is the John Casteel we find in Greene County records beginning in the late 1790s and continuing through 1850—*i.e.* *John Casteel-C.*) Not only are we told when and where he was born (1770 in Philadelphia), we are given an extensive look at several generations of his descendants. If the information in this genealogy is accurate, it is truly groundbreaking. First of all, we are given a list of John Casteel's seven children: *James John*, *Amy*, *Jemima*, *Zachariah*, *Rebecca*, *Sarah* (“*Sally*”), and *Andrew*. We have encountered many of these names before in Greene County records. If these really are the children of John Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel, then this ties up a number of loose ends.

Note especially that Zachariah Casteel (the younger) is listed among the children of John Casteel. This is the Zachariah Casteel who served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War and may have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend; who married Rebecca Hartley (misidentified here as *Margaret Hartley*) in Greene County in 1818; who was living in Roane County in 1830, where he was arrested in 1832 for threatening a man named Littleberry Roberts; and who had moved to Hamilton County by 1836, where he died around 1838. We have been trying to figure out for quite some time exactly how he fits into the larger Casteel family. We had assumed (but were not able to prove) that he must have been the grandson of the elder Zachariah Casteel, and I had speculated (but, once again, was not able to prove) that he may have been the son of John Casteel. Because we can't be sure of the reliability of this genealogy, we still lack proof of the younger Zachariah Casteel's parentage, but I think this should at least count as one tiny piece of evidence in favor of our hypothesis.

But the biggest bombshell from this genealogy is the revelation that John Casteel's oldest son is *James John Casteel*, who turns out to be the John Casteel who ends up in Bedford County! We have been trying for the longest to figure out just who he was and how he fit into the broader Casteel family, but with very little success. If this genealogy is accurate (and once again, let me remind you that we have seen no evidence to suggest that it is—but neither have we seen any evidence to suggest that it is not), then we have finally solved the mystery of John Casteel of Bedford County. Or at least part of the mystery. We still do not know exactly when he arrived in Bedford County, or where he might have been before he settled there. Presumably he grew up in Greene County, but did he move directly from Greene County to Bedford County, or did he live somewhere else for a while? When did he leave Greene County? Was he, perhaps, one of the unidentified John Casteels we find on Greene County tax lists in 1809 and 1811 (*John Casteel-D* and *John Casteel-E*)? Was he the same John Casteel who served in Davis's Battalion of the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War? If so, where was he living at the time? These are questions that we still can't answer.

One of the most fascinating new things we discover about John Casteel of Bedford County from this genealogy is that his full name was *James John Casteel*. If this is true, then could he possibly have been one of the unidentified James Casteels we find in various East Tennessee records? In particular, is it possible that he was the James Casteel who deserted from Bunch's Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia on 4 March 1814, and might he have been the James Casteel who married a Mary Ann Williams in Blount County in 1825? Both seem very unlikely, but can we actually rule either of them out?

I think we can, at least, rule out the marriage. We know from land records that John Casteel was living in Bedford County in Middle Tennessee in 1825, which makes it highly unlikely that he would have gotten married in Blount County in East Tennessee in that same year. Besides, we have good reason to believe that the wife of John Casteel of Bedford County was named *Elizabeth*, not *Mary Ann*.

As for his military service, without more detailed military records than what I've been able to find online, there's simply no way to be sure. While it doesn't seem very likely that he was the James Casteel who deserted from Bunch's Regiment, I can't rule out the possibility. After all, if James Casteel deserted just so he could reenlist in another unit in order to collect an enlistment bonus (as many soldiers in the War of 1812/Creek War apparently did), he might very well have chosen to reenlist using his middle name instead of his first name, hoping that this would make it less likely that he would be caught and court-martialed. So, I suppose it's possible that he deserted from Bunch's Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia and then reenlisted in Davis's Battalion of the West Tennessee Militia. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find much information at all about Davis's Battalion, so I don't even know whether it was active before or after James Casteel's desertion in March of 1814. Without additional information, all I can say is that I am not able to rule out the possibility that James John Casteel of Bedford County might have been the James Casteel who deserted from Bunch's Regiment in 1814, but I don't think it's all that likely.

This genealogy lists the children and grandchildren of James John Casteel (in fact, it even goes on to list his great-grandchildren, though I chose not to include their names above in the interest of saving space, since they were all born well after the time period we are interested in). However, there is no information here that is relevant to our purposes, so we will ignore them and move on.

If this genealogy is reliable—and once again, we have no evidence that it is, but we also have no evidence that it is not—then we learn a great deal from it. There are still several pieces of the puzzle missing, but we are finally starting to get a sense of how the various Casteel families of East Tennessee might have fit together. There appear to be three (or perhaps four) distinct Casteel clans in East Tennessee in the first two or three decades of the 19th century. First, we have the Greene County Casteel clan (which we now suspect might include the Bedford County Casteels), whose members all descend from Zachariah Casteel, the son of Edmond Casteel II, the son of Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval. Then there is the Knox County Casteel clan, which was founded by the brothers Abednego and Francis Casteel, the sons of Edmond Casteel III (the brother of Zachariah Casteel), the

son of Edmond Casteel II, the son of Captain Edmond. Then there was a Blount County Casteel clan, whose members *may* have all descended from John Casteel, Sr.—the one we find in early Greene County records, but who had migrated to Blount County by 1796 (*i.e. John Casteel-A*). I suspect that this John Casteel, Sr. *might* have been the son of Edmond Casteel II, the son of Captain Edmond, which would make him the brother of Zachariah Casteel and Edmond Casteel III. John Casteel, Sr. is known to have been the father of John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e. John Casteel-B*), who I suspect (but still can't prove) was the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. I also suspect (but, once again, can't prove) that the Edmond/Edward Casteel who died in McMinn County on the day of the eclipse in 1833 might have also been the son of John Casteel, Sr.—and, therefore, the brother of John Casteel, Jr. You'll recall that this Edmond/Edward Casteel can be found in Blount County records beginning as early as 1800 and continuing for the next couple of decades. So, Edmond/Edward Casteel and his family must have been part of the Blount County Casteel clan. However, this clan appears to have split in two sometime around 1818, when Edmond/Edward Casteel and his family left Blount County for neighboring Roane County, leaving John Casteel, Jr. and his family behind. About a decade later, John, Jr. and family would pack up and head west to the newly opened Arkansas Territory. So, it would appear that the Blount County Casteel clan had become two separate clans—or perhaps it's better to think of them as sub-clans, since they were not completely separate. After all, Willis Casteel—the son of Edmond/Edward Casteel—would apparently migrate to the Arkansas Territory along with his uncle's family; and the younger Abraham Calloway Casteel—Edmond/Edward Casteel's grandson— would join them there about two decades later. But I think it's fair to say that we now have two distinct sub-clans of the Blount County Casteel clan: The Edmond/Edward Casteel sub-clan, which first went to Roane County and then scattered to the four winds, and the John Casteel, Jr. sub-clan, most of whom apparently ended up in Arkansas (though the Casteels of Wayne County, Tennessee, are also members of this sub-clan). So, we have three distinct, but related, Casteel clans (one which we can split into two sub-clans), and between them, we can account for most (though, alas, not all) of the Casteels who we believe to have been living in East Tennessee in, around, and before 1817—*i.e.* in, around, and before the year in which Henry Montgomery Casteel is believed to have been born.

Okay, we have looked at all of the sources I could find that struck me as relevant. I'm sure that I must have missed some—perhaps many—but I think we now have enough information to work with. Now we need to see what we can do with that information. It's time to start ...

Putting All the Pieces Together

For the next several pages, I will try to fit as many of our East Tennessee Casteels as possible into a (somewhat speculative) Casteel family genealogy in order to see how they are all related to each other. I also want to try to summarize, as best I can, what we know about each of these Casteels based on the various sources we have examined. Unfortunately, in a few cases—and perhaps more than a few—it will simply not be possible to determine exactly where a particular Casteel fits on the family tree. But even in these cases, I want to see if we can at least figure out which of our three (or four) East Tennessee Casteel “clans” each of these Casteels belongs to. There may be a few cases in which we can’t even identify which clan a particular Casteel belongs to, but we will give it our best shot and see where that gets us. Hopefully, even if we are not able to account for every single Casteel in the state of Tennessee in, around, or before 1817, we will be able to fit enough of them onto our family tree to be able to take an educated guess at which clan our Henry Montgomery Casteel belonged to and where in East Tennessee he is most likely to have been born.

But let me caution you that some of what will follow will be speculative. Most of the information in this genealogy will be supported by documentary evidence, but I will occasionally rely on unverified or speculative sources, and I will even engage in a bit of speculation myself from time to time. But I don’t want you to confuse speculation with fact, so whenever I include any information that is speculative or unverified, I will show it in *italics* and will mark it with the following symbols:

† = information that is based on unverified or speculative sources

§ = my own personal speculation (not supported by hard evidence)

So, with that stated, let’s begin. I will divide this genealogy into multiple sections. I will begin by looking at the family of Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval of Philadelphia; then I will take a look at his grandchildren before they migrate to East Tennessee; and then I will look at each of our East Tennessee Casteel “clans” in turn: the Greene County Casteels (*i.e.* the descendants of Zachariah Casteel), the Knox County Casteels (*i.e.* the descendants of Abednego and Francis Casteel), and the Blount County Casteels (*i.e.* the descendants of John Casteel, Sr.—or at least that’s what I suspect). And I will split this last clan into its two sub-clans: the Casteels who moved to Roane County around 1818 and those who didn’t.

We will start with ...

A (Highly Speculative) Genealogy of Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval

Gilles du Chastel (b. c.1160)
(+ Salomé de Carné, b. c.1165)

- unknown

(+ unknown)

- Antoine du Chastel

(+ Beatrix de Gavarelle)

- Jean du Chastel

(+ Catherine van den Brande)

- Jacques du Chastel de Blangerval

(+ Jeanne du Bois de Fioennes)

- Philippe du Chastel de Blangerval

(+ Marie de la Salle)

- Maximilien du Chastel de Blangerval (b. 1610, Blangerval, Artois*)

(+ Suzanne d'Andrea de Petrieu, b. 1612)

- *Corbelius du Chastel de Blangerval* (b. 1635, Blangerval, Artois*) †

(+ unknown**)

- Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval (b. c.1660)

(* In those days, the County of Artois was a part of the Southern Netherlands, which was under Spanish rule at the time. Today, Artois is a part of France. It is in the northernmost part of the country, near its border with Belgium.)

(** A highly questionable source that we looked at earlier claimed that the wife of Corbelius du Chastel de Blangerval was a *Marie-anne-Michelle de Gand*. However, according to other, more reliable sources, Marie-anne-Michelle de Gand was the wife of *Jerome-Philippe du Chastel de Blangerval*, who was also the son of Maximilien du Chastel de Blangerval.)



Western Europe
as it looks today

The area inside the box on the modern map at the left roughly corresponds to the area shown on the historical map below.

★ marks the approximate location of the village of *Blangerval* in Artois (at least as near as I can eyeball it).



Historical map of the United Provinces (Netherlands) and the Low Countries (Spanish Southern Netherlands) at the end of the 16th century showing the location of the old Counties of Artois & Flanders (Flandre)

The Counties of Artois & Flanders and the Village of Blangerval

I really don't know how much trust to put in this. I have not personally seen any evidence to support the claim that our Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval was the son of *Corbelius du Chastel de Blangerval* or that Corbelius was the son of *Maximillien du Chastel de Blangerval*. However, there is some evidence that Maximillien was, indeed, the son of *Philippe du Chastel de Blangerval*, who was the son of *Jacques du Chastel de Blangerval* (who appears to have been the first member of the du Chastel family to be named *Comte de Blangerval*—i.e. Count of Blangerval), who was the son of *Jean du Chastel*, who was the son of *Antoine du Chastel*, who was the grandson of *Gilles du Chastel*, who is believed to have been the founder of the du Chastel line. What is doubtful is whether Maximillien du Chastel de Blangerval had a son named *Corbelius*—I have seen no evidence for it whatsoever—and whether this mysterious Corbelius du Chastel de Blangerval was really the father of our Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval. I'm not suggesting that this evidence doesn't exist; I'm just saying that, if it exists, I have not yet been able to find it.

So, to the best of my knowledge, we still don't really know who Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval's parents were or where he might have come from before he settled in Philadelphia. There has been a great deal of speculation about this, of course, and a number of possibilities have been suggested, but as far as I know, no one has yet been able to find any definitive evidence concerning Capt. Edmond's origins, other than the fact that he was a member of the du Chastel de Blangerval family, which originated in the County of Artois in what is now northern France (though it was previously part of the Spanish Southern Netherlands), which was a branch of the larger du Chastel (or to use the Dutch version of the name, *van den Casteel*) family that could be found mainly in Flanders and Artois—what is now western Belgium and northern France.

In the interest of thoroughness, I have included this rather speculative genealogy for your consideration. Feel free to take it or leave it as you choose, but I would advise you to take it with a grain of salt if you take it at all. Personally, while I'm sure that Captain Edmond must be connected to this du Chastel de Blangerval line in some way, I am not at all convinced that he is the son of a Corbelius du Chastel de Blangerval who is the son of Maximillien du Chastel de Blangerval. I have not seen any evidence that would persuade me of this. It may very well be true, but I remain skeptical.

Now, let us look at ...

Captain Edmond, His Children, and His Grandchildren

- **Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval**

variant forms of the name: du Casteel, du Castel, du Castell, du Castle

born: c.1660 (place unknown—possibly *Blangerval, Artois, France*)

occupation: merchant seaman, privateer, & pirate

title: Captain

wartime service: commanded the privateer sloop *Resolution* during
Queen Anne's War (1702-1713)

primary residence: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

date of arrival there: some sources say around 1683, others say 1692

marriage: to Christian Bom* (b. c.1675-78; d. c.1714)

date: 7 March 1693/4** place: Philadelphia***

died: c.1712 (*he may have died at sea, but we really can't be sure*)

children:

- Samuel Casteel (or *du Chastel*, or *DuCastel*—we don't know)

- Edmond Casteel II (b. c.1695)

- Christian DuCastel Allen

 - [+ James Allen, m. 17 April 1720 in Philadelphia]

(* Some sources give her maiden name as *Boon*, *Boom*, or *Bonde*, but our most reliable sources give it as *Bom*.)

** Some sources say 1 May, but their marriage record says 7 March. Please note that, back in those days, the new year began on 25 March; so 7 March 1693 on the old calendar would translate to 7 March 1694 on our modern calendar.)

*** Some sources suggest that they were married in *Wilmington, Delaware*, but I can find no evidence to support this. Our best sources say Philadelphia.)

Though there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the life of Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval and his family, the information presented above is fairly well-established by documentary evidence.

Yet there is still a great deal of information about Captain Edmond that we simply don't know. First and foremost—in spite of the speculation that we've seen about his father being *Corbelius du Chastel de Blangerval*—we still don't really know who Edmond's parents were.

Nor do we know where he was born. The (many) sources you may come across claiming that he was born in Philadelphia are clearly wrong, because Edmond was born about two decades before the city of Philadelphia was founded. It is possible that Edmond was born in his family's ancestral home of *Blangerval*—a village in the County of Artois, which is now part of northern France—though we have no proof of this. (The village of Blangerval still exists, by the way; though it merged with the neighboring village of *Blangermont* during the 20th century to form the present-day community of *Blangerval-Blangermont*. Blangerval-Blangermont is a very small village even today, with only about 95 residents, according to the most recent census.) Edmond was born just a year or two after Artois was annexed by France. It had previously been part of the Southern Netherlands, which had been ruled by Spain, but French forces captured and occupied Artois during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648); after the war, in 1659, Artois was officially incorporated into France as part of its territory. Edmond is believed to have been born around 1660, or perhaps a year or so later. Of course, it's entirely possible that he wasn't even born in Artois. His parents (or even his grandparents) could have left Artois long before Edmond was born. We simply don't know.

We don't know exactly when he arrived in Philadelphia, either. Most sources will tell you that he was one of the city's first settlers, arriving within a year or two of its founding in 1682. They even claim that his name can be found on a document from Philadelphia from 1683. However, I have recently come across a source that casts some doubt on this claim. According to this source, Edmond first arrived in Philadelphia in 1692 with a group of pirates. This source also notes that the claim that Edmond's name can be found on a 1683 document from Philadelphia is false. If you examine the original document, this source claims, you won't find his name on it. (Since I have not seen the original document myself, only references to it, I can't personally attest to whether Edmond's name is on it or not. But I now have serious doubts about the claim that it is.) Nonetheless, whenever he arrived there, we know that Edmond got married in Philadelphia in 1693. (Some sources claim that he was married in *Wilmington, Delaware*, but they offer no evidence to back up that claim; whereas, one trustworthy source was able to provide a transcript of Edmond's marriage record from Philadelphia, stating that he was married in that city. So, I think we can be quite confident that he was married there rather than in Wilmington, Delaware.)

On 7 March 1693/4, Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval (whose name was written as *Edmond du Castel* on the marriage record) married *Christian Bom* (written as *Christian Boom* on the marriage record), at the home of the bride's half-sister and brother-in-law in Philadelphia. While we don't know exactly when Christian was born, we have good reason to believe that it was probably sometime between 1675 and 1678. She was almost certainly born in the province of Holland in the Dutch Republic (what is now the Netherlands); and most likely in the city of Rotterdam, where her parents married and where her younger brother was born. I have come across a few (unverified) sources claiming that Christian was Swedish, but it seems pretty clear that she was actually Dutch.

Christian was the daughter of a baker named *Cornelius Bom, Sr.*, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1683, aboard the ship *America*, along with his wife, *Agnes Moye Bom*, and their children: *Weyneti van Sanen* (Agnes's daughter from a previous marriage), *Christian, Cornelius, Jr.*, and *Abraham*. *Weyneti* (or *Wenetie*—the spelling varies from source to source) would marry a *John (or Jan) Duplouvys* in 1687/8. He was also Dutch and, like *Weyneti's* step-father, a baker. *Cornelius Bom, Sr.* appears to have died in 1689. His widow, *Agnes*, would remarry later that same year, becoming the wife of *Anthony Morris*—a brewer, and one of the leading citizens of Philadelphia at the time. He served, at various times, as a judge and an alderman, and he eventually became mayor. But *Agnes* would not live to see this. She died in 1692. In 1693/4, Christian married Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval at the home of John and *Weyneti Duplouvys*. She was quite young at the time—no older than 18. John *Duplouvys* would die in 1699, and his widow, *Weyneti* would eventually remarry, becoming the second wife of a widower from England named *Jeremiah Collett*, who was one of Philadelphia's leading citizens, serving at various times as sheriff or constable and as justice of the peace.

As you can see, we know many things about Christian Bom, her parents, and her brothers and sisters—much more than we know about Edmond or the family he came from. We don't even know if he had any siblings. Most of what we know about him comes from a relatively few records in which he is mentioned by name: his marriage record from 1693/4, of course; a will he made in 1702 before going on a long sea voyage (which doesn't even name his children, only his wife and his in-laws); a 1701 court record appointing him to be the administrator of the will of the late Dr. George Lloyd, a physician from the island of Barbados, who had been a friend of Edmond's (whose shipping business—or piracy—must have taken him to the islands of the Caribbean on numerous occasions); a few business receipts of no real consequence; a few official reports naming Edmond among a list of known pirates who were wanted by the authorities; an official report from the beginning

of Queen Anne's War in 1702 noting that Edmond had recently encountered the French fleet as he was sailing from Jamaica and had even spoken with the French admiral aboard his flag ship; and an official document from just a few years later (the exact date is unclear) authorizing Edmond to equip the sloop *Resolution* as a private man-of-war (*i.e.* a privateer vessel) and appointing him as its commander. (Privateers are essentially the same thing as pirates—both hijack merchant ships in order to steal their cargo—the only difference being that privateers are authorized to do so by some government during a time of war, provided that they only prey upon ships that belong to the enemy. Of course, the enemy will regard this as an act of piracy and will treat enemy privateers no differently than they would treat ordinary pirates.) We know that Edmond died around 1712 because his will was proved early in the following year. There has been some speculation that he was lost at sea, but we have no actual evidence for this. It is quite possible, in fact, that he fell victim to a deadly measles epidemic that swept through Philadelphia around that time. We simply don't know.

Christian died not long after her husband. Her will was proved in late 1714. It is from her will that we learn the names of Edmond and Christian's three children: *Samuel*, *Edmond*, and *Christian*. Samuel is listed first and is named as executor, which suggests that he was likely the oldest—however, it is entirely possible that Edmond was the oldest but that he was not living in Philadelphia at the time. We just don't know. Unfortunately, no other mention of Samuel has been found in any documentary source that Casteel family researchers have been able to dig up, so we know literally nothing else about him. We don't even know for sure which form of the family name he used: *Casteel*? *du Chastel*? *DuCastel*? Some have speculated that he might have died not long after his mother, leaving no children. But unless we manage to uncover some new documentary evidence regarding him, we may never know for sure.

We also know very little about Edmond and Christian's daughter, *Christian*. We know that she got married in 1720, in Philadelphia, to a man named James Allen, but that's pretty much all we know about her. After their marriage, she and her husband drop off the radar, and we never hear from them again.

The only child of Captain Edmond and Christian who we really know anything about is their son *Edmond* (*i.e.* Edmond Casteel II). We don't know a whole lot about him, but given how little we know about his siblings, we are very fortunate to know as much about him as we do. We are particularly fortunate to be able to identify (with varying degrees of confidence) at least some of his children. It is to him and his family that we now turn our attention.

• **Edmond Casteel II***

born: c.1695 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania †

father: Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval (c.1660-c.1712)

mother: Christian Bom (c.1676-c.1714)

occupation: tobacco planter

primary residence: Piscataway Parish, Prince George's County, Maryland

date of arrival there: c.1713

previous residence: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

marriage: to Johanna "Hanna" UNKNOWN**

died: after November 1743 in Prince George's County, Maryland

children:

- **Edmond Casteel III**

- *Joseph Casteel* † (highly probable, but unproven)

- *Peter Casteel* † (probable, but unproven)

- **John Casteel** † (highly probable, but unproven)

- **Zachariah Casteel** † (probable, but unproven)

(* Please note once again that we have no evidence that this Edmond Casteel ever used the suffix "II" himself. Casteel family researchers decided to refer to him as *Edmond II* simply in order to distinguish him from all of the other Edmonds in the Casteel family.)

(** A number of sources claim that Edmond Casteel II was previously married to a woman named *Mary Amos*, and that they had a daughter named *Dinah*, who was born in 1717. This claim is based solely on Dinah's baptismal record from Anne Arundel County, Maryland, which lies just to the east of Prince George's County. But, if you look at the original, handwritten record, it does not offer clear evidence that this Dinah was the daughter of an "Edmond Casteel" and a "Mary Amos" at all. For one thing, the father's last name was spelled *Castol*, and his first name is barely legible and appears to be abbreviated. It *may* be just the letters *Ed*, but even that is not clear. And as for the mother, while her first name is clearly *Mary*, I'm not at all sure about the *Amos*. For one thing, none of the other baptismal records give the mother's maiden name. For another, it looks a lot like the name *Anne* as it is written elsewhere on the same page.)

We don't know the dates of birth for any of the children of Captain Edmond and Christian du Chastel. All three must have been born between 1694 and 1714, of course (their parents were married in 1693/4 and their mother died in 1714), but beyond that, it's all guesswork. If we assume that Samuel was the oldest (and even this is mere speculation based on the fact that he happened to be named first in his mother's will), then the earliest that Edmond II could have been born would have been 1695. We know that Edmond II was an adult by 1713 (because he is known to have bought land in that year), which means that must have been born no later than about 1695. So, it certainly looks like he must have been born in 1695. But, of course, if our assumption about Samuel being the oldest child is incorrect, then Edmond II could very well have been born as early as December of 1694. (Please keep in mind that, by our modern calendar, Captain Edmond and Christian were married in early March of 1694. Their marriage record says 1693, but that was using the old calendar, when the new year began on 25 March.)

Although we have no documentary evidence to prove it, it is reasonable to assume that Edmond II was probably born in Philadelphia, since that is where his parents are believed to have been living at the time. But he would not stay in Philadelphia forever. Around the time of his parents' death, we can find documentary evidence showing Edmond II buying land in Prince George's County, Maryland. The land patent was filed on 12 December 1714, but it states that the land had been granted on 12 October 1713—which was after his father had died but probably before his mother had died. The land was patented under the name *Casteel*, and Edmond II turned it into a tobacco plantation. Over the next decade, he sold off much of this land; but he would soon buy another tract of land nearby, which he would patent under the name *Edmond's Frolic Enlarged*.

We have not yet found any records of Edmond II's marriage(s), so we don't know exactly when or where he got married. However, it seems unlikely that he would have gotten married before 1713 (when he would have been around 18 years old). If he was married in 1713, then it is possible that he got married in Philadelphia. Any later, and it becomes far more likely that he was married in Maryland. Some sources claim that Edmond's first wife was named *Mary Amos*, and that they had a daughter named *Dinah* who was born in 1717, but I have serious doubts about this (see the note on the previous page). However, we do know for certain, from multiple documentary sources (the first one being from 1719), that Edmond was married to a woman named *Johanna*, who apparently went by the name *Hanna*. So, as far as I'm concerned, until we can find stronger evidence linking Edmond to a wife named *Mary* and a daughter named *Dinah*, we can't really justify including *Mary* and *Dinah* in our *Casteel* genealogy.

Neither Edmond Casteel II nor his wife Hanna (who most likely died before him) left a will, so we don't have a single source that definitively lists the names of all of his children. However, before his death, Edmond II conveyed part of the *Casteel* plantation to "Edmond Casteel Junr planter." To the best of our knowledge, the only Casteels in North America at that time were the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval. So, this Edmond Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* Edmond III) definitely had to have been Edmond II's son.

We are less certain about the other children of Edmond Casteel II because we have no documentary sources that directly link them to him or his wife. But since they were all named *Casteel*, it is pretty clear that they must have been the children of either Edmond II or his brother Samuel. (Recall that, as far as we are aware, there were no other Casteel families anywhere in North America at the time.)

The case in favor of *Joseph Casteel* being the son of Edmond II is fairly strong, since there is documentary evidence that places him in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1745, which would be somewhere around the time of Edmond II's death. Unfortunately, this is all the information we have about Joseph Casteel. What became of him, and who his descendants might have been, are unknown.

The case for *John Casteel* being the son of Edmond II is equally strong, since we can find a baptismal record from 25 August 1765 from Piscataway Parish, Prince George's County, Maryland, for a *Henry Casteel* whose parents were *John* and *Rebecca Casteel*. This isn't proof, but it is pretty strong circumstantial evidence.

The case in favor of *Peter* and *Zachariah Casteel* being the sons of Edmond II is not quite as strong as the case for Joseph or John—and nowhere near as strong as the case for Edmond III—but I still find it fairly persuasive. First of all, there is the fact that their last name was *Casteel*, which tells us that they must have been the sons or (grandsons) of either Edmond II or Samuel, since there were no other Casteel families in North America at that time, to the best of our knowledge. But that isn't the only evidence we have. We also have a source that lists Peter, John, and Zachariah Casteel among the names of troops from Maryland who fought in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). So that does, at least, connect Peter and Zachariah to Maryland, though not specifically to Prince George's County. And since we know that Edmond II lived in Maryland, but we do not know if Samuel ever did, that would make it at least marginally more likely that Peter, John, and Zachariah Casteel were the sons of Edmond II rather than Samuel. It's not proof, of course, but it does at least tip the scales ever-so-slightly in favor of Edmond II over Samuel as the more likely candidate to be the father of Peter and Zachariah.

Nothing more is known about this Peter Casteel. However, there are records of a John Casteel in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, in 1773. (It appears that Edmond Casteel III's son, Shadrach, was also living there at this time. Recall that he settled in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, where he appears to have lived until his death.) And according to one source, which I have not been able to verify, a John Casteel served in the Washington County, Pennsylvania, militia during the Revolutionary War. (You may recall that Francis Casteel also served in the Washington County, Pennsylvania, militia during the Revolution. Francis was the brother of Shadrach Casteel and the son of Edmond III.) We know that the John Casteel, Sr. who we find in the earliest Greene County, North Carolina (later Tennessee), tax and land records (*i.e. John Casteel-A*) served in the American Revolution, because he was awarded a military land-bounty warrant for his service. So, unless Samuel Casteel had a son named *John* who also fought in the Revolution (and we have no reason to think that he did), it seems most likely that the John Casteel, Sr. who settled in Greene County, North Carolina (later Tennessee), by 1783, before migrating to Blount County, Tennessee, by 1796, was the son of Edmond Casteel II of Prince George's County, Maryland.

Other than the record showing that he was one of the troops from Maryland who fought in the French and Indian War, I have not been able to find any records for Zachariah Casteel before 1797, when he was living in Greene County, Tennessee. Since we know that the elder Zachariah Casteel of Greene County had once lived in Maryland, it is reasonable to suspect that he was the son of Edmond Casteel II.

Please note that some sources claim that Edmond II had another son by the name of *Meshach Casteel*. They point to evidence showing that this Meshach Casteel became the owner of *Edmond's Frolic Enlarged* after Edmond II's death. There is even documentary evidence showing that this Meshach Casteel was the son of an *Edmond Casteel*. But further research has led me to conclude that Meshach Casteel was actually the son of *Edmond Casteel III* and, therefore, the *grandson* of Edmond Casteel II. We will take a closer look at this Meshach Casteel in just a moment when we consider the family of Edmond Casteel III. But I feel confident that Edmond Casteel II did *not* have a son named Meshach.

So, Edmond Casteel II most likely did not have a daughter named *Dinah* or a son named *Meshach*. He probably *did* have a son named *Joseph* and *may* have had a son named *Peter*, but I can find no information about them. But he *definitely* had a son named *Edmond*, he *probably* had a son named *John*, and he *may* have had a son named *Zachariah*. So, we now need to look at each of these last three sons in turn. We will begin with ...

• **Edmond Casteel III***

born: *c.1715 in Prince George's County, Maryland* †

father: Edmond Casteel II

mother: Johanna "Hanna" UNKNOWN

occupation: tobacco planter

primary residence: Piscataway Parish, Prince George's County, Maryland

married: Rebecca UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

died: 1772 or 1773 in Prince George's County, Maryland

children (in the order in which they were named in his will):

- Shadrach Casteel
- Meshach Casteel
- **Abednego Casteel**
- **Francis Casteel**
- Lucy Casteel Athey
- Keziah Casteel Mitchell
- Susannah Casteel Searce
- Sarah Casteel Medly
- Cassandra Casteel Perkins (b. 8 January 1753)
- Charity Casteel

(* We have no evidence that this Edmond Casteel ever used the suffix *III* himself; we call him that just to distinguish him from all of the other Edmond Casteels.)

We suspect (though we can't be absolutely sure) that Edmond Casteel III lived his entire life in Prince George's County, Maryland. He is likely to have been born there, and he is known to have died there. We have no documentary evidence of him ever living anywhere else. This would suggest that he probably got married there as well. We learn from Edmond III's will and from his daughter Cassandra's

birth record that his wife's name was *Rebecca*, though we don't know her maiden name. It seems likely that Edmond and Rebecca's children were all born in Prince George's County, Maryland, though we can't be sure of this.

I have not been able to locate the birth records for any of Edmond and Rebecca's children other than their daughter *Cassandra*, who was born on 8 January 1753 in Prince George's County, Maryland. But based on Edmond's estimated age, we can be reasonably confident that none of his children were born before the 1730s. From the order in which their names are listed in Edmond's will, it would be easy to assume that, among his sons, Shadrach is the oldest, followed by Meshach, then Abednego, then Francis as the youngest; and among his daughters, Lucy would be the oldest, followed by Keziah, Susannah, Sarah, Cassandra, and then Charity as the youngest. Whether this assumption is justified, however, is an open question. I have seen some (unverified) sources which suggest that Lucy was the oldest child and that she was born around 1733. However, these sources neglect to inform us how they came up with this date, so we have no way to evaluate how reliable it is.

Edmond Casteel III appears to have spent his entire adult life as a tobacco planter, living on the *Casteel* plantation that his father built before he was even born. We have reason to believe that Meshach Casteel followed in his father's footsteps. He appears to have lived on the family's other plantation, *Edmond's Frolic Enlarged*, for the remainder of his life, eventually passing it on to his son, *Edmond Casteel*. (Yes, there is yet another *Edmond* in the Casteel family—I believe this is the fifth one we've encountered thus far, unless I've lost count. This *may* be the Edmond Casteel who can be found in the 1831 city directory for Washington, DC—which borders Prince George's County, Maryland, to the west—but we can't be sure.)

Meshach Casteel may have chosen to remain in Prince George's County and be a tobacco planter like his father and grandfather before him, but Edmond III's other three sons—Shadrach, Abednego, and Francis—would eventually leave Maryland and migrate west, across the Appalachian Mountains, to the new frontier that was just being opened for settlement. Shadrach would settle in western Pennsylvania, making his home in Bedford County, where he would apparently live for the rest of his life. Francis would also live in western Pennsylvania for a few years, before heading southwest to Greene County, North Carolina (which would later become part of East Tennessee), and would eventually settle in Knox County, Tennessee, where he would live out the remainder of his days. We do not know if Abednego ever lived in western Pennsylvania, but he does appear to have lived for a while in Virginia before joining his brother Francis in Knox County, Tennessee.

We have already seen a source that (assuming it is reliable) gives a fairly thorough genealogy of the descendants of Shadrach Casteel. But since none of them appears to have lived in East Tennessee in, around, or before 1817, we will not reexamine that genealogy here. Meshach Casteel and his wife Katherine are known to have had a son named *Edmond* and a daughter named *Rebecca*, but I have been able to find no other information about Meshach Casteel's descendants. If Meshach's son Edmond was the Edmond Casteel of Washington, DC, then we can trace some of his descendants, but we have no evidence that any of them lived in East Tennessee in, around, or before 1817. So, the only children of Edmond Casteel III we need be concerned with are Abednego and Francis.

But before we turn our attention to them, we first want to take a brief look at two of Edmond Casteel III's (*probable*) brothers, beginning with ...

• **John Casteel** (*John Casteel-A*) §

born: *before 1743* in Prince George's County, Maryland* §

father: *Edmond Casteel II* †

mother: *Johanna "Hanna" UNKNOWN* †

residence: *Washington/Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee), by 1783; then Blount County, Tennessee, by 1796* §

married: *Rebecca UNKNOWN* (date and place unknown)

died: *after 1796 and likely before 1800 in Blount County, Tennessee* §

children:

- *John Henry Casteel* § (or John Casteel, Jr. and Henry Casteel)

- *Edmond/Edward Casteel* §

- *possible unidentified son(s)* §

(* If he was the son of Edmond Casteel II and his wife Hanna, he must have been born before their deaths. Hanna is believed to have died around 1742, Edmond around 1744. Also, since John's son Henry was born in 1765, John could have been born no later than 1747 or so, no matter who his parents were.)

Everything we “know” about this *John Casteel* is highly speculative. First of all, we can’t be certain that Edmond Casteel II even had a son named John, though we have good reason to suspect that he did. Assuming that he did, we can’t be certain that this is the *John Casteel, Sr.* we find in Washington/Greene County, North Carolina (which would eventually become Greene County, Tennessee) beginning in 1783, and who would end up in Blount County by 1796 (*i.e.* the John Casteel who we have labeled *John Casteel-A*). It seems highly likely, though, that they are the same person. For one thing, there’s the age. In 1783, there are two John Casteels living in Washington/Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee): John Casteel, Sr. and John Casteel, Jr. Both are old enough to pay taxes. That would mean that John, Jr. could have been born no later than the 1760s. So, his father, John, Sr. could have been born no later than the 1740s. I have been able to find evidence of only one John Casteel in North America who was born in the 1740s or earlier, and that’s the John Casteel from Maryland who fought in the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and who had a son named Henry in Prince George’s County, Maryland, in 1765. And this is the John Casteel who we suspect to have been the son of Edmond Casteel II. This doesn’t prove anything, of course—it is only circumstantial evidence. But personally, I find it fairly persuasive.

Assuming that Edmond Casteel II really did have a son named John, and assuming that he was the John Casteel from Maryland who fought in the French and Indian War and was also the same John Casteel whose son Henry was baptized in Prince George’s County, Maryland, in 1765, and assuming that he was the John Casteel, Sr. who we later find in Greene County, North Carolina/Tennessee, tax lists and land records (*i.e.* *John Casteel-A*), what can we know for certain about this John Casteel based on documentary evidence? Well, for one thing, we can be confident that he lived in Prince George’s County, Maryland, at least for a time. While we may have reason to suspect that he was born there, we can’t prove it. We can also be highly confident that he was born no later than the 1740s, since his son Henry was born in 1765. One (unverified) source claims that he was born around 1722, which is certainly plausible; but this source offers no explanation for how it came up with this date, so we can’t know how reliable it is.

Another thing we can be confident of is that this John Casteel fought not only in the French and Indian War but also in the American Revolution. You may recall that John Casteel, Sr. of Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee), obtained a military bounty-land warrant as a reward for his service during the Revolutionary War. We have reason to believe that he was living in western Pennsylvania at the time of the Revolution, and that he served in the Washington County militia, just as his nephew, Francis Casteel, had done.

From his son's baptismal record, we can be confident that John's wife was named *Rebecca* (though her maiden name is not known) and that they had a son named *Henry* who was born in Maryland—most likely in Prince George's County—in 1765. We know from Washington/Greene County, North Carolina/Tennessee, tax lists that John Casteel, Sr. had a son named John Casteel, Jr., who had to have been born no later than the 1760s (since he was old enough to pay taxes in 1783). Were John, Jr. and Henry brothers? Perhaps. But I suspect that they might have been the same person: *John Henry Casteel*. I will explain why I suspect this in a moment, but let us set that aside for now, because it is extremely speculative—it is not something that we can be confident about at all.

What else *can* we be confident about, then? Assuming that the John Casteel who is in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1765—who we believe to be the son of Edmond Casteel II—is the John Casteel, Sr. whose name can be found on tax lists for Washington/Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee) in 1783, then we can be confident that he arrived, along with his son, John, Jr., in what is now East Tennessee no later than 1783, settling first in Greene County, where he lived until at least 1787, then moving to Blount County by no later than 1796. While there are records of a John Casteel in Blount County after 1796, we can't be sure if this is John Casteel, Sr. (*John Casteel-A*), or his son, John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*); so unfortunately we lose track of what happened to John Casteel, Sr. after 1796. In all likelihood, John Casteel, Sr. died in Blount County, Tennessee, though we can't be absolutely sure of this. We can be sure, however, that he died sometime after 1796.

Okay. That is pretty much all we can know with any degree of confidence about this John Casteel based on documentary evidence. Now we must enter the realm of speculation. I suspect, but can't prove, that this John Casteel died before 1800. Why? First, there's his age. We know that he was born no later than the 1740s, but we don't know exactly when. Let's assume, for a moment, that he was born in the early 1720s, as some (unverified) sources claim. That would mean that he would have been approaching 80 by 1800. Even if we assume that he was born in the 1740s—which is the latest he could have been born, given the fact that his son Henry was born in 1765—that would mean that he would have been approaching 60 by 1800. Life expectancy was lower in those days than it is today, mainly due to lack of access to the sort of basic medical care that you and I take for granted: vaccines, antibiotics, medications that help control blood pressure and other risk factors for heart attack or stroke, X-rays, EKGs, CPR, the Heimlich maneuver, modern-day surgical techniques (with the understanding that doctors actually need to wash their hands before they go into surgery), *etc.* I've lost track of how many

people I have encountered over the course of this research who died before the age of 60, and I'm always impressed whenever I come across records of someone who lived into their 70s or older—it is a rare find. So, based on his age alone, I would have at least some reason to suspect that this John Casteel, Sr. might have died by 1800. But do I have any other reasons for suspecting this?

Yes, I do have a couple of other reasons. First of all, while we do find records for a *John Casteel* in Blount County after 1796, none of them give his name as John Casteel, Sr., as his previous records had done. Nor, for that matter, do they give his name as John Casteel, Jr. This would seem to suggest that there was no longer any need to make a distinction between *Junior* and *Senior*. So, if this was, in fact, John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e. John Casteel-B*), then it seems likely that John Casteel, Sr. (*i.e. John Casteel-A*) had already died. Second, I have not been able to find the name *John Casteel* (either Sr. or Jr.) on the 1800 tax list for Blount County. It is possible that the list I looked at was incomplete, but since I did find an *Edward Casteel* on the list, I would have expected to find at least one *John Casteel* living nearby. There is a *John Casteel* on the 1801 tax list, but there is only one. This seems to indicate that there was only one John Casteel living in Blount County in 1801 who was old enough to be paying taxes. It seems more likely, at least to me, that this was John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e. John Casteel-B*), rather than John Casteel, Sr. (*i.e. John Casteel-A*). Does any of this *prove* that John Casteel, Sr. died before 1800? No, of course not. He may have moved to some other county, or he may have been omitted from the tax list for some reason. We can't be sure. But I feel that we are justified in speculating that he *might* have died before 1800.

Okay, while we are in a speculative mood, let us turn to what is undoubtedly the most important question of all about John Casteel, Sr.: *Who were his children?* To the best of my knowledge, John Casteel, Sr. did not leave a will—or if he did, it has not yet been found—so we do not have a single source that definitively lists the names of all of his children. Assuming that the John Casteel, Sr. who ended up in Blount County, Tennessee, by 1796 is the John Casteel who was in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1765, then we definitely know the name of one of his children: *Henry*. That was the name given on his baptismal record, which was dated 25 August 1765. (Please note that I have seen a photograph of the original document myself, so I can personally attest to its accuracy.) If this Henry Casteel was born in 1765, that means that he would have turned 18 years old in 1783. As you'll recall, we find a John Casteel, Sr. and a John Casteel, Jr. on tax lists from Washington/Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee), in 1783. It is unlikely that young Henry would have been living anywhere other than where his parents were living at the time, so he must also have been in Washington/Greene County

in 1783. Yet I have not been able to find any records of a *Henry Casteel* living in Greene County, Tennessee, at all. Nor can I find any records of a Henry Casteel anywhere in Tennessee before 1814 (and we have reason to believe that the Henry Casteel who served in the East Tennessee militia in 1814 and 1815 is not the same Henry Casteel who was born in Maryland in 1765). So where was he? He could have died, of course—we can't rule out that possibility. But I suspect that he was alive and well and living in Tennessee. I just suspect that he was not going by the name *Henry* at the time—at least not on official documents. I can't prove it with documentary evidence, but I strongly suspect that this Henry Casteel's full name was actually *John Henry Casteel*, and that he signed his name *John Casteel, Jr.* on official documents (at least until his father's death, when he dropped the *Jr.*). In other words, I suspect that the John Casteel, Jr. we find on those 1783 tax lists from Washington/Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee) was, in fact, the Henry Casteel who was baptized in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1765.

But what makes me suspect this? For one thing, I can find no birth or baptismal record for a *John Casteel*, son of *John* and *Rebecca Casteel*, in the same church registry book where we find the baptismal record for *Henry Casteel*, son of *John* and *Rebecca Casteel*. Of course, that doesn't prove anything—John, Jr. might have been baptized at a different church from his brother Henry; his parents may have even been living in a different county at the time. But the absence of a birth or baptismal record for John, when we do have a baptismal record for Henry, has to be viewed as one piece of evidence in favor of the notion that John and Henry were the same person. But is there any other evidence?

Recall that we have reason to suspect that John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* *John Casteel-B*), was the elder of the two John Casteels in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in the 1830 census. We know from his census record that the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County was born in the 1760s, just as the Henry Casteel of Prince George's County, Maryland, was. We also know for a fact that the oldest son of this John Casteel was named *Henry*. (You'll recall that he was the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, who is believed to be the same Henry Casteel who served in the East Tennessee Militia in 1814 and 1815.) Some (unverified) sources claim that this John Casteel and his son Henry were named *John Henry Casteel, Sr.* and *John Henry Casteel, Jr.* Since these sources don't cite any documentary evidence in support of this claim, we can't be sure of their reliability, but I find it plausible, at least, that the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, and his son, Henry, of Wayne County, Tennessee, might both have been named *John Henry Casteel*. Does this prove anything? Of course not. But it does justify our suspicion that John, Jr. and Henry might have been the same person.

Of course, it is entirely possible that our suspicion that John, Jr. and Henry were the same person is flat-out wrong. Perhaps John Casteel, Sr. and his wife Rebecca really did have two sons, one named *John, Jr.* and the other named *Henry*. That would make John, Jr. and Henry brothers. It is certainly possible. But if it were true, we would have to ask why we can find no trace of this Henry Casteel in any records from either Tennessee or Arkansas.

Okay, so we know that John Casteel, Sr. had at least one son. We have reason to suspect that he was named *John Henry Casteel*. (If we are wrong, then it would appear that John Casteel, Sr. had at least *two* sons: *John Casteel, Jr.* and *Henry Casteel*.) But did he have any other children? I suspect that he did, but I have no documentary evidence to prove it. I think I can make a decent case, based entirely on circumstantial evidence, that he had at least one other son. But I won't be able to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt.

We know from documentary evidence that, by 1796, John Casteel, Sr. was living in Blount County, Tennessee, where I suspect he eventually died (probably before 1800—though we can't be sure of this). Over the next couple of decades, we find documentary evidence of a number of Casteels living in Blount County. There is a *John Casteel*, who I suspect to be *John Casteel, Jr.* (i.e. *John Henry Casteel*). But there is also an *Edward Casteel* and a *Joseph Casteel* who can be found in various tax and land records. (One tax list even shows a *David Casteel* and what appears to be a *Jesse Casteel*—though the handwriting is so bad that we can't be sure of that name. Let us set these two aside for now so we can focus on Edward and Joseph Casteel, whose names can be found in multiple Blount County tax and records.) We have already concluded that the *Edward Casteel* who can be found in these Blount County records has to be the same person as the *Edmond Casteel* who we find in McMinn County in the 1830 census. We have also concluded that the *Joseph Casteel* who can be found in Blount County records is very likely the same *Joseph Casteel* who we find in Clay County, Missouri, in the 1830 census, and in neighboring Clinton County in the 1840 census. So, fortunately for us, we know quite a bit about these two men. We know, for example, that Edmond was born in the 1760s and that Joseph was born in the 1780s. This makes it unlikely (though not impossible) that they were brothers. Assuming that they were related at all, it is far more likely that they were father and son, or else uncle and nephew. But we know that they can't be father and son, because we know the names of all of Edmond's children from his death records, and Joseph is not one of them. So, if they were, in fact, closely related, then it seems likely that they were uncle and nephew. So, Joseph's father and Edmond may very well have been brothers. But who might their father have been? Here's a clue: We know from census records

that Joseph Casteel was born in *Pennsylvania*. Do we know of any Casteels who were living in Pennsylvania in the 1780s? Yes we do! There is Shadrach Casteel, of course—but we are pretty sure that none of his children or grandchildren ever settled in Tennessee. But Shadrach wasn't the only Casteel living in Pennsylvania at the time. There was also his youngest brother, Francis, who is known to have been living in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in the early 1780s, and Francis did settle in Tennessee. But Francis Casteel left a will naming all of his children, and Joseph wasn't among them, and Joseph was far too old to have been Francis's grandson. So that rules him out. But Shadrach and Francis Casteel had an uncle, John Casteel, Sr., who also lived in Pennsylvania for a few years before migrating to Tennessee, and we know that he was there in the early 1780s. If John Casteel, Sr. was born in the 1720s, he is unlikely to have been Joseph Casteel's father, but he might have been his grandfather. However, if he was born in the 1740s, then he could very well have been Joseph's father. We can't know for sure, but it does seem likely that Joseph Casteel is closely related to John Casteel, Sr. in some way.

But what about *Edmond/Edward Casteel*? Here we have very little evidence to go on at all, but two big pieces of circumstantial evidence convince me that he had to have been closely related to John Casteel, Sr. in some way. First of all, he was living in Blount County, Tennessee, at the same time as John Casteel, Jr.; second, it appears that his son Willis migrated to St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, along with the family of John Casteel, Jr. Keep in mind that there weren't all that many Casteel families in East Tennessee in those days, so when we find a group of Casteels living in the same county, then migrating together for hundreds of miles and settling in the same location, that's a pretty good sign that they are probably all members of the same extended family.

So, I strongly suspect that this Edmond/Edward Casteel was another son of John Casteel, Sr., which would make him the brother of John (Henry) Casteel, Jr. We believe that John Casteel, Sr. was the son of Edmond Casteel II, so it would make sense that he might name one of his sons after his father. Once again, we have no proof. But based on the circumstantial evidence that we do have—flimsy though it may be—I am willing to take a leap of faith and count Edmond/Edward among the children of John Casteel, Jr.

We are fortunate that we know the names of all of Edmond's children—at least all who were still living at the time of his death—from his death records. This means that any Casteels we find in Blount County, Tennessee, or in St. Francis County, Arkansas, who are not the children or the grandchildren of Edmond Casteel, must be the children or the grandchildren of John (Henry) Casteel, Jr. Or must they?

Is it certainly possible that John Casteel, Sr. and his wife Rebecca had more than two sons. As we noted earlier, we still can't rule out the possibility that John, Jr. and Henry were two separate people. But assuming that John Henry Casteel was just one person, it is still possible that he and Edmond/Edward were not the only sons of John Casteel, Sr. I can find no documentary evidence suggesting that John Casteel, Sr. had another son, but that doesn't mean that he didn't. But why do I suspect that he might have? Because unless he did, we've got a big puzzle on our hands that I'm not sure how to solve: Who was the father of the younger of the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas?

Recall that we found two John Casteels in the 1830 census for St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory. The elder of the two was born in the 1760s, and the younger was born in the 1780s. At first, we suspected that John Casteel, the younger, may have been the son of John Casteel, the elder. But then we came across a couple of pieces of information that made us rethink our original suspicion. First, there was the fact that, according to some (unverified) sources, the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee—who is known to be the son of the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas—was actually named *John Henry Casteel, Jr.* If this is true, then it seems highly unlikely that John Casteel, the elder, would name two of his sons *John*. Second, after the elder John Casteel's death, the administrators of his estate sent out a notice to concerned parties, informing them of their plans for having the estate probated. But the younger John Casteel was not one of the concerned parties mentioned by name in that notice. But, then again, neither was the elder John Casteel's widow, Jemima, who clearly must have been a concerned party in the disposition of her late husband's estate. Perhaps the notice was never meant to include the names of all of the elder John Casteel's heirs. Perhaps it was addressed only to those who were living outside of St. Francis County, or to those who the administrators of the estate were unable to contact in person. We simply don't know. It is entirely possible that John Casteel, the younger, was indeed the son of John Casteel, the elder. But we clearly have reason to doubt that he was.

What we can know for certain is that he was not the son of Edmond Casteel—he is not named in any of Edmond's death records. But if neither John nor Edmond was his father, then who was? If John, Jr. and Henry were two different people, we might have our answer; but since we have reason to suspect that they were the same person, that gives us reason to suspect that John (Henry), Jr. and Edmond might have had another brother who was the father of the younger John Casteel. This is all speculation, and there is very little evidence to support it, but there is at least a chance that John Casteel, Sr. and his wife Rebecca had a third son, who we have not been able to identify.

So, there are three possibilities, and unless we are able to uncover some additional information, we won't be able to determine which of them is correct. These three possibilities are:

- (1)
 - John Casteel, Sr. (*i.e. John Casteel-A*)
(+ Rebecca)
 - John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e. John Casteel-B*)
 - (*John?*) Henry Casteel (of Wayne County)
 - Henry Casteel
 - John Casteel (the younger of St. Francis)
 - Edmond/Edward Casteel

- (2)
 - John Casteel, Sr. (*i.e. John Casteel-A*)
(+ Rebecca)
 - John Henry Casteel, Sr. (*i.e. John Casteel-B*)
 - John Henry Casteel, Jr. (of Wayne County)
 - Edmond/Edward Casteel
 - *UNKNOWN Casteel*
 - John Casteel (the younger of St. Francis)

- (3)
 - John Casteel, Sr. (*i.e. John Casteel-A*)
(+ Rebecca)
 - John Henry Casteel (*i.e. John Casteel-B*)
 - Henry Casteel (of Wayne County)
 - John Casteel (the younger of St. Francis)
 - Edmond/Edward Casteel

Any one of these three options is possible, and we have no way of knowing which is correct. So that's pretty much all there is to be said on the subject for now. We will come back to it a bit later, though, when we discuss the three Casteel "clans" of East Tennessee. But for now, let's take our leave of John Casteel, Sr. and turn our attention to his (*younger?*) brother ...

• **Zachariah Casteel**

born: *before 1743** in *Prince George's County, Maryland* §

father: *Edmond Casteel II* †

mother: *Johanna "Hanna" UNKNOWN* †

primary residence: *Greene County, Tennessee*

arrival there: *by 1786*

married: *Elizabeth UNKNOWN* (date and place unknown)

died: *by 1825*, in *Greene County, Tennessee*

children (in the order in which they were named in his will):

- *John Casteel*
- *Peter Casteel*
- *Edward Casteel*
- *Daniel Casteel*
- *Jeremiah Casteel*
- *Rachel Casteel Malone*
- *Nancy (or Naomi) Casteel Acres (or Aires, or Ayres)***
- *Margery Casteel Malone*
- *Ruth Casteel Brown*
- *Mary Casteel*
- *Margaret Casteel Malone*

(* One unverified source gives his year of birth as 1751, but that is not possible if he was the son of Edmond Casteel II and his wife Johanna, who are believed to have died around 1744 and 1742, respectively. Also, we believe that Zachariah Casteel fought in the French and Indian War. If he was born as late as 1751, he would have been only 12 years old when that war ended.)

(** Her name varies quite a bit from source to source. But in Zachariah's will, it is given as *Nancy Acres*.)

We can't be certain that Zachariah Casteel was the son of Edmond Casteel II. He might have been the son of Edmond's brother, Samuel. However, since we know nothing at all about Samuel Casteel (we don't even know for certain if he used the last name *Casteel*—he may have gone by the name *DuCastel*, or some variant of it, instead), it would be pure speculation to suggest that Zachariah was his son. As mentioned earlier, we have no evidence that Samuel Casteel/DuChastel ever lived in Maryland as his brother Edmond did. Yet we know that Zachariah Casteel did live in Maryland, because he was listed among the names of troops from Maryland who fought in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). This doesn't rule out the possibility that he was Samuel's son (or grandson), but it does make it marginally more likely that he was Edmond II's son (or grandson).

Assuming, then, that Zachariah Casteel was Edmond Casteel II's son or grandson, then which was he—son or grandson? There are arguments to be made for either. If Zachariah was old enough to fight in the French and Indian War, then he could have been born no later than the mid-1740s—and it's likely that he was born even earlier. So, we can be confident that he was old enough to have been Edmond and Hanna's son. But since Edmond and Hanna's oldest son, Edmond Casteel III, was born around 1715 or so, that would mean that he would have been old enough to have children of his own by the mid 1730s. Of course, we know that Edmond III was not Zachariah's father, because Zachariah is not named in Edmond III's will. But we suspect (though we cannot prove) that Edmond III had a younger brother named *Joseph*. We know virtually nothing about this Joseph Casteel, except for the fact that his name appears in a legal document from Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1745. This document proves that Joseph must have been of legal age by 1745, which would imply that he was old enough to have children of his own by then. So, could Zachariah Casteel have been Joseph's son—which would make him Edmond II's grandson? We can't rule out the possibility.

Neither can we rule out the possibility that John Casteel, Sr. was Joseph Casteel's son. Nor can we rule out the possibility that John and Zachariah Casteel were the sons of Peter Casteel—another suspected brother of Edmond Casteel III. For that matter, we can't rule out the possibility that Peter Casteel might have been Joseph Casteel's son. Without additional information, we have no way of ruling out any of these possibilities.

However, I am a firm believer in *Occam's Razor*—the principle that, when there are two or more possible explanations for something, and all of them seem equally plausible given the available evidence, you should prefer the one that requires you to make the fewest unproven suppositions. Contrary to popular belief, Occam's

Razor does *not* imply that the simplest explanation is always right, or even that it is *usually* right. What it *does* suggest, though, is that if you are not able to figure out which explanation is most likely to be correct based on the available evidence, then you are more *justified* in choosing the explanation that requires you to take the fewest steps beyond the point where the available evidence leads you, because once you have stepped off of the firm foundation provided by hard evidence, each additional step you take puts you on shakier and shakier ground. If the evidence clearly favors one explanation over the others, choose the explanation favored by the evidence. But if the evidence allows for more than one possible explanation, choose the one that requires you to connect the fewest dots—the one that forces you to take the fewest leaps of faith. This will not guarantee that you will choose the right explanation—not even *most* of the time—but it will often prevent you from making a fool of yourself by constructing some elaborate “Rube Goldberg” explanation when a much simpler one would work just as well, if not better.

So, what does Occam’s Razor have to tell us about Zachariah Casteel’s parentage? Since we have reason to believe that Zachariah was either the son or the grandson of Edmond Casteel II, the evidence we have would seem to support any one of the following four scenarios:

- (1) Zachariah Casteel was the son of Edmond Casteel II (*unproven*)
- (2) Joseph Casteel was the son of Edmond Casteel II (*unproven*);
he was old enough to be Zachariah Casteel’s father (*unproven*);
and he was, in fact, Zachariah Casteel’s father (*unproven*)
- (3) Peter Casteel was the son of Edmond Casteel II (*unproven*);
he was old enough to be Zachariah Casteel’s father (*unproven*);
and he was, in fact, Zachariah Casteel’s father (*unproven*)
- (4) John Casteel was the son of Edmond Casteel II (*unproven*);
he was old enough to be Zachariah Casteel’s father (*unproven*);
and he was, in fact, Zachariah Casteel’s father (*unproven*)

Which of these four equally plausible scenarios would Occam’s Razor suggest we favor? The one with the fewest unproven claims, of course; and that is clearly the first scenario. Does that make it true? *No, of course not.* Any one of these four scenarios might be true—and we’ve got to be careful never to forget that. But it does mean that we have more *justification* for accepting the first scenario than we have for any of the other three, because it requires fewer leaps of faith.

The same logic can be applied in the cases of Peter and John Casteel. We suspect that both of them were the sons of Edmond Casteel II, but we can't rule out the possibility that either or both of them may have been the son of Joseph Casteel, or that John was the son of Peter Casteel, or even that Peter was the son of John. But Occam's Razor would suggest that we work under the assumption that both Peter and John were the sons of Edmond II unless and until we come across some new information that would call that assumption into question.

So that's what I have done here. I have chosen to work under the assumption that Joseph, Peter, John, and Zachariah Casteel were all sons of Edmond Casteel II. If I come across some new information that would cast that assumption into doubt, I will have to revise it. But until then, I will use that as my working assumption.

Setting aside the issue of his parentage, what do we know about Zachariah Casteel based on documentary evidence? First, we know that he fought in the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and that he was living in Maryland at that time. Second, we know he was living in Pennsylvania around 1770, because his oldest son, John (*i.e. John Casteel-C*) was born somewhere in Pennsylvania around 1770. Third, we know that he fought in the American Revolution—probably while he was still living in Pennsylvania.

Fourth, we know that he and his family were in Greene County, North Carolina (Tennessee), by 1786. This is where they would put down roots, and descendants of Zachariah Casteel can still be found living in Greene County, Tennessee, today. It appears that Zachariah might have left the county for a few brief periods, since I can't find his name on the 1793, 1805, or 1813 tax lists; but we can definitely find him there in 1786, 1789, 1797, 1798, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1814, 1815, 1816, and 1821. We also know that he died in Greene County by 1825 at the latest.

We also know that Zachariah Casteel was married to a woman named *Elizabeth*, though we don't know her maiden name. Unfortunately, we don't know if this was his only wife or if he had been married before. Most importantly of all, we know the names of all of his children, because he left a will that named them all.

His oldest son was John Casteel (*i.e. John Casteel-C*), who was born somewhere in Pennsylvania around 1770. I suspect (but am not able to prove) that Zachariah was living in western Pennsylvania at the time, probably not far from his brother, John, and his nephews, Shadrach and Francis. Zachariah's other sons were Peter, Edward, Daniel, and Jeremiah. We know from census records that Jeremiah was born in (what would later become) Tennessee in 1786.

Zachariah Casteel also had several daughters: Rachel, Nancy (or *Naomi*—sources vary; however, Zachariah’s will gives her name as *Nancy*), Margery, Ruth, Mary, and Margaret. We will discuss all of Zachariah Casteel’s children in more detail in just a moment when we talk about the three Casteel “clans” of East Tennessee.

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Okay, that pretty much does it for the earliest Casteel families in America—from Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval to his grandchildren—up to the point where the first Casteels settled in East Tennessee. Now let us move on and take a look at the three (or four) Casteel “clans” of East Tennessee—the Greene County Casteel clan, the Knox County Casteel clan, and the Blount County Casteel clan, with its two sub-clans, one of which migrated to Arkansas and the other of which scattered to the four winds—and see if we can figure out which Casteels belong to which clan. We will begin with ...

The Greene County Casteel Clan

We have reason to believe that all of the Casteels who put down roots in Greene County were descendants of Zachariah Casteel. (Other Casteels passed through Greene County, of course, and may have lived there for a while, but all of them ended up settling elsewhere.) So, Zachariah Casteel is the patriarch of the Greene County Casteel clan, and all of his descendants—wherever they might have ended up—can be counted as members of this clan. Let us see if we can figure out who those descendants were.

We have already identified all of Zachariah Casteel’s children. (It is fortunate that he left a will that has survived.) His sons were John, Peter, Edward, Daniel, and Jeremiah. His daughters were Rachel, Nancy (or Naomi), Margery, Ruth, Mary, and Margaret. You will notice that *Eli Casteel* is not listed. Recall that we came across a dubious source which claimed that the Eli Casteel who was living in Pope County, Illinois, in 1830, and who had relocated to Benton County, Tennessee, by 1840—where he appears to have died sometime before 1850—was the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel. Not only that, this source claims that Eli lived with his parents for ten days before his death. However, we know that Zachariah

Casteel died by 1825, which was a couple of decades before Eli Casteel died. This Eli Casteel remains a complete mystery. If he was not one of Zachariah Casteel's sons—and we have every reason to believe that he was *not*—then whose son was he, and why did a source claim that Eli Casteel mentioned his parents, Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel, in his will? Could there have been another Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel who were alive in the 1840s and who were the right age to have been Eli's parents? According to his census records, Eli was born in the 1780s, so his parents must have been born no later than the 1760s, and probably no earlier than the 1740s—or maybe the 1730s, but that would be a stretch. So, do we find a Zachariah Casteel in the 1840 census who falls into that age range? No—at least none that I could find. There is a *Zachariah Cassell* in Virginia and a *Z Cassell* in Kentucky, both of whom were born in the 1770s, but that's the closest I could find. So, I'm afraid the mystery of Eli Casteel remains unsolved, at least for now.

Let us turn our attention, now, to the actual children of Zachariah Casteel:

- John Casteel (b. 1770 in Pennsylvania)
- Peter Casteel (b. 1770s)
- Edward Casteel (b. 1770s)
- Daniel Casteel (b. 1780s)
- Jeremiah Casteel (b. 1786 in “Tennessee”—North Carolina at the time)
- Rachel Casteel Malone
(+ Zachariah Malone, m. 1798 in Greene County)
- Nancy (or Naomi) Casteel Acres (or Aires, or Ayres)
(+ Abner Aires, or Ayres, or Acres; m. 1797 in Greene County)
- Margery Casteel Malone
(+ John Malone; m. 1800 in Greene County)
- Ruth Casteel Brown
(+ Hezekiah Brown; m. 1806 in Jefferson County)
- Mary Casteel
[We don't know who her husband was or if she even married at all.]
- Margaret Casteel Malone
(+ Edward Malone; m. 1821 in Washington County)

We will cover Zachariah's sons in greater detail in a moment, but before we do, I want to say just a few words about his daughters. Zachariah's will lists the names of all of his children (or at least all of them who were still living in 1811 when he made his will), so we know who his daughters were, and we can easily match their names to the marriage records we found earlier, which allows us to identify their husbands and to determine when and where they got married. With the exception of *Mary*, whose marriage record has not yet been positively identified, we can say with certainty that all of Zachariah's daughters were married in Tennessee, either in Greene County itself or else in neighboring Washington or Jefferson Counties. Three of the six daughters—*Rachel*, *Margery*, and *Margaret*—married *Malones*. However, *Margaret* got married about a decade after Zachariah made his will, so she is listed simply as *Margaret Casteel* in his will. We have to look at marriage records to determine her married name. It is unclear whether *Mary Casteel* ever got married or, if so, to whom. She was still single in 1811 when her father made his will, and I have been able to find no marriage record for her. As for the other two daughters of Zachariah Casteel, *Ruth* married *Hezekiah Brown*, while *Nancy* (or *Naomi*—which is the name on her marriage record) married *Abner Aires* (as the name appears to be written on his marriage record) or possibly *Ayres* (as you will find it spelled in a few sources), or perhaps even *Acres* (as the name is written in Zachariah Casteel's will). Though the various forms and spellings of the name can get a bit confusing, I think it's fairly clear that the *Nancy Acres* who is named in Zachariah Casteel's will has to be the *Naomi Casteel* who we find in a Greene County marriage record from 1797 marrying an *Abner Aires*.

Okay, now let's move on to Zachariah Casteel's five sons, examining each of them in turn, from eldest to youngest. We will begin, of course, with ...

- **John Casteel** (*i.e. John Casteel-C*)

born: 1770 in Pennsylvania

father: Zachariah Casteel

mother: Elizabeth UNKNOWN

primary residence: Greene County, Tennessee

arrival there: perhaps by 1786 (with his parents), perhaps later

married: Jemima UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

died: between 1850 and 1860, in Greene County, Tennessee

(continued on next page ...)

(... *John Casteel, continued*)

children:

- *James John Casteel* (b. 1790 in Virginia) †
(+ Elizabeth UNKNOWN; date and place unknown)
- *Jemima “Mimey” Casteel Key* (b. c.1795) †
(+ David Key, Jr.; m. 1829 in Greene County)
- *Zachariah Casteel (the younger, b. c.1795)* †
(+ Rebecca Hartley; m. 1818 in Greene County)
- *Amy Casteel Malone* (b. c.1805) †
(+ Solomon Malone; m. 1820 in Greene County)
- *Sarah “Sally” Casteel Dyke* (b. c.1805) †
(+ UNKNOWN Dyke; date and place unknown)
- *Andrew “Andy” Casteel* (b. c.1810)
(+ Nancy UNKNOWN; date and place unknown)

We will look at John Casteel’s sons in a moment, but first I want to say just a few brief words about his daughters. We have no proof that *Jemima*, *Amy*, or *Sarah* (“*Sally*”) were John Casteel’s daughters, but we have good reasons to suspect that they were. You may recall that we saw a *Sally Dyke* living with the John Casteel family in the 1850 census, so that’s one piece of evidence that connects her to him, though it doesn’t prove that she was his daughter. I can’t even prove that she was a Casteel, since I haven’t yet been able to find any record of a marriage between a *Sarah* or a *Sally Casteel* and anyone named *Dyke* (or any variant spelling of that name). Fortunately, we do have marriage records for both *Jemima* and *Amy*, so we know for certain that they were Casteels, but that doesn’t mean that they were the daughters of John Casteel. In fact, as you may recall, we had reason to suspect that *Jemima* was the daughter of *Jeremiah Casteel*, since he served as surety on her marriage bond. But I think we can eliminate *Jeremiah Casteel* as *Jemima*’s father, because he would have been too young to have a daughter her age. (In fact, if we are to believe the information posted on her *Find-A-Grave* page, she was actually older than he was. However, I suspect that her *Find-A-Grave* page is wrong. If she really was born in 1781, as it says there, she would have been too old to have been John Casteel’s daughter; yet we know that she was not *Zachariah Casteel*’s daughter—so who could have been her father? The most plausible answer is that John Casteel was her father, but that the year of birth that is posted on her *Find-*

A-Grave page is wrong.) We did find one (unverified) source which claimed that Amy, Jemima, and Sally were John Casteel's daughters; though, I have to wonder how reliable that source is, since it also claimed that *Rebecca Casteel Kellier*, wife of *Samuel Kellier*, was John Casteel's daughter—however, marriage records show that Rebecca Kellier's maiden name was *Carter*, not *Casteel*. Nonetheless, in the absence of any evidence that would suggest that Jemima, Amy, or Sally could *not* have been John Casteel's daughters, we will assume, for now, that they were.

Turning now to John Casteel's sons, we can be fairly certain that *Andrew Casteel* (whose name is given as *Andy* in some sources) was his son, since the 1850 census shows them living in the same household. Unfortunately, we cannot be so certain about either *James John Casteel* or *Zachariah Casteel* (the younger). We don't have any hard evidence that would link either of them to John Casteel. However, I have long suspected that the younger Zachariah Casteel might be John Casteel's son. For one thing, there's his name, which suggests that he is likely to be either the son or the grandson (or possibly the nephew) of the elder Zachariah Casteel. Since we know from the elder Zachariah's will that he did not have a son named Zachariah (and since we have seen no evidence that any of his nephews were living in Greene County), that suggests that the younger Zachariah was most likely the elder Zachariah's grandson. But who was his father? Given his age, we can rule out Jeremiah, who would have been too young to have a son as old as Zachariah. We can probably also rule out Daniel for the same reason. That just leaves John, Peter, and Edward. But Peter and Edward left wills naming all of their children, and Zachariah wasn't among them. So, that just leaves John Casteel as the most likely candidate for the younger Zachariah Casteel's father.

The case for James John Casteel being John Casteel's son is much weaker. (Recall that this *James John Casteel* is the *John Casteel* who eventually ends up settling in Bedford County, Tennessee.) I have not found a shred of reliable documentary evidence that would even suggest that the (James) John Casteel of Bedford County might possibly have been the son of the John Casteel of Greene County. All I've got to go on is a single, unverified, highly speculative genealogy (which I know to contain a number of errors), which claims that James John Casteel—the one who settled in Bedford County—was the oldest son of John Casteel of Greene County. So, the question is: how much faith ought we to put in this one, unverified, highly speculative source?

We have discussed Occam's Razor and how it can help us choose between two or more competing explanations for something; now we need to discuss another tool that can help us when we're trying to make a difficult decision: *Bayes' Theorem*.

Put simply (perhaps overly simply), Bayes' Theorem states that, whenever you're trying to decide between two competing explanations, you must consider all of the available evidence for and against each option, no matter how strong or how weak it may be, and carefully weigh it in the balance, then see which way the scales tip, and choose whichever alternative has the weightier evidence in its favor. Imagine that you have a set of balance scales—the old-fashioned type, where two pans are suspended by chains from a balance beam, like Lady Justice carries—and imagine that they start off perfectly balanced. Now imagine that you are trying to decide between two competing theories: *A* and *B*. Suppose you were able to gather all of the evidence for and against each of those theories, and that each piece of evidence gets weighted according to how strong it is, so that the stronger the evidence, the more it weighs. Now, imagine that you could put all of the evidence *for* theory *A* and *against* theory *B* in one pan, and all of the evidence *against* theory *A* and *for* theory *B* in the other. Then you watch carefully and see which way the scales tip. If the weight of the evidence tips the scale—even slightly—in favor of theory *A*, then that's the theory you should embrace. Likewise, if the scales tip—even just a little bit—in the direction of theory *B*, then that's the theory you should support. (Of course, every time a new piece of evidence comes your way, you will need to reweigh all of the evidence you have, just to make sure that the scales don't tip in the other direction.) In the event that, after weighing all of the available evidence both for and against the two theories, the scales remain perfectly balanced between the two, then you will not be able to choose between them using Bayes' Theorem, and you will have to resort to Occam's Razor to help you make your choice. But if the scales tip even slightly in favor of one theory over the other, then that is the theory you should favor, according to Bayes' Theorem.

When you have no evidence at all, the scales will remain in perfect balance. So, if you manage to find even a single scrap of evidence—no matter how weak it might be—it will almost certainly tip the scales in one direction or the other. When this happens, you may be reluctant to make your choice based on such weak evidence, and you will certainly wish that you had weightier evidence to go on; nonetheless, Bayes' Theorem would still advise you to place your bet on whichever option the scales seem to favor. It's no guarantee that you'll make the right choice, of course; but it does at least give you *slightly* better odds of being right.

We have been using Bayes' Theorem throughout this research, albeit implicitly, to help us draw conclusions about various things based on the weight of the available evidence. Now we need to use it explicitly in order to figure out what to make of the single, unverified, error-filled, and perhaps entirely speculative source we have which claims that John Casteel of Greene County was the father of (James) John

Casteel of Bedford County. Clearly, this source cannot be seen as strong evidence in favor of the claim. But Bayes' Theorem says that we can't simply discard it. It must be put on the scale and weighed, along with any other evidence we can find about (James) John Casteel's parentage. Such a questionable source can't be given much weight, but it still has to go on the balance—we can't ignore it just because we wish we had stronger evidence to go on. But since we have no other evidence at all about who (James) John Casteel's parents might have been, even this flimsy piece of highly questionable evidence is enough to tip the scales ever-so-slightly in favor of the claim that (James) John Casteel of Bedford County was the oldest son of John Casteel of Greene County. So, Bayes' Theorem would advise us to work under the assumption that this claim is true unless and until we find new evidence that would call it into question. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

So, working under the assumption that *James John Casteel* (i.e. the John Casteel of Bedford County), *Zachariah Casteel* (the younger—i.e. the Zachariah Casteel of Roane and Hamilton Counties), and *Andrew “Andy” Casteel* were all sons of John Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel (the elder), of Greene County, what do we know about each of them and their respective families? Let's begin with ...

- **(James) John Casteel †**

born: 1790 in Virginia

father: *John Casteel* (son of *Zachariah Casteel*) of *Greene County* †

mother: *Jemima UNKNOWN* †

primary residence: Bedford County, Tennessee

arrival there: by 1825 at the latest—though perhaps much earlier

previous residence: *Greene County, Tennessee* †

military service: *Davis's Battalion of the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War* †

married: Elizabeth UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

wife born: 1798 in Tennessee

wife died: 1850 in Bedford County, Tennessee

died: 1858, in Bedford County, Tennessee

(continued on next page ...)

(... *James John Casteel, continued*)

children:

- Blackstone Casteel (b. 1810, Tennessee)
 (+ Elizabeth UNKNOWN—first wife)
 (+ Emily UNKNOWN—second wife)
- William Casteel (b. 1815, *Bedford County*, Tennessee)
 (+ *Elizabeth Burdett*—first wife) †
 (+ Sarah “Sally” *Womack*—second wife) †
- *Jemima Casteel Burrow* (b. 1815, *Bedford County*, Tennessee) †
 (+ Banks A. Burrow)
- Patience Casteel* (*b. c.1816*) †
- Parthenia Casteel (b. 1817, Tennessee)
 [never married]
- Abraham “Abram” Casteel (b. c.1818, Tennessee)
 (+ *Mahaley Burdett*) †
- Mary Casteel (b. c.1819)
 [We don’t know who her husband was or if she even married at all.]
- Sarah “Sallie” Casteel (b. 1828, Tennessee)
 [never married]
- James Preston Casteel (b. c.1830)
 (+ Elizabeth Bruton—*first wife*)
 (+ *Hannah Low Reed*—*second wife*) †
- Nancy Casteel (b. c.1832)
 [We don’t know who her husband was or if she even married at all.]
- Andrew Casteel (b. 1840, Tennessee)
 [He may have died in childhood; he is not named in his father’s will,
 and I can find no trace of him in census records after 1850.]

(* I suspect that this *Patience Casteel* may actually be the same person as *Jemima Casteel*—*Patience Jemima Casteel Burrow*. The name *Jemima* is not found in her father’s will, even though she outlived him; whereas the name *Patience* does appear there, even though her name cannot be found in census records.)

Assuming that the *John Casteel* of Bedford County was, in fact, the son of *John Casteel* of Greene County, we do know several things about him and his family. For example, we know from census records that he was born in Virginia in 1790. (A few sources claim that he was born in Tennessee, but the majority of our most reliable sources—including his own 1850 census record as well as the 1880 census records of some of his children—report that he was born in Virginia.) We know that he went by the name *John* (though at least one unverified source claims that his full name was *James John Casteel*). We also know that his wife's name was *Elizabeth* (though we don't know her maiden name). According to her record in the mortality schedule of the 1850 census, she was born in Tennessee in 1798, and she died in 1850. (Assuming that her reported year of birth is correct, she would have been only 12 years old when John Casteel's first son was born—assuming, of course, that *his* reported year of birth is also correct. This suggests that she might not have been John Casteel's first wife; however, without additional information, we can't be sure.) I've had no luck tracking down a marriage record for John and Elizabeth. (Of course, there is a record of a marriage between a *John Casteel* and a *Janey Lane* in Roane County in 1809. While I suspect that this was a different John Casteel, I can't prove it. If this were the John Casteel who ended up settling in Bedford County, then either Janey was his first wife and the mother of at least his oldest son, while Elizabeth was his second wife and the mother of his younger children, or else Janey and Elizabeth were the same person: *Elizabeth Jane Lane Casteel*. However, I still suspect that this was a different John Casteel. Without additional information, we just can't be sure.)

We know that John Casteel had settled in Bedford County by no later than 1825, because he bought land there in that year. It is likely that he actually settled there much earlier—perhaps a decade or more earlier. While we don't find his name on either the 1812 or the 1814 tax lists for Bedford County, it is possible that he was omitted from one or both of these lists because he was serving in the militia at the time, during the War of 1812/Creek War. (While we can't really be sure that he was the same John Casteel who served in Davis's Battalion of the West Tennessee Militia, he does appear to be the most likely candidate.) But, it's also possible that he didn't settle in Bedford County until after the war. According to an unverified source, John Casteel's second oldest son, William, was born in Bedford County in 1815. And since we do have a trustworthy source that names John Casteel among the earliest settlers of Bedford County, it is reasonable to believe that he may have arrived there as early as 1815, if not earlier. In any case, we can be certain that he was in Bedford County by 1825 at the very latest. And it also seems fairly certain that all of the Casteels we have come across in Bedford County (after the family of Henry Casteel moved to Wayne County, at least) were his descendants.

John Casteel of Bedford County died in 1858. We are fortunate that he left a will which named all of his children—or at least all who were still living when the will was written. Unfortunately, I have not seen the original document myself. But I have seen at least one (unverified) source which lists the names that were included on that will. All of the names of (James) John Casteel's children that are listed on page 324 were included in his will—*except for Jemima and Andrew*. Why were they not included? Well, I suspect (but can't prove) that Andrew might have died before his father made his will. Andrew Casteel, age 10, can be found in the 1850 census, living with his father, but I haven't been able to find him anywhere in the 1860 census. As for Jemima, I suspect (but, once again, can't prove) that she may actually have been the *Patience Casteel* who was named in (James) John Casteel's will—perhaps her full name was *Patience Jemima Casteel Burrow*. I can find no census records for a *Patience Casteel*, born between 1810 and 1825, anywhere in the United States in any census year. Nor can I find a listing for anyone with the first name *Patience*, born between 1810 and 1825, in Bedford County, Tennessee, in either the 1850 or the 1860 census. This doesn't prove anything, of course, but it does suggest the possibility that Patience may have gone by the name Jemima, at least in census records.

Just a couple more notes about (James) John Casteel's children before we move on to his brothers: First, note that *Blackstone Casteel* was listed as *Blanton Casteel* in the 1840 census and as *Braxton Casteel* in the 1850 census. However, we have reason to believe that his actual name was *Blackstone* (most likely pronounced as *Blaxton*—as in the name of the celebrated English jurist, *Sir William Blackstone*, author of *Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England*). Second, while we do have clear evidence that James Preston Casteel had a wife named *Elizabeth Bruton*, I have been able to find no clear evidence that he had a second wife named *Hannah Low Reed*. The only source I've found that mentions this Hannah Low Reed is unverified and not entirely reliable. In fact, I have even seen another (also unverified) source which suggests Elizabeth Bruton Casteel may have outlived her husband, James Preston. So, I'm not really sure how much faith we should put in the claim that he had a second wife. At the very least, we should take that claim with a grain of salt.

Okay, that's pretty much all that needs to be said about (James) John Casteel and the Bedford County Casteels, who appear to be an offshoot of the Greene County Casteel clan. Now let us turn to (James) John Casteel's (possible) brother ...

• **Zachariah Casteel (the younger)**

born: c.1795 †

father: *John Casteel (son of Zachariah Casteel) of Greene County* †

mother: *Jemima UNKNOWN* †

places of residence: Greene County, Tennessee (until at least 1818);
Roane County (from at least 1830 until at least 1833);
Hamilton County (from at least 1836)

military service: Allison's 1st Regiment, East Tennessee Drafted Militia, &⁹
Johnson's 3rd Regiment, East Tennessee Militia,
during the War of 1812/Creek War

married: Rebecca Hartley (1818 in Greene County, Tennessee)

died: c.1838, presumably in Hamilton County, Tennessee

children:

- at least 3 unidentified sons, born between 1818 and 1830
- at least 4 unidentified daughters, born between 1825 and 1838
- James Madison Casteel (b. 1833 in Tennessee)
(+ Martha Lewis, m. 1858 in Iron County, Missouri)
- William Daniel Casteel (b. 1837 in Tennessee)
(+ Martha Sutton, m. 1860 in Iron County, Missouri)

We have talked about Zachariah Casteel (the younger) in great detail throughout this research, so I won't rehash what we've already said about him countless times before. I will simply note that we know from census records that he and his wife Rebecca had at least nine children, but we have been able to identify only two of them: *James Madison Casteel* and *William Daniel Casteel*, both of whom ended up in Iron County, Missouri. The identities of their other seven children—three boys and four girls—remain a complete mystery. This is unfortunate, but unless we manage to discover a new source of information about them, then it looks like we have reached a dead end.

Let us turn now to Zachariah's (possible) younger brother ...

- Andrew “Andy” Casteel

born: c.1810 in Tennessee

father: John Casteel (son of Zachariah Casteel) of Greene County

mother: Jemima UNKNOWN

place of residence: Greene County, Tennessee

married: Nancy UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

died: between 1850 and 1860, presumably in Greene County, Tennessee

children:

- James Allen Casteel (b. c.1844 in Tennessee)
[We don't know who his wife was or if he even married at all.]
- Ephraim Casteel (b. c.1849 in Tennessee)
[We don't know who his wife was or if he even married at all.]
- John Casteel (b. c.1856 in Tennessee)
[We don't know who his wife was or if he even married at all.]

We can be very confident that Andy Casteel was the son of John Casteel (son of Zachariah Casteel) of Greene County, because census records show Andy living with John Casteel in 1850. We don't know a lot about him or his family, though what little we do know is fairly sad. Andy appears to have died between 1850 and 1860 (presumably between 1855 and 1860, since his youngest son, John, was born around 1856), leaving his widow to raise their sons by herself. I have been unable to track down *James Allen Casteel* after 1860. However, I did find an *Ephraim Casteel* (b. c.1849 in Tennessee) as well as a *John Casteel* (or *Kasteel*; b. c.1856 in Tennessee) in both the 1870 and the 1880 censuses. In both censuses, Ephraim was in prison (first in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, then in Randolph County, Illinois), while John was in the Greene County poor house. I could find neither of them in census records after 1880 (though please keep in mind that the 1890 census has been lost).

Well, that pretty much does it for the family of Andy Casteel. And since we have looked at all of the (potential) sons of John Casteel of Greene County, Tennessee, it is now time for us to turn our attention to his younger brother ...

• Peter Casteel (the elder)

born: 1770s (place unknown, though most likely Pennsylvania)

father: Zachariah Casteel

mother: Elizabeth UNKNOWN

primary residence: Greene County, Tennessee

arrival there: most likely by 1786 (with his parents)

married: Susanna Richardson (1800 in Greene County, Tennessee)

died: 1833, in Greene County, Tennessee

children (in the order in which they were mentioned in his will):

- Daniel Casteel (*b. 1803 in Tennessee*) §
(+ *Eliza UNKNOWN; m. by 1832*) §
- Edward Casteel (*b. 1803 in Tennessee*) §
(+ *Jane UNKNOWN; m. by 1828*) §
- John Casteel (the younger, *b. 1822 in Tennessee*)
(+ *Lydia Stine; m. 1842 in Greene County—1st wife*)
(+ *Amanda Henry; m. 1860 in Greene County—2nd wife*)
- Washington Casteel
(+ *Hetty Malone; m. 1839 in McMinn County*) §
- Polly Casteel Brumley (*b. 1812 in Tennessee*)
(+ *Isaac Brumley; m. 1841 in Greene County*)
- Elizabeth Casteel
[We don't know if she married or who her husband was.]
- Peter Casteel, Jr. (*b. 1815 in Tennessee*)
(+ *Mary "Polly" Basinger; m. 1833 in Greene County*)
- Jonathan Casteel
(+ *Judy Grant; m. 1842 in Greene County*)

We don't really know a lot about this Peter Casteel. Fortunately, we know from his father's will that he is the son of Zachariah Casteel. We know from marriage records that he married a *Susanna Richardson* in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1800. His name appears on Greene County tax lists in 1805, 1809, 1810, 1812,

and 1813, as well as in the 1830 census for Greene County; so he appears to have lived in that county for most, if not all, of his adult life. His widow, *Susanna*, is listed in his stead in the 1840 census in Greene County, and death records indicate that he died in Greene County, Tennessee, in 1833. And most fortunately for us, he left a will that named all of his children.

So, we know the names of all of Peter Casteel's children: *Daniel*, *Edward*, *John*, *Washington*, *Polly*, *Elizabeth*, *Peter, Jr.*, and *Jonathan*. (While I personally find it odd that he has one son named *John* and another named *Jonathan*, both names are mentioned separately in his will.) Unfortunately, we don't really know much at all about four of Peter Casteel's eight children.

I think we can safely presume that Peter Casteel's son John was the *John Casteel* who married *Lydia Stine* in Greene County in 1842 and, after her death, married *Amanda Henry* in Greene County in 1860. This John Casteel and his family can be found listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses in Greene County. It also seems pretty clear that Peter's daughter Polly must be the *Polly Casteel* who married *Isaac Brumley* in Greene County in 1841. Peter Casteel, Jr. clearly has to be the *Peter Casteel* who married *Polly Basinger* in Greene County in 1833. We can find him in the 1840 census in Greene County; but in the 1850 census he and his family are living in Crittenden County, Kentucky. However, they would return to Greene County by 1860, where Peter would die sometime before 1870. His wife Mary would remain in Greene County after his death; she can be found there in the 1870 and 1880 censuses. Peter's son Jonathan has to be the *Jonathan Casteel* who married *Judy Grant* in Greene County in 1842. Jonathan appears to have died before 1850, but his widow Judy and their children can be found in census records in Greene County in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. (Recall that the 1890 census was lost.) She died in Greene County in 1899. Here's an interesting note: According to her tombstone, she was born in Ireland. However, according to her census records, she was born in either Tennessee or North Carolina, and her parents were both born in Virginia. It is unclear which we should believe.

So, we have a pretty good idea of what became of four of Peter Casteel's children: *John*, *Polly*, *Peter, Jr.*, and *Jonathan*. But figuring out what became of his other four children can be a bit trickier, and requires a lot of speculation.

We can be fairly certain that the Daniel Casteel we find listed in the 1840 census in Greene County must have been Peter's son, since he was in the right age range. (Although Peter Casteel did have a younger brother named Daniel, he was much older than Peter's son Daniel—and far too old to have been the Daniel Casteel in

the 1840 census for Greene County.) We have long suspected (though we cannot prove) that the Daniel Casteel we find in the 1840 census in Greene County may be the same Daniel Casteel who we find in the 1850 census in Hamilton County. Assuming this is true, then we know that he was born around 1803, that he had a wife named *Eliza* (though we don't know her maiden name), that they must have been married by 1832 (when their first child was born), and that they had moved to Davidson County by 1860. Once again, we can't prove that this was the same Daniel Casteel, but it seems quite plausible—even likely.

Daniel's brother, Edward Casteel, is trickier. I can find no Edward Casteel in the 1840 census for Greene County. So, either he died before 1840, or he was living elsewhere at the time. Assuming he was still living, we can find only two Edward Casteels in the 1840 census—one in Monroe County, Tennessee, and the other in Cherokee County, North Carolina. We know that the one in Cherokee County, North Carolina, was the son of Barney Casteel, so that rules him out. That leaves only the Edward Casteel in Monroe County, Tennessee, who appears to be in the right age range to have been Peter Casteel's son. (This isn't proof that he was, of course, but it does give us reason to speculate that he might have been.) We have already concluded that the Edward Casteel who we find in Monroe County in the 1840 census is likely the same Edward Casteel we find in Hamilton County in the 1850 census. That puts him in the same county as Daniel Casteel, who we suspect to be his brother! (Again, this doesn't prove anything, but it is highly suggestive.) According to his census records, this Edward Casteel was born in 1803—the same year as his (suspected) brother, Daniel. Were they twins? Perhaps. But we can't rule out the possibility that the census taker got one (or both) of their ages wrong. Anyway, this Edward Casteel had a wife named *Jane* (whose maiden name is not known), and they must have gotten married by 1828 (when their oldest child was born). They are still living in Hamilton County in 1860. But Edward must have died before 1870, since I can find his wife and children living in McMinn County in the 1870 census but can find no trace of him.

Washington Casteel is even trickier to track down than his brothers. I can find no *Washington Casteels* at all in the 1840 census. There is one in the 1850 census in Lawrence County, Kentucky, but he is only 3 years old. So, census records don't appear to be helping us much. However, we can find an 1839 marriage record for a *Washington Casteel* to a *Hetty Malone* in McMinn County, Tennessee. While I can't prove that this is Peter Casteel's son, he is the only plausible candidate I've been able to find. Unfortunately, after this, we hit a bit of a dead end. Assuming that Hetty Malone is the daughter of *William Malone* of McMinn County (who is the only *Malone* listed in the 1840 census for McMinn County who is old enough

to have a married daughter), then it's entirely possible that Washington and Hetty were living with him in 1840—according to the census, his household included a male and a female who were both in their 20s—but, of course, there's no way for us to be sure.

There is another possibility: In neighboring Monroe County we can find a *G.W. Casteel* in the 1840 census who was in the right age range. It is certainly possible that Washington Casteel's full name was actually *George Washington Casteel* and that he gave his name as *G.W. Casteel* on the census form. Since we have already seen that Washington's (suspected) brother Edward was living in Monroe County in 1840, it would be easy to suspect that Washington might have been living there as well. Also worth noting is the fact that one of *G.W. Casteel's* neighbors—just four names below his on the census form—is an elderly widow named *Dorcas T. Malone* (who, if the census form is correct, is over 100 years old). Might this be Hetty Malone's grandmother, or even her great-grandmother? Or is this nothing more than a coincidence? Without additional information, it's just not possible to know for sure. Besides, *G.W. Casteel* and his wife appear to have three children in 1840, one of whom is over the age of five, whereas Washington and Hetty just got married the previous year. It is possible, of course, that either Washington or Hetty might have had children from a previous marriage, but we can't assume that they did just because that would make it easier for us to fit the pieces of the puzzle together. Without more evidence, I don't think we are justified in concluding that this *G.W. Casteel* of Monroe County was the same person as Washington Casteel, son of Peter Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel, of Greene County. He might have been, but we have no documentary proof that he was, and even the circumstantial evidence that points in his direction is quite weak, plus we have good reason to be skeptical. While it might be tempting to take a bet on *G.W. Casteel* being the son of Peter Casteel, I don't think either Mr. Bayes or Mr. Occam would approve.

Finally, we come to Peter Casteel's daughter Elizabeth. There are three *Elizabeth Casteels* listed in the 1850 census for Greene County, but only two of them were old enough to have been Peter Casteel's daughter. One was living with the family of Peter's youngest brother, Jeremiah Casteel. The other was the head of her own household, and was living with two young children, apparently right next door to John and Amy Malone (recall that Amy Casteel Malone was the daughter of John Casteel). The one who was living with Jeremiah Casteel got married in 1858 to a James H. Anderson. They are living in Greene County in the 1860 census. They have no children at that time. In the 1880 census, they can still be found living in Greene County, and they have three children between the ages of 14 and 20 living with them. According to Elizabeth (Casteel) Anderson's 1880 census record, her

father was born in Tennessee. This suggests—though it does not prove—that she was probably the daughter of Jeremiah Casteel, who is known to have been born in Tennessee, rather than Peter, whose place of birth is not known—though there is reason to suspect that he may have been born in Pennsylvania. So, what about the other Elizabeth Casteel—the one with two young children who is living next door to Amy Casteel Malone? What became of her is not clear. I have not been able to find her or either of the two children she was living with in census records after 1850. There is a Greene County marriage record for an *Elizabeth Casteel* to a *Smith Tellock* in 1860, but it is unclear if this is the Elizabeth Casteel we are looking for. Recall that there was also a third Elizabeth Casteel living in Greene County who was too young to have been Peter Casteel’s daughter. However, she was certainly old enough to have gotten married in 1860. Unfortunately, I’ve not been able to track down a *Smith* and *Elizabeth Tellock* in any census records. So, it looks like we are at a dead end once again.

Since none of Peter Casteel’s grandchildren that we know of were born before the late 1820s, there is no reason for us to discuss them in any detail. However, here are the names of the children of Daniel and Edward Casteel of Hamilton County, Tennessee, John Casteel (the younger) and Judy (widow of Jonathan) Casteel of Greene County, Tennessee, and Peter Casteel of Crittenden County, Kentucky, from the 1850 census:

- **Daniel** (+ Eliza)
 - Mary (b. 1832)
 - Elizabeth (b. 1834)
 - John (b. 1839)
 - William (b. 1843)
- **Edward** (+ Jane)
 - Jeremiah (b. 1828)
 - Benjamin (b. 1829)
 - Joshua (b. 1833)
 - Sarah (b. 1834)
 - Margaret (b. 1838)
 - Martha (b. 1844)
 - George (b. 1846)
- **John** (+ Lydia)
 - Elizabeth (b. 1844)
 - William (b. 1845)
 - Susannah (b. 1848)
 - John (b. 1850)
- **Peter** (+ Polly)
 - John (b. 1836)
 - William (b. 1840)
 - Elizabeth (b. 1840)
 - B. (b. 1844)
- **Jonathan** (+ Judy)
 - Mary (b. 1843)
 - John (b. 1845)
 - Jonathan (b. 1847)

Okay, now let us turn to Peter Casteel's brother ...

- **Edward Casteel**

born: 1770s (place unknown, though most likely Pennsylvania)

father: Zachariah Casteel

mother: Elizabeth UNKNOWN

places of residence: Greene County, Tennessee (until at least 1825); then
Putnam County, Indiana (from at least 1828)

married: Mary UNKNOWN* (date and place unknown)

died: late 1834 or early 1835 in Putnam County, Indiana

children (in the order in which they were mentioned in his will):

- Joseph Casteel (b. 1804 in Tennessee)
(+ Elizabeth Estlinger; m. 1829 in Putnam County, Indiana)
- Comfort Casteel Long (b. 1800s)
(+ Reuben Long; m. 1821 in Greene County, Tennessee)
- Elcana Casteel (b. c.1805 in Tennessee)
(+ Christina Estlinger; m. 1828 in Putnam County, Indiana)
- Mahala Casteel Wells (b. c.1809 in Tennessee)
(+ Levy Wells; m. 1830 in Putnam County, Indiana)
- Calloway Casteel (b. 1810s)
(+ Mary Minor; m. 1835 in Putnam County, Indiana)
- Allen Casteel (b. c.1820 in Tennessee)
(+ Martha Jane Riddle; m. 1838 in Putnam County, Indiana)

(* One unconfirmed and highly dubious source gives her maiden name as *Amos*, but we have good reason to be skeptical of this. First, because this source offers no evidence to back up this claim. Second, because no other source I have been able to find reports her maiden name at all. And third, because *Mary Amos* is the name of Edmond Casteel II's supposed first wife, according to many Casteel family researchers—though, as you may recall from the note on page 298, I am skeptical of this, too. I have a feeling that whoever created this dubious source mistook the name of Edmond Casteel II's supposed first wife for his grandson Edward Casteel's wife.)

It is fortunate that we are able to account for all of Edward Casteel's children. All of them moved with their parents to Putnam County, Indiana, sometime between 1825 and 1828. Only one of them—*Comfort*—was married at the time. The rest got married after their arrival in Indiana. And since none of them was old enough to have been Henry Montgomery Casteel's father, we need not concern ourselves with them any further. Let us now turn to Edward Casteel's younger brother ...

- Daniel Casteel

born: 1785 in Tennessee §

father: Zachariah Casteel

mother: Elizabeth UNKNOWN

places of residence: *Greene County, Tennessee* (dates unknown); §
Sullivan County (from at least 1812 to at least 1824); §
Monroe County (by 1830 until at least 1840) §
Russell County, Kentucky (by 1850) §

married: 1st wife unknown; possible 2nd wife: *Dorcas Martin* (uncertain);
2nd or 3rd wife: *Rebecca A. UNKNOWN* §

died: after 1850 §

children:

- at least 2 unidentified sons, born between 1815 and 1825 §
- at least 5 unidentified daughters, born between 1800 and 1820 §

Daniel Casteel is a bit of a mystery. We know from Zachariah Casteel's will that he had a son named *Daniel* who was presumably still living in 1811 when the will was written. Unfortunately, that's just about the extent of what we know about him with any degree of certainty. Beyond that, we must rely on speculation. We can find no records of this particular Daniel Casteel in Greene County, though we can presume that he must have lived there with his parents before he came of age. (The Daniel Casteel who we find there in the 1840 census was his nephew—Peter Casteel's son.) We do, however, find the name *Daniel Casteel* on an 1812 tax list and on an 1824 land record from Sullivan County, which lies just to the north of Greene County. While we can't prove that the Daniel Casteel in Sullivan County is Zachariah Casteel's son, he does appear to be our most promising candidate.

As we have discussed before, we have reason to believe that the Daniel Casteel of Sullivan County might have moved to Monroe County by 1830. For one thing, we don't find a Daniel Casteel in the 1830 census for Sullivan County, but we do find a Daniel Casteel in both the 1830 and the 1840 censuses for Monroe County who would be in about the right age range to have been Zachariah Casteel's son. There are only two *Daniel Casteels* listed in the 1830 census: this one in Monroe County, Tennessee, and the one in Knox County, Tennessee, who we know to be the son of Abednego Casteel, Sr. There are only three *Daniel Casteels* listed the 1840 census: this one in Monroe County, Tennessee, the one we have already seen in Greene County, Tennessee, who we believe to be the son of Peter Casteel, and a third one in Maryland. So, although we can't completely rule out the possibility that Zachariah Casteel's son Daniel died before 1830 or else migrated to Maryland before 1840, it seems much more likely that he simply moved to Monroe County, Tennessee. And perhaps we should also note the fact that, in the 1840 census, the Daniel Casteel of Monroe County is living right next door to the Edward Casteel who, as you'll recall, we suspect might be the son of Daniel's older brother, Peter Casteel. So, we're going to work under the assumption that the Daniel Casteel we find in Monroe County in 1830 and 1840 is Zachariah Casteel's son.

There are no Casteels listed in the 1850 census for Monroe County, Tennessee, so if Daniel Casteel was still alive in 1850, he must have been living somewhere else. The only plausible candidate I can find in the 1850 census is a Daniel Casteel who was born in Tennessee in 1785. He is living in Russell County, Kentucky, with a much younger (second) wife named *Rebecca A. Casteel* (b. 1808 in Tennessee). There are no children living with them, and none of their closest neighbors were born in Tennessee. Unfortunately, I can find neither of them in the 1860 census. While we can't be absolutely certain that this was the same Daniel Casteel who we find living in Monroe County, Tennessee, in the 1830 and 1840 censuses, I find it hard to imagine that it could be anyone else.

We know from his census records that he had at least seven children—two sons and five daughters—born between 1800 and 1825. So, what can we learn about them from their census records?

First, we learn that four of the five daughters who were living in Daniel Casteel's household in 1830 were no longer living there in 1840. This would suggest that they either got married or died between 1830 and 1840. Unfortunately, the only Casteel marriage record I can find for Monroe County between 1830 and 1840 is for an *Allen Casteel* (who is known to be the son of Barney Casteel). However,

in neighboring McMinn County, we find three Casteel marriages between 1830 and 1840; though only one in which the bride's name is Casteel: a *Sarah Casteel* married a *John W. Malone* in 1839. But without further information, there is no way for us to know if this Sarah Casteel was one of Daniel Casteel's daughters.

Both of Daniel Casteel's sons who were living with him in 1830 still appear to be living with him in 1840 (as was one of his five daughters). The elder of these two sons was born between 1815 and 1820, and the younger between 1820 and 1825. Is there any way we can track either of them down in the 1850 census? This may prove a bit of a challenge, especially since there don't appear to be any Casteels in the 1850 census for Monroe County. Let's assume for a moment that both were born in Tennessee. Searching the 1850 census, we can find about 30 male Casteels who were born in Tennessee between 1815 and 1825. Fortunately, we are able to eliminate all but three of them for one reason or another—in many cases, because we already know who their parents were, or else because we know that they were not living in Monroe County, Tennessee, in 1840. Of the three that remain, one of them—the mysterious Franklin Casteel of Morgan County, Alabama—doesn't strike me as a likely candidate, though we can't definitively rule him out. But the other two look quite promising. Both are living in Hamilton County, Tennessee, in 1850, and they appear to be living in the same part of the county, not very far from each other (house #s 1234 and 1253 on the census form). They are ...

- John Casteel (b. 1815 in Tennessee)
(+ Rebecca UNKNOWN)
with five young children (3 sons and 2 daughters)

- William Casteel (b. 1822 in Tennessee)
(+ Mary UNKNOWN)
with three young children (1 son and 2 daughters)

We can't be sure that these are the sons of Daniel Casteel, but they would seem to be the most promising—in fact, the *only* promising—candidates.

Before we move on to Daniel's youngest brother, Jeremiah, there's one final thing we need to mention. There is an 1841 marriage record from Monroe County for a *Daniel Casteel* to a *Dorcas Martin*. I'm not really sure what to make of this. I have not been able to figure out who this Dorcas Martin was or to track her down in any census records (either before or after her marriage); nor have I been able to

figure out whether the Daniel Casteel who married her was the one we find in the 1830 and 1840 censuses in Monroe County. And since I have found no answers, all I can do is call your attention to this mysterious marriage record and wish you better luck than I've had in solving this particular puzzle.

Now let us turn to Daniel Casteel's youngest brother ...

- **Jeremiah Casteel**

born: 1786 in Tennessee

father: Zachariah Casteel

mother: Elizabeth UNKNOWN

primary residence: Greene County, Tennessee (presumably his entire life)

military service: Lillard's 2nd Regiment, East Tennessee Volunteer Militia,
during the War of 1812/Creek War

married: Susanna Jones (1813 in Greene County)

died: after 1850, presumably in Greene County, Tennessee

children:

- *Marinda Casteel Brumley* (b. c.1815 in Tennessee) §
(+ Nathan Brumley; m. 1835 in Greene County, Tennessee)
- William Casteel (b. 1814-1819 in Tennessee)
(+ Margaret A. Susong; m. 1855 in Greene County, Tennessee)
- Sarah Casteel Reynolds (b. 1820 in Tennessee)
(+ Joseph Reynolds; m. 1842 in Greene County, Tennessee)
- unidentified son (b. 1820-1825)
[We don't know if he married or who his wife might have been.]
- Elizabeth Casteel Anderson (b. 1828 in Tennessee)
(+ James H. Anderson; m. 1858 in Greene County, Tennessee)
- Jeremiah Casteel, Jr. (b. 1831 in Tennessee)
(+ Susannah Welty; m. 1855 in Greene County, Tennessee)
- *unidentified son* (b. 1835-1840) §
[*He likely died in childhood.*] §

It appears that Jeremiah Casteel lived in Greene County, Tennessee, his entire life. He is believed to have been born there in 1786, and he almost certainly died there between 1850 and 1860. We know from Greene County marriage records that he got married in 1813 to a *Susanna Jones*. She appears to have died before 1850, because she is not living with him in the 1850 census. I can find no evidence that Jeremiah ever got remarried after her death. In 1814 and 1815, during the War of 1812/Creek War, Jeremiah served in the East Tennessee Militia. That's about all we know about the life of Jeremiah Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel, of Greene County, Tennessee.

But what do we know about his children? Unfortunately, I have not been able to track down Jeremiah Casteel's will—assuming he left one at all—so we will have to rely on census information, as well as the process of elimination, to figure out who his children were. From his 1830 and 1840 census records, we discover that Jeremiah Casteel had at least seven children (or at least seven young people living in his household; though it isn't clear if they were all his children—more on this in a moment). In approximate birth order, they appear to have been:

- a daughter born between 1810 and 1815
- a son born between 1815 and 1820
- a daughter born between 1820 and 1825
- a son born between 1820 and 1825
- a daughter born between 1825 and 1830
- a son born between 1830 and 1835
- a son(?) born between 1835 and 1840

The 1850 census shows five people in the Jeremiah Casteel household in addition to Jeremiah himself:

- William Casteel (b. 1814)
- Sarah Runnels (b. 1820)
- Elizabeth Casteel (b. 1828)
- Jeremiah Casteel (b. 1831)
- Elkama Fulks (b. 1838)

William Casteel's year of birth varies quite a bit in census records, ranging from 1814 to 1819; but it seems likely that he is the son of Jeremiah Casteel from the 1830 and 1840 censuses who was born between 1815 and 1820. *Sarah Runnels* (a misspelling of *Reynolds*) has to be the *Sarah Casteel* who married a *Joseph Reynolds* in Greene County in 1842. She must be Jeremiah Casteel's daughter

who was born between 1820 and 1825. Earlier we speculated that the *Elizabeth Casteel* who was living in the Jeremiah Casteel household might have been Peter Casteel's daughter, but we decided it was more likely that she was the daughter of Jeremiah Casteel. She is the right age to be the daughter who was born between 1825 and 1830. She would later marry *James H. Anderson* in Greene County in 1858. The younger *Jeremiah Casteel* is in the right age range to be son from the 1840 census who was born between 1830 and 1835; so we can presume that he is Jeremiah Casteel, Jr. That just leaves *Elkama Fulks*.

Frankly, I'm not quite sure what to make of this Elkama Fulks. (Please note that other sources give his first name as *Elkanah* or *Elcano*.) He appears to be in the right age range to be the youngest boy in the Jeremiah Casteel household from the 1840 census. But was he? And what was his relation to Jeremiah Casteel? I can't prove it, but I suspect that he was not related to Jeremiah Casteel at all. I suspect that he was helping out on the Casteel farm in exchange for room and board and, perhaps, a small salary. The only *Fulks* family in Greene County in either 1840 or 1850 was the family of *John Fulks*. In the 1840 census, John Fulks appears to have a son about Elkama's age, as well as three older sons. But in the 1850 census, none of these sons are living in the John Fulks household. However, we can find a *Franklin Fulks* living with the family of a blacksmith named *Willie Whit*, where he appears to be working as an apprentice blacksmith under Mr. Whit. Franklin Fulks is in the right age range to be one of John Fulks's older sons from the 1840 census. So, it looks as if this John Fulks may have sent some of his older sons out to live and work with other families. I suspect that the Elkama/Elkanah/Elcano Fulks who was living with the Jeremiah Casteel family in 1850 was the son of this John Fulks and was not (closely) related to the Casteels, but was just a live-in farm hand. Assuming this is true, then it would appear that Jeremiah Casteel is missing a son. Recall that, in the 1840 census he appears to have had a son who was born between 1835 and 1840. That son does not appear to be living with him in 1850. The most likely explanation is that the boy died in childhood.

But what about Jeremiah Casteel's two other children? His oldest daughter, who was born between 1810 and 1815, is not living with him in 1850. He also had a son, born between 1820 and 1825, who is not living with him in 1850. So, who were they, and what might have become of them? I suspect, but can't prove, that his oldest daughter was the *Marinda* (or "*Rinda*") *Casteel* who married a *Nathan Brumley* in Greene County in 1838. So, why do I suspect this? Because Jeremiah Casteel's eldest daughter is living with him in 1830 but not in 1840. That suggests that she either died or got married between 1830 and 1840. Well, I can find only two marriage records from Greene County between 1830 and 1840 in which the

bride's name was *Casteel*: The marriage of *Rachel Casteel* to *Samuel C. Jones* in 1830, and the marriage of *Rinda Casteel* to *Nathan Brumley* in 1838. Since the marriage of *Rachel Casteel* to *Samuel C. Jones* took place in January of 1830, that would have been before the 1830 census was taken, so that eliminates her as a possibility, leaving only *Rinda (Marinda) Casteel* as a likely candidate. Does this prove that *Marinda Casteel Brumley* was *Jeremiah Casteel's* daughter? No. But it does at least justify our speculation.

But what about *Jeremiah Casteel's* son who was born between 1820 and 1825? If we search the 1850 census for a *Casteel* male who was born in Tennessee between the years 1818 and 1827 (to give us a reasonable margin of error), we get a couple dozen results. However, we can eliminate all but three of these for one reason or another. The candidates that remain are: *Franklin Casteel* (b. 1819) of Morgan County, Alabama; *William Casteel* (b. 1822) of Hamilton County, Tennessee; and *Daniel Casteel* (b. 1822) of McMinn County, Tennessee (not to be confused with the *Daniel Casteel* who is in Hamilton County in 1850, or with the *Daniel Casteel* who was in Monroe County in 1830 and 1840 and who we believe to be in Russell County, Kentucky, in 1850). If I had to put my money on one of these three candidates, I'd probably bet on *Daniel Casteel*. But frankly, I don't feel that we have enough evidence to justify saying that any of them is likely to be the son of *Jeremiah Casteel* of Greene County. In fact, it's quite possible that the missing son of *Jeremiah Casteel* died sometime between 1840 and 1850.

Okay, that does it for the family of *Jeremiah Casteel*. And, since *Jeremiah* was the youngest son of *Zachariah Casteel*, that means that we are pretty much done with the Greene County *Casteel* clan. However, before we move on to the Knox County *Casteel* clan, I want to note just a few "stragglers" who we weren't able to definitively fit into the Greene County *Casteel* clan, but who are almost certainly members of that extended family. These are *Casteels* who can be found in Greene County records, but whose parents we have not yet been able to identify.

A *Peggy Casteel* married a *Caleb Jones* in Greene County in 1825. She must be the daughter of one of *Zachariah Casteel's* sons, but which one? We can rule out *Peter* and *Edward*, because they left wills naming all of their children—and there was not a *Peggy* (or a *Margaret*) among them. (*Zachariah Casteel*, the elder, did have a daughter named *Margaret*, but she married an *Edward Malone* in 1821 in neighboring Washington County.) And since *Jeremiah Casteel* didn't get married until 1813, it is highly unlikely that he would have had a daughter old enough to

get married in 1825. So that just leaves John and Daniel. Between the two, John is the more likely candidate. Why? For one thing, he was a lot older than Daniel, and some of his (suspected) children had already gotten married before 1825. For another thing, we have good reason to believe that Daniel and his family were not actually living in Greene County in 1825; in fact, they appear to have been living in Sullivan County since at least 1812. While we can't be absolutely certain that the Peggy Casteel who married Caleb Jones in Greene County in 1825 was John Casteel's daughter, that would seem to be our safest bet.

Then there is the *Rachel Casteel* who married *Samuel C. Jones* in 1830. Once again, we can rule out both Peter and Edward Casteel as her father, because she is not named in either of their wills. And since Daniel Casteel, who had been living in Sullivan County, appears to have moved to Monroe County by 1830, it seems highly unlikely that his daughter would have gotten married in Greene County in that year. So that just leaves John and Jeremiah as likely candidates for her father. I have not yet seen any evidence that would lead me to favor one of these over the other, so without additional information, it looks like the most we can say is that the Rachel Castel who married Samuel C. Jones is probably the daughter of either John Casteel or Jeremiah Casteel of Greene County.

Then there was a *Sally Casteel* who married a *George Malone* in 1842. We can, once again, rule out both Peter and Edward Casteel as her father, because she isn't named in either of their wills. Daniel also seems like an unlikely candidate, since he hasn't lived in Greene County for at least 40 years by this point. So, yet again, we are left with a choice between John and Jeremiah. But we have good reason to believe that Jeremiah Casteel is not her father, because we know that he had only two daughters living with him in 1840, and we've already identified both of those: *Sarah Casteel* (later *Reynolds*) and *Elizabeth Casteel* (later *Anderson*). Unless, as we suspected earlier, the Elizabeth Casteel who is living in the Jeremiah Casteel household in 1850 is really Peter Casteel's daughter, then I think we can rule out Jeremiah Casteel as the father of this Sally Casteel Malone. So that would suggest that John Casteel must have been her father. But wait! We have reason to believe that John Casteel already had a daughter named Sally! In the 1850 census, there is a *Sally Dyke* living in the John Casteel household, and we naturally assumed that she was his daughter. (However, please note that I can find no record of a *Sarah* or *Sally Casteel* marrying anyone named *Dyke*.) There's also the fact that, in the 1830 census, John Casteel doesn't have any daughters living in his household. In the 1840 census there is a 15-20 year-old female in the household, but she is most likely John Casteel's daughter-in-law—Andy Casteel's wife. Besides, according to the 1850 census, Sally Dyke was born around 1805, not in the 1820s. She would

almost certainly have been married before 1830. Try as I might, I have not been able to solve the puzzle of Sally Dyke, but I still think it's reasonable to assume that she was John Casteel's daughter unless and until we find some new evidence that would call that assumption into question. Nonetheless, we have good reason to doubt that the Sally Casteel who married George Malone in Greene County in 1842 was John Casteel's daughter. So whose daughter was she? Frankly, I don't have a clue. The only possibility I can think of that makes any sense is that Peter Casteel's daughter Elizabeth might have been named *Elizabeth Sarah Casteel* and might have been called *Sally*. However, we have absolutely no proof of this, nor do we even have any evidence that would justify our speculation. So, at least for now, we are just going to have to concede defeat and move on.

Finally, I must mention the *Elizabeth Casteel* from the 1850 census who had two young children but no husband living with her. Who was she, and how might she have been related to the other Casteels of Greene County? If she didn't have two young children living with her, I might have assumed that she was Peter Casteel's daughter Elizabeth. But then I would have a hard time explaining where the two children came from. Single women having children out of wedlock was certainly not unheard of in those days, but it was far less common then than it is today. So much so, in fact, that whenever we come across an old census record that shows a woman as the head of a household, with children but no husband living with her, it is best to assume that she was a widow unless we have evidence to the contrary. So, this Elizabeth Casteel was most likely the widow of a Casteel rather than the unmarried daughter of a Casteel. Assuming that is the case, then who might her late husband have been? Given her age, it seems most likely that her late husband would have been born sometime between about 1800 and about 1815. And since Elizabeth Casteel's youngest child was only 1 year old in 1850, that would suggest that her husband must have died sometime between 1848 and 1850. And since he is not listed in the Mortality Schedule for the 1850 census, that would suggest that he must have died before June of 1849 (which was the cutoff date for inclusion on the Mortality Schedule). Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any Casteel in Greene County who fits this description. So, this mysterious Elizabeth Casteel will have to remain a mystery, at least for a while longer.

Okay, so that does it for the Greene County Casteel clan. Now it's time for us to move on and try to sort out who belongs to ...

The Knox County Casteel Clan

We have reason to believe that most of the Casteels who settled in Knox County were descendants of *Abednego Casteel, Sr.* and *Francis Casteel*, who were the sons of *Edmond Casteel III*. Other Casteels might have lived there at times, but Abednego and Francis appear to have lived there for many years, to have owned land there, to have seen their children come of age there, and (almost certainly in the case of Francis, and possibly in the case of Abednego, Sr., as well) to have died there. So, these two brothers were the co-patriarchs of the Knox County Casteel clan. Unlike their Greene County cousins, though, most of the Casteels of Knox County would eventually migrate elsewhere. (In fact, there are no Casteels at all listed in either the 1840 or the 1850 census for Knox County.) However, at least a few of them would eventually move back to Knox County to stay. There are a number of Casteels living in Knox County today, and it seems likely that many of them are descendants of Abednego Casteel, Sr. or his brother Francis.

We've talked a lot about the Knox County Casteels already over the course of this research, so we won't cover their family in quite as much detail as we did with the Greene County Casteels. But we do want to at least try to figure out who belongs to this particular branch of the Casteel family.

So, let's get started with ...

- **Abednego Casteel, Sr.**

born: *1740s in Prince George's County, Maryland* §

father: Edmond Casteel III

mother: Rebecca UNKNOWN

places of residence: various places in Virginia (maybe until as late as 1798);
Knox County, Tennessee (from 1799 to at least 1806)

married: Sarah UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

died: after 1806, most likely in Knox County, Tennessee
(though it's possible that he returned to Virginia before his death)

(continued on next page ...)

(... *Abednego Casteel, Sr., continued*)

children:

- Shadrach Casteel (b. 1780s in Tennessee)
(+ *Sarah Farley*; m. c.1805, likely in Tennessee) †
- Meshach Casteel (b. 1780s in Tennessee)
[We don't know if he married or who his wife might have been.]
- Abednego Casteel, Jr. (b. 1780s in Tennessee)
(+ *Agnes Hensley*; m. 1808 in Knox County, Tennessee)
- Daniel Casteel (b. 1790s in Tennessee)
(+ *Rhoda Hensley*; m. 1809 in Knox County, Tennessee)

We don't have any documentary evidence that would establish for certain when or where *Abednego Casteel, Sr.* was born, but we can make an educated guess based on what we do know. Since he was the son of *Edmond Casteel III*, who appears to have lived his entire life in Prince George's County, Maryland, that is our best guess as to where *Abednego, Sr.* would have been born. From *Edmond III*'s age, we can be fairly certain that none of his children could have been born before the 1730s. *Abednego* is believed to have been the third son, and he is also believed to have had older sisters, so that suggests that he couldn't have been born before the late 1730s at the earliest. We know from census records that his younger brother *Francis* was born in the 1750s, so it seems most likely that *Abednego* would have been born in the 1740s. We can't prove it, but it does seem like a plausible guess.

We know from Knox County court records that *Abednego, Sr.* had a wife named *Sarah*, though we don't know her maiden name, nor do we know when or where they got married. We know that they were in Knox County, Tennessee, by 1799 at the latest. We also know that *Abednego, Sr.* was living in Knox County as late as 1806, though we find no evidence of him there in 1808. This gives us reason to suspect that he either died or (perhaps) moved away from Knox County between 1806 and 1808. If he moved away, then he left his sons behind, because they can be found on the 1808 tax list for Knox County. I strongly suspect that he died in Knox County, but I can't rule out the possibility that he might have moved away. In fact, there is evidence of an *Abednego Casteel* in Grayson County, Virginia, as late as 1810. But is this the same *Abednego Casteel*?

We find a number of records for an *Abednego Casteel* in various counties in the central and southern parts of Virginia—*Amherst, Augusta, Botetourt, Grayson,* and *Henry*—between 1778 and 1810. As we discussed earlier, we have reason to believe that at least some of these are, in fact, the Abednego Casteel, Sr. we find in Knox County, Tennessee, from 1799 to 1806; however, we can't be sure if all of these records belong to him—there might have been another Abednego Casteel in Virginia at that same time (as at least one unverified source claims). However, at the very least, we have reason to suspect that Abednego Casteel, Sr. was living in Virginia before his arrival in Tennessee. In fact, a good case can be made that the Abednego Casteel who served as surety on a marriage bond in Botetourt County, Virginia, in late 1798 is the same Abednego Casteel who was involved in a lawsuit in Knox County, Tennessee, the very next year. So, did he and his family migrate from Virginia to Tennessee in 1799? Perhaps. But, there's one problem with this scenario. We have reason to believe that all four of Abednego's sons—*Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jr.,* and *Daniel*—were born in *Tennessee* before 1799. It is certainly possible that they were born elsewhere, but based on what is reported in the 1880 census records of some of their children, we have to assume that they were all born in Tennessee unless we can find credible evidence that they weren't. So, does this mean that Abednego Casteel, Sr. and family could not have been in Virginia in the 1780s and 1790s? Not necessarily. It is entirely possible that they moved back and forth between Tennessee and Virginia several times during those years. Unfortunately, without more evidence, we may never know for sure.

Let us turn now to Abednego Casteel's children. We can't rule out the possibility that he may have had more children than Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jr., and Daniel. Without either a will or census records to go by, there is no way for us to know how many children Abednego Casteel, Sr. might have had. And, since he doesn't appear to have left a will (or at least no will has yet been found), since all census records for East Tennessee before 1830 have been lost, and since the 1790 and 1800 census records for Virginia were destroyed when the British sacked and burned Washington, DC, during the War of 1812, we have nothing to go by. We can be confident that Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jr., and Daniel were the sons of Abednego Casteel, Sr., because they all lived near each other on Stock Creek in the southeastern corner of Knox County, south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers, at about the same time, and since we know from Francis Casteel's will that none of them were his children. But we can't be sure that Abednego Casteel, Sr. didn't have other children as well. If he did, then who might these other children have been? The most obvious possibilities are *David Casteel*, who got married in Knox County in 1798, and *Nancy Casteel* (who we suspect to be David's sister), who got married in Knox County in that same year. But we really can't be sure.

But let us focus on the known children of Abednego Casteel, Sr., beginning with his eldest son, *Shadrach*. We don't know much about Shadrach Casteel's life in Tennessee. He appears to have left sometime between 1816 (when his daughter *Jane* was born in Tennessee) and 1818 (when his daughter *Priscilla* was born in Missouri). Shadrach Casteel appears to have lived most of his adult life in Cooper County, Missouri, where he raised his family, and where he appears to have died sometime between 1840 and 1850. Various reliable sources indicate that he was a Methodist preacher. According to some (unverified) sources, he married a *Sarah Farley* around 1805. It is not known where they married, but since he is known to have been living in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1806, it is most likely that he was married in or near Knox County. Unfortunately, no marriage record has yet been found.

Although Shadrach Casteel did not leave a will (or at least none that we have been able to find), according to census records he had at least seven children—two sons and five daughters—born between 1800 and 1830. Various sources (which I have not yet been able to verify) have identified six of these seven children:

- *Markwell Micah Casteel* (b. 1800-1805) †
(+ Martha Abernathy; m. 1837 in Perry County, Missouri)
- *Elizabeth Casteel Howerton* (b. c.1806 in Tennessee) †
(+ Jeremiah Howerton; m. 1834 in Cooper County, Missouri)
- unidentified daughter (b. 1810-1815)
- *Jane S. Casteel Howerton* (b. c.1816 in Tennessee) †
(+ Thomas Jefferson Howerton; m. 1838 in Cooper County, Missouri)
- *Priscilla Casteel Dewitt* (b. c.1818 in Missouri) †
(+ Larkin Dewitt; m. 1840 in Cooper County, Missouri)
- *Ann Casteel Farey* (b. c.1821 in Missouri) †
(+ Matthew Anderson Farley; m. 1840 in Cooper County, Missouri)
- *Monroe Casteel* (b. c.1828 in Missouri) †
[We don't know if he married or who his wife might have been.]

That does it for Shadrach Casteel and his family. Now let us turn to his younger brother, *Meshach Casteel*.

As we've noted several times already, Meshach Casteel is something of a mystery. We know that he was in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1806 and 1808, and that he owned land in that county (though we don't have a date for when he acquired that land). We also know that he served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War, in the same unit with Caleb, John, and Joseph Casteel, and that he may have fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. But after that, we lose track of him. We do find a *Meshach Casteel* in the 1830 and 1840 censuses for Knox County, *Ohio*, but we have no proof that this is the same Meshach Casteel who had previously lived in Knox County, *Tennessee*. In fact, we have reason to suspect that it is not. For one thing, census records show that Ohio Meshach was born in the 1790s, whereas we have reason to believe that Tennessee Meshach was born in the 1780s. For another thing, the 1880 census records for a couple of his (probable) children suggest that Ohio Meshach was likely born in either Maryland or Pennsylvania, not Tennessee. And we know that there was, in fact, a *Meshach Casteel* who was born in either Maryland or Pennsylvania—he was the grandson of the Shadrach Casteel who had settled in Bedford County, Pennsylvania (*i.e.* the oldest brother of Abednego Casteel, Sr. and Francis Casteel). Shadrach had a son named *Thomas* who migrated from Pennsylvania to Maryland at some point. He had a son named *Meshach* (it's not clear if Meshach was born while Thomas was still living in Pennsylvania or after he had moved to Maryland). Thomas Casteel's son Meshach would have been in about the same age range as Ohio Meshach. The only *Meshach Casteel* I can find in either the 1830 or the 1840 census is the one in Knox County, Ohio. So, I suspect that the Meshach Casteel of Knox County, Ohio, is the son of Thomas Casteel of Maryland, the son of Shadrach Casteel of Pennsylvania, rather than the son of Shadrach's younger brother Abednego, Sr. I can't be absolutely sure of this, but I think that the weight of the evidence tips the scales in that direction.

So, what happened to the Meshach Casteel of Knox County, *Tennessee*? I have to suspect that he died sometime before the 1830 census was taken, otherwise we should be able to find him somewhere. I have not been able to find any marriage records for him, nor have I found any evidence that he had any children, though we can't definitively rule out the possibility. In any event, it looks like we've hit a dead end with him, so let's now move on to his younger brother, Abednego.

We actually know quite a bit about *Abednego Casteel, Jr.* We know that he was born in the 1780s, apparently in Tennessee (though it is difficult to reconcile this with the evidence we have which seems to suggest that his father was in Virginia at the time). We know that he was in Knox County, Tennessee, by 1806 at the very latest, and that he would remain there until after 1830. We know that he married

Agnes Hensley in Knox County in 1808. (His younger brother Daniel married Agnes's sister Rhoda the following year.) We know that in 1814, during the War of 1812/Creek War, he served in the East Tennessee Militia and may have fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. We know that he lived in the Stock Creek area of Knox County, south of the French Broad River, not far from his brothers and his uncle Francis, and that he raised his children there. We know that he and his family moved to neighboring Blount County sometime between 1830 and 1840. And we know that he died—most likely in Blount County—sometime between 1840 and 1850.

We also know the names of seven of his children:

- James Monroe Casteel (b. c.1812 in Tennessee)
(+ Susannah E. Underwood; m. 1833 in Knox County, Tennessee)
- George W. Casteel (b. c.1815 in Tennessee)
[If he ever married, he was widowed before 1850 and never remarried.]
- Benjamin Casteel (b. c.1819 in Tennessee)
(+ Anna Cruse or Cruz or Crews; m. 1843 in Knox County, Tennessee)
- Hazy or Hazia Casteel (b. c.1824 in Tennessee)
[She doesn't appear to have gotten married—at least not before 1860.]
- Amanda J. Casteel Daltney or Daltiny (b. c.1826 in Tennessee)
(+ James P. Daltney or Daltiny ; m. 1850 in Blount County, Tennessee)
- Eliza C. Casteel (b. c.1828 in Tennessee)
[She doesn't appear to have gotten married—at least not before 1880.]
- Almira Adeline Casteel McDonald (b. c.1831 in Tennessee)
(+ Wiley McDonald; m. 1853 in Blount County, Tennessee)

We can be highly confident that all of these are the children of Abednego Casteel, Jr. Please note, however, that their years of birth are rough approximations only. Their reported years of birth vary quite a lot from source to source.

James Monroe Casteel and his family can be found in Blount County in 1840, in Hamilton County in 1850, and in Macoupin County, Illinois, in 1860, 1870, and 1880.

George W. Casteel is living with his widowed mother in Blount County in 1850. In 1860, he is still living in Blount County with his sister *Eliza* and his apparently orphaned nephew *William E. Daltiny*. In 1870, he was living with the family of a *Jordan Hood* in Knox County, where he worked as a farm hand. In 1880 he was living with the family of his brother *Benjamin* in Knox County and he is listed as having no occupation. I can find no indication that he ever married. If he did, his wife must have died before 1850 and he never remarried. He had no children.

Benjamin Casteel and his family can be found in Blount County in 1850, but by 1860 they will have moved to Knox County where they will remain for the rest of their lives. They can be found in census records there as late as 1910.

Hazy (or *Hazia*) *Casteel* is living with her widowed mother in Blount County in 1850. In 1860, she is still in Blount County, but now she is living with the family of her sister *Almira Adeline McDonald*, the wife of *Wiley McDonald*. I have not found her in census records after that, nor can I find any marriage record for her. It appears that she never got married and never had children.

Amanda Casteel is living with her widowed mother in Blount County in 1850. Later that same year, she would marry a *James P. Daltney* or *Daltiny* (but note that the name on the marriage license is spelled *Doltirrey*) in Blount County. I am not able to find them in any census records, though. It seems likely that they died sometime between 1850 and 1860, because a seven year old *William E. Daltiny* is living with *George W. Casteel* and his sister *Eliza* in Blount County in 1860.

Eliza Casteel is living with her widowed mother in Blount County in 1850. She is still living in Blount County in 1860, with her brother *George W. Casteel* and her apparently orphaned nephew *William E. Daltiny*. I have not been able to find her in the 1870 census, but there is an *Eliza Casteel* living in a boarding house in Knox County in 1880. She does not appear to have married or had children.

Almira Adeline Casteel is living with her widowed mother in Blount County in 1850. In 1853, she married a *Wiley McDonald* in Blount County. They are still living in Blount County in 1860, and Adeline's sister *Hazia* is living with them. I have not been able to find them in census records after that.

These are all of the children of *Abednego Casteel, Jr.* who we are able to identify with any degree of certainty. We know that he had others, but they have proven much more difficult to track down. I have been able to find at least a few possible candidates, but I have my doubts about each of them.

Abednego and his wife, Agnes, got married in the spring of 1808. Therefore, they are not likely to have had any children until the winter of 1808/09 at the earliest. So, their oldest children wouldn't have come of age until around 1830. Since the only Casteel households we find in the 1830 census in Knox County are those of Abednego, his brother Daniel, and their uncle Francis, and since there were none at all in neighboring Blount County, and only one in Roane County—the family of Zachariah Casteel (the younger), who belonged to the Greene County Casteel clan—it looks like we can rule out the possibility that Abednego might have had a grown son who was no longer living with his parents in 1830. But we can't rule out the possibility that his oldest daughter might have gotten married and moved out before the 1830 census was taken. Do we find any marriage records from the late 1820s in Knox County in which the bride's maiden name is *Casteel*? In fact, we do:

- Elizabeth Casteel to Isaac Hood (m. 1828 in Knox County)

In the 1830 and 1840 censuses, we can find the family of an *Isaac Hood* living in Blount County. Isaac's young wife is in the 15-20 age bracket in the 1830 census, which would mean that she was born between 1810 and 1815. Unfortunately, I have not been able to locate them in any census records after 1840.

So, was this *Elizabeth Casteel Hood* the daughter of Abednego Casteel, Jr.? It's certainly possible, but it's not easy to prove. It seems very likely that she was part of the Knox County Casteel clan. Since she was too young to be the daughter of Abednego Casteel, Sr., that just leaves his brother Francis and their sons. As far as we know, Francis did not have a daughter named *Elizabeth*—or at least there is no mention of an *Elizabeth* in his will. Could she have been his granddaughter? It seems unlikely. Francis Casteel's three oldest sons left Tennessee before 1820, and his remaining son didn't get married until 1823—so he couldn't have had a daughter who got married in 1828. That just leaves the sons of Abednego Casteel, Sr. as possible candidates. We can rule out Shadrach, because he moved his entire family to Missouri a decade before this Elizabeth Casteel got married. Meshach is a mystery, because we don't know what became of him, but we have no evidence that he ever got married or had any children. So, while we can't completely rule him out as a possibility, he doesn't seem to be a very likely candidate. So that just leaves Abednego, Jr. and Daniel. Daniel got married just a year after Abednego, so he could have had a daughter Elizabeth's age. And since, as far as we know, he didn't leave a will, we have no justification to rule him out as a candidate.

So, we have good reason to believe that the Elizabeth Casteel who married Isaac Hood in Knox County in 1828 was the daughter of either Abednego Casteel, Jr. or his younger brother Daniel, but without additional evidence to go on, we have no way of knowing which of these two Casteel brothers was Elizabeth's father. It may have been Abednego, but we can't be sure.

Okay, let us now turn our attention to the unidentified children who are living in the Abednego Casteel, Jr. household in 1830, but who have disappeared by 1840 or 1850. In the 1830 census, Abednego Casteel, Jr. and his wife Agnes appear to have nine young people living with them. We have been able to identify only six of them. (Please note that *Almira Adeline Casteel* was born after 1830, so she is not found in the 1830 census.) So, who are the other three, and what became of them? Assuming that all of them were children of Abednego Casteel, Jr., then we are missing one of Abednego's sons and two of his daughters. I have had no luck at all identifying the missing son. I have not even been able to come up with any potential candidates in census or marriage records. He may have died, or he may have moved away from the Knox/Blount/Roane County area, but I've hit a dead end in trying to find him. I have, however, found a couple of possible candidates in marriage records for the missing daughters. However, there are reasons to be skeptical of both. Here are the only two marriage records I was able to find that are even remotely promising:

- Sarah Casteel to Joseph French (m. 1833 in Blount County)

- Elizabeth D. Casteel to James M. Bell (m. 1840 in Knox County)

The marriage of *Sarah Casteel* to *Joseph French* is the only Casteel marriage to take place in Blount County between 1830 and 1840. That's not surprising, since there were apparently no Casteels living in Blount County at all in 1830, and the only ones living there in 1840 were Abednego and his family (including the family of his son James Monroe Casteel, who was now married with children of his own, and was no longer living with his parents). So there is good reason to suspect that Sarah was related to Abednego in some way. We are pretty sure that Abednego's uncle Francis didn't have a daughter named *Sarah*, since no one by that name was mentioned in his will. We also know that Abednego's brother Daniel had moved his family to Illinois sometime between 1830 and 1834. So, that leaves Abednego as the most likely candidate to be Sarah Casteel's father. But we can't rule out the possibility that Daniel was her father.

So, what about *Elizabeth D. Casteel*? It certainly seems likely (though we can't really prove it) that she was a member of the Knox County Casteel clan. But we have reason to believe that Francis didn't have a daughter named Elizabeth. And Daniel's family had been living in Illinois for several years by 1840. So Abednego would seem to be the most likely candidate to be Elizabeth's father. But let's not jump to conclusions quite so fast. There are a couple of reasons for us to be a bit skeptical. First, as you'll recall from just a moment ago, we have reason to suspect that Abednego may have had another daughter named *Elizabeth*. It seems highly unlikely that he would have had two daughters with the same name, so we have to suspect that at least one of them was *not* Abednego's daughter. But which one? It might be tempting for us to conclude that the Elizabeth Casteel who married Isaac Hood in 1828 was Daniel's daughter, while the Elizabeth D. Casteel who married James M. Bell in 1840 was Abednego's daughter, since the reverse would seem far less plausible. However, before we jump to that conclusion, we need to consider one more thing: Elizabeth D. Casteel married James M. Bell in *April* of 1840, but there is still an unidentified daughter living in the Abednego Casteel household in the 1840 census, which wasn't taken until later that year. Explain that if you can.

Trying to sort all this out has given me a major headache, so I think it's probably best just to leave well enough alone and move on to Abednego's youngest brother, *Daniel Casteel*. According to his 1830 census record, Daniel Casteel was born in the 1790s. In fact, we have reason to believe that he was most likely born around the year 1790. His name does not appear on the 1806 Knox County tax list along with his father and older brothers, which suggests that he was not yet old enough to pay taxes at that time. But his name does appear on the 1808 tax list. Also, he would get married the following year. So he must have come of age around 1808, which means that he couldn't have been born much later than 1790. And, much like his older brothers, we have reason to believe that he was born in *Tennessee*, based on what is reported in the 1880 census records of some of his children.

In 1809, Daniel married *Rhoda Hensley* in Knox County. Rhoda was the sister of *Agnes Hensley*, who had married Daniel's brother Abednego the year before. The 1830 census shows them with ten children in the household—eight daughters and two sons—though, as we discussed earlier, it is possible that they had an older daughter who had already gotten married and moved out of her parents' home by 1830. If they did have an older daughter who got married before 1830, then she would almost certainly have to be the *Elizabeth Casteel* who married *Isaac Hood* in Knox County in 1828. Nonetheless, we have no proof that she was Daniel and Rhoda Casteel's daughter.

Sometime between 1830 and 1834, Daniel Casteel moved his family to Illinois. It is not clear exactly when they left Knox County, Tennessee, though it could have been no earlier than late 1830—because they can be found in the 1830 census for Knox County, Tennessee—and no later than early 1834—because Daniel Casteel died in July of that year in Illinois. I have not been able to find out what became of Daniel's widow, Rhoda. I can't find her in any census or marriage records after 1830. She may have died before 1840. In any event, Daniel and Rhoda's children are believed to have settled in Pike County, Illinois. We are fortunate that we are able to identify both of his two sons with certainty:

- Francis Casteel (b. 1822 in Tennessee)
(+ Lucinda Cooper; m. 1845 in Pike County, Illinois)

- Stephen Casteel (b. 1824 in Tennessee)
(+ Elizabeth Rush; m. 1849 in Pike County, Illinois)

We can be less certain about his daughters. However, I have been able to identify four Casteel brides in Pike County, Illinois, marriage records between 1830 and 1840. They are:

- Charity Casteel to Zachariah Biddle (m. 1834)

- Louisa Casteel to John Callender (m. 1836)

- Malinda Casteel to George Lytle (m. 1837)

- Ann Casteel to Alexius St. Mary (m. 1838)

Were any of these four brides the daughters of Daniel Casteel? I think we can be confident that at least three of them were. Why? Because, at least to the best of our knowledge, the only single Casteel women of marriageable age living in Pike County, Illinois, at that time were the daughters of the late Daniel Casteel and at least some of the daughters of the late Francis Casteel (who moved to Illinois after his death). Fortunately, we know the names of Francis Casteel's daughters. One of them was named *Charity*, so it is possible that the Charity Casteel who married Zachariah Biddle was Francis Casteel's daughter. But Francis Casteel didn't have any daughters named *Louisa*, *Malinda*, or *Ann*, so we can be pretty sure that they were Daniel Casteel's daughters.

In addition to these four, we can find five Casteel brides in Pike County marriage records between 1840 and 1850. We've got to be careful here, though. We have reason to believe that two of these five Casteel brides were the daughters of *Elijah Casteel* (Francis Casteel's son and, therefore, Daniel's cousin), who had just come of age in the 1840s. And we also have to consider the possibility that one or two of these brides might have been Francis Casteel's daughters. But in order to figure out who was the father of each bride, we have to begin by looking at the marriage records. Here they are:

- Mary Casteel to Daniel Wills (m. 1842)
- Harriet Casteel to William C. Crasch (m. 1842)
- Nancy Jane Casteel to Hiram Evans (m. 1842)
- Malvina Casteel to David Shular (m. 1846)
- Charlotte Casteel to Harvey W. Kesterson (m. 1848)

Two of these brides are the daughters of Elijah Casteel, while the other three can be presumed to be the daughters of either Daniel Casteel or Francis Casteel. How do we determine which bride goes with which father? Well, first of all, we know that Francis didn't have any daughters named *Harriet*, *Nancy Jane*, *Malvina*, or *Charlotte*, so that rules him out as their father. However, he did have a daughter named *Mary*. Could the Mary Casteel who married Daniel Wills have been the daughter of Francis Casteel? Maybe, but I don't think so. I can find a marriage record for a *Mary Casteel* to an *Alfred Henley* in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1832, and I have to assume that this was Francis Casteel's daughter. It's possible that she wasn't—she could have been the daughter of either Abednego or Daniel Casteel—but I suspect that she was. Nonetheless, in order to figure out who the father of each of our five Casteel brides was, we need more information; and the best place to find the information we need is in census records. Unfortunately, I can't find either a *Mary Wills* or a *Harriet Crasch* in the 1850 census. However, I did find the other three names, all living in Pike County, Illinois:

- Nancy J. Evans (b. 1829 in Tennessee)
- Malvina Shular (b. 1830 in Tennessee)
- Charlotte Kesterson (b. 1826 in Tennessee)

Since all three of them were born in Tennessee, and since we believe that all of the children of Elijah Casteel were born in Illinois, I think we can safely conclude that *Nancy Jane*, *Malvina*, and *Charlotte* were the daughters of Daniel Casteel.

It should also be noted that, living with the family of David and Malvina Shular in 1850 was an unmarried Lucinda Casteel (b. 1819 in Tennessee). So she was likely another one of Daniel Casteel's daughters. With the inclusion of Lucinda, it looks like we have managed to identify at least seven of Daniel Casteel's daughters from the 1830 census: *Louisa*, *Malinda*, *Ann*, *Nancy Jane*, *Malvina*, *Charlotte*, and *Lucinda*. But what about *Charity*? Was she the daughter of Francis or of Daniel? I haven't found any documentary evidence that would help us determine who her father was, but at least one (unverified) source claims that she was the daughter of Francis Casteel. And since we know that Francis had a daughter named *Charity*, the balance tips ever-so-slightly in favor of Francis over Daniel.

So that means that one of Daniel Casteel's daughters from the 1830 census is still unaccounted for? Was she, perhaps, the Sarah Casteel who got married in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1833? Without more information, we simply can't say.

So, now that we've looked at the family of Abednego Casteel, Sr., including all of his children, we can turn to his brother ...

- **Francis Casteel**

born: 1750s in *Prince George's County, Maryland* §

father: Edmond Casteel III

mother: Rebecca UNKNOWN

places of residence: Washington County, Pennsylvania (to 1783);
Greene County, Tennessee (from 1784 to after 1787);
Knox County, Tennessee (by 1806)

military service: Washington County, Pennsylvania, Militia during the
American Revolutionary War

married: *Mary Peck* (date and place unknown) †

died: 1833 in Knox County, Tennessee

(continued on next page ...)

(... *Francis Casteel, continued*)

children:

- Abraham Casteel (b. 1780s in Tennessee)
(+ Mary “Polly” Nowland; m. 1816 in Madison County, Illinois)
- Isaac Casteel (b. 1780s or ’90s in Tennessee)
(+ Betsey Allard; m. 1818 in Madison County, Illinois)
- Jacob Israel Casteel (b. 1796 in Tennessee)
(+ Sarah Knowlin; date and place unknown)*
- Elijah Casteel (b. 1790s in Tennessee)
(+ Sally Fairchild; m. 1823 in Knox County, Tennessee—1st wife)
(+ Margaret Criss; m. 1832 in Pike County, Illinois—2nd wife)
- Rebecca Casteel (b. 1790s or 1800s in Tennessee)
[If she married, we don’t know who her husband might have been.]
- Mary Casteel *Henley* (b. 1790s or 1800s in Tennessee) §
(+ *Alfred Henley*; m. 1832 in Knox County, Tennessee) §
- Charity Casteel *Biddle* (b. 1790s or 1800s in Tennessee) †
(+ *Zachariah Biddle*; m. 1834 in Pike County, Illinois) †

(* Please note that I’ve seen a couple of unverified sources which claim that Jacob Israel Casteel married this Sarah Knowlin in Madison County, Illinois, in 1818. However, I haven’t been able to find a marriage record for them—even though I had no trouble finding a marriage record for Jacob’s older brother *Isaac* from that same county in that same year. So, until these sources can be verified with other evidence, I remain skeptical about the date and place of their marriage.)

Francis Casteel was the youngest son of Edmond Casteel III. He was most likely born in Prince George’s County, Maryland, since his father appears to have lived there his entire life, and census records indicate that he was born in the 1750s. He lived for a while western Pennsylvania, settling in Washington County. While he was there, he served in the Washington County Militia during the Revolutionary

War. Shortly after the war ended, he moved to Greene County, North Carolina (which would later become Greene County, Tennessee). By 1806 Francis would be living in Knox County, Tennessee, along with his brother, Abednego Casteel, Sr. Abednego, Sr. would either die or leave Knox county by 1808, but Francis would stay for the remainder of his life and raise his family there. He would die in Knox County in 1833.

I have seen no documentary evidence at all concerning Francis Casteel's wife. But according to at least one (unverified) source, her name was *Mary Peck*. The date and place of their marriage is unknown. We are fortunate that Francis left a will, so we do at least know the names of all of his children: *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Rebecca, Mary, and Charity*. Isaac is mentioned in the will only as the father of a *Francis* and a *David Casteel*, who receive his share of the inheritance. So it seems likely that Isaac died before his father did. We can presume, then, that all of Francis's other children were still alive when Francis wrote his will.

What do we know about Francis Casteel's children? First, we know that most of them migrated to Illinois at some point; though not all of them would stay there. *Abraham* and *Isaac*—and possibly *Jacob* as well—may have migrated to Illinois together. Abraham had arrived in Illinois by 1816 at the latest, and we know that Isaac was there by 1818. *Elijah*, who was the youngest son, appears to have made the trip several years later than his older brothers, because we have evidence that he was still in Knox County, Tennessee, as late as 1823. Their sisters didn't join them until after their father's death a decade later. All three of Francis Casteel's daughters were still living with him in 1830, according to census records. I have reason to believe that *Mary* got married in Knox County in 1832. It is unclear if she and her husband migrated to Illinois with her sisters after their father's death. I have not been able to find her or her husband in census records in either Illinois or Tennessee after 1830. *Charity* appears to have gotten married in Illinois within a year of her arrival there. It is unclear what became of *Rebecca*. I haven't been able to find her in marriage records or census records after 1830 in either Illinois or Tennessee.

Let's now take a closer look at the families of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Elijah.

We know that Francis Casteel's son *Abraham* got married to a *Polly Nowland* in Madison County, Illinois, in 1816. We can find an Abraham Casteel in the 1820 census for St. Clair County, Illinois, and also in the 1830 census for Pike County, Illinois. (Please note, however, that the Abraham Casteel in the 1820 census was listed as being in the 45+ age bracket, which is too old to be the Abraham Casteel

we're looking for. However, since this is the only Abraham Casteel we can find in the 1820 census in Illinois, and since his wife is listed as being in the 26-45 age bracket, it is possible that this is the right Abraham Casteel after all. (The census taker may have just accidentally marked the wrong column on the census form.) We can also find a listing for an *A. Casteel* in Dubuque County, Iowa Territory, in the 1840 census; and we can find a widowed *Mary Casteel* living in Dubuque County, Iowa, in 1850. Was this the same Abraham and Mary "Polly" Casteel who had previously lived in Illinois? It's certainly possible, though we can't be absolutely sure without additional evidence. And speaking of evidence, I have not been able to find documentary evidence concerning Abraham and Polly Casteel's children. However, unverified sources claim that they had two daughters and one son: *Lucinda* (b. c.1818 in Illinois), *Mahala* (b. 1818 in Illinois), and *Samuel T.* (b. c.1830 in Illinois). It is unclear how reliable this information is.

Military records show an *Isaac Casteel* who served in the West Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War. This suggests that he must have been living in what we now call *Middle Tennessee* (which was then called *West Tennessee*) in late 1813 when he joined. While we can't be certain that this Isaac Casteel was Francis Casteel's son and Abraham Casteel's younger brother, I can find no trace of any other Isaac Casteel in Tennessee records from this era, so I have to suspect that he is the Isaac Casteel we're looking for. He must have migrated to Illinois not long after the war was over, because we find the record of a marriage between an Isaac Casteel and a Betsey Allard in Madison County, Illinois, in 1818. (Recall that Isaac's older brother Abraham got married in that same county just two years earlier.) Unfortunately, I have not been able to find an Isaac Casteel in the 1820 census in Illinois. It is possible that he died before 1820. We know that he died before 1833, because he is named in his father's will only as the father of *Francis* and *David Casteel*, who receive Isaac's share of the inheritance. So, we know the names of Isaac Casteel's two sons, and it seems reasonable to presume that he had no other children. Unfortunately, I have not been able to determine what became of this Francis and David Casteel after their father's death.

According to at least one (unverified) source, *Jacob Israel Casteel* got married to *Sarah Knowlin* in Madison County, Illinois, in 1818—the same year in which his older brother Isaac got married in that same county. This would seem to indicate that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob migrated to Illinois together. Unfortunately, I've been unable to find Jacob Casteel's marriage record, so I can't confirm the date or place of his marriage. Nonetheless, we know from census records that he was in Pike County, Illinois, by 1830, and we also know from military records that he was still in Tennessee as late as 1814, since he served in the East Tennessee Militia

during the War of 1812/Creek War. So, we can be confident that he migrated to Illinois sometime between 1814 and 1830. I haven't been able to find him in any census records before 1830, but in the 1830 census he is living in Pike County, as are his brothers Abraham and Elijah. But by 1840, Jacob had moved his family to Hancock County, Illinois, which at that time was the headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (*i.e.* the Mormon Church). In fact, the 1840 census shows Jacob Casteel and his family living not too far away from Brigham Young himself (they were only six pages apart on the census form). It isn't clear if Jacob and his family were Mormons before they moved to Hancock County or if they converted while they were living there, but they were definitely Mormons. And when the Mormons of Hancock County migrated to the Utah Territory in the 1840s to escape religious persecution, Jacob and his family went with them. They can be found in the 1850 census living in Utah County, Utah Territory.

But Jacob would soon become disillusioned with the leadership of the Latter Day Saints Church. He apparently remained faithful to the tenets of Mormonism for the rest of his life, but he came to reject the authority of Brigham Young and the other leaders of the church. There is a rumor that this was the result of a personal dispute he had with Young over a cow. Apparently, one of Jacob's cows got loose and somehow got mixed in with Brigham Young's herd. When Jacob went to get the cow back, Young refused to give it to him, claiming that it was his. Whether this story is true or apocryphal, something caused Jacob Israel Casteel to break his ties with the official LDS church in Salt Lake City and to join a splinter faction of Mormons who held on to the doctrines of the church but rejected the leadership of Brigham Young and his associates. Perhaps as a result of his break with Young, Jacob Casteel and his family left Utah and migrated to California, settling in San Bernardino County, where he would die sometime before 1860.

According to one (unverified) source, Jacob Israel Casteel and his wife Sarah had six children (three boys and three girls): *Mary Ann* (b. 1819 in Illinois), *Stephen Francis* (b. 1820 in Illinois), *Emeline Catherine* (b. c.1823 in Illinois), *Margaret Jane* (b. 1825 in Missouri), *Joshua Oglesby* (b. 1830 in Illinois), and *James Nowlin* (b. 1833 in Illinois). I can confirm only two of those with other sources: *Margaret Jane* (who married *William Decatur Kartchner*) and *Joshua Oglesby*. I am not able to confirm any of the others.

Finally, we come to Francis Casteel's youngest son, *Elijah*. Apparently, he didn't migrate to Illinois until several years after his older brothers did, because we have a marriage record that places him in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1823, where he married his first wife, *Sally Fairchild*. But they would make the journey to Pike

County, Illinois, by 1830. Sally appears to have died sometime between 1830 and 1832, because Elijah got remarried in 1832, this time to a *Margaret Criss*. Elijah and his family would live in Pike County until after 1840, but by 1850, they had moved to Jackson County, Illinois, where they would remain until at least 1860. I have not been able to find them in census records after 1860.

So, who were Elijah Casteel's children? Recall that we have already identified two of his (possible) daughters from Pike County, Illinois, marriage records. They are *Mary Casteel Wills* and *Harriet Casteel Crasch*. We can identify nine more of his children (four boys and five girls) through census records. (All of them were born in Illinois.) They are: *James A.* (b. 1826), *William E.* (b. 1829), *Carolina* (b. 1833), *J. Nicholas* (b. 1834), *Barbara* (b. 1837), *Susan* (b. 1839), *Isaac B.* (b. 1840), *Betsey* (b. 1842), and *Eliza E.* (b. 1843).

Okay. That does it for the children of Francis Casteel, son of Edmond III. And that pretty much does it for the Knox County Casteel clan. However, before we move on to the Blount County Casteels, let us first note a few Casteels we find in various Knox County records who we have not been able to connect to Abednego Casteel, Sr. or his brother Francis.

We must begin with the ill-fated *William Casteel* and family who were massacred by Indians in Knox County, south of the French Broad River, in 1794. You will recall that William Casteel's name appears on Green County tax lists in 1783 and 1793. While we can't rule out the possibility that he was connected in some way to Abednego and Francis Casteel, I have found no evidence of such a connection other than the fact that all three of these men settled in Knox County south of the French Broad River. But that could be just a coincidence. If this William Casteel was related to Abednego and Francis Casteel, I can't figure out how.

According to the account of the massacre that we read earlier, this William Casteel was from Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia), and he was a veteran of the American Revolution. In order for him to have been old enough to fight in the Revolutionary War—even if he enlisted in the final year of the war—he could have been born no later than the 1760s, and it is far more likely that he was born in the 1750s. That would put him in about the same age range as Francis Casteel. But we know that he wasn't his brother, because Francis and Abednego were sons of Edmond Casteel III, who left a will naming all of his children, and there wasn't a William among them. So, if he was related to Abednego and Francis at all, they

could have been no more closely related than first cousins. But were they? And if they were, who was William's father? Could it have been *Zachariah Casteel*, the patriarch of the Greene County Casteels? Or what about *John Casteel, Sr.*, the patriarch of the Blount County Casteels? We can't really rule either of them out. Yes, Zachariah Casteel left a will; and no, it didn't mention a son named *William*; but William Casteel died many years before Zachariah Casteel wrote his will, so there is no real reason for William to be mentioned in Zachariah's will even if he were his son. Nonetheless, it seems rather unlikely that William was Zachariah's son, though we can't prove that he wasn't. But what about John Casteel, Sr.? He seems like a more likely candidate than Zachariah, especially since William Casteel was in Greene County in 1783, along with John Casteel, Sr. and John Casteel, Jr. Neither Zachariah nor any of the other Casteels appear to have arrived in Greene County until later. So, I think it's at least *possible* that this William Casteel was the son of John Casteel, Sr. *But* (and you knew that there would be a *but*, didn't you?) I am unable to find any evidence to suggest that John Casteel, Sr. ever lived in Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia. I can't say for sure that he didn't, but I have no reason to think that he did.

But William Casteel did come from Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia—at least according to the historical account we read about the massacre of his family—and this may give us a vital clue about his origins. In fact, it may suggest that he was not related to the other East Tennessee Casteels at all. For many years now, some Casteel family researchers have been arguing that not all of the Casteels we find in early records are descendants of Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval. Most are, but some aren't. They claim that there was a second line of Casteels in North America in those days that was not related to Capt. Edmond and his descendants. We don't really know much about the origins of this second line of Casteels, but we have reason to believe that they settled in Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia, before spreading out to other parts of North America. Genetic testing apparently confirms that known descendants of the Greenbrier County Casteels do not share certain distinctive genetic markers with known descendants of Capt. Edmond. So it would appear that the Greenbrier County Casteels were not related to the other Casteel families who were living in North America in those days. Of course, one of Capt. Edmond's descendants might have adopted a son or else had an unfaithful wife who bore another man's son and passed him off as a Casteel. Either of these possibilities could explain why one branch of the Casteel family is not genetically related to the others. But it is just as possible that the Greenbrier County Casteels are the descendants of some unknown Casteel who arrived in America in the early 1700s, and are not connected to Capt. Edmond's descendants in any way. We just don't know.

The fact that the William Casteel whose family was massacred by Indians in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1794 had come from Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia, suggests—though it does not prove—that he might not have even been related to Abednego, Francis, and the rest of the Knox County Casteel clan at all. We can't really be sure, but we need to be mindful of the possibility.

Before we leave William Casteel, we must note that his oldest daughter, *Elizabeth "Betsey" Casteel*, who was just ten years old at the time of the massacre, actually survived the attack that killed her parents and siblings. She was the only survivor, and it took her two years to recover from her injuries. But she remained in Knox County, and in 1812, she got married there to a *James Dunlap*.

We have already mentioned the *David* and *Nancy Casteel* who both got married in Knox County in 1798. David married a *Sarah Mitchell*, and Nancy married a *Mordecai Mitchell*. David served as surety on Nancy's marriage bond. This gave us reason to believe that David and Nancy were brother and sister. Perhaps Sarah and Mordecai Mitchell were also brother and sister. But what we want to know is how this David and Nancy Casteel were connected to Abednego, Francis, and the other Knox County Casteels, if at all. Neither of them was mentioned in Francis Casteel's will, so that would seem to rule him out as their father. But we have no evidence that would definitively rule out Abednego Casteel, Sr. as their father. It is entirely possible that he could have been. But was he?

What do we know about this *David* and *Nancy Casteel*, other than the fact that they were both in Knox County in 1798 and that they got married to Sarah and Mordecai Mitchell? Not a whole lot. In 1801, a *David Casteel* signed a petition asking the Tennessee legislature to split Knox County in two in order to create a new county in the Clinch River area (which would happen later that same year with the creation of Anderson County). In 1805, a *David Casteel* can be found on a Blount County tax list. But that's about it. The only *David Casteel* listed in the 1830 census is much too young to have gotten married in 1798 (in fact, he wasn't even born in 1798), so it would seem that the David Casteel we're looking for must have died sometime before 1830.

I can find a *Mordecai Mitchell* on the 1801 tax list for Blount County, in the same district as *John* and *Edward (Edmond) Casteel*. His name also appears in a land record, showing that he sold his land grant in Blount county to a James Anderson and a John Mitchell (the date of this transaction is not recorded). So, if Mordecai Mitchell and (presumably) his wife were in Blount County, does this suggest that

Nancy Casteel Mitchell and her brother David Casteel were more closely related to the Blount County Casteels than to the Knox County Casteels? Possibly. But we would need more evidence to know for certain. It might help if we could find them in census records.

I can find three *Mordecai Mitchells* in the 1830 census—one in Maine, another in North Carolina, and a third in Monroe County, Tennessee—but all three are too young to have gotten married in 1798. It seems plausible that the one in Monroe County, Tennessee, might have been the son (or perhaps the nephew) of the one who got married in Knox County in 1798 and who was living in Blount County in 1801. But we can't really know for sure. There are several *Nancy Mitchells* in the 1830 census—including one in *Limestone County, Alabama!*—but there is no way to know which, if any, of these might be the Nancy Mitchell we are looking for. I did find a *Mordecai Mitchell* in Knox County, *Kentucky*, in 1810, but we have no way of knowing whether this is the same Mordecai Mitchell who married Nancy Casteel in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1798. So, it looks like we've hit a dead end. Nonetheless, we do at least have good reason to suspect a connection to the Blount County Casteel clan.

And that brings us to *John Casteel*. We have no evidence that would suggest that Abednego Casteel, Sr. or his brother Francis had a son named *John*. Yet we find a *John Casteel* mentioned in a handful of records from Knox County. In fact, at one point there is even a John Casteel living on Abednego Casteel's land! So how might he be connected to the Knox County Casteels? Let's begin by taking a look at the records. First, we have military records that show a *John Casteel* serving in the Knox County Regiment of the Hamilton District Militia for the Territory South of the Ohio River in 1794. (Please note that this is the same year in which the family of William Casteel was massacred in Knox County. So, a John Casteel was living in Knox County at the same time as William Casteel and family. This doesn't prove that they were related to each other, but it does invite speculation.) But we need to be careful here: Blount County, Tennessee, was created in 1795 out of territory that had previously been part of Knox and Jefferson Counties. So it is quite possible that the John Casteel who served in the militia in *Knox County* in 1794 was living in what would—the very next year—become *Blount County*.

Second, we find a Knox County court record from 1807 ordering that Abednego Casteel's land be sold to pay his debts. (Presumably, this refers to Abednego, Sr., and not his son, Abednego, Jr. This is further evidence that Abednego, Sr. most likely died in Knox County around 1806 or 1807.) The court record notes that a

John Casteel is currently living on the land. Third, we find *John Casteel's* name on the Knox County tax list in 1808. And finally, we find a land record showing that a *John Casteel* acquired land in Knox County in 1822. So, a *John Casteel* definitely lived in Knox County at some point. It may have been more than one John Casteel—we can't be sure that the John Casteel who was there in 1794 was the same John Casteel who was there in 1822—but we can be certain that at least one John Casteel lived in Knox County for some period of time. But which John Casteel was it? I've actually lost count of how many different John Casteels we've encountered over the course of this research. Which one (or more) of them might have been living in Knox County in 1794, 1807-08, or 1822? And how might he (or they) have been related to Abednego Casteel, Sr. and the other Knox County Casteels? Let's try to figure out the answers to at least some of these questions.

First of all, only three of the John Casteels who were living in Tennessee in 1794 would have been old enough at the time to serve in the militia: the John Casteel, Sr. who was in Greene County until at least 1787 but who would settle in Blount County by 1796 (*John Casteel-A*), his son, John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*), and John Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel, of Greene County (*John Casteel-C*). But by 1794, John Casteel, Sr. (*John Casteel-A*) would likely have been getting a bit too old to serve in the militia. We don't know exactly when he was born, but we are pretty sure that it had to be before 1743—and it could have been as early as the 1720s. So, I think we can eliminate him. But his son, John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*), who we have reason to believe was born in 1765, would have been around 29 years old in 1794—a perfectly reasonable age to be serving in the militia. What about John Casteel of Greene County (*John Casteel-C*)? We have reason to believe that he was born in 1770, so he would have been about 24 in 1794—again, a perfectly reasonable age to serve in the militia. So we can't definitively rule him out. But we have no evidence that he ever set foot in Knox County, whereas we have reason to believe that the other two John Casteels did. (Recall that, until 1795, Blount County was part of Knox and Jefferson Counties, and we know that John Casteel, Sr. and family were in Blount County by 1796.) So, I strongly suspect—but can't prove—that the John Casteel who served in the militia in Knox County in 1794 was John Casteel, Jr. (*John Casteel-B*), and that he was actually living in the portion of Knox County that would become Blount County the following year.

But the John Casteel who was living on Abednego Casteel's land in Knox County in 1807 and who paid taxes in Knox County in 1808 was clearly in *Knox County*, rather than in neighboring Blount County. So which John Casteel was this? We can be fairly certain that it was not the John Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel, of

Greene County, since he could be found on both the 1805 and 1809 tax lists for Greene County. But what about his (supposed) son, (James) John Casteel—the one who ended up settling in Bedford County? I think we can probably rule him out, as well, for three reasons: First, like his father, we have no evidence that he ever set foot in Knox County. Second, since we believe that he was born in 1790, I'm not convinced that he would have been old enough to have been living so far away from his parents by 1807 or to have started paying taxes by 1808. Third, I suspect (but can't prove) that he may have been either the *John Casteel-D* from the Greene County tax list in 1809 or else the *John Casteel-E* from the Greene County tax list in 1811, or possibly both. Of course, none of this proves that he *couldn't* have been the John Casteel who was living in Knox County in 1807 and 1808, but taken together, it does make him a less likely candidate than one of the John Casteels from neighboring Blount County.

So, if it was one of the John Casteels from Blount County, which one was it? We know of at least two John Casteels who are believed to have been living in Blount County—John Casteel, Sr. and his son, John (Henry) Casteel, Jr. (also known as *John Casteel-A* and *John Casteel-B*)—and we have reason to suspect that there was also another—the younger of the two John Casteels who would end up in St. Francis County, Arkansas. Any of these three John Casteels from Blount County could have easily moved a few miles north and lived in Knox County for a year or two (after all, Abednego Casteel's land was not far from the Blount County line). But, as you may recall, I suspect that John Casteel, Sr. (*John Casteel-A*), died by 1800. I can't prove it, but I have reasons for thinking that it is plausible (which I won't rehash here—I'll refer you back to pages 306-307). If John Casteel, Sr. did die by 1800, then that just leaves John Casteel, Jr. and John Casteel (the younger) as candidates for the John Casteel who was living in Knox County in 1807-08. It could have been either one of them.

The same is true for the *John Casteel* who bought land in Knox County in 1822. Let's not forget that Knox and Blount Counties bordered each other, and that the Blount County Casteels lived within a few miles of their cousins in Knox County. There would be nothing unusual about one of the Blount County Casteels buying land in Knox County, or *vice versa*. We may not be able to determine, with any degree of certainty, *which* of the John Casteels of Blount County bought land in Knox County in 1822, but there's nothing at all surprising about the fact that one of them did. Likewise, there's nothing particularly surprising about the fact that, after the death of Abednego Casteel, Sr., one of his cousins from just a few miles away might have lived on his land for a year or two. While we might not be able to determine exactly *which* of the Blount County John Casteels lived for a while

on Abednego Casteel's land, does it really matter? All that matters is that we've solved the "mystery" of where this John Casteel might have come from and how he might have been related to the Knox County Casteels. In all likelihood, he was one of their cousins from neighboring Blount County, who they probably saw on a semi-regular basis anyway. This seems far more likely than the possibility that he was one of the Greene County Casteels or that he was some other John Casteel who we've never met before.

Before we turn our attention to the Blount County Casteels, there's just one more Casteel we need to talk about, albeit briefly, whose name appears in Knox County records, but who doesn't appear to belong to the Knox County Casteel clan. She is *Melissa Ann Casteel*, and she married a *Lewis M. Stanberry* in Knox County in 1845. We are fortunate that we know exactly who she is and how she fits into the Casteel family. And, just as we suspected, she is not one of the Knox County Casteels. She is, rather, the daughter of the *Edmond* (or *Edward*) *Casteel* who is believed to belong to the Blount County Casteel clan, though he would eventually move to Roane County and then to McMinn County. Edmond had died some 14 years earlier in McMinn County, and apparently Melissa Ann had moved to Knox County sometime after his death. So that mystery is solved.

Now, let us turn our attention to ...

The *Blount County* Casteel Clan

We've saved the most challenging of our three Casteel clans for last. While we did have a little bit of difficulty here and there trying to sort out all of the members of the Greene County and Knox County Casteel clans, we could at least be sure that we had correctly identified the key players in those clans—Zachariah Casteel and his sons in Greene County; and Abednego Casteel, Sr., Francis Casteel, and their sons in Knox County. But we can't even do that with the Blount County Casteel clan. While we can be fairly confident that John Casteel, Sr. was the patriarch of the Blount County Casteels, we can't be certain that we have correctly identified all of his sons. In order for us to figure out who's who among the Blount County Casteels, I'm afraid we're going to have to rely on quite a bit of guesswork.

But fortunately, since we saved the Blount County Casteels for last, we don't have quite as many names to work with as we did before—most of the Casteels of East Tennessee who we've encountered over the course of this research are now known to be members of either the Green County or the Knox County Casteel clan. So, we don't have to worry about whether, say, the John Casteel of Bedford County or the Zachariah Casteel of Roane County might possibly have been members of the Blount County Casteel clan. Now, of course, we can't just assume that every Casteel we've encountered who we haven't yet been able to connect to either the Greene County or the Knox County Casteel clan must necessarily be one of the Blount County Casteels. But at least we have been able to narrow down our list of candidates for inclusion in the Blount County Casteel clan quite a bit.

But I have a feeling that our biggest challenge won't be trying to figure out which Casteels belong to the Blount County clan, but rather trying to figure out exactly *how* each of them fits into that clan. For example, we can be reasonably confident that the Joseph Casteel of Clay County, and later Clinton County, Missouri, was a member of the Blount County Casteel clan. But who was his father? Questions like this are going to plague us as we try to piece together the puzzle of who's who among the Blount County Casteels.

But let's go ahead and give it our best shot, anyway. We'll start with what we can know about the Blount County Casteels with some degree of confidence and then work our way toward matters that will require a certain amount of speculation on our part. The first thing we need to do is to note, once again, that Blount County (which, in case you didn't know, is pronounced *Blunt*) was formed in 1795 out of parts of Knox and Jefferson Counties. We know that John Casteel, Sr. was living in Blount County by 1796, and we have reason to suspect that he might have been living in that same area for some years, even before it became Blount County. We know from military records that a *John Casteel*—though probably John Casteel, Jr., rather than John Casteel, Sr.—was serving in the militia in Knox County in 1794. In all likelihood, both John Casteel, Sr. and his son, John Casteel, Jr., had been living in what would eventually become Blount County since at least 1793, if not before, since neither of them appears on the 1793 tax list for Greene County. But whenever they may have first arrived there, we know that John Casteel, Sr. and family had settled in Blount County by 1796 at the very latest. By this time, John Casteel, Jr. was already grown, married, and had children of his own. And we have reason to believe that John Casteel, Sr. had other children as well, most (if not all) of whom were either fully grown or nearly so by the time they settled in Blount County. They would raise families of their own in Blount County, at least for a couple of decades, before striking out for greener pastures elsewhere.

By 1830, there were no Casteels living in Blount County—they had all migrated elsewhere. But in the 1800s, 1810s, and 1820s, we do find records of a number of Casteels in Blount County. It seems reasonable, then, for us to presume that all of the Casteels we find in Blount County records are members of the Blount County Casteel clan—and are, therefore, descendants of John Casteel, Sr.—unless we find evidence to the contrary. So, a good place for us to begin would be by compiling a list of all the Casteels who appear in Blount County records before 1830. Here they are:

- **Abram Casteel**
1818 – married a *Mary Whittenberger*

- **David Casteel**
1805 – paid taxes

- **Edmond/Edward Casteel** (note that the first name varies)
1800 – paid taxes
1801 – paid taxes; served as an Ensign in the Blount County militia
1807 – acquired some land
1809 – signed a petition
1825 – had his land sold at public auction (*likely in his absence*)

- **Isabella Casteel**
1826 – married a *James Sutton*

- **James Casteel**
1825 – married a *Mary Ann Williams*

- **Jesse Casteel** (the name is uncertain—I suspect this was *Joseph Casteel*)
1805 – paid taxes

- **John Casteel**
1801 – paid taxes
1805 – paid taxes
1807 – acquired some land
1809 – signed a petition
1824 – acquired some land

- **Joseph Casteel**
 1801 – paid taxes
 1805 – *may have paid taxes* (see the note on *Jesse Casteel* above)
 1810 – acquired some land

- **Liddy Casteel**
 1800 – married a *Francisco Piñexo*

- **Philip Casteel**
 1818 – married a *Charlotte Franks*

- **Susannah Casteel**
 1819 – married a *Robert McClain*

- **Wiley (Willis) Casteel**
 1807 – was chain carrier on the survey of Edmond Casteel’s land

Let’s repeat this list, but this time in chronological order:

- 1800 – Edmond/Edward Casteel, Liddy Casteel
- 1801 – Edmond/Edward Casteel, John Casteel, Joseph Casteel
- 1805 – David Casteel, Jesse (*or Joseph*) Casteel, John Casteel
- 1807 – Edmond/Edward Casteel, John Casteel, Wiley (Willis) Casteel
- 1809 – Edmond/Edward Casteel, John Casteel
- 1810 – Joseph Casteel
- 1818 – Abram Casteel, Philip Casteel
- 1819 – Susannah Casteel
- 1824 – John Casteel
- 1825 – Edmond/Edward Casteel (*likely absent*), James Casteel
- 1826 – Isabella Casteel

We should also mention that *Mordecai Mitchell*, the husband of *Nancy Casteel Mitchell* (who we believe to be the sister of *David Casteel*), paid taxes in Blount County in 1801. He also had a land grant in Blount County, which he sold, but I have not found any records of when he acquired the land grant or when he sold it, so that doesn't help us very much. Nonetheless, I think we should include *Nancy Casteel Mitchell* on our list of names, anyway, since she was most likely in Blount County with her husband in 1801.

These are certainly not the only members of the Blount County Casteel clan, but at least we now have some names to work with in order to get us started. It seems likely that most, if not all, of the names on this list were either the children or the grandchildren of John Casteel, Sr. We can't be 100% sure of this, of course, but I think we are justified in using it as our working assumption, at least for now, and seeing where it gets us.

Let us begin by looking at the Casteels who were in Blount County before 1810. In the order of their appearance in Blount County records, they include: *Edmond* or *Edward Casteel* (his name is given as *Edmond* in some records and as *Edward* in others, but we have reason to believe that both names refer to the same person), *Liddy Casteel* (presumably, *Liddy* is short for *Elizabeth*), *John Casteel*, *Joseph Casteel*, *Nancy Casteel Mitchell* (represented by her husband *Mordecai*), *David Casteel*, *Jesse Casteel* (maybe—the name on the tax list is barely legible, and I suspect that it was actually supposed to be *Joseph*, even though it looks more like *Jessee*), and *Wiley Casteel* (who is almost certainly the *Willis Casteel* we find in later records). Because we are so uncertain about the “*Jesse*”(?) *Casteel* from the 1805 tax list, and because we can't find his name in any other records from Blount County or any other place where the Blount County Casteels are known to have settled, we will drop him from our list for now and focus on the other names. So, that leaves us with:

- Edmond/Edward Casteel
- Liddy (Elizabeth?) Casteel Piñexo
- John Casteel
- Joseph Casteel
- Nancy Casteel Mitchell
- David Casteel
- Wiley/Willis Casteel

We already know that John Casteel, Sr. had a son named *John Casteel, Jr.*, so that accounts for the *John Casteel* on this list. (I suspect that there were actually *two* John Casteels in Blount County at this time, but we'll save our discussion of the younger of these two John Casteels for later.) And, as we discussed earlier, I strongly suspect (but, alas, can't prove) that *Edmond/Edward Casteel* is also the son of John Casteel, Sr. Given the fact that, according to his 1830 census record, he was born in the 1760s—which is the same decade in which John Casteel, Jr. is believed to have been born—he would certainly have been in the right age range to have been the son of John Casteel, Sr. And we know that he settled in Blount County around the same time as John Casteel, Sr. and John Casteel, Jr. Not only do we find Edmond/Edward Casteel's name in Blount County records beginning as early as 1800, we also know from census records that his son *Barney* was born in (what would later become) Blount County in 1787 or '89. And, since we have found no evidence to suggest that he belonged to either the Greene County or the Knox County Casteels, we have to assume that he belonged to the Blount County Casteel clan. And, of course, there's also his name to consider: Recall that John Casteel, Sr. is believed to have been the son of *Edmond Casteel II*. So he might very well have chosen to name one of his sons after his father. So, I think we are justified in concluding that Edmond/Edward Casteel was very likely the son of John Casteel, Sr. So that takes care of two of the names from our list.

We also know, from Edmond/Edward Casteel's death records and other sources, that he had a son named *Willis*, who we believe was the same person as the *Wiley Casteel* who served as chain carrier on the survey of Edmond/Edward Casteel's land in Blount County in 1807. So, that's a third name accounted for. Willis (or Wiley) Casteel was the son of Edmond/Edward Casteel, which would make him the (probable) grandson of John Casteel, Sr. We should also mention that Willis Casteel would eventually settle in St. Francis County, Arkansas, along with John Casteel, Jr. This is yet another piece of evidence that connects Edmond/Edward Casteel to John Casteel, Sr.

So, that just leaves *Liddy, Joseph, Nancy, and David*. We know from his death records that Edmond/Edward Casteel didn't have any children named *Liddy* (or *Elizabeth*), *Joseph*, or *David*. He did have a daughter named *Nancy*, but she was far too young to have been the *Nancy Casteel* who married *Mordecai Mitchell* in 1798. So I think we can rule out Edmond/Edward as the father of *Liddy Casteel Piñexo, Joseph Casteel, Nancy Casteel Mitchell, or David Casteel*. So, if they were all members of the Blount County Casteel clan, their father must have been either *John Casteel, Sr., John Casteel, Jr.,* or else another son of John, Sr., who we have not yet been able to identify.

We know from Joseph Casteel's census records that he was born in the 1770s or 1780s (the age range varies from record to record), and we have reason to believe that he was born in Pennsylvania (or at least that's what it says on his son's 1880 census record). We know that John Casteel, Sr. was serving in the Washington County, Pennsylvania, militia during the American Revolution. We don't know his exact years of service, but we do know that Washington County was formed in 1781 and the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, so that gives us a pretty good clue as to when he was there. We also know that both John Casteel, Sr. and John Casteel, Jr. were in (what would become) Greene County, Tennessee, by 1783. So, I would have to guess that Joseph Casteel was most likely born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, somewhere around 1780.

Assuming that *John Casteel, Jr.* was the same person as the *Henry Casteel* who was born in Prince George's County, Maryland, to a John and Rebecca Casteel in 1765, then he would have been just a bit too young to have been Joseph Casteel's father. Besides that, assuming that John Casteel, Jr. was the elder of the two John Casteels who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, as we suspect, we already know that his oldest son (or at least his wife Jemima's oldest son) was the *Henry Casteel* who settled in Wayne County, Tennessee. We know from census records that he was born in Tennessee around 1786. So, unless John Casteel, Jr. had another wife before Jemima, he couldn't have been Joseph Casteel's father.

If we assume that John Casteel, Jr. was the oldest son of John Casteel, Sr.—which seems like a reasonable assumption—then it seems unlikely that Joseph could have been John, Sr.'s grandson. So, it appears that we have little choice but to conclude that Joseph Casteel was, in all likelihood, the son of John Casteel, Sr. That means that we have now identified *three* sons of John Casteel, Sr. (or at least three of his likely sons): *John, Jr.*, *Edmond/Edward*, and *Joseph*. So now we've figured out how all but three of the Casteels on our list—*Liddy*, *Nancy*, and *David*—fit into the Blount County Casteel clan.

The only thing we know about *Liddy Casteel* was that she got married in Blount County in 1800 to a man supposedly named *Francisco Piñexo*—though I suspect that the name must have been grossly misspelled on the marriage record, because I can find no other record of anyone named *Piñexo*, not just in Blount County, not just in Tennessee, not just in the United States, but anywhere in the world! Note that, on the outside of the marriage record, underneath the groom's name there is a note in parentheses which says: (*Spanish Pinno*). Presumably, this is how the name was pronounced. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any trace of either *Francisco* or *Liddy Piñexo* (or *Pinno* or any other variation on the name)

in any records other than their 1800 marriage record from Blount County. We do learn something of value from this record, though. First of all, we learn that Liddy must have been old enough to get married in 1800, which means that she must have been born no later than the mid-1780s. The second thing we learn is that *Joseph Casteel* served as surety on her marriage bond! Since he would have been much too young to be her father (he was born around 1780), it is possible that he was either her brother or her uncle. We will need more information if we hope to figure out which it is, and right now, we just don't have it.

As you'll recall, we already have reason to suspect (though we cannot prove) that *Nancy* and *David Casteel* were siblings. Both of them were married in 1798 in Knox County, and it appears that they may have married siblings: *Mordecai* and *Sarah Mitchell*. David even served as surety on Nancy's marriage bond. While we know that both Nancy and David lived in Knox County for a while, we have not been able to connect them to the Knox County Casteel clan. And since both David Casteel and Mordecai Mitchell can be found in Blount County records, we suspect that David and Nancy *might* have belonged to the Blount County Casteel clan instead. But we have no actual *evidence* to prove that they were members of the Blount County Casteel clan. In fact, the only evidence we have that connects them to Blount County at all is Mordecai Mitchell's name on the 1801 tax list and on an undated land record, and David Casteel's name on the 1805 tax list. Is this enough evidence for us to conclude that Nancy and David may have been closely related to the other Casteels in Blount County? I'm not really sure that it is, but if they weren't, then we've got a huge unsolved mystery on our hands: Who were Nancy and David's parents, and why can't we find them in any early records from East Tennessee? After all, Nancy and David didn't just magically appear in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1798. They were either born in Tennessee or else brought there from somewhere else by their parents (or by other family members, if their parents had died). In either case, we should find at least some trace of their family in East Tennessee records. But the only Casteels we can find in the Knox/Blount County area around 1798 were the Knox County Casteels and the Blount County Casteels. So, if Nancy and David weren't members of the Knox County Casteel clan, then they would almost certainly have to have been members of the Blount County Casteel clan. So, I think we have to assume that they were.

Working from that assumption, what can we conclude about them. Well, both of them got married in 1798—just a couple of years before Liddy Casteel did—so it seems likely that they weren't all that much older than she was: Most likely, they would have been born around 1780; perhaps a bit earlier. We know that Joseph Casteel was born somewhere around 1780, so David and Nancy must have been

pretty close to his age. The same logic that led us to conclude that Joseph Casteel was just a bit too old to have been John Casteel, Sr.'s grandchild forces us to draw the same conclusion about Nancy and David. And if they were not John Casteel, Sr.'s grandchildren, the only option we have left is to conclude that they were his children. (And, even though this doesn't prove anything, I find it interesting that Joseph Casteel named one of his sons *David*. Did he name him after his brother? We can't be sure, of course—after all, he didn't name any of his children *John*, or *Edmond*, or *Liddy*, or *Nancy*—but it's certainly plausible.)

So, we've managed to identify five *possible* children of John Casteel, Sr., though we have varying degrees of confidence about each. They are:

- John Casteel, Jr.—*certain*
- Edmond/Edward Casteel—*highly likely*
- Joseph Casteel—*likely*
- Nancy Casteel Mitchell—*somewhat likely*
- David Casteel—*somewhat likely*
- Liddy Casteel Piñexo—*possible*

But this list may not be complete. I suspect that John Casteel, Sr. might have had at least one more son—perhaps one who died before 1800, since we can't seem to find any mention of him in Blount County records. What makes me suspect this? One thing: John Casteel, the younger, of St. Francis County, Arkansas. We have good reason to believe that he must have been one of the Blount County Casteels, but we don't know who his father was.

We know from census records that he was born in the 1780s, so he was too old to have been the son of either Joseph or David Casteel (unless David was much older than we suspect). We also know that Edmond/Edward Casteel didn't have a son named *John*, so that rules him out as a candidate as well. I think we can also rule out John Casteel, Sr., because we know that he had another son named *John*, and it seems highly unlikely that he would have named two of his sons *John*. So that just leaves John Casteel, Jr. as the only plausible candidate to be the father of John Casteel, the younger, of St. Francis County, Arkansas—*unless* John Casteel, Jr. had another brother who we have not yet been able to identify. But why would we even suspect this? Why not just accept that John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* John Casteel, *the elder*, of St. Francis County) was the father of John Casteel, the younger?

It's certainly possible that the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas, were father and son. But, as we discussed earlier, we have reasons to suspect that they might not have been. For one thing, the younger John Casteel's name is not mentioned in the elder John Casteel's death records along with (at least some of) his other children. For another, some (unverified) sources suggest that the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County had another son named *John*—namely, *John Henry Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee. And it seems quite unlikely that he would name two of his sons *John*.

But before we rule out the possibility that the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County was the son of the elder John Casteel of that same county, we should note that the only death records we have been able to find for the elder John Casteel so far consist of a single notice that was sent out by the administrators of his estate to a handful of concerned parties, informing them of their plans for having the estate probated. It appears that the elder John Casteel didn't leave a will. And there are any number of reasons why a son might not have been named in a notice sent out by the administrators of his father's estate. So the omission of the younger John Casteel's name from this notice doesn't necessarily prove anything.

As for the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, while I have seen one or two (unverified) sources which claim that his full name was *John Henry Casteel, Jr.*, I have not personally seen any documentary evidence to prove it. So I don't think we can yet rule out the possibility that the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas (*i.e.* John Casteel, Jr.), was the younger John Casteel's father. But I do think that we need to consider the *possibility* that John Casteel, Sr. had another son who we haven't yet identified, and that *he*, rather than his brother, might have been the younger John Casteel's father.

But who might this other son of John Casteel, Sr. have been? Unfortunately, we just don't know. I can find no evidence of anyone else among the Casteels whose names appear in Blount County records who would have been old enough to have a son born in the 1780s. It is possible that the younger John's father died before 1800, which would explain why his name isn't found on Blount County tax lists. He might have even died before the family settled in Blount County. There's just no way for us to know.

It's possible, of course, as we've discussed before, that John Casteel, Jr. might not have been the same person as the Henry Casteel who was born in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1765. If Henry and John were two different people, then I would suspect that Henry Casteel of Prince George's County, Maryland, was the

father of the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas. But since we have reason to suspect that John Casteel, Jr. and Henry Casteel were one and the same person—*John Henry Casteel*—that complicates matters, because we simply don't have any other names to work with. If John Casteel, Sr. had another son, I can find no documentary evidence that would help us identify who he was.

Bottom line: Without more information, we're just not going to be able to solve this particular mystery. So, our only conclusion has to be that John Casteel, Sr. *may or may not* have had another son besides the ones we have already identified (*i.e. John, Jr., Edmond/Edward, Joseph, and David*), and that John Casteel the younger of St. Francis County, Arkansas, *could* have been the son of *either* John Casteel the elder (*i.e. John, Jr.*) *or* his (possible) unidentified brother. We simply don't know. (And, to be honest, I'm not really sure that either Bayes' Theorem or Occam's Razor would be of much help in trying to figure out which of these options is the more plausible.) For now, at least, we're just going to have to live with the uncertainty.

Let us move on, then, to the Casteels who first appear in Blount County records after 1810. These will most likely be the grandchildren of John Casteel, Sr. They are (in the order in which they appear):

- Abram Casteel (1818)
- Philip Casteel (1818)
- Susannah Casteel (1819)
- James Casteel (1825)
- Isabella Casteel (1826)

So, what do we know about these Blount County Casteels? First of all, although Edmond/Edward Casteel did have a son named *Abraham*—the elder of the two *Abraham Calloway Casteels*—it seems unlikely that he was the *Abram Casteel* who married *Mary Whittenberger* in Blount County in 1818. For one thing, his census records indicate that the elder Abraham Calloway Casteel was born around 1802 or 1804, which would make him only about 14 or 16 years old in 1818—a bit too young to be getting married. For another thing, we know that the elder

Abraham Calloway Casteel married a *Sarah “Sally” Williams Reed* (the widow of a *John Reed*) in Pope County, Illinois, in 1830. Sure, it’s possible that Sally was his second wife, but we have no evidence of this. It seems far more likely that the Abram Casteel who got married Blount County in 1818 was the son of one of Edmond/Edward Casteel’s brothers. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing which one.

What we do know about this Abram Casteel, though, is that he married a woman named *Mary Whittenberger* (or *Whittenberg*) who we have reason to believe was the daughter of a *Henry Whittenberg* of Blount County. Mary is believed to have been born somewhere around 1795, which is probably a pretty decent estimate of when Abram would likely have been born. (If so, that would appear to rule out David Casteel as his father, unless David was older than we suspect and had been married before he married Sarah Mitchell in 1798.) Henry Whittenberg appears to have had several children, and one of those children is believed to have been the *Susanna Whittenberger* who married *Caleb Casteel* in Roane County in 1817. (Keep in mind that, in those days, Roane County bordered Blount County, and we have reason to believe that the Casteels of Blount County likely lived not too far from the Roane County line.) So, might this suggest that Abram and Caleb were brothers? Perhaps, though we shouldn’t jump to conclusions. Nonetheless, I think it’s safe to count the mysterious Caleb Casteel among the Blount County Casteels, since we’ve seen no evidence that would connect him to the Greene or Knox County Casteels. In fact, we should probably take a closer look at Roane County records to see if we can find any other Casteels who can be connected to the Blount County Casteel clan. We will do that after we have finished looking at the Casteels who appear in Blount County records.

The only other thing I need to mention about Abram Casteel before we move on is that we can find another marriage record for an *Abram Casteel* (spelled *Castell* on the marriage record) from Hardeman County in West Tennessee in 1826. He married a *Racheal Hays*. There is no way to know for certain if this is the same Abram Casteel who got married in Blount County in 1818, but if it isn’t, then I don’t know who else it could have been—except, perhaps, for the elder Abraham Calloway Casteel, who would have been old enough to get married by then. It is worth noting that Hardeman County is located right on the Mississippi state line in West Tennessee, and that it lies along one of the possible migration routes from East Tennessee to the Arkansas Territory. But, of course, this could be nothing more than a coincidence—it’s possible that the Abram Castell who got married in Hardeman County was not related in any way to the Casteels who migrated from Blount County to the Arkansas Territory in the late 1820s.

Let us now move on to the *Philip Casteel* who got married to a *Charlotte Franks* in Blount County in 1818. There can be no question that this is the same Philip Casteel who we later find in St. Francis County, Arkansas. We can find his name in the 1830 and 1840 censuses and on the 1828, 1830, 1832, 1833, and 1834 tax lists for St. Francis County. His wife Charlotte's name can be found in the 1850 census (along with a *Louisa Franks*, age 12, and a *Sarah Franks*, age 5, who are living with her—presumably her nieces), in that same county. And, perhaps most telling of all, Philip Casteel is named as one of the administrators of the elder John Casteel's estate. Philip Casteel provides us with the most compelling evidence we have for a connection between the Casteels of Blount County, Tennessee, and the Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas.

According to his census records, Philip was born in either the 1780s or the 1790s. So he is unlikely to have been the son of either David or Joseph Casteel. And we know that Edmond/Edward Casteel didn't have a son named *Philip*. So, that just leaves John Casteel, Jr. and his (possible) unidentified brother as candidates for his father. The fact that he was one of the administrators of John Casteel, Jr.'s estate suggests that he *might* have been his son, though it doesn't really *prove* anything. However, I strongly suspect that Philip was, in fact, the son of John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* the elder of the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas) and his wife Jemima, because census records show that they lived very near each other. In fact, in 1830, Philip Casteel appears to have lived closer to John Casteel the elder than did any of the other Casteels of St. Francis County.

Next we have *Susannah Casteel* who married a *Robert McClain* in 1819. I can't help but suspect that she might have been the widow of Caleb Casteel. Recall that he married a *Susanna Whittenberger* in Roane County in 1817, but we can't find him in any records after that. Did he die? And, if so, what became of his widow? But, of course, we have no proof that the Susannah Casteel who married Robert McClain in Blount County in 1819 was Caleb Casteel's widow. She might very well have been one of John Casteel, Sr.'s grandchildren. We simply don't know.

Next we have *James Casteel* who married a *Mary Ann Williams* in 1825. Who was he? Was he the James Casteel we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in the 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses and on various tax lists from that county? Maybe. He would appear to be about the right age, since the James Casteel of St. Francis County was born around 1805. The only problem is that, according to the 1850 census that James Casteel's wife was named *Elizabeth*, not *Mary Ann*. (Though, of course, Mary Ann might have died, and Elizabeth might have been his second wife. However, we have no evidence of this.)

If the James Casteel who married Mary Ann Williams in Blount County in 1825 was not the same James Casteel who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas, then we've got a double mystery on our hands: What happened to the James Casteel of Blount County (I can find no records of him after 1825), and where did the James Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, come from (I can find no records of him before 1828)? Both mysteries are solved if we assume that the James Casteel who got married in Blount County in 1825 is the same one who appears on the tax list for St. Francis County, Arkansas, in 1828.

But even if we do make this assumption, that still doesn't solve the puzzle of who this James Casteel's father was. He is not mentioned by name in the death records of the elder John Casteel, but that doesn't necessarily prove that he is not his son. It is doubtful that he was Joseph Casteel's son, since Joseph had already moved his family to Missouri by 1825. We know that he wasn't Edmond/Edward Casteel's son, because all of his children have been identified. But we can't rule out David, nor can we rule out the possibility that John Casteel, Sr. had another son who we haven't yet identified, and that he was James Casteel's father.

However, I have reason to suspect that this James Casteel might have been the son of *Willis Casteel*. Recall that Willis was the son of Edmond/Edward Casteel, and the grandson of John Casteel, Sr. So, if my suspicion is right, James would be the grandson of Edmond/Edward and the great-grandson of John, Sr. But why might I suspect that James was the son of Willis? Because their census records show that they are living right next to each other in both 1830 and 1840, and Willis appears to be old enough to be John's father. It's not proof, but it's highly suggestive.

Finally, we have *Isabella Casteel* who married a *James Sutton* in 1826. Census records show that Isabella was born in Tennessee around 1804 or 1805. She and her husband appear to be living in Monroe County in 1830, in Wayne County in 1840 and 1850, and in Hempstead County, Arkansas, in 1860. I have not been able to find them in census records after 1860. Isabella is not Edmond/Edward's daughter, and she is unlikely to be Joseph's daughter. Nor is she mentioned in the death records of John Casteel, Jr. She could have been the daughter of David, but we have no real way of knowing for sure. The fact that she and her husband lived in Wayne County, Tennessee, for a decade or more suggests a *possible* connection to the Henry Casteel of Wayne County (the son of John Casteel, Jr.), but it really doesn't prove anything. Without more information to go by, there's really not a whole lot more we can say about Isabella.

Let us now take a quick look at the Casteels we find in Roane County records.

Barney Casteel

1820 — served as surety for a marriage bond; had some of his land seized by the court in order to pay fines and fees

Caleb Casteel

1817 — married a *Susanna Whittenberger*

Edmond/Edward Casteel

1818 — served as surety on Mary Casteel's marriage bond

1819 — indicted by a grand jury for rioting and assault and battery

John Casteel

1809 — married a *Janey Lane*

Mary Casteel

1818 — married *Luke Lytle* (or *Little*)

1819 — indicted by a grand jury for rioting and assault and battery

Willis Casteel

1819 — indicted by a grand jury for rioting and assault and battery

Zachariah Casteel

1830 — listed in the census

1832 — arrested for threatening one of his neighbors

And now in chronological order:

1809 — John Casteel

1817 — Caleb Casteel

1818 — Edmond/Edward Casteel, Mary Casteel

1819 — Edmond/Edward Casteel, Mary Casteel, Willis Casteel

1820 — Barney Casteel

1830 — Zachariah Casteel

1832 — Zachariah Casteel

Right off the bat, we are able eliminate *Zachariah Casteel* from this list, since we know that he was one of the Greene County Casteels. We have reason to believe that all of the others are Blount County Casteels, though. We already know who *Edmond/Edward* and *Willis Casteel* are. *Barney* is Edmond/Edward's son, and *Mary* is his daughter. It appears that Edmond/Edward Casteel had moved, along with his family, from Blount County to neighboring Roane County around 1817 or 1818. But they wouldn't stay there long. An incident in 1819 in which a riot broke out and a man was beaten half to death resulted in the felony indictment of Edmond/Edward Casteel, Mary Casteel Little, and Willis Casteel, among others, all of whom apparently fled the county to avoid prosecution. Edmond/Edward would eventually settle in McMinn County, where he would die in 1831. Mary would end up in Kentucky. Willis would migrate with his cousins to St. Francis County, Arkansas. Barney (who was not named in the indictment, but who had some of his property confiscated by the court, anyway) lived in Monroe County for a while before moving to North Carolina and then to Georgia. Fortunately, we know who all of these people were and what became of them.

But there are two names on this list who are not so easy to identify: *John Casteel* and *Caleb Casteel*. Who were they, and how do they fit into the Blount County Casteel clan? Of the many John Casteels we have encountered over the course of this research, only three of them can be connected to the Blount County Casteels: John Casteel, Sr. (the patriarch of the Blount County Casteel clan), his son, John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas), and the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas. We can certainly rule out John Casteel, Sr. as the John Casteel who got married in Roane County in 1809. For one thing, we suspect that he died before 1800. For another, even if he were still alive in 1809, he would have been somewhere between 67 and 95 years old at the time. We can also rule out John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County) because we know that his wife was named Jemima and that they had been married since at least the 1780s and remained married until John's death in the 1830s. So, unless there was some other John Casteel we don't know about, that just leaves the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas.

And based on what little we know about the younger John Casteel and his wife of St. Francis County from census records, this seems quite plausible. He was born in the 1780s, which would mean that he would have been in his 20s in 1809. One census record says that his wife was born in the 1780s, while another says that she was born in the 1790s. This suggests to me that she was most likely born around 1790, which would make her about 19 years old in 1809. So, it's quite possible that they got married around 1809, and I can find no other marriage records for a

John Casteel between 1800 and 1820 in the state of Tennessee, and only three in the entire United States (one in Kentucky in 1803, one in Virginia in 1812, and one in Georgia in 1813). So I think we can safely conclude that the John Casteel who married Janey Lane in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1809 is most likely the younger of the two John Casteels who we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in the 1830 census.

Caleb Casteel is more of a mystery. We know that he served in the same militia unit as *John* and *Joseph Casteel* (and also *Meshach Casteel* of the Knox County Casteels) during the War of 1812/Creek War. So that suggests the possibility of a connection between Caleb, John, and Joseph. We also know that Caleb married a *Susanna Whittenberger* who we believe was the sister of the *Mary Whittenberger* who married *Abram Casteel* in Blount County in 1818. So that seems to suggest a possible connection between Caleb and Abram. And since he was old enough to serve in the militia in 1814, we can presume that he could have been born no later than the 1790s. But apart from these few things, there's really not a whole lot we can say about this Caleb Casteel. As for who his father might have been, I simply don't have a clue.

It's clear that we don't know as much about the Blount County Casteel clan as we would like to, and we will need to uncover a lot more information if we ever hope to solve the puzzle of who's who among the Blount County Casteels. But instead of giving up in frustration and moving on, let us at least try to piece together what we do know about this particular branch of the Casteel family.

We know (or at least we strongly suspect) that the patriarch of the Blount County Casteels was *John Casteel, Sr.*, who we believe to be the son of *Edmond Casteel II* of Prince George's County, Maryland. We believe that he was the John Casteel of Maryland who fought in the French and Indian War, and that he was the John Casteel who had a wife named *Rebecca* and a son named *Henry* who was born in Prince George's County in 1765. We believe that, sometime after the birth of his son Henry, John Casteel, Sr. moved his family to western Pennsylvania—perhaps migrating there along with his nephews Shadrach and Francis Casteel—where he lived for several years and served in the Washington County, Pennsylvania, militia during the American Revolution. We believe that when the war ended, he moved his family to (what would become) Greene County, Tennessee, where they would live for a few years before moving on to the Knox County area, eventually settling in (what would become) Blount County. We believe that John, Sr. would live the

remainder of his life in Blount County, dying there sometime between 1796 and 1800. And we believe that all of the Casteels we find in Blount County records before 1830 were his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, along with their spouses.

Identifying John Casteel, Sr.'s children has proven to be a major challenge, but we have provisionally identified the following names:

- John (*Henry?*) Casteel, Jr.
- Edmond/Edward Casteel
- Joseph Casteel
- David Casteel
- Nancy Casteel Mitchell
- Liddy Casteel Piñexo (*either his daughter or his granddaughter*)

Plus we suspect that he might have had another son who we have not been able to identify (possibly *Henry*, if John, Jr. and Henry were not the same person).

We know very little about *Nancy* or *Liddy*, so there's not much more we can say about either of them. But we will look at each of John, Sr.'s sons in turn, and try to identify their children and (where necessary and possible) grandchildren. Keep in mind, though, that we are more certain about some of these than about others. We are going to begin with *Edmond/Edward* and *Joseph*, because we are able to identify most, if not all, of their children with a high degree of confidence. Then we will turn to the more difficult cases of *John, Jr.*, *David*, and the possible other son of John, Sr.

But before we begin, I want to note the fact that, sometime around 1817 or 1818, the Blount County Casteel clan seems to have split up into two distinct sub-clans, each going their own way. *Edmond/Edward Casteel* and his family—including his grown children, apparently—moved across the river from Blount County to neighboring Roane County, while the rest of the Blount County Casteels appear to have remained behind. *Edmond/Edward's* family wouldn't remain in Roane County for very long (it appears that they had to flee the county to avoid being prosecuted for rioting and assault and battery). *Edmond/Edward* would end up

in McMinn County, and his children would scatter to the four winds. Although they didn't live in Roane County for long, we'll refer to this branch of the family as the *Roane County* sub-clan of the Blount County Casteel clan, since they split from the other Blount County Casteels when they moved to Roane County.

The other members of the Blount County Casteel clan appear to have remained in Blount County until the mid-to-late 1820s, but they had all left the county before 1830. (Recall that there were no Casteels at all living in Blount County in 1830, according to census records.) Most of them appear to have migrated to St. Francis County in the Arkansas Territory, though Joseph Casteel and his family went to Missouri, while Henry Casteel (the eldest son of John Casteel, Jr.) and his family lived in Bedford County, Tennessee, for a few years before eventually settling in Wayne County, Tennessee. We will call this branch of the family the *Arkansas/Missouri* sub-clan of the Blount County Casteel clan.

Let's now take a look at the Roane County Casteel sub-clan and its patriarch ...

- **Edmond Casteel** (*a.k.a.* Edward Casteel)

born: 1760s (place unknown; *probably Maryland or Pennsylvania*) §

places of residence: Blount County (from at least 1789 to about 1818);
Roane County (from about 1818 to about 1819);
McMinn County (by 1830)

marriages: 1st wife unknown (date and place unknown);
2nd wife: Elizabeth UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

died: 12 February 1831 in McMinn County, Tennessee

children:

- Willis Casteel (b. 1780s)
- Barney Casteel (b. c.1788 in Tennessee)
- Mary Casteel Lytle (or Little) Jackson
- Morris Casteel (b. c.1793 in Tennessee)
- Nancy Casteel
- Abraham Calloway Casteel (the elder, b. c.1803 in Tennessee)
- Melissa Ann Casteel Stanberry (b. c.1830 in Tennessee)
- Edmond James Casteel (b. c.1831 in Tennessee)

His first name was probably *Edmond*, though a number of records give his name as *Edward*. His six oldest children appear to have been by his (unidentified) first wife, while his two youngest children—*Melissa Ann* and *Edmond James*—were by his second wife, *Elizabeth*. Let us now examine each of his children in turn.

Willis Casteel (whose name is sometimes given as *Wiley*) appears to have been the oldest son of Edmond/Edward Casteel. According to census records, he was born in the 1780s. Land records show that he served as a chain carrier on the survey of his father's land in 1807. Since only someone of legal age could be a chain carrier, that means that he could have been born no later than the mid-1780s. And since we know from census records that his younger brother *Barney* was born around 1787 or 1789, this suggests that Willis was probably born around 1786 or so.

We don't know who Willis married or when—no marriage records have yet been found for him—but we know that he did marry and had children. When his father moved from Blount County to Roane County around 1818, Willis apparently did likewise. He was allegedly involved, along with his father and his sister Mary, in the 1819 incident that led to their indictment on charges of rioting and assault and battery, which apparently forced them to flee Roane County. Multiple warrants were issued for Willis Casteel's arrest, but each of them was returned to the court with a note from the sheriff saying that he couldn't be found. We don't know for sure what happened to him in the years immediately after this incident, but we do know that he and his family would migrate to the Arkansas Territory, along with his uncle and cousins, around 1828. He and his wife and children appear to have been the only members of the Roane County Casteel sub-clan to make the trip to Arkansas before 1830 (though others would migrate there later).

Census records seem to suggest that Willis Casteel was married at least twice—the second time to a much younger woman. He has children under the age of five in his household in 1840, which indicates that the young woman in her 20s who was living with him in 1830 must have been his wife rather than his daughter (though he was old enough to have had a daughter her age). But he also had children in his household who were far too old to have been *her* children, so she must have been his *second* wife. Unfortunately, we haven't found any marriage records for Willis Casteel, so we are not able to identify either of his wives or determine when and where he got married. However, given his age and the age of his oldest children, we can probably assume that he married his first wife in Tennessee before 1805.

So, who were Willis Casteel's children? Unfortunately, as far as I know, there is no documentary evidence that would conclusively identify all of his children. All we have to go on are a few census records and a whole lot of guesswork. I think it is possible to identify his two oldest sons, but this is purely speculative:

- *James Casteel* (b. c.1805 in Tennessee) §

- *George Washington Casteel* (b. 1800s) §

Census records indicate that *James Casteel* and *Washington Casteel* were living right next to Willis Casteel in 1830. James was still living next to Willis in 1840, though Washington had apparently moved to neighboring Crittenden County. In addition to these two sons, Willis Casteel appears to have had at least eleven other children (six daughters and five sons) who I have not been able to identify. Two of his sons appear to have been born between 1815 and 1820, and one was born between 1820 and 1825. We can't rule out the possibility that one of these sons might have been our Henry Montgomery Casteel, though we have no evidence to suggest that Willis was Henry's father.

Let us move on now to Willis Casteel's younger brother, *Barney*. According to his census records, Barney Casteel was born in (what would later become) Blount County, Tennessee, in 1787 or 1789. (Recall that Blount County wasn't created until 1795.) We know that his first wife's name was *Mary*, though we don't have a marriage record for them and don't know where or when they married or what her maiden name was. We know from documentary sources that they were living in Roane County in 1820 (and probably as early as 1817 or 1818), that they had moved to Monroe County by 1830, that they then moved across the state line to Cherokee County, North Carolina, by 1840, then crossed another state line into Union County, Georgia, by 1850. According to some (unverified) sources, they also lived in McMinn County, Tennessee, for a while in the 1820s, where Barney built a church—the Church of Christ at Liberty Hill—and served as its preacher. According to other (unverified) sources, while in Union County, Georgia, Barney would build a mill and would serve both as a preacher and as a “practical doctor” (presumably that is someone who functions as a physician but who has no formal medical training). Mary would apparently die while they were there, and Barney would remarry. His second wife was *Harriet Jane “Jincy” Simpson*. It appears that they moved back to Cherokee County, North Carolina, by 1860. By 1870,

Barney was dead (some unverified sources claim that he died in 1866), and Jincy was living in Union County, Georgia, once again, this time with a new husband, *Marcus Kidd*. It's not entirely clear what happened to this marriage, because in 1880, Jincy was living in McMinn County, Tennessee, and the census lists her last name as *Casteel*.

We are fortunate to be able to identify most of Barney Casteel's children:

- Edward Casteel (b. c.1811 in Tennessee)
- Henry L. Casteel (b. c.1815 in Tennessee)
- Allen Casteel (b. c.1815 in Tennessee)
- Alexander Willis Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- Sophia C. Casteel Rayburn (b. 1819 in Tennessee)
- Jonas G. Casteel (b. 1821 in Tennessee)
- James Casteel (b. 1826 in Tennessee)
- Robert R. Casteel (b. 1829 in Tennessee)
- Charles Hastings Casteel (b. c.1831 in Tennessee)
- William Casteel (b. c.1834 in Tennessee)
- Dicy J. Casteel (b. c.1854 in Georgia)
- Jasper S. Casteel (b. c.1858 in Georgia)
- Barney Smith Casteel (b. c.1859 in Georgia)

The last three were Barney's children by Jincy. All of the others are, presumably, his children by Mary.

Let us now turn to Barney's sister *Mary*. We don't know a whole lot about her except that she married a *Luke Lytle* (or *Little*) in Roane County in 1818, she was indicted (along with her father Edmond/Edward, her brother Willis, and a couple of other people) in Roane county in 1819 for rioting and assault and battery, and that sometime before 1830 Luke must have died and she got remarried, this time to a *John Jackson*, and they settled somewhere in Kentucky. That's about it.

Mary's brother, *Morris Casteel*, and his family are found living in Rhea County, Tennessee, in 1830, in DeKalb County, Alabama, in 1840, and then in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, in 1850 and 1860, where Morris presumably died sometime before 1870. We know from various reliable sources that Morris married a *Sarah Eddings*, though we don't have a marriage record for them and, therefore, can't determine when or where they married. (Presumably, though, it must have been in Tennessee, sometime before 1814, when their oldest son, *Samuel*, was born.) Sarah apparently died in 1875 and is buried next to her son Samuel in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

The children of Morris and Sarah Casteel were ...

- Samuel Eddings Casteel (b. c.1814 in Tennessee)
- Abraham Calloway Casteel (the younger; b. c.1819 in Tennessee)
- Louisa Casteel (b. c.1830 in Tennessee)
- Asbury Casteel (b. c.1832 in Tennessee)
- Marion Casteel (b. c.1835 in Alabama)
- Monroe Casteel (b. c.1837 in Alabama)
- Victoria Casteel (b. c.1842 in Alabama)

Note that Morris Casteel's son *Calloway*—who was named after Morris' brother, the elder *Abraham Calloway Casteel*—ended up settling in St. Francis County, Arkansas. He was one of the few members of the Roane County Casteel sub-clan to do so.

Nothing is known, unfortunately, about Morris's sister *Nancy Casteel*, so we'll skip her and move on to their brother, *Abraham Calloway Casteel* (the elder). We suspect (but can't prove) that he was the *A. Casteel* we find living in Union County, Arkansas, in the 1840 census. We next find him in McCracken County, Kentucky, in 1850, then in Genevieve County, Missouri, in 1860. He is believed to have died in Perry County, Missouri, in 1862. He married a *Sarah "Sally" Williams Reed*—the widow of a *John Reed*—in Pope County, Illinois, in 1828. It is unclear if she was Calloway's first wife.

The known children of Calloway and Sally Casteel are ...

- James E. Casteel (b. 1830)
- Julia Ann Casteel (b. 1832)
- Eliza Jane Casteel Lancashire (b. 1833 in Arkansas)
- William H. Casteel (b. 1836 in Arkansas)
- Abraham Marshall Casteel (b. 1838 in Louisiana or Texas)
- Joshua J. Casteel (b. 1840)
- Jasper B. Casteel (b. 1842)
- Sarah L. Casteel (b. 1844)
- Margaret Ann Casteel (b. 1848)
- David Burns Casteel (b. 1849 in Kentucky)

Edmond/Edward Casteel's two youngest children—*Melissa Ann* and *Edmond James*—were by his second wife, *Elizabeth*. We don't really know a whole lot about them, but that doesn't really matter for our purposes, since they were both born well after 1817—and we are mainly concerned with identifying the Casteels who were living in East Tennessee in, around, or before 1817. We can, however, say that Melissa Ann Casteel married a *Lewis M. Stansberry* in Knox County in 1845, and that Edmond James Casteel married a *Leticia Messamore* in Anderson County in 1856.

Well, that's about it for the Roane County Casteel sub-clan. I wish we could have identified more of Willis Casteel's children—that would have been a great help in sorting out all of the Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas—but I think we're lucky to have been able to identify as many of Edmond/Edward Casteel's children and grandchildren as we have.

Now we're ready to move on to what I have chosen to call the Arkansas/Missouri Casteel sub-clan. Although other Casteels did eventually settle in both Arkansas and Missouri, here we are referring only to those members of the Blount County

Casteel clan who remained behind in Blount County after Edmond/Edward and his family moved across the river into neighboring Roane County around 1817 or 1818, but who left Blount County for the Arkansas Territory and Missouri in the mid-to-late 1820s. (We're including Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, in this sub-clan as well, because we know that he was the son of John Casteel, Jr., who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas.) Although we don't know anything about David Casteel or his children, we will include them in this sub-clan as well, since they don't appear to have moved to Roane County along with the family of Edmond/Edward Casteel in 1817 or 1818, and since they were no longer living in Blount County by 1830.

We will begin with the branch of this sub-clan that we know the most about—the family of ...

- **Joseph Casteel**

born: around 1780 in Pennsylvania

places of residence: Blount County (from at least 1801 to after 1814);
Clay County, Missouri (by 1824);
Clinton County, Missouri (by 1840)

marriage: unknown (date and place unknown)

died: between 1840 and 1850 in Missouri

known children:

- Mary Casteel Stanley (b. 1800s in Tennessee)
- Alexander Casteel (b. 1810s in Tennessee)
- David Casteel (b. c.1811 in Tennessee)
- Woodfield Casteel (b. c.1821 in Missouri)
- Lucinda Casteel Randle (b. c.1828 in Missouri)
- George Washington Casteel (b. c.1835 in Missouri)

There may have been other children besides these, but these are the ones we have been able to positively identify.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to identify Joseph Casteel's wife, though we have reason to believe that she was also born in Pennsylvania. It isn't clear exactly when Joseph died, but he cannot be found in the 1850 census.

We know that Joseph and his family were in Clay County, Missouri, by 1824 at the very latest, but it isn't clear exactly when they migrated there from Tennessee. We know that Joseph was still in Tennessee—and most likely still living in Blount County—in 1814 when he served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War. But it's hard to be precise about when he and his family made the journey to Missouri. There is some evidence that his son Woodfield was born in Missouri in 1821, but I'm not sure how reliable that evidence is, since it comes from just a single census record, and census records are notorious for inaccurately estimating people's ages and for occasionally getting people's places of birth wrong as well. Nonetheless, I think we can say with some confidence that Joseph and his family relocated from Tennessee to Missouri sometime between 1814 and 1824.

We won't bother looking at Joseph's children in any detail. But I do want to note one interesting fact. In 1824, Joseph bound his daughter Mary as an apprentice to a William Powe for two-and-a-half years in order for her to learn how to knit and sew, under the condition that Powe ensure that Mary had no contact with a *Page Stanley* or his wife. Well, in 1837, Mary Casteel would marry Page Stanley. I'd love to hear the story behind their relationship and why Joseph forbade her from having any contact with him.

Okay, that does it for Joseph and the Missouri branch of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels. Before we turn to the Arkansas branch of the family, let me say just a few words about *David Casteel*. We don't really know much at all about him, and we know nothing about his children—assuming he had any. It's possible that some of them may have migrated to Arkansas along with their uncle and cousins, but we can't be sure about that. We can't even rule out the possibility that Henry Montgomery Casteel might have been one of David Casteel's sons. Unless we are able to find more information about David Casteel, there's really not a lot more we can say about him or his descendants.

Now we are ready to move on to the Arkansas Casteels. Unfortunately, we still can't be sure how all of the Casteels we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas, and surrounding counties are related to each other. We do know that Willis Casteel is the son of Edmond/Edward Casteel—and the only one who settled in St. Francis County, Arkansas. We strongly suspect that James and Washington Casteel were the sons of Willis. We also know that Calloway Casteel, who would come to St. Francis County in the 1840s, was Morris Casteel's son, Willis Casteel's nephew, and Edmond/Edward Casteel's grandson. But the others are more of a puzzle.

We suspect that many—perhaps most—of them are the children or grandchildren of John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* John Casteel the elder) and his wife, Jemima, but we can't be sure. So, we're going to have to accept a great deal of uncertainty as we try to piece together these family relations. Here goes ...

• **John Casteel, Jr. (*a.k.a.* John Henry Casteel; *a.k.a.* John Casteel the elder)**

born: 1765 in Prince George's County, Maryland* † §

places of residence: Greene County (by 1783 to before 1793);
Knox/Blount County (by 1794 to at least 1824);
St. Francis County, Arkansas (by 1828)

marriage: Jemima UNKNOWN (date and place unknown)

died: about 1840 in St. Francis County, Arkansas

known children:

- Henry Casteel (b. 1784 or 1786 in Tennessee)
- Patience Casteel Varvel (b. c.1787 in Tennessee)
- Nancy Casteel Haslip

suspected children:

- *Philip Casteel* (b. 1780s or 1790s) † §
- *Elizabeth Casteel Gilbreath* † §

possible children (but may be children of one of his brothers **):

- *John Casteel* (the younger; b. 1780s) §
- *Moses Casteel* (the elder; b. 1790s) §
- *Abram Casteel* §
- *Caleb Casteel* §

(* Assuming that he is the same person as the *Henry Casteel* who was baptized in Prince George's County in 1765)

(** Either *David* or some other brother who hasn't yet been identified—perhaps even the *Henry Casteel* who was born in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1765, if it turns out that John, Jr. and Henry were not the same person)

Although we can't prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, we're going to assume that John Casteel, Jr.'s full name was *John Henry Casteel* and that he was, in fact, the Henry Casteel—son of John and Rebecca—who was baptized in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1765. (We have already discussed, in some detail, the pros and cons of making this assumption; so we won't rehash those arguments here.) If this assumption is wrong, then we really don't know where John Casteel, Jr. was born, nor do we know his exact year of birth, only that he was born sometime in the 1760s.

We know that his wife's name was *Jemima*, and that they had to have married by at least the mid 1780s, when their oldest son was born, but we don't know exactly when or where they got married, nor do we know Jemima's maiden name. John, Jemima, and their (now grown) children appear to have migrated from Tennessee to the Arkansas Territory in the mid-to-late 1820s, and they settled in St. Francis County by 1828. However, not all of their children had migrated all the way to Arkansas with them. Their oldest son, *Henry Casteel*, remained in Tennessee, first settling in Bedford County for a few years, then migrating farther westward to Wayne County, where he put down roots and lived for the rest of his life.

We know from clear and reliable documentary evidence that the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, was the son of John and Jemima Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas. We also know that he was Jemima's eldest son, which suggests that he was likely John's eldest son as well, since we have no reason to suspect that Jemima was not John's first wife. We can be less certain about John and Jemima's other children. However, we do have strong grounds for believing that *Patience Casteel Varvel* and *Nancy Casteel Haslip* were their daughters—strong enough, in my opinion, for us to count them among John and Jemima's known children. We can also make a solid case for counting *Philip Casteel* and *Elizabeth (Casteel) Gilbreath* among their children, though the evidence is not quite as strong as it is for Henry, Patience, or Nancy.

The other names I have included among the *possible* children of John and Jemima Casteel—namely *John Casteel (the younger)*, *Moses Casteel (the elder)*, *Abram Casteel*, and *Caleb Casteel*—are, admittedly, purely speculative. There are good reasons to suspect that any of them *might* have been the sons of John and Jemima Casteel, but there are equally good reasons for doubt. What I do think we can say about them with some degree of confidence, though, is that if they aren't the *sons* of John Casteel, Jr., they would almost certainly have to be his *nephews*: the sons of one of his brothers—perhaps *David*, or possibly some other, as yet unidentified brother who does not show up in Blount County records.

Let us take a look at each of these known, suspected, or possible children of John and Jemima Casteel in turn, starting with the ones that we're most certain of and then working our way to the ones we are least certain of. Please bear in mind that we really don't know a lot about most of these Casteels. The only one we really know much about at all is *Henry*, and we will look at him and his family first.

This particular *Henry Casteel* (some unverified sources give his full name as *John Henry Casteel, Jr.*) lived most of his adult life in Wayne County, Tennessee. He arrived there by 1840. Before that, he had lived in Bedford County for at least a few years; before that, we presume that he lived in Blount County where he was almost certainly born. We know that in 1814 and 1815, Henry Casteel served in Col. Edwin Booth's 5th Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War. Booth's regiment was formed in Knoxville, and included men from Knox County and surrounding counties—including Blount County. It isn't clear exactly when Henry moved from Blount County to Bedford County, but it must have been sometime between 1815 and 1830. It's certainly possible that he left Blount County at the same time as his parents and siblings, with the intention of migrating all the way to the Arkansas Territory, but decided to stop in Bedford County and make his home there, instead. But this is only speculation—we really don't know when or why Henry settled in Bedford County; neither do we know when or why he decided to move from Bedford County to Wayne County. But we do know from census records that he was living in Wayne County, Tennessee, in 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870. Henry appears to have died in the 1870s, but his widow is still living in Wayne County in 1880.

Henry was married twice. His first wife was called *Polly* (presumably, her actual name was *Mary*), but I have not been able to find any record of their marriage, so I don't know when or where they were married, though it must have been by the early-to-mid 1810s when their oldest son was born. Polly died sometime between 1850 and 1859. In 1859, Henry married a *Martha J. Pratt*, the widow of a *John Pratt*. Her maiden name is unknown. She apparently had at least three children from her previous marriage, who Henry must have adopted (since their last name, which was listed as *Pratt* in the 1860 census, was listed as *Casteel* in the 1870 and 1880 censuses), and she appears to have born at least one child to Henry. Most of Henry's children, though, were by his first wife, Polly.

I have seen no evidence that Henry Casteel left a will. Nonetheless, we are able to identify at least some of his children through census records. Unfortunately, there are still several who remain unidentified.

Henry and Polly Casteel's known children were:

- John James Casteel (b. 1812-15 in Tennessee)
- Andrew Casteel (b. c.1816 in Tennessee)
- Henry Preston Casteel (b. c.1823 in Tennessee)
- William Riley Casteel (b. c. 1824 in Tennessee)

In addition to these, census records indicate that they had at least seven daughters and at least four other sons. At least some of these can be presumed to have died in childhood, since they appear in the 1830 census but not in the 1840 census, and since they would not have been old enough in 1840 to have been living anywhere other than with their parents. However, three or four of the daughters who were living in the household in 1830 were old enough to have gotten married by 1840. As for the unidentified sons, one (unverified) source claims that one of them was named *Edward*. However, he is one of the children who can be found living in the Casteel household in the 1830 census but not in the 1840 census, suggesting that he might have died in childhood. The others remain unidentified. But, for what it's worth, we can rule out the possibility that any of them might have been our Henry Montgomery Casteel, because none of them would have been in the right age range.

Henry's stepchildren by Martha were:

- Elisa "Lyda" J. Pratt Casteel (b. 1844-49 in Tennessee)
- Elizabeth M. Pratt Casteel (b. 1852 in Arkansas)
- Tennessee Ann Pratt Casteel (b. c.1855 in Arkansas)

Henry and Martha's only known child was:

- Thomas C. or Frank* Casteel (b. 1861 in Tennessee)

(* The 1870 census gives his name as *Thomas C. Casteel*, while the 1880 census gives his name as *Frank Casteel*. It's possible that these could have been two different people, but their reported year of birth is the same.)

Okay, that does it for the family of Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee. Now let's move on to his sisters *Patience* and *Nancy*. There's really not a whole lot to say about either of them. We know that Patience married *John Varvel* and that Nancy married *Robert Haslip*. We know that John and Patience Varvel had at least three children—*John*, *Polly*, and *Margaret*—but we don't know anything about the children of Robert and Nancy Haslip. One (unverified) source claims that Patience was born around 1787—which would most likely mean that she was John and Jemima's second oldest child, after Henry—though I have not seen any documentary evidence to support this claim. We don't really know when Nancy was born, or what her position was in the birth order.

We know from census records that John Varvel was living in St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, in 1830, but that by 1840 he and his family had migrated to Putnam County, Indiana, where they would apparently remain. As for Robert Haslip, I am unable to find him at all in the 1830 census. However, there are at least four Robert Haslips (more if you include variations on the last name such as *Hyslop*) in the 1840 census, and it's unclear which one of them is the husband of Nancy—though if I had to guess, I'd say that the two most likely candidates are the one who lives in Sevier County, Arkansas (which is in the westernmost part of the state), and the one who lives in Lincoln County, Missouri. In either case, it is clear that neither the Varvels nor the Haslips were living in St. Francis County in 1840 when the administrators of John Casteel, Jr.'s estate sent out that notice to concerned parties informing them of their plans for having his estate probated.

Neither was there an *Elizabeth Gilbreath* living in St. Francis County at the time. Recall that we have good reason to suspect that Elizabeth (Casteel) Gilbreath was another daughter of John and Jemima Casteel of St. Francis County. We may not have quite as much evidence to prove it as we do for Henry, Patience, and Nancy, but the case is pretty strong, nevertheless. We also have reason to believe that this Elizabeth Gilbreath was widowed by 1840—though, again, we can't prove it. We can find a *Samuel Gilbreath* (spelled *Guilbreth* on the census form) in St. Francis County in 1830, and we can find a *James* and a *Preston Gilbreath* there in 1840. We can't actually prove that any of them are connected to the Elizabeth Gilbreath we're looking for, though. We can find an Elizabeth Gilbreath in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1840, but we have no proof that this is Elizabeth *Casteel* Gilbraeth. (There are more Elizabeth Gilbreaths in the 1840 census than you might imagine, and even more still in the 1850 census.) According to her 1850 census record, the Elizabeth Gilbreath living in Roane County, Tennessee, was born in Tennessee in 1791; so she's about the right age to be John and Jemima Casteel's daughter. But we simply can't know for sure.

Let's turn now to *Philip Casteel* who was one of the administrators of the elder John Casteel's estate. He was one of John and Jemima Casteel's closest neighbors, so we have good reason to suspect that he was their son. Assuming that he was (but keeping in mind that this assumption is somewhat speculative), what do we know about him and his family? First of all, we know that he was born in either the 1780s or the 1790s. (One of his census records shows that he was born in the 1780s, another that he was born in the 1790s.) Second, we know that he married a *Charlotte Franks* (b. 1801 in South Carolina) in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1818. We also know that he moved his family to the Arkansas Territory, settling in St. Francis County by 1828. We know that they lived very close to John (the elder) and Jemima Casteel. We know that, after the elder John Casteel's death in 1840, Philip served as one of the administrators of his estate. And we know that Philip died sometime between 1840 and 1850, because he cannot be found in the 1850 census, though his widow, Charlotte, can be.

We also know from census records that Philip and Charlotte Casteel had several children. To the best of our knowledge, neither Philip nor Charlotte left a will. And none of their children appear to be living with Charlotte in the 1850 census. So there is no way for us to definitively identify any of them. The best we can do is look for possible candidates in census records who appear to be about the right age. Unfortunately, we will not be able to identify any of their daughters, because we don't have any marriage records from St. Francis County from the 1830s—at least none that I've been able to find—so we won't be able to determine who they married, and identifying married daughters without knowing who their husbands were is virtually impossible.

But what about Philip and Charlotte's sons? According to the 1830 census, their oldest son was born between 1810 and 1815. This can't be correct, though, since Philip and Charlotte weren't married until September of 1818. So either this was not their son after all (*a nephew, perhaps?*) or else he was put into the wrong age bracket. Let's assume, at least for now, that he was their son but that his age was overestimated. We'll say that he was born between 1819 and 1820. Their second son would appear to fall into this same age range. So let's say that their eldest son was born around 1819 and their second son around 1820. And, assuming that the census records are correct, their third son was born between 1825 and 1830.

We must bear in mind, however, that census records are notoriously bad when it comes to estimating people's ages. So, unless we have independent confirmation of someone's age from other sources, we should be willing to accept any candidate who comes within five years or so of the age range we're looking for.

Based on census records, the only plausible candidates I can find who are about the right age and who are living in Arkansas in either 1840 or 1850 are:

- Moses Casteel (the younger; b. c.1817 in Tennessee)
- Ezra Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- James W. Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- John W. Casteel (b. c.1820 in Tennessee)

(I am excluding *Robert Wiley Casteel* because his tombstone inscription confirms that he was born in 1816, and because his mother is believed to have been born in Tennessee, whereas Charlotte Franks Casteel was born in South Carolina.)

We don't find any candidates who were born between 1825 and 1830—and only one who was born between 1820 and 1835 (allowing a “fudge factor” of five years above and below the age range reported in the 1830 census). However, *John W. Casteel* had gotten married and had a home of his own by 1840, whereas Philip and Charlotte Casteel's son who, according to census records, was born between 1820 and 1825, was still living with them in 1840. So, we have not been able to identify any candidates who could plausibly be the son of Philip Casteel who was born between 1820 and 1825. It looks like we've hit a dead end there.

What about Philip and Charlotte's two eldest sons—the ones born between 1819 and 1820? We have four plausible candidates who are living in Arkansas: *Moses* (the younger), *Ezra*, *James W.*, and *John W.* Again, we must be careful, since Philip and Charlotte weren't the only Casteels in St. Francis County with sons in their early teens. John (the younger) had two; Moses (the elder) one; and Willis two. We might speculate that the younger Moses Casteel was most likely the son of the elder Moses Casteel, but we have no documentary evidence to back up this speculation. I've seen one (unverified) source which claims that Ezra was the son of a *John Henry Casteel, Jr.*, but it offered no evidence in support of this claim; so once again, we can't be sure. We can't even be sure that the sons of Philip and Charlotte Casteel remained in Arkansas—they might have migrated elsewhere. In fact, I suspect (though I cannot prove) that their son might have been the *Franklin Casteel* of Morgan County, Alabama, because his 1880 census record says that his mother was born in South Carolina, as was Charlotte. But that's just speculation.

Well, we haven't had much luck identifying Philip and Charlotte's children, but at least we've been able to identify a few promising candidates. Let us now move on and consider the four other Casteels who we believe might *possibly* be sons of John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* John Casteel the elder), but who might be the sons of one of his brothers instead—these are: *John Casteel (the younger)*, *Moses Casteel (the elder)*, *Abram Casteel*, and *Caleb Casteel*. We'll begin with Abram and Caleb, because we can dispose of both of them rather quickly: We know next to nothing about either of them. *Caleb* served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War and may have fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, and he got married to a *Susanna Whittenberger* in Roane County in 1817, but that's all we know about him. *Abram* got married to a *Mary Whittenberger* (believed to be Susanna's sister) in Blount County in 1818, and that's all we know about him (unless he was the *Abram Castell* who married a *Racheal Hays* in Hardeman County in West Tennessee in 1826—but even if he were, we still don't know anything else about him). That's it. We can't say anything more about either of these two men. But they had to have a father, and we've pretty much run out of candidates other than John Casteel, Jr., David Casteel, or some as yet unidentified brother of theirs.

That just leaves *John Casteel (the younger)* and *Moses Casteel (the elder)* for us to consider. We have discussed John in some detail already, but we haven't had all that much to say about Moses thus far. So let's correct that oversight by focusing on Moses first and saving John until last. You may recall that two different Moses Casteels—one much older than the other—can be found in census records and on tax lists for St. Francis County, Arkansas. We are concerned here with the elder of these two Moses Casteels. According to his 1830 census record he was born in the 1790s. He cannot be found in the 1840 census, so it seems likely that he died sometime between 1834 (the last year in which his name can be found on the St. Francis County tax list) and 1840. In fact, he may have died in late 1834 or early 1835, because his name does not appear on the 1835 St. Francis County tax list. (Unfortunately, the 1835 tax list is the last one we have before the 1840 census.)

We know from the 1828 tax list that he had arrived in St. Francis County about the same time as the other Casteels who settled there. He almost certainly had to be the son of either John Casteel, Jr. (*i.e.* John Casteel the elder) or else one of his brothers. We know that Edmond/Edward did not have a son named Moses, and it seems unlikely that Moses would have been the son of Joseph Casteel, who had migrated to Missouri by 1824, so that just leaves David or else some other, as yet unidentified son of John Casteel, Sr. as possible alternative candidates. We can't

rule out either of these possibilities, but given the fact that Moses migrated to St. Francis County, Arkansas Territory, along with the family of John Casteel, Jr., plus the fact that census records indicate that he was a close neighbor of John and Jemima, it seems most likely that Moses was the elder John Casteel's son. While we don't have iron-clad proof of this, both Bayes' Theorem and Occam's Razor would seem to suggest that we ought to work under the assumption that it's true unless and until we find evidence that would cast doubt on this assumption. So that's what we'll do.

So, we're assuming that Moses Casteel (the elder) was the son of John Casteel (the elder) and his wife Jemima. Since Moses appears to have died before his father, we do not have to worry about the fact that Moses is not mentioned in the elder John Casteel's death records. So I can think of no good reason why we shouldn't make this assumption, at least until we manage to dig up some more information about this mysterious Moses Casteel. I call him "mysterious" because we know virtually nothing about him. No marriage record has yet been found for him, so we don't know his wife's name or when and where they got married—though we have to assume that it was somewhere in Tennessee before 1815, since they had a daughter who was born between 1810 and 1815. In fact, we can't find a Moses Casteel in any record from Blount County or anywhere else in East Tennessee. We do find his name on St. Francis County, Arkansas, tax lists beginning in 1828 and ending in 1834, though. He can also be found in the 1830 census, living in St. Francis County. We can even find the name *Moses Casteel* on a couple of land patents for St. Francis County—one from 1830 and the other from 1835. However, we must keep in mind that there were *two* Moses Casteels in St. Francis County, and the younger of the two appears to have come of age around 1834, so we can't rule out the possibility that the land patent from 1835 was his. But this is pretty much all we know about the elder Moses Casteel of St. Francis County other than how many sons and daughters he had and (roughly) when each of them was born.

We know that, by 1830, Moses Casteel had seven children (five daughters and two sons). He may have had more after 1830, but I haven't found evidence of any. It is unlikely that we will ever be able to identify his daughters unless we find a trove of St. Francis County marriage records from the 1830s, which don't appear to be available online. But what about his two sons? One was born between 1815 and 1820, and the other was born between 1825 and 1830. That means that, in 1840, the elder of the two would have been in his 20s, and the younger would have been between 10 and 15. I haven't been able to find any plausible candidates for Moses Casteel's younger son in the 1840 or 1850 censuses. He might have died; though it's also possible that his mother got remarried before 1840 and he was living with

his stepfather. Since we don't have any marriage records from St. Francis County from the 1830s, and since we don't even know the name of Moses Casteel's wife, there is little hope of us tracking her and her youngest children down in the 1840 census. But what about Moses Casteel's older son—the one who was born in the latter half of the 1810s? We have the same four candidates that we had for Philip Casteel's son who was in that same age range, plus two others:

- Madison Casteel (b. c.1813 in Tennessee)
- Robert Wiley Casteel (b. 1816 in Tennessee)
- Moses Casteel (the younger; b. c.1817 in Tennessee)
- Ezra Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- James W. Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- John W. Casteel (b. c.1820 in Tennessee)

While it is tempting to assume that Moses Casteel (the younger) is the most likely of these five candidates, we can't really be sure. After all, it's possible that either Philip or John named one of their sons after their brother Moses. Without more information, we really can't narrow this list down any further.

I have tried many times to figure out which son belongs to which father based on census records alone—comparing the ages of the various members of each Casteel household in St. Francis County in the 1830 census with their counterparts in the 1840 and 1850 censuses—but have had no luck thus far in getting all of the pieces of the puzzle to fit neatly together. I will keep on trying, of course, but I will not delay this research any longer in the vain hope that I might find a solution to this puzzle anytime soon. For the time being, at least, the puzzle will have to remain unsolved, and we will move on to a consideration of John Casteel (the younger).

We have already looked, in some detail, at the arguments both for and against the claim that the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County was the son of the elder John Casteel and his wife Jemima of that same county, so we won't take the time to rehash those arguments here. I'll just remind you that we have good reason to believe that the younger John Casteel was either the *son* or possibly the *nephew* of the elder John Casteel—*i.e.* the son of some as yet unidentified brother of elder John Casteel. And while there are good reasons for us to be skeptical of the claim

that the younger John Casteel was the son of John (the elder) and Jemima Casteel, I think that both Bayes' Theorem and Occam's Razor would lead us to conclude that this possibility is at least marginally more plausible than its alternative. After all, we can find no evidence that the elder John Casteel and his brothers Edmond/Edward, Joseph, and David had another brother who we have not yet been able to identify. In fact, the only reason we have for suspecting that they might have had another brother is because we knew that the younger John Casteel could not have been the son of Edmond/Edward, Joseph, or David, and we had reasons to doubt that he was the son of the elder John Casteel. But can we really justify assuming this unidentified brother into existence simply in order to help us solve a difficult puzzle? Just because you can't quite figure out how all of the pieces of the puzzle fit together, does that mean that you should feel free to carve out new pieces and insert them into any blank spots you don't quite know how else to fill? I don't think so. It may be tempting, but I just don't see how it could be justified. So, if we are forced to reject the idea that the younger John Casteel was the son of some as yet unidentified brother of the elder John Casteel, and if we know that he was not the son of any of the elder John Casteel's known (or suspected) brothers, then we are pretty much forced to conclude that he was most likely the son of the elder John Casteel himself. So, although we do still have lots of unanswered questions and plenty of room for doubt, we are going to operate under the assumption that John Casteel, the younger, was the son of John Casteel, the elder.

Although we can't be certain, it seems reasonable to suspect that the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, was the same *John Casteel* who married *Janey Lane* in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1809, and was also the John Casteel who served in the East Tennessee Militia, along with Caleb, Joseph, and Meshach Casteel, during the War of 1812/Creek War. If so, then we have good reason to believe that he might have actually fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. What else do we know about him? Not a whole lot. We do know that he migrated to the Arkansas Territory in the late 1820s, settling in St. Francis County by 1830 at the latest, and probably by 1828. (I have been able to find only one *John Casteel* on both the 1828 and the 1830 tax list for St. Francis County, and it's not clear if this the elder or the younger John Casteel. However, please be aware that I have not been able to look at the original, handwritten tax list, or even a transcription of the entire list—I have only been able to search an online database for individual records, and it's possible that is database is incomplete or that some of the names were entered incorrectly; so I wouldn't read too much into the fact that only one John Casteel can be found in 1828 and 1830.) Another thing we know about the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, is that he had at least nine, and possibly even ten (or more) children.

According to his 1830 census record, the household of John Casteel, the younger, included John, who was then in his 40s (b. 1780s), his wife (presumably *Janey*), who was in her 30s (b. 1790s), six sons—one in his 20s (b. 1800s), two in their late teens (b. 1810-15), two in their early teens (b. 1815-20), and one under the age of five (b. 1825-30)—and three daughters—two in their early teens (b. 1815-20), and one between the ages of five and ten (b. 1820-25).

By the 1840 census, John was in his 50s, and his wife is also listed as being in her 50s (b. 1780s). (Assuming that this is the same wife John had in 1830, this leads me to suspect that she was likely born around 1790.) Three of their sons and two of their daughters are no longer living with them, but there is now a young boy in the household who is between the ages of five and ten (b. 1830-35). This could be their son, of course, but it's also possible that it could be their grandson. Without more information, there is no way to be sure. So, that's nine or ten children in all (six or seven sons and three daughters).

Identifying the daughters will be virtually impossible without marriage records, so there's nothing more we can say about them. But what about the sons? Let's take a look at them and see what we can find out. The 1830 census gives the age of his oldest son as between 20 and 30, which indicates that he was born between 1800 and 1810. If the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, was the John Casteel who married Janey Lane in Roane County, Tennessee, in September of 1809, that suggests that their eldest son could not have been born before 1810. So, we will work under the assumption that he was born in 1810. So, he wasn't really all that much older than John and Janey's second and third sons, both of whom were born between 1810 and 1815 (at least according to the 1830 census). Then there are two more sons who were born between 1815 and 1820, and one born between 1825 and 1830. Who might these sons have been? Let's look at our list of candidates:

- Madison Casteel (b. c.1813 in Tennessee)
- Robert Wiley Casteel (b. 1816 in Tennessee)
- Moses Casteel (the younger; b. c.1817 in Tennessee)
- Ezra Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- James W. Casteel (b. c.1818 in Tennessee)
- John W. Casteel (b. c.1820 in Tennessee)

Just as with Philip Casteel, we are not able to identify the son of John and Janey Casteel who was born between 1825 and 1830. We have no candidates in that age range, and the only one who even comes close—*John W. Casteel*—can be ruled out, because we know that he was not living with his parents in 1840, as John and Janey’s teenage son was. But what about his five older brothers? We might not be able to identify all of them, but can we at least identify some of them? I think we can. Well ... one of them, at least. After much consideration, I feel reasonably confident that *Madison Casteel* must have been one of John and Janey Casteel’s sons. Why? Because he is the only one of our candidates who was born between 1810 and 1815, and because John and Janey were the only Casteels in St. Francis County who had sons in that age range. (Although the 1830 census suggests that Philip and Charlotte had one son in that age range, this has to be an error, because they did not get married until 1818.) Therefore, I think we have no choice but to conclude that Madison Casteel (b. 1813 in Tennessee) was the son of John Casteel (the younger) and his wife Janey. (As a side note: I must presume that Madison Casteel was named after President James Madison, who was in office from 1809 to 1817, and was Commander-in-Chief of American forces during the War of 1812/Creek War. Madison Casteel would have been born during that war, just months before his father would enlist in the militia.)

So that’s one son of John and Janey Casteel we can identify. Can we identify any of the others? Not with the same degree of confidence. However, I think we can make a decent circumstantial case that *Robert Wiley Casteel* might have been one of John and Janey’s sons. What evidence do we have? Not a lot—and what little we do have is fairly weak—but it is at least suggestive. First of all, we know from census records that Madison Casteel named one of his sons *Robert W.* Second, we know from John and Janey’s marriage record that a *Robert Lane* served as surety on their marriage bond. Since Janey’s maiden name was *Lane*, it seems likely that Robert was either her father or her brother. It’s certainly plausible that John and Janey named one of their sons after Janey’s father or brother, *Robert*. Likewise, it is plausible that Madison named one of his sons after his own brother. But do we have more evidence than this? Well, we know that Robert Wiley Casteel named one of his sons *John*, but since that’s such a common name, it doesn’t really prove anything. But here’s what I find interesting: In the 1850 census, *R.W. Casteel* is found living in Phillips County, Arkansas, which was the county just to the south of St. Francis County. Madison Casteel had been living there in 1840, but he had moved back to St. Francis County by 1850. Although the 1850 census record for R.W. Casteel and family is barely legible—and virtually illegible in places—due to a combination of fading and poor handwriting, we can barely make out the name of one of his children as “*RW^{s/o}*” (*s/o* stands for “son of”, and is basically just an

old-fashioned way of saying “Junior”). So, it appears that R.W. Casteel had a son named *R.W. Casteel, Jr.* And if his age as reported in the 1850 census is correct, he was born somewhere around 1834. (Even if I’m misreading his name from the census form—which I may very well be—it does seem clear, at least, that Robert Wiley Casteel had a son who was born around 1834.) This implies that, by 1840, Robert Wiley Casteel was already married and had a six-year-old son. But we can find no listing at all for an *R.W. Casteel* anywhere in the 1840 census, and there is only one listing for a *Robert Casteel*—and he is living in Ohio, and is too old to be the Robert Wiley Casteel we’re looking for. So, that suggests that Robert Wiley Casteel, his wife, and his son must be living with someone else at the time. But who? The most logical places to look would be with his parents or with his wife’s parents. We know from various reliable sources that he was married to an *Elizabeth “Eliza” Goodwin*, though we don’t know if this was his first marriage. In any event, there don’t appear to be any *Goodwins* living in St. Francis County, Arkansas, or any of the surrounding counties, in 1840. Besides, we don’t know the name of Eliza Goodwin’s father, anyway, so we would have some difficulty trying to track him down. But might Robert and his wife and son be living with Robert’s parents? We can’t know for certain, but it is definitely a possibility. So, is there a Casteel household in Arkansas in 1840 that includes a young man in his 20s, a young woman who might be his wife, and a young boy between the ages of 5 and 10? Yes there are! In fact, there are two. One of them is the James Casteel household. As you’ll recall, we have reason to believe that James is the eldest son of Willis Casteel, who is the eldest son of Edmond/Edward Casteel. James is too young to have been the father of Robert Wiley Casteel, but we can’t rule out the possibility that they might have been brothers—Willis Casteel did have a couple of sons around Robert’s age. And we can’t ignore the fact that Robert’s middle name was *Wiley* and that Willis Casteel sometimes went by the name *Wiley*. But before we jump to the conclusion that Robert was Willis Casteel’s son, we should mention two things: First, in 1840, Robert served as one of the administrators of the elder John Casteel’s estate. This would make more sense if he were the elder John Casteel’s grandson rather than his great nephew. Second, there was another Casteel household in St. Francis County in 1840 that included a young man in his 20s, a young woman who could have been his wife, and a boy between the ages of five and ten: the household of John Casteel (the younger)!

We haven’t proved that Robert Wiley Casteel was the son of John (the younger) and Janey (Lane) Casteel—far from it. What evidence we have is circumstantial and quite flimsy, and there is still a great deal of room for doubt. But I think we are justified in speculating that Robert Wiley Casteel might very well have been the younger John Casteel’s son.

Let's assume, for the sake of argument, that both Madison and Robert were sons of the younger John Casteel. What can we say about his other sons? Well, since he had one son born around 1810, two sons born between 1810 and 1815, and two sons born between 1815 and 1820 (not counting the son born between 1825 and 1830, who we've already given up hope of identifying), that means that three of his sons—all of them apparently born in the 1810s—are still unidentified. So, who were they?

Their eldest son does not appear to be living in St. Francis County—or anywhere else in Arkansas, for that matter—in 1840. He may have died, of course, but it's also possible that he was living somewhere outside of Arkansas in 1840. Could he have been the *Charles Casteel* who we find on the 1832 and 1834 tax lists for St. Francis County? Perhaps—he would likely have come of age around 1831 or so. But we can't be sure. Unfortunately, I can find only three Charles Casteels in the 1840 census, and all of them are too old to have been the son of the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas. Nor have I been able to find a Charles Casteel of the right age in the 1850 census. So, it looks as if this Charles Casteel either died before 1840, or else started using a different name. (Perhaps *Charles* was his first name but he started going by his middle name, or *vice versa*.) It is even possible that *Charles Casteel* was actually *Madison Casteel* (perhaps his full name was *Charles Madison Casteel* or *Madison Charles Casteel*), since Charles Casteel's name appears on the 1832 and 1834 tax lists but not on the 1833 tax list, while Madison Casteel's name appears on the 1833 tax list but not on the 1832 or 1834 tax lists. Without more information, all we can do is speculate.

What about the other two sons of John and Janey Casteel who were born between 1810 and 1820? Well, we can't definitively rule out any of the candidates we have identified from Arkansas census records—*Moses (the younger)*, *Ezra*, *James W.*, or *John W.*—but neither can we definitively rule any of them in. I have seen one (unverified) source which claims that *Ezra Casteel* was the son of a *John Henry Casteel, Jr.* At first glance, I assumed that this was referring to the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, but after taking a closer look at this source, I have concluded that it was actually referring to the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee. I have not seen any evidence that would lead me to believe that Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, might have been the father of Ezra Casteel. In fact, he had only one son in the same age bracket as Ezra, and we have already identified him as *Andrew Casteel*. So I think we can dismiss the (rather dubious) source which claimed that Ezra was the son of a John Henry Casteel, Jr. But if he wasn't the son of Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, then who was his father? Since John (the younger), Moses (the elder), Philip, and Willis Casteel all

appear to have had sons in Ezra's age range, there is no easy way to identify Ezra's father by census records alone. We can't rule out the possibility that the younger John Casteel was Ezra's father, but without more evidence, we have no reason to think that he was any more likely a candidate than Moses, Philip, or Willis.

So, what about the other candidates—*Moses (the younger)*, *James W.*, and *John W.*? It seems reasonable to suspect that Moses (the younger) was the son of Moses (the elder). We can't prove it—after all, either John or Philip might have decided to name one of their sons after their brother Moses—but it does seem more likely that the elder Moses and the younger Moses were father and son. I have reason to suspect that *James W. Casteel* was a member of *Willis Casteel's* family—though I'm not sure exactly how he fit into that family. What makes me think that James W. Casteel belonged to Willis Casteel's family? First of all, I've seen at least one (unverified) source which claims that James W. Casteel's middle name was *Wiley*, and we know that Willis Casteel was sometimes called *Wiley*. That doesn't prove anything, of course—after all, we suspect that *Robert Wiley Casteel* was actually John Casteel's son—but it is suggestive. But there's more: According to the 1850 census, James W. Casteel's oldest son was named *Ebron*. That's an unusual name, and I'm not aware of any other *Ebrons* in the Casteel family; so I suspect that he might have been named after his mother's father. Well, there was only one *Ebron* living in St. Francis County in 1840—*Ebron Bird*—and he had a daughter in the right age range to have been James W. Casteel's wife. More importantly, he was a close neighbor of *Willis Casteel* and his (suspected) son *James*. The 1840 census shows a young man in his 20s (b. 1810-20) living in the James Casteel household who I suspect (but can't prove) was James W. Casteel. Could he have been James Casteel's son? That doesn't seem likely, because James Casteel was only about 13 years older than James W. Casteel (at least according to the 1850 census). Besides that, the 1830 census doesn't show anyone living in the James Casteel household who was born between 1810 and 1820. So, it isn't entirely clear exactly how this young man was related to James and Willis Casteel, but it certainly appears that he was part of their family.

So, if we assume that the younger Moses was the son of the elder Moses, and that James W. was part of the Willis Casteel family, that just leaves *John W. Casteel* unaccounted for. Since (according to the 1850 census) he was born around 1820, and since census records are so notoriously inaccurate when it comes to estimating people's ages, the 1830 census might have placed him in *either* the 5-10 year old *or* the 10-15 year old age bracket. Well, in the 1830 census, John, Philip, and Willis all had sons in the 10-15 year old age bracket, but only Willis had one in the 5-10 age bracket. So, if we were playing the odds, it would seem to be marginally more

likely that John W. Casteel was the son of Willis Casteel than that he was the son of either John or Philip Casteel. However, this does not actually prove anything. He could have been the son of any one of these three men.

I still suspect that two or three of John and Janey Casteel's sons had left Arkansas by 1840 and migrated elsewhere. Without documentary evidence, there is no way to prove it, but it is a possibility that has to be considered. I can't help but have a "gut" feeling that a couple of their sons might even have been living in Limestone County, Alabama, in 1840: the *John Casteel* who we find in the 1840 census in Limestone County, and our own *Henry Montgomery Casteel* (who is not listed in the 1840 census, but who was likely living with his father-in-law in Limestone County at the time). But a "gut" feeling is a poor substitute for hard evidence.

Okay, that's about all we can say about the younger John Casteel for now. We'll need to uncover some more information before we are able to say anything more. That's also just about all we can say, at least for now, about the Arkansas Casteels or about the Blount County Casteel clan. But before we bring our discussion of the various Casteel clans of East Tennessee to a close, we need to make note of a few Casteels we find in early records from East Tennessee who we have not yet managed to place into any of our East Tennessee Casteel clans. So, let us end this chapter with a brief discussion of ...

The Unsorted Casteels of East Tennessee

We've already mentioned one of these: the *William Casteel* who was massacred, along with his family, by Indians in Knox County in 1794. It's certainly possible that he was a member of the Blount County Casteel clan—a son of *John Casteel, Sr.*—but we just don't have any evidence to prove it. He might even have been a member of the Knox County Casteel clan—perhaps a son of *Abednego Casteel, Sr.*—though that seems a bit less likely. But, as we have already discussed, there is another possibility. Since we know that William Casteel came from Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia, and since we know that some of the known descendants of (at least some of) the Casteels of Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia, are not genetically related to some of the known descendants of Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval, it is possible that the William Casteel whose family was massacred in Knox County, Tennessee, in 1794 was completely unrelated to any of the other

Casteels of East Tennessee. (However, as I noted earlier, these genetic differences could be explained by adoption or cuckoldry; they don't necessarily prove that the Greenbrier County Casteels were unrelated to the descendants of Capt. Edmond.) Without more information, it just isn't possible to know exactly how, or even if, William Casteel fits into the broader Casteel family.

Another Casteel we've mentioned but were unable to definitively place in any of our East Tennessee clans is the *Eli Casteel* who was in Pope County, Illinois, in 1830 and in Benton County, Tennessee, in 1840. He died sometime before 1850. Recall that, according to one (rather dubious) source, he was the son of Zachariah and Elizabeth Casteel of the Greene County Casteel clan, and he even stayed with them for ten days prior to his death. However, we know that this cannot be true. For one thing, Eli is not mentioned in Zachariah Casteel's will, which was written in 1811, long before Eli's death. For another thing, Zachariah died in the 1820s, so Eli couldn't possibly have stayed with him in the 1840s. But if Zachariah and Elizabeth were not Eli's parents, then who were? And which of our three Casteel Clans of East Tennessee did Eli belong to—if any? Unfortunately, we don't have an answer to these questions, nor do we have any evidence that might help us find an answer. So, we must acknowledge that we've hit a dead end and move on.

Next, we turn to the Casteels we find in various records from McMinn, Monroe, and Hamilton Counties who we have not yet been able to connect to one of our three East Tennessee Casteel clans. We've already been able to identify several of the Casteels from these counties, so there's no need for us to discuss them again in any detail. However, just as a reminder of who they are, let us list them here and identify who their fathers were and which of the East Tennessee Casteel clans they belong to:

- Barney Casteel (b. c.1787 or '89) of Monroe County (1830 census)
son of Edmond/Edward Casteel (Blount—Roane sub-clan)
- Daniel Casteel (b. 1780s) of Monroe County (1830 & 1840 censuses)
(likely) son of Zachariah Casteel (Greene)
- Daniel Casteel (b. c.1803) of Hamilton County (1850 census)
(likely) son of Peter Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel (Greene)
- Edmond/Edward Casteel (b. 1760s) of McMinn County (1830 census)
(likely) son of John Casteel, Sr. (Blount—Roane sub-clan)

- Edward Casteel (b. c.1803) of Monroe County (1830 & 1840 censuses)
& Hamilton County (1850 census)
(likely) son of Peter Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel (Greene)
- James Casteel (b. c.1818) of Hamilton County (1850 census)
son of Abednego Casteel, Jr., son of Abednego Casteel, Sr. (Knox)
- Rebecca Casteel (b. 1800s) of Hamilton County (1840 census)
widow of Zachariah Casteel (the younger),
(likely) son of John Casteel, son of Zachariah Casteel (Greene)

Okay, that takes care of the Casteels we find in Hamilton, McMinn, and Monroe Counties we *have* been able to identify (at least provisionally). Now let's turn to those Casteels from these three counties who we have *not* yet managed to identify. They include ...

In Hamilton County:

- John Casteel (b. c.1815) {1850 census}
- Kezziah Casteel (b. c.1813) {1850 census}
- William Casteel (b. c.1822) {1850 census}

In McMinn County:

- Alexander Casteel (*the elder*; b. c.1800?) {1830, 1840, & 1850 censuses}
- Alexander Casteel (*the younger*; b. 1810s) {1840 census}
- Daniel Casteel (b. c.1822) {1850 census}
- Elijah Casteel (b. c.1806) {1830, 1840, & 1850 censuses}
- Elizabeth Casteel Malone {1841 marriage record}
- M.H. Casteel {1850 marriage record}
- Sarah Casteel Malone {1839 marriage record}
- Washington Casteel {1839 marriage record}
- William Casteel {1839 marriage record}

In Monroe County:

- Allen Casteel {1838 marriage record}
- B.J. Casteel {1850 marriage record}
- Daniel Casteel {1841 marriage record}
- G.W. Casteel (b. 1810s) {1840 census}

(Please note that the names that have been taken from census records include only heads of households. Since we can presume that all members of a given household are closely related to the head of that household, there's no need for us to consider each member of the household separately. Once we've figured out how the head of a given household fits into the broader Casteel family, we know how all of the other members of that same household fit into the Casteel family as well.)

Let us take a look at each of these unsorted Casteels of Hamilton, McMinn, and Monroe Counties, and see if we can figure out how they might be related to the other Casteels of East Tennessee. We will begin in Hamilton County.

We noted earlier that the *John* and *William Casteel* we find in Hamilton County in 1850 *might* have been the sons of the *Daniel Casteel* of Monroe County, who we suspect was the son of *Zachariah Casteel*, the patriarch of the Greene County Casteels. The only problem is that we have no actual proof that they were. They are, however, the only plausible candidates we have managed to find who could be the two sons who were living with Daniel Casteel in 1840. Although we can't be certain that they were Daniel Casteel's sons, I think we are justified in suspecting that they were.

The *Kezziah Casteel* who was living in Hamilton County in 1850 is a mystery. I think we are justified in assuming that she was the widow of a Casteel rather than the unmarried daughter of a Casteel, but who might her late husband have been? While we can't be certain, we can identify at least a couple of plausible candidates: the *Edward Casteel* and the *G.W. Casteel* of Monroe County. We can't be sure that either of these two men were Kezziah Casteel's husband; even if we could, we would have no way of knowing which one. Nonetheless, the two of them appear to be our most likely candidates. But without more information, that's just about all we can say about Kezziah Casteel.

Moving on to McMinn County, I must confess that it's tempting to assume that all of the McMinn County Casteels must have been the children or grandchildren of *Edmond/Edward Casteel*, formerly of Blount and Roane Counties, who had settled in McMinn County sometime between 1819 and 1830, and who would die there in 1831. However, I don't think we are justified in making that assumption without evidence to back it up. Unfortunately, with only one exception, which I will discuss in a moment, I have not been able to find any such evidence.

In fact, we can be confident that none of them were Edmond/Edward's children, since we've been able to identify all of his children from his death records: *Willis* (who was living in the Arkansas Territory in 1830), *Barney* (who was in Monroe County at the time), *Mary* (who was apparently in Kentucky), *Morris* (who was in Rhea County), *Nancy* (who may still have been living with her father in 1830), *Calloway* (who was probably living in Illinois in 1830—though he moved around a lot, and I haven't been found him in the 1830 census, so it's not clear), *Melissa Ann* (who was just a baby in 1830), and *Edmond James* (who had not yet been born). Of Edmond/Edward's sons, Willis and Barney are the only ones who had grown children by 1830. (Morris's eldest son was about 17 at the time; Calloway would not have any children until after 1830.) So, if any of the McMinn County Casteels were Edmond/Edward's grandchildren, they must have been the children of either Willis or Barney.

We believe that we have been able to identify most of Barney's children (see page 388). Not so, unfortunately, with Willis. (Sure, we think we've identified a few of his children in St. Francis County, Arkansas, but we haven't identified all of them, and we're not entirely certain about the ones we have identified.) We can't rule out the possibility that Willis might have had one or two grown children who remained behind in McMinn County when he and the rest of his family migrated to the Arkansas Territory. But we have no evidence that he did, either.

We do, however, have reason to suspect that one of the Casteels who was living in McMinn County in 1840 (though not in 1830) might have been *Barney Casteel's* son. We know that Barney had a son named *Alexander Willis Casteel* who was born in Tennessee around 1818. The 1840 census shows two *Alexander Casteels* living in McMinn County. The younger of the two was born in the 1810s. This could very well have been Barney Casteel's son, *Alexander*. Why might we think this? Well, first of all, there are only four *Alexander Casteels* in the 1840 census: the two in McMinn County, Tennessee, one in Clinton County, Missouri (who is known to be Joseph Casteel's son), and one in Illinois. (We can't definitively rule out the possibility that the one in Illinois was Barney's son, but it doesn't seem all

that likely.) Second, we know that Alexander Willis Casteel and his family were living in McMinn County in 1860, in neighboring Monroe County in 1870, and in McMinn County once again in 1880, so they definitely had a connection to the county. And third, in 1850, Alexander Willis Casteel and his family are living in Union County, Georgia, where Barney Casteel and most of his family are living, but I can find only three other *Alexander Casteels* in the 1850 census who were born between 1800 and 1830—one was the elder Alexander Casteel of McMinn County, one was born in Indiana in 1829 and was still living there, and the third (whose last name was spelled *Castille*) was born in Louisiana in 1801 and was still living there—and none of them seem like plausible candidates to be the younger of the two Alexander Casteels we find in McMinn County in 1840. So, while we are not able to *prove* that the younger Alexander Casteel of McMinn County was Barney Casteel's son, *Alexander Willis Casteel*, we have every reason to suspect that he was.

As for the other Casteels of McMinn County, I'm afraid that the evidence linking them to any of our other East Tennessee Casteels is even weaker than the evidence linking the younger Alexander Casteel to Barney and (through him) to Edmond/Edward and the rest of the Blount County Casteel clan. But let's take a brief look at them, anyway, and see what we can find. We will start with the ones who were living in McMinn County in 1830. (Of course, Edmond/Edward Casteel and his family were living in McMinn County in 1830, but we want to focus on the other Casteel households in McMinn County at that time.) There were only two: the elder *Alexander Casteel* (b. c.1800? in Tennessee) and *Elijah Casteel* (b. c.1806 in Tennessee). Given their ages and the fact that they lived next to each other, we can assume that they were most likely brothers. (Please note that there is a major discrepancy in the reported age of the elder Alexander Casteel between his 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 census records—so much so that, if it weren't for the ages of his wife and children, we might suspect that each of these four records was for a different Alexander Casteel. I'm going to rely on the age that was recorded on his 1860 census record, because that's the one that is closest to his wife's age, and say that he was likely born sometime around 1800.) We don't know who Alexander and Elijah's father was—it's *possible* that Willis Casteel was their father, but we have no proof of this. In fact, we don't have any evidence that would even point us in that direction, other than the fact that (a) Alexander and Elijah happened to live in the same county as Willis's father, Edmond/Edward Casteel; (b) we have reason to believe that none of Willis's brothers could have been their father; and (c) we have found no evidence that would connect Alexander or Elijah to either the Greene County or the Knox County Casteels. That's some pretty weak tea.

What about the other Casteels we find in McMinn County: the *Daniel Casteel* in the 1850 census, and the various Casteels from McMinn County marriage records: *Elizabeth* (who married a *William Malone* in 1841), *M.H.* (who married a *Mary Ellbert* in 1850), *Sarah* (who married a *John W. Malone* in 1839), *Washington* (who married a *Hetty Malone* in 1839), and *William* (who married an *Elizabeth Elliot* in 1839). *M.H. Casteel* is almost certainly the *Mordecai Casteel* we find in the 1850 census. He was the son of the elder Alexander Casteel. Unfortunately, we can't be quite so confident about any of the others. While it is reasonable for us to suspect that most, if not all, of them were the children of either Alexander or Elijah Casteel, we just don't have enough evidence to be sure. (You may wish to refer back to our earlier discussion of Casteels in McMinn and Monroe County marriage records on pages 180-183. We will not rehash that discussion here.)

Moving on to neighboring Monroe County, we have four Casteels who we have not yet fit into one of our Casteel clans: *Allen* (who married a *Rebecca Randolph* in 1838), *B.J.* (who married an *E.J. McKenzie* in 1850), *Daniel* (who married a *Dorcas Martin* in 1841), and *G.W.* (who can be found in the 1840 census). *Allen Casteel* was almost certainly the son of Barney Casteel of the Roane County sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels. It is far less clear how the other three fit into the broader East Tennessee Casteel family. It is possible that *B.J. Casteel* might have been the *Benjamin Casteel* we find in the 1850 census living in the Edward Casteel household in Hamilton County. (You will recall that we have reason to believe that this Edward Casteel was the son of Peter Casteel, the son of Zachariah Casteel, of the Greene County Casteels.) However, there is just no way for us to be sure that the B.J. Casteel who got married in Monroe County in 1850 was the Benjamin Casteel who was living in Hamilton County earlier that same year. We have already discussed the fact that we don't know which *Daniel Casteel* married a *Dorcas Martin* in Monroe County in 1841. So, there's not really anything else we can say about him. The same is true for the *G.W. Casteel* who we find in the 1840 census. We have no evidence that would help us determine who he was or how he might have been connected to any of the other East Tennessee Casteels, so it looks like we've hit a dead end as far as he is concerned.

Okay, that's pretty much all we can say about the various "unsorted" Casteels we find in Hamilton, McMinn, and Monroe Counties. While we were unable to sort most of them out, I don't think this presents too much of a problem for us. None of them are likely candidates to be Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents—only a couple of them were more than ten years older than he was—and we have reason

to suspect that they were all related to the other East Tennessee Casteels we have identified over the course of this research, even if we can't figure out exactly how they are related. So, the presence of a relatively few Casteels in a just a handful of Tennessee counties who we can't *definitively* connect to one of our three Casteel clans does not undermine our broader conclusions about how the Casteels of East Tennessee were related to each other.

So now we can finally bring this ridiculously long chapter to an end and move on to the final chapter—which I promise will be much, much shorter—in which we will see what conclusions we can draw about Henry Montgomery Casteel's likely origins. But before we do, let us briefly summarize the most important things we have learned in this chapter:

- Most, if not all, of the Casteels we find in East Tennessee in, around, and before 1817 descended from *Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval* of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and his son, *Edmond Casteel II*, of Prince George's County, Maryland.
- The East Tennessee Casteels can be divided into three major “clans” based on where in East Tennessee they put down roots:
 - The *Greene County Casteels* descend from *Zachariah Casteel*, who we believe was the son of Edmond Casteel II. (The Casteels of Bedford County may have been an offshoot of the Green County Casteel clan.)
 - The *Knox County Casteels* descend from *Edmond Casteel III*—who is known to have been the son of Edmond Casteel II—by way of his sons *Abednego Casteel, Sr.* and *Francis Casteel*. Many of the Knox County Casteels ended up migrating to Illinois.
 - The *Blount County Casteels* likely descend from *John Casteel, Sr.*, who we believe to have been the son of Edmond Casteel II. This clan split in two around the time that our Henry Montgomery Casteel was born, with some moving to neighboring Roane County for a few years before scattering to the four winds, while the rest remained in Blount County for a while before migrating to Arkansas and Missouri. (The Casteels of Wayne County, Tennessee, are known to be an offshoot of the group that settled in Arkansas.)

That's pretty much it. Now we are ready to move on to our final chapter and see what conclusions we can draw from all of this.

Chapter 6 — Finding Henry

Henry Montgomery Casteel was born in Tennessee in 1817, or possibly as late as 1820. At least that's what we learn about him from the only two census records we have for him—*i.e.* his 1850 and 1860 census records from Limestone County, Alabama. We don't have any documentary evidence that tells us where exactly in Tennessee he was born or who his parents were. The purpose of this research has been to see if we could figure out where he was *likely* to have been born and who his parents *might* have been based on whatever evidence we could dig up— census records, marriage records, tax lists, land records, military records, *etc.* Since none of these sources told us exactly what we needed to know about Henry, we had to be creative in how we used them.

First, we looked for any Casteel in the 1830 census who *could* have been Henry's father. Under the assumption that young Henry—only about 13 years old at the time—was living with his parents in 1830, we looked for any Casteel household in the 1830 census that included a boy in the 10-15 year old age range. We began by looking at the Casteel households in Tennessee, then we expanded our search to other states and territories. We were able to identify several candidates, but not so many as to make it impractical for us to examine each of them in greater detail. That's what we did next. Since we knew that Henry—now in his early 20s—had gotten married in Limestone County, Alabama, in 1840, we knew that we should not find him still living with or near his parents in the 1840 census. So we looked at the 1840 census records for each of our candidate households to see if the 10-15 year old son who had been living there in 1830 (who was now in his 20s) was still living in the same household—or perhaps nearby—in 1840. In this way, we were able to eliminate all but nine of our candidate households from consideration. In fact, we managed to eliminate *all* of the candidate households we found in the state of Tennessee. But that's okay, because of the nine households we were not able to eliminate, six are known to have come from Tennessee and may have been living there when Henry Montgomery Casteel was born: *John Casteel* (the younger), *Moses Casteel* (the elder), *Philip Casteel*, and *Willis Casteel*, all of St. Francis County, Arkansas; *Joseph Casteel* of Clay and Clinton Counties, Missouri; and *Eli Casteel* of Pope County, Illinois, and Benton County, Tennessee.

(The other candidates we were not able to eliminate were: *Margaret Castells* of Baltimore County, Maryland; *Joseph Castile* of Clermont County, Ohio; and *John C. Castell* of Harrison County, Ohio. None of these appear to be *likely* candidates, though we can't definitively rule any of them out.)

Of the nine candidates we were not able to eliminate, the four who were living in St. Francis County, Arkansas—*John*, *Moses*, *Philip*, and *Willis*—struck us as the most likely possibilities. However, we also felt that *Joseph Casteel* of Clay and Clinton Counties, Missouri, and *Eli Casteel* of Pope County, Illinois, and Benton County, Tennessee, were candidates worth looking into. But that's about as far as we got in our first attempt at finding Henry's parents.

We then changed gears and took a completely different approach to trying to find Henry's parents. This new approach was experimental and highly speculative, so there was no guarantee that it would work or that we could trust our findings, but I felt that it was worth trying, nonetheless. This radical new approach was based on the observation that Henry's parents gave him a rather unusual middle name: *Montgomery*. Why? What inspired them to choose that particular name for him?

I considered the possibility that it might have been a family name, but I could find no evidence of anyone else in the Casteel family named *Montgomery*, nor could I find evidence of a Casteel marrying a Montgomery or of any connection between anyone named *Montgomery* and anyone named *Casteel*. So, if *Montgomery* was not a family name, then why might Henry's parents have chosen it as his middle name? I had noticed that several of the Casteels I had come across in old records were named after famous people. In addition to those who had been named after figures from the Bible (*Shadrach*, *Meshach*, *Abednego*, *Daniel*, *Abraham*, *Isaac*, *Jacob*, *Joseph*, *Elijah*, *Zachariah*, etc.), at least a few had been named after well-known Americans of the day, such as *George Washington* and *James Madison*. Presumably, these Casteels were named in honor of their parents' personal heroes.

So, was there a famous *Montgomery* in American history who might have been a personal hero of Henry's parents? The only possibility I could think of was *Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery* who was one of the first American soldiers to be killed in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend during the Creek War (1813-14), which took place during the War of 1812 (1812-15). After the battle, Montgomery was celebrated as a hero (Montgomery, Alabama, was named in his honor). But would someone actually choose to name their son after him? Perhaps. Though it seems unlikely that someone with no connection to Maj. Montgomery or the battle in which he

fell would name their son in his honor. So, who is most likely to have named his son after one of the fallen heroes of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend? *Someone who actually fought at Horseshoe Bend himself!* So, if Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents named him after Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery, the hero who was killed in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (and please bear in mind that we have no proof that they did), then that *might* suggest that Henry's father fought in that battle (though it doesn't actually *prove* that he did).

So, did any Casteels fight in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend? *Yes they did!* (Or at least there were Casteels in some of the militia units that were at Horseshoe Bend, though we can't be sure which of them actually participated in the battle.) On 27 March 1814, the day of the battle, there were six Casteels known to be serving in units of the East Tennessee Militia that were deployed at Horseshoe Bend. They were: *Abednego Casteel, Jr., Caleb Casteel, John Casteel, Joseph Casteel, Meshach Casteel, and Zachariah Casteel.* (*James Casteel* had also been serving in one of these units, but he deserted three weeks before the battle; so we won't count him as a likely candidate.) We know from a variety of reliable sources that Abednego and Meshach were brothers—sons of Abednego Casteel, Sr.—and were from Knox County. Zachariah Casteel was from Greene County. John, Joseph, and Caleb are all believed to have been from Blount County (though there is some uncertainty about Caleb). (It isn't clear where James was from, though if I had to guess, I'd say Blount County was most likely.) For various reasons that we don't need to go into here (they are discussed in detail in previous chapters), we can rule out Abednego, Caleb, and Zachariah as candidates to be Henry's father. Meshach is also an unlikely candidate. That just leaves John and Joseph.

The Joseph Casteel who (may have) fought at Horseshoe Bend is almost certainly the Joseph Casteel we find in Clay County, Missouri, in the 1830 census, and in neighboring Clinton County, Missouri, in the 1840 census. As you'll recall, he is one of the candidates we identified—and couldn't rule out—who could have been Henry Montgomery Casteel's father. We suspect that the John Casteel who (may have) fought at Horseshoe Bend is the younger John Casteel we find in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in both the 1830 and the 1840 censuses. As you'll recall, he is also one of the candidates we identified—and couldn't rule out—who could have been Henry Montgomery Casteel's father. For various reasons that we don't need to go into here (they are discussed in detail in previous chapters), it would appear that John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, is a more likely candidate than Joseph Casteel of Clay and Clinton Counties, Missouri. However, we can't rule out Joseph as a candidate. I'd say that the odds are in John's favor, but I wouldn't count Joseph out just yet—he's still in the running.

But before we declare that Henry Montgomery Casteel's father was *probably* the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, or *possibly* Joseph Casteel of Clay and Clinton Counties, Missouri, let us take a moment to remind ourselves that this conclusion is based on some extremely speculative assumptions that can't be verified by documentary evidence. It assumes that Henry Montgomery Casteel was named after Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery. It assumes that only someone who had actually fought at Horseshoe Bend would have named his son after one of the fallen heroes of that battle. It assumes that John and Joseph Casteel fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (we know that they served in a militia unit that was at Horseshoe Bend, but we don't know for certain that these two men took part in the battle themselves). It assumes that the John Casteel who (may have) fought at Horseshoe Bend was John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, and that the Joseph Casteel who (may have) fought at Horseshoe Bend was Joseph Casteel of Clay and Clinton Counties, Missouri. Personally, I feel that all of these assumptions are plausible—the last two are even probable—but there are just too many *ifs* for us to be confident about our conclusions. We need something more solid to go on before we draw any firm conclusions.

So we tried a third and final approach. Since we know that Henry Montgomery Casteel was born in Tennessee around 1817, it seemed reasonable to suspect that, if we knew which Casteels were living in Tennessee at that time, where they were living, and how they were all related to each other, we might be able to figure out where in Tennessee Henry is likely to have been born and who his parents might have been. So, we looked at every relevant source we could find, gleaned as much information from them as we were able, and pieced all of those bits of information together like a jigsaw puzzle. It was a difficult task. (Honestly, I had no idea just how much time and effort it would take when I got started, otherwise I probably wouldn't have bothered.) But I do think the effort has paid off—even though we never did get a definitive answer about who Henry's parents were.

So, what did we discover about the Casteels who were living in East Tennessee in, around, and before 1817? First of all, we discovered that most, if not all, of them were members of a single, extended family—the descendants of *Captain Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval* (c.1660-c.1712) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (the first Casteel to arrive in America), and his son, *Edmond Casteel II* (c.1695-c.1743) of Prince George's County, Maryland. (We can't rule out the possibility that a few of them were members of a completely different Casteel lineage, unrelated to the descendants of Capt. Edmond, but we have no actual evidence for this.) The East Tennessee Casteels can be divided into three broad "clans" that settled in different

parts of East Tennessee: the *Greene County* Casteels, the *Knox County* Casteels, and the *Blount County* Casteels. The Greene County Casteel clan was founded by Edmond Casteel II's son, *Zachariah Casteel* (bef.1743-c.1825), who settled in Greene County, Tennessee, along with his family, by 1786. (Please note that this is the *elder* of the two *Zachariah Casteels* of Greene County. The younger one, who served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War and may have fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, was his grandson.) A number of Zachariah Casteel's descendants still live in Greene County, Tennessee, to this day. But some of his children and grandchildren migrated elsewhere. We suspect (though, alas, we are not yet able to prove) that the Casteels of Bedford County, Tennessee, were an offshoot of the Greene County Casteels—we believe that the *John Casteel* of Bedford County was Zachariah Casteel's grandson. The Knox County Casteel clan was founded by *Abednego Casteel, Sr.* (1740s-aft.1806) and his brother, *Francis Casteel* (1750s-1833), the sons of *Edmond Casteel III*, who was the son of Edmond Casteel II. (Please note that Abednego Casteel, Sr. was the father of the Abednego Casteel, Jr. who served in the East Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812/Creek War and may have fought at Horseshoe Bend.) Many of the Knox County Casteels ended up migrating to Illinois and elsewhere. We have reason to believe that the Blount County Casteels were founded by *John Casteel, Sr.*, who we suspect to have been the son of Edmond Casteel II. He and his family appear to have settled in what is now Blount County before the county was even founded in 1795 (when it was still part of Knox County). They would remain there until around the time of Henry Montgomery Casteel's birth c.1817, when the Blount County Casteel clan would split in two: Some of Casteels from Blount County would cross the river into neighboring Roane County, while the others would remain behind in Blount County for another decade or so. All of them would eventually migrate elsewhere, though—there were no Casteels living in Blount County by 1830. The group that had moved to Roane County didn't stay there long (it appears that they were forced to flee the county in 1819 after being indicted by a grand jury for starting a riot at beating a man half to death), with some of its members settling in McMinn County while others scattered to the four winds—eventually ending up in places as distant as Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and North Carolina. The group that had remained behind in Blount County for a few years eventually migrated to the Arkansas Territory and Missouri—though a few of them remained in Tennessee, eventually settling in Wayne County. (The Wayne County, Tennessee, Casteels are an offshoot of the St. Francis County, Arkansas, Casteels. Henry Casteel of Wayne County was the eldest son of the elder John Casteel and his wife Jemima of St. Francis County.) While we do find a few Casteels in East Tennessee who we can't neatly fit into one of these three clans, the vast majority of them do.

So, what does this tell us about Henry Montgomery Casteel? For one thing, it tells us that Henry must have been born in one of four East Tennessee counties: *Greene, Knox, Blount, or Roane*. In fact, I think we can narrow this down even further. I can find no evidence to suggest that Henry was a member of the Greene County Casteel clan—at least I have not been able to find any *known** member of that clan who had a son in the same age range as Henry who we have not yet been able to identify at least provisionally—so I think we can say with some confidence that he was most likely born in the *Knox/Blount/Roane County* area.** But was Henry born in Knox, in Blount, or in Roane County?

(* The *Eli Casteel* of Pope County, Illinois, and Benton County, Tennessee, *may* belong to the Greene County Casteel clan—in fact, at least one unverified and highly questionable source claims that he was—but I have not seen any reliable evidence that would indicate how he might fit into that family. Nonetheless, I must note that Eli Casteel actually did have a son in Henry’s age range who we have not been able to identify.)

(** Please note that, in those days, all three of these counties bordered each other. It would not be until 1870, with the creation of Loudon County, that Blount and Roane Counties would be separated. Today, they do not share a common border. But at the time Henry was born, they did.)

Just as I can find no evidence to suggest that Henry was a member of the Greene County Casteel clan, I can also find no evidence to suggest that he was a member of the Knox County Casteel clan—or at least none of the known members of the Knox County clan had a son in Henry’s age range who we have not yet been able to identify, at least provisionally. And if he wasn’t a member of either the Greene or the Knox County Casteels, then Henry Montgomery Casteel must have been a member of the *Blount County* Casteel clan. (This does not necessarily imply that he was *born* in Blount County, though, as we will discuss in a moment.)

Is it reasonable to believe that Henry was a member of the Blount County Casteel clan? I think it is. For one thing, of the nine candidates we identified earlier who could be Henry’s parents, five of them—*John, Moses, Philip, and Willis Casteel* of Arkansas, and *Joseph Casteel* of Missouri—are believed to be members of the Blount County Casteel clan. But, to the best of our knowledge, none of the nine belong to the Knox County Casteel clan, and only one—*Eli Casteel*—is rumored to belong to the Greene County Casteel clan (though I have not seen any credible evidence that would either confirm or refute this rumor). For another, the name

Henry can be found more than once among the Blount County Casteels—there is the *Henry* Casteel of Wayne County; also, at least some (unverified) sources claim that his father’s full name was John *Henry* Casteel; additionally, Barney Casteel of the Blount County Casteels had a son named *Henry*—but I have not encountered anyone named *Henry* among the Greene County or Knox County Casteels. And finally, since we have reason to believe that Henry was *not* living in Tennessee in 1830, we have to look for him among the Casteels who migrated out of Tennessee between 1817 and 1830. Though *some* of the Greene County and Knox County Casteels migrated out of Tennessee during this period, *most* of the Blount County Casteels did. So, just playing the odds, we have a greater chance of finding Henry among the many Blount County Casteels who left Tennessee in the 1820s than we have of finding him among the fewer Greene and Knox County Casteels who left Tennessee around the same time.

So, I think it’s safe to conclude that Henry was probably a member of the Blount County Casteel clan. Does this mean that he was born in Blount County? Not necessarily. We know that some of the Blount County Casteels moved to Roane County around the time Henry was born (whether it was before or after his birth is not clear). We also have good reason to believe that some of the Blount County Casteels had lived in Knox County for a while—though it’s not clear if they were still living there when Henry was born. Let us not forget that Knox, Blount, and Roane Counties bordered each other in those days, and we have reason to suspect that the Casteels of Blount County lived not too far from both the Knox County line and the Roane County line. We can find (suspected) Blount County Casteels in Knox County records as early as 1807 and in Roane County records as early as 1809. So, although we can be fairly confident that Henry was one of the Blount County Casteels, we can’t rule out the possibility that he was born in either Knox County or Roane County. Perhaps it is marginally more likely that he was born in Blount County, but we just can’t be sure. However, we can be fairly confident that he was born in the Knox/Blount/Roane County area.

Is it possible for us to determine which branch of the Blount County Casteel clan Henry belonged to? You’ll recall that, around the time of Henry’s birth (c.1817), the Blount County Casteel clan split in two, with some of them crossing the river into neighboring Roane County while others remained behind in Blount County. Those who moved to Roane County didn’t stay there long—it appears that they were forced to flee the county in 1819 to avoid prosecution for starting a riot and beating a man half to death—and soon spread from there to various other counties in Tennessee as well as to other states and territories. The Casteels who remained in Blount County would not stay there forever, though. By 1830, there were no

Casteels living in Blount County—all of them had migrated elsewhere. Most of them ended up in the Arkansas Territory, though some went to Missouri, while others remained in Tennessee, eventually settling in Wayne County. So, we can distinguish between two different “sub-clans” of the Blount County Casteel clan: the *Roane County* sub-clan and the *Arkansas/Missouri* sub-clan. (The Casteels of Wayne County, Tennessee, can be thought of as an offshoot of the group that settled in Arkansas.) If we like, we can further break up the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan into an *Arkansas* group and a *Missouri* group. So, assuming that Henry was a member of the Blount County Casteel clan, was he a member of the Roane County sub-clan or the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan? And if the latter, was he a member of the Arkansas group or the Missouri group?

We can't really be certain, but we can at least try to speculate. We believe that all of the Blount County Casteels were descendants of *John Casteel, Sr.* We believe that he might have had at least four sons: *John Casteel, Jr.* (whose middle name may have been *Henry*), *Edmond Casteel* (who is often called *Edward* in official records), *Joseph Casteel*, and *David Casteel*. (There may have been others, but we have been unable to identify them.) We don't really know what happened to David, but Edmond/Edward moved his family to Roane County around 1817 or 1818, while John, Jr. and Joseph appear to have remained in Blount County for a few more years before migrating elsewhere. Joseph moved his family to Missouri by 1824, while John, Jr. and his family moved to the Arkansas Territory by 1828 (though his eldest son *Henry* remained in Tennessee, eventually settling in Wayne County). So, Edmond/Edward was the patriarch of the Roane County sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels, John, Jr. was the patriarch of the Arkansas group of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan, and Joseph was the patriarch of the Missouri group of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan.

We have been able to identify all of Edmond/Edward Casteel's children, and only one of them could possibly have been Henry Montgomery Casteel's father: *Willis Casteel*. Willis and his family (including, we believe, some of his grown children and their families) migrated, along with the family of his uncle, John Casteel, Jr., to the Arkansas Territory around 1828. As far as we can tell, they were the only members of the Roane County Casteel sub-clan to settle in Arkansas before 1830. So, if Henry belonged to the Roane County sub-clan, he would have to have been Willis Casteel's son.

All of the other Casteels who migrated to the Arkansas Territory by 1828 were, as far as we can tell, members of John Casteel, Jr.'s family. He was the patriarch of the Arkansas group of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County

Casteels. We know for certain that Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, was his son. We also have good reason to believe (though we cannot prove) that *John Casteel* (the younger), *Moses Casteel* (the elder), and *Philip Casteel* of St. Francis County, Arkansas, were his sons. You'll recall that all three of these are possible candidates to be Henry Montgomery Casteel's father. So, if Henry was a member of the Arkansas group of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels, he could have been the son of either John (the younger), Moses (the elder), or Philip.

Finally, we come to *Joseph Casteel*, who had moved his family to Clay County, Missouri, by 1824. As you'll recall, he is also a possible candidate to be Henry's father. None of his known children would have been old enough to have a son Henry's age, so if Henry was a member of the Missouri group of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels, he must have been Joseph's son.

So, Henry Montgomery Casteel *could* have belonged to any of these branches of the Blount County Casteel clan. But was one of them any more likely than the others? Well, there were three people from the Arkansas group who could have been Henry's father, but only one each from the Missouri group and the Roane sub-clan. So, if we were simply playing the odds (and were assuming that each of these five candidates had an equal chance of being Henry's father), then we would have to conclude that there was a 3-in-5 (60%) chance that Henry came from the Arkansas group, a 1-in-5 (20%) chance that he was from the Missouri group, and a 1-in-5 (20%) chance that he was from the Roane sub-clan. But I think we can do a little bit better than that if we modify our assumptions a bit. According to the 1830 census, Joseph Casteel (of the Missouri group) had only one son in the 10-15 year old age range (*i.e.* the age bracket that Henry would most likely have been in at the time). Likewise, Moses and Philip Casteel (of the Arkansas group) had only one son each in this age range. But, John Casteel, Jr. (of the Arkansas group) and Willis Casteel (of the Roane County sub-clan) each had *two* sons in this age range. So, if instead of assuming that each of these men are equally likely to have been Henry's father, we assume that each of these sons were equally likely to have been Henry, then the odds would now appear to be 4-in-7 (57%) in favor of the Arkansas group, 2-in-7 (29%) in favor of the Roane County sub-clan, and 1-in-7 (14%) in favor of the Missouri group. But again, I think we can do better.

If we knew nothing at all about these five men and their sons other than what we find in their 1830 census records, we would have no choice but to play the odds, working under the assumption that each of these men were equally likely to have been Henry's father, or (alternatively) that each of their 10-15 year old sons were

equally likely to have been Henry. But fortunately, we do not have to rely solely on the 1830 census, and so we do not have to assume that all five of our candidates are equally likely to have been Henry's father, or that all seven of their 10-15 year old sons are equally likely to have been Henry. Other sources of information that we have examined over the course of this research suggest that, while we may not be able to definitively rule out any of our five candidates from the Blount County Casteel clan—John, Joseph, Moses, Philip, or Willis—as Henry's father, some of them were clearly more likely to have been his father than others were.

We've already seen, for example, that of our five candidates, only two—*John* and *Joseph*—are believed to have fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. While we should not put too much weight on this fact, since we have no proof that Henry Montgomery Casteel was named after Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery, I have found no information that would suggest why Moses, Philip, or Willis might have given one of their sons the middle name *Montgomery*. Again, we should not place too much weight on this, but I think it does slightly increase the likelihood that John or Joseph was Henry's father, while slightly decreasing the likelihood that Moses, Philip, or Willis was his father.

Considerably more weight must be given, however, to the fact that Philip Casteel didn't get married until September of 1818. This means that his eldest son could not have been born before 1819. (This is assuming that his marriage to Charlotte Franks in Blount County, Tennessee, in September of 1818 was his first marriage. Since we have no evidence that he had been married before, this assumption seems warranted. However, if we should discover that this was his second marriage, we would have to reevaluate our conclusions here.) While we believe that Henry was born around 1817, it is possible that he was born as late as 1820, so this does not in any way *prove* that Philip could not have been his father. However, it does make it somewhat less likely that Philip Casteel was Henry's father. Besides, we have another candidate for Philip Casteel's oldest son: the *Franklin Casteel* who we find living in Morgan County, Alabama, beginning in 1850. Census records indicate that he was born in Tennessee around 1819 and that his mother was from South Carolina (as was Philip Casteel's wife, Charlotte). This doesn't prove that this Franklin Casteel was Philip and Charlotte's oldest son, but it does make him a marginally more likely candidate than Henry Montgomery Casteel. So, I think we have to conclude that Philip is not as strong a candidate to be Henry's father as are John and Joseph, or even Moses and Willis. Once again, I must stress the fact that we cannot rule him out as a candidate—he certainly *could* have been Henry's father—but I think we are justified in docking him a few points when calculating his odds of being Henry's father.

I think we are also justified in docking a point or two (though not as many as we did for Philip) from Moses Casteel's odds of being Henry's father. Why? Because we know that there were *two* Moses Casteels in St. Francis County, Arkansas, in the 1830s: the Moses Casteel we're considering here (*i.e.* Moses Casteel *the elder*), and a much younger Moses Casteel, who was born in the 1810s (probably around 1817). While we can't be certain that Moses Casteel (the younger) was the son of Moses Casteel (the elder), it seems reasonable to suspect that he might have been. If he were, then Henry Montgomery Casteel could not possibly have been the son of Moses Casteel (the elder), since Moses had only one son in Henry's age range. So, although we can't rule him out as a candidate, it does seem reasonable for us to say that Moses Casteel (the elder) is slightly less likely to have been Henry's father than John, Joseph, or Willis (though perhaps slightly more likely than Philip).

I think we can also dock a point from Joseph's odds of being Henry's father based purely on the fact that Joseph and his family had settled in Clay County, Missouri (and later moved to neighboring Clinton County), in the northwestern part of the state, which was about 500 miles (as the crow flies—considerably longer by river or by wagon trail) from Limestone County, Alabama, where Henry Montgomery Casteel would be living by 1840. Is it likely that young Henry (who would have been only in his late teens or early twenties at the time) would have made the long journey from northwestern Missouri to Alabama alone? Possible, yes. But *likely*? At the very least, it seems clear it is less likely than the possibility that he traveled to Limestone County, Alabama, from St. Francis County, Arkansas, which is less than half the distance away. It seems even more likely that he first traveled from St. Francis County, Arkansas, to Wayne County, Tennessee—a distance of about 170 miles—and lived with his uncle Henry for a while before moving a short 30 miles (or so) to the southeast and settling in nearby Limestone County, Alabama. But regardless of how he got to Limestone County, it seems clear that he is more likely to have traveled there from St. Francis County, Arkansas, than from Clay or Clinton County, Missouri. Of course, we can't rule out the possibility that he came to Alabama from Missouri, but we have to consider it as less probable than that he came to Alabama from Arkansas. That makes it at least slightly less likely that Henry was the son of Joseph Casteel of Missouri than that he was the son of either John, Moses, Philip, or Willis Casteel of Arkansas.

Next, I think it is reasonable for us to ask who Henry Montgomery Casteel might have been named after? We have already considered his middle name, but now we must consider his first name: *Henry*. Where did he get this name? Was he named after someone in the family? We can't know for certain, of course; and even if he were, then it's entirely possible that he was named after someone on his mother's

side of the family. But we cannot overlook the fact that John, Moses, and Philip Casteel's oldest brother was named *Henry* (he was the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee), and we suspect that their father might also have been named *Henry* (i.e. *John Henry Casteel*). This would give any of them a good reason to name one of their sons *Henry*. Joseph Casteel might also have had a good reason to name one of his sons *Henry*, since we believe that he was John Henry Casteel's younger brother. But neither Willis Casteel's father nor any of his brothers were named *Henry*. (However, his brother Barney did have a son named *Henry*, so we can't rule out the possibility that he might have named one of his sons after one of his brother's sons.) So, it seems that John, Moses, and Philip would have been the most likely of our five candidates to have named one of their sons *Henry*; Joseph would have been a bit less likely to have done so; and Willis would have been the least likely to have named one of his sons *Henry* (though he certainly could have).

Last but not least, we must consider the fact that Henry Montgomery Casteel may have had an older brother named *John* who lived near him in Limestone County, Alabama, for a while. In the 1840 census, we find a *Jno. (John) Casteel* living in Limestone County with his wife and three small children, all under the age of five. John and his wife are both in their 20s. (Henry would have also been in his 20s at this time, though he is not listed by name in the census—I suspect that he and his new bride were living with his father-in-law at the time.) It appears that this John Casteel lived in the very same part of Limestone County as Henry. A number of John's neighbors in the 1840 census were also Henry's neighbors in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. And the listing for *James Hicks*—who I suspect (though I cannot prove) was Henry's father-in-law—can be found just one page after the listing for John Casteel in the 1840 census. None of this proves that this John Casteel was Henry's brother, but the fact that there were no other Casteels listed in the 1840 census for Limestone County certainly gives us reason to suspect that he was. So, assuming that he was Henry's brother, what do we know about him? I have been unable to track him down in census records after 1840, but I was able to find what I believe to be his marriage record: A *John Casteel* married an *Elizabeth Guest* (or *Gess*) in Lauderdale County, Alabama, in 1833. (Lauderdale County borders Limestone County to the west, and the county line is only about three miles from where Henry Montgomery Casteel's farm was located. Note also that Lauderdale County, Alabama, borders Wayne County, Tennessee, to the south.) If this John Casteel was born in the 1810s and got married in 1833, that would suggest that he was most likely born between 1810 and 1815, which would suggest that he might have been Henry's older brother. Perhaps he and Henry migrated to Limestone County together. Or perhaps John went there first, and Henry joined him later. We can't know for sure, but the possibility is worth considering.

So, we now have to ask, which of our five prime suspects had a son born between 1810 and 1815—*i.e.* a son who was between the ages of 15 and 20 in 1830? *John* did; in fact, he had two sons in that age range. So did *Joseph*. But neither *Moses* nor *Willis* had sons in that age range. As for *Philip*, according to the 1830 census, he did have a son in this age range; however, we know that he didn't get married to Charlotte Franks until 1818, so that suggests that they couldn't have had a son born between 1810 and 1815. So, either (a) the census record overestimated the age of Philip's oldest son; (b) the 15-20 year old young man who was living with Philip in 1830 wasn't his son (perhaps he was a nephew); or (c) Charlotte wasn't Philip's first wife, and this young man was his son from a previous marriage. We can't really know which of these is the case, but I would argue that *a* is the most likely possibility (since census records are notoriously unreliable when it comes to estimating people's ages), and that *b* is at least marginally more likely than *c*, since we don't have any evidence that Philip was married before he married Charlotte. In any event, for the sake of our analysis here, we will assume that Philip did *not* have a son in this age range. So, where does that leave us? Well, we can rule out Moses, Philip, and Willis as the father of the John Casteel of Limestone County. So, it would appear, at least at first glance, that either John and Joseph could have been his father. But wait a minute! We know that Joseph Casteel had three sons who were born between 1810 and 1820—two of them were born between 1810 and 1815, and one was born between 1815 and 1820. And we know the names of two of these three sons: *David* and *Alexander*. David was born around 1811, so he must have been one of the two sons born between 1810 and 1815. We don't know anything about Alexander except that he was born between 1810 and 1820; so he might have been either the second son born between 1810 and 1815 or else the one son born between 1815 and 1820—we don't know which. But regardless of which he was, we can know for certain that Joseph Casteel could *not* have been the father of *both* John *and* Henry. If he was John's father, then his three oldest sons would have been David, John, and Alexander (in that order); and if he was Henry's father, then his three oldest sons would have been David, Alexander, and Henry (in that order). So, if he was John's father he could not have been Henry's father, and if he was Henry's father he could not have been John's father. While we can't be certain that Henry and John were brothers, we *can* be certain that, *if* they were brothers, Joseph could not have been their father. That just leaves John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, as the only one of our five candidates who could possibly have been the father of *both* Henry Montgomery Casteel *and* the John Casteel of Limestone County. If we could be certain that Henry and John were brothers, then we could be certain that John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, was their father. But, since we can't be certain of this, all we can say is that he is our most likely candidate.

So, putting all of this together, what do we have? Recall that we started off with the assumption that each of our five candidates—John, Joseph, Moses, Philip, and Willis—was equally likely to have been Henry’s father, with each of them having a 1-in-5 (20%) chance. But then we realized that our starting assumption was not warranted. Each of our five candidates is *not* equally likely to have been Henry’s father. For one thing, a couple of them—John and Willis—each had *two* sons in Henry’s age range, which increased their odds of being Henry’s father from 1-in-5 (20%) each to 2-in-7 (29%) each, while decreasing the odds that Joseph, Moses, or Philip was Henry’s father from 1-in-5 (20%) each to 1-in-7 (14%) each. But then we realized that there were other factors that increased or decreased the likelihood that some of our candidates were Henry’s father. Quantifying those factors is not easy, and my attempt to do so below is nothing more than a “guesstimation”. But I think a case can be made that *John* is the most likely candidate, that *Moses* and *Philip* are the least likely, and that *Joseph* and *Willis* fall somewhere in between.

| | | John | Joseph | Moses | Philip | Willis |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| # of sons in Henry’s age range: | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | weighted x 10: | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| <i>Adjustments:</i> | (A) | +1 | +1 | | | |
| | (B) | | | | - 3 | |
| | (C) | | | - 2 | | |
| | (D) | | - 1 | | | |
| | (E) | +2 | +1 | +2 | +2 | |
| | (F) | +3 | | | +1 | |
| | Total: | 26 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 20 |

- (A) May have fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and, therefore, might have named his son after Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery.
- (B) Didn’t get married until late 1818, so couldn’t have had a son before 1819.
- (C) Suspected of being the father of Moses Casteel (the younger, b. c.1817), and did not have any other sons in Henry’s age range.
- (D) Lived more than twice as far away from Limestone County, Alabama, as any of the other candidates.
- (E) Had a brother and/or a father named *Henry*.
- (F) Could have been the father of *both* the *John Casteel* of Limestone County (b. 1810-15) *and* Henry Montgomery Casteel (b. c.1817).

I don't want to suggest for a moment that these numbers are in any way objective, or that we ought to rely on them as if they were. To be perfectly honest, I simply played around with the numbers until I got a result that "felt" right to me. There are no rules carved in stone anywhere telling us how many points we must give or take away for this or for that. I chose to give John and Joseph one point each for being the only two of our five candidates who (may have) fought at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. I could have chosen to give them more points, or I could have chosen to give them no points at all—it was a judgment call on my part, nothing more. Likewise, I chose to award one point each to everyone who had a brother or a father named *Henry*, and two points each to those who had both. Again, this was a judgment call. You might have chosen to award more points, or none at all. I chose to award John three points because he was the only one of our candidates who could have been the father of *both* Henry Montgomery Casteel *and* the John Casteel of Limestone County; but I also chose to award Philip one point because, even though we have good reason to doubt that he could have had a son as old as John Casteel of Limestone County, his 1830 census record suggests that he might have. I could have chosen to ignore this census record (which I truly believe to be in error) and not awarded Philip any points at all—and I might have been justified in doing so—but I opted instead to err on the side of caution. Again, all of these decisions are judgment calls. There are no hard and fast rules that we must follow when deciding how much weight to give to each of the factors we feel might affect the likelihood that any of our candidates are Henry's father. All we can do is use our best judgment. And your judgment is just as good as mine. So, if you would have chosen to assign different weights than I did, you might have come up with a different result. I felt that the number of sons that each candidate had in Henry's age range ought to be given about ten times as much weight as whether he might have seen Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery fall at Horseshoe Bend or whether he had a brother named *Henry*, so I multiplied the number of sons each candidate had in Henry's age range by a factor of ten. Perhaps this was too much weight; perhaps it was too little. Again, this was a judgment call. If you would prefer, instead, to weight the number of sons in Henry's age range by a factor of five or by a factor of twenty, be my guest. I'm not going to tell you that you're wrong.

But, for the sake of argument, let's assume for a moment that the numbers I came up with are satisfactory. What do these numbers tell us? Well, the first thing that they tell us is that *John Casteel* (the younger) is our most likely candidate, with a 26-in-77 (34%) chance of being Henry's father; followed by *Willis Casteel*, with a 20-in-77 (26%) chance; then *Joseph Casteel*, with an 11-in-77 (14%) chance; and finally, tied for last place, are *Moses* and *Philip Casteel*, who each have a 10-in-77 (13%) chance of being Henry's father.

This would mean that Henry would have a 65-in-77 (84%) chance of belonging to the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels, and that he would have only a 20-in-77 (26%) chance of belonging to the Roane County sub-clan. If we were to further break down the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan into its Arkansas group and its Missouri group, Henry would seem to have a 54-in-77 (70%) chance of belonging to the Arkansas group, and an 11-in-77 (14%) chance of belonging to the Missouri group. But please keep in mind that this is based on the assumption that the numbers I came up with earlier accurately reflect the likelihood that each of our candidates was Henry's father. And since those numbers were based more on my own "gut" instincts rather than on any objective, empirical measurements, I would advise you not to put too much stock in them or in the results we got by using them. I present them merely as a way of demonstrating that, even though we can't establish with certainty who Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents were, we can at least make reasoned judgments about who they might have been.

~ ~ ~

I wish that we could be certain who Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents were, where he was born, and exactly how he fits into the broader Casteel family, but we simply do not have sufficient documentary evidence to establish any of these things beyond a reasonable doubt. But the evidence we do have—most of which, unfortunately, is circumstantial—does give us good reason to believe that certain possibilities are far more likely than others. For example, I think we can say with some degree of confidence that Henry most likely belonged to the Blount County Casteel clan and was, therefore, a descendant of *John Casteel, Sr.*, the (suspected) son of *Edmond Casteel II*, the son of *Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval*. He was probably born in Blount County, though it is possible that he was born in neighboring Knox or Roane County instead—but he would almost certainly have been born somewhere in the Knox/Blount/Roane County area. It seems at least marginally more likely that Henry belonged to the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels than to the Roane County sub-clan, and more likely that he belonged to the Arkansas group than to the Missouri group. If true, that would make him the grandson of *John (Henry) Casteel, Jr.* (i.e. the elder of the two John Casteels of St. Francis County, Arkansas) and, therefore, the nephew of *Henry Casteel* of Wayne County, Tennessee. So, *Henry Montgomery Casteel* may have been named after his grandfather and/or his uncle.

Henry may also have been named after *Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery*, one of the fallen heroes of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend (27 March 1814) during the Creek War (1813-14), because his father may have fought in that battle. (However, this is quite speculative, so we can't be as confident about it as we can about many of our other conclusions.)

We can say with a great deal of confidence that Henry spent his early childhood in East Tennessee, most likely in or around Blount County. However, when he was still fairly young, his family left East Tennessee and migrated westward. We can't be certain that Henry didn't spend his youth in Missouri, but it is far more likely that he lived in St. Francis County, Arkansas, from about the age of eleven until he was old enough to leave home and make the journey, either by himself or with one of his older brothers, to Limestone County, Alabama—possibly even by way of Wayne County, Tennessee, where he may have lived with his uncle Henry for a while. We do have reason to suspect that Henry Montgomery Casteel may have had an older brother named *John* who also lived in Limestone County for at least a few years. (Unfortunately, we don't know what became of this particular *John Casteel*, since I have not been able to find him in census records after 1840.)

So, who were Henry's parents? The most likely candidates are *John Casteel* (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, and his wife *Janey* (assuming that the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County is the same John Casteel who married a *Janey Lane* in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1809). The younger John Casteel of St. Francis County was probably the son of the elder John Casteel of that same county (though there is some uncertainty about this). According to some sources, the full name of the elder John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, was *John Henry Casteel*. We know that he was the father of the Henry Casteel of Wayne County, Tennessee, and we suspect that he was also the father of Moses and Philip Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas. The elder John Casteel—also known as *John Casteel, Jr.*—was the son of *John Casteel, Sr.*, the patriarch of the Blount County Casteel clan.

Of course, we can't be certain that Henry Montgomery Casteel was the son of the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County. It is entirely possible that he was the son of *Willis Casteel* (the son of *Edmond/Edward Casteel* of the Roane County Casteel sub-clan), or perhaps the son of *Joseph Casteel* (who we believe to be the son of John Casteel, Sr.). In fact, we can't rule out the possibility that Henry was the son of *Moses* or *Philip Casteel*—or even the mysterious *Eli Casteel*—though these appear to be far less likely candidates than John, Willis, or even Joseph.

But even though we can't rule out Willis, Joseph, Moses, Philip, or even Eli, I feel that John has to be our prime suspect. What makes John Casteel (the younger) of St. Francis County, Arkansas, such an attractive candidate? Several things:

- His father and his oldest brother are believed to have been named *Henry*.
- He is believed to have fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, so he may have had a reason to name one of his sons after the most celebrated fallen hero of that battle, *Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery*.
- He had two sons in the same age range as Henry Montgomery Casteel.
- He had two sons in the same age range as the John Casteel of Limestone County, Alabama. (And even if we assume that one of the sons in this age range was *Madison Casteel*, there is still one other who we have not yet been able to identify.)
- He was named *John*—as were both his father and his grandfather—so he might have chosen to name one of his sons *John*.
- He lived in St. Francis County, Arkansas, which is about 200 miles from Limestone County, Alabama, and about 170 miles from Wayne County, Tennessee (in contrast to Clay County, Missouri, where Joseph Casteel and his family lived, which is nearly 500 miles from Limestone County). It would have been quite feasible for young Henry Montgomery Casteel to have made the journey from St. Francis County to Limestone County when he was still in his late teens or early twenties. (Far more so than if he had migrated from northwestern Missouri.) It would have been even more feasible if Henry had migrated to Limestone County with his older brother, John, and more feasible still if they had traveled first to Wayne County, Tennessee, and lived with their uncle Henry for a while before moving thirty miles southeast to the western part of Limestone County.

Again, none of this constitutes *proof*. But it does give us reason to believe that the younger John Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas, and his wife Janey (Lane) Casteel are the most likely candidates to be Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents.

I've never been a betting man myself. I'm just a bit too cautious, a bit too frugal, not quite greedy enough, and I understand the basic principles of probability a bit too well, to ever be tempted to put my savings at risk merely for the chance to fill my wallet with someone else's money. But if I were a gambling man, and if I had

to make a bet on who Henry Montgomery Casteel's parents were, I would have to put my money on John (the younger) and Janey (Lane) Casteel of St. Francis County, Arkansas—members of the Arkansas group of the Arkansas/Missouri sub-clan of the Blount County Casteels. If I am correct, then Henry's pedigree would look something like this:

- Capt. Edmond du Chastel de Blangerval
(+ Christian Bom)

- Edmond Casteel II
(+ Johanna "Hannah" UNKNOWN)

- - John Casteel, Sr.
(+ Rebecca UNKNOWN)

- - - John (Henry) Casteel, Jr. (*a.k.a.* John Casteel the elder)
(+ Jemima UNKNOWN)

- - - - John Casteel (the younger)
(+ Janey Lane)

- - - - - **Henry Montgomery Casteel**

I wish we could know for certain that this pedigree was right—or even that it was wrong—but without more information, all we can really say is that it is *plausible* and that it seems to be at least marginally more likely than any of the alternatives we have considered. Hopefully, we will someday uncover even more information that will help to either confirm or refute the proposed family relationships shown above. But until then, we will have to be content with the fact that we have been able to identify who Henry's parents *might* have been, where he *might* have been born, and how he *might* fit into the broader Casteel family. At the very least, this should help point us in the right direction as we continue our search for the East Tennessee origins of Henry Montgomery Casteel.

Appendix I — A Note on Sources

All of this research was done online, using sources I was able to find by means of an internet search. (Unfortunately, circumstances beyond my control have made it impossible for me to travel to libraries, archives, and other places where I could possibly find records and other information sources that are not available online.) After working on this project pretty much full-time for the last four months—far longer than I had ever imagined it would take when I began—I no longer have the time, the energy, or the patience to provide page after page of URLs documenting every single source that I consulted. However, I don't want to leave you without any means of verifying my sources, so the least I can do is to give you some idea of where I found them so you can search for them yourselves. (You may have to do some digging, like I did, but nobody ever said that genealogical research would be easy.) I'll try my best to provide enough information to help you figure out how to find the very same sources I used.

Here are the sites where I found most of my information:

- **FamilySearch.org**

- *census records*
- *marriage records*
- *military records*
- *death records*
- *etc.*

This was, by far, the single most useful site I consulted. This is where I found all of the census records and marriage records I used in this research, as well as most of the military and death records. However, you must be careful when searching this site. Names and ages are often mistranscribed, so you can't just search for the name *Casteel* and expect to find all of the records for anyone named Casteel, nor can you rely on the information provided in the transcription—you have to look at the image of the original, handwritten document (if it is available) to make sure

that the information in the transcription is correct. But how do you find records if the name has been mistranscribed? Fortunately, if you do a search for the name *Casteel*, the results will include common variations on that name, such as *Castell* and *Castile* (though they will also include similar names, such as *Castle*, *Cassel*, *Castillo*, etc., which may be less helpful). But sometimes the name will have been so horribly mistranscribed that it won't show up in the search results. (I've come across spellings as egregious as *Cstiel*, *Cstill*, and even *Cstul*.) So, in order to find these records, you will need to search using "wildcard" characters. A wildcard is a special character that can stand for any letter of the alphabet (like the blank tile in *Scrabble*), or any string of letters. FamilySearch allows you to use two types of wildcards: ? (a question mark) can stand for any one letter, while * (an asterisk) can stand for any string of letters. So, for example, instead of typing in the name *Casteel*, you might type in *Cast** (the letters *C-a-s-t* followed by the wildcard ***), which will give you every name beginning with the letters *C-a-s-t*. Or you might type *C?steel* (replacing the *a* in *Casteel* with the wildcard *?*), which will return not only all of the *Casteels* but also all of the *Costeels* and *Custeels* and *Czsteels*, etc. You can even combine the two types of wildcard by, for example, typing in *C?st**, which will find all of the names beginning with *C-[any second letter]-s-t*. In order to be sure that you've found all of the records you're looking for, you'll have to try a number of different combinations of letters and wildcards—and you still might miss a few. But if you follow these tips, I think you'll find most of the same records that I found using FamilySearch.

Once again, though—and I can't emphasize this enough—you really need to look at the images of the original, handwritten records (if they are available) instead of simply relying on the transcriptions, which are often unreliable. Not only are the names often mistranscribed, but so are the ages and other information taken from these records. And even when they're accurate, the transcriptions rarely include all of the information found in the original record. So, always check the original.

FamilySearch is completely free to use. You don't even have to register if all you want to do is search for records. Images of the original, handwritten versions of census records are also available to unregistered users. However, you will need to register in order to see the images of the original, handwritten versions of certain other types of records, such as marriage records. But, registration is free, so there is really no reason for you not to register.

- **RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project: Ancestors and Friends**

(go to: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi> and type in the name *Casteel*.)

- *census records*
- *marriage records*
- *tax lists*
- *court records*
- *military records*
- *death records*
- *miscellaneous other sources and genealogists' speculations*

Next to FamilySearch, this was the most useful site I consulted. It is basically just a compilation of all of the information that various genealogists have been able to dig up about specific individuals. So, if you go to the website (the URL is shown above), type in the name *Casteel*, and click on the link, you will be taken to the first page of a long list of Casteels, arranged alphabetically and by year of birth. If you scroll down the page until you come to the listing for **Casteel, Barney** (just to pick an example at random) and click on the link, you will be taken to a page that includes all of the information that the genealogist who manages the page has been able to find out about Barney Casteel, including court records, marriage records, census records, etc. Most (though, alas, not all) of the Casteels I have examined in this research have a listing at this site—though in many cases, unfortunately, their page includes little or no useful information about them.

The information provided at this site is not 100% reliable, and the sources of this information are not always well-documented, but I found the site quite helpful, in spite of its flaws. The site is free to use, and no registration is required.

- **Ancestry.com** (\$)

- *tax lists*
- *information compiled by other genealogists*
- *speculation by other genealogists*
- *miscellaneous other records*

To be honest, I'm not a big fan of Ancestry.com or, for that matter, any other site that charges for access to genealogical information. Unfortunately, Ancestry.com has certain information that can't be found elsewhere online—most notably, it has a number of tax lists that are not available anywhere else on the internet as far as I can tell. (Some tax lists can be found with a simple Google search, but others can be found only on Ancestry.com.) So, I was forced to use Ancestry.com in order to find these tax lists. But, while I was there, I also checked to see if I could find any other relevant sources of information that I could not find elsewhere. For the most part, I could not—most of the information available on Ancestry.com is also available, free of charge, elsewhere on the internet. However, I was able to find at least a few postings by other genealogists that I found helpful, either because they included information that I had not seen before, or else because they offered some interesting speculations that I had not previously considered. Nonetheless, for the most part, I used Ancestry.com to find tax lists.

As we noted earlier concerning FamilySearch, you can't rely on the transcriptions of the tax records you find at Ancestry.com—you will need to look at the images of the original, handwritten documents, if they are available. Transcription errors are just too common. When possible, read through the entire tax record, name by name. I would never have found the Casteels who were listed on the 1805 Blount County tax list had I not read through the entire original, handwritten document name by name, because their names had been mistranscribed and would not have shown up in my search results.

In order to use Ancestry.com, you must register and pay a fee. (Unless, of course, you can find someone who is kind enough to let you “borrow” their account for a while, like I did. By the way, I would like to offer my sincerest thanks the person who let me use her account while I conducted this research—I won't mention her by name, though, because I don't want her to get into any trouble with the folks at Ancestry.com.)

- **Google**

- *everything*

Never underestimate the value of a good, general-purpose search engine. I found a number of helpful sources just by doing a simple Google search.

Now let me note a few of the specific sources that I used, in no particular order:

- A (partial?) roster of the units of the East Tennessee Militia that fought in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend can be found at the website of the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (<https://www.nps.gov/hobe/>). The PDF document is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/hobe/upload/tennessee%20militia.pdf>
- An overview of what is known about the various units of the Tennessee Militia that served during the War of 1812 and Creek War is available at the website of Tennessee's Secretary of State (<http://sos.tn.gov/>). This information can be found at: <http://sos.tn.gov/products/tsla/regimental-histories-tennessee-units-during-war-1812>
- *The Genealogy of Edmond DuChastel and his Casteel Descendants of America* is an excellent website that includes lots of information about Capt. Edmond and his descendants, including Edmond II and Edmond III, as well as the Edmond/Edward Casteel of Blount, Roane, and McMinn Counties in East Tennessee and his children. It also has a number of records (including, in many cases, images of the original, handwritten documents) from East Tennessee and elsewhere which mention various Casteels. In fact, this was the main source I used for finding Roane County court records. It was also one the main sources I consulted when discussing Capt. Edmond and his family, his son Edmond II and his family, and *his* son Edmond III and his family. This helpful site can be found at: <https://edmondcasteel.wordpress.com/>
- Some time ago, I found a PDF online of an extensive—if somewhat speculative and not entirely reliable—genealogy of Capt. Edmond's descendants. I used it as the basis of the speculative genealogy on pages 278-284 (though I altered the format and omitted some of the information that was included in the original). Unfortunately, I am not able to find this document online anymore—the site that originally hosted it has apparently taken it down. However, the file name was **PDFODT8.pdf** if you want to search for it yourself.
- The 1765 baptismal record of Henry Casteel, son of John and Rebecca Casteel, of Prince George's County, Maryland, can be found in the *Piscataway Parish Register* (page 178 of the PDF). The 1753 birth record of Cassandra Casteel, daughter of Edmond (III) and Rebecca Casteel can be found in that same parish register (page 153). The register can be found at: <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccolm/m0000/m0200/m229/pdf/m229.pdf>

- It is widely believed that Edmond Casteel II had a daughter named *Dinah* by a wife named *Mary Amos*. This oft-repeated claim is based on a single piece of documentary evidence: a 1717 baptismal record from All Hallows Parish in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. However, I remain unconvinced. For one thing, if you look at the original, handwritten record, it is not at all clear that the family's last name is supposed to be *Casteel* (it looks more like *Castol* to me), and the father's first name is barely legible—in fact, it appears to be just the letters *Ed* (or perhaps the initials *E.J.*)—and it looks as if it were written into a blank space using a different pen some time after the rest of the record was written. Secondly, while his wife's first name is clearly *Mary*, I seriously doubt that her maiden name was *Amos*. None of the other baptismal records on the same page give the mother's maiden name, so it would be rather strange for *Mary's* maiden name to be listed. To me, the name that many people seem to think is *Amos* looks a lot like the name *Anne* as it is written elsewhere on the same page. So, I suspect that the mother's name was *Mary Anne*, not *Mary Amos*. But see for yourself. The record is on page 49 of the PDF, which can be found here: http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccolm/scm200/scm221/000001/000001/pdf/msa_scm221.pdf

Hopefully, this brief guide will help you track down most of the sources I used in this research. There may be a few sources that you will have difficulty finding—I have not listed every single website I found while doing a Google search or every document that some genealogist had posted on Ancestry.com that contained useful information or intriguing speculation—but I think you'll be able to find the most important sources that I used. But I'm really hoping that you'll find some sources that I missed. If you do, please let me know.

Appendix II — Additions and Corrections

I put a lot of work into this research—a lot more, in fact, than I ever imagined it would take when I began this project about four months ago—and I’ve tried my best to be as thorough and as accurate as I could be. But I have no illusions that the information presented in this document is in any way complete or error free. I’m certain that, as new information becomes available, it will be necessary for me to add to or correct a number of the things I have written here. But I really don’t want to have to re-edit this entire document each time I discover something new. So, I am saving this space at the end for any additions or corrections that may be necessary. I doubt I will update it very often, but I will try to do so when I can.

[Update posted 9/29/2017]

My mother, **Hazel Wynell Adams Casteel**, died on 18 September 2017 at her home in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama. She was buried on 22 September 2017 in the Roselawn cemetery in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama.

{No additional updates at this time.}