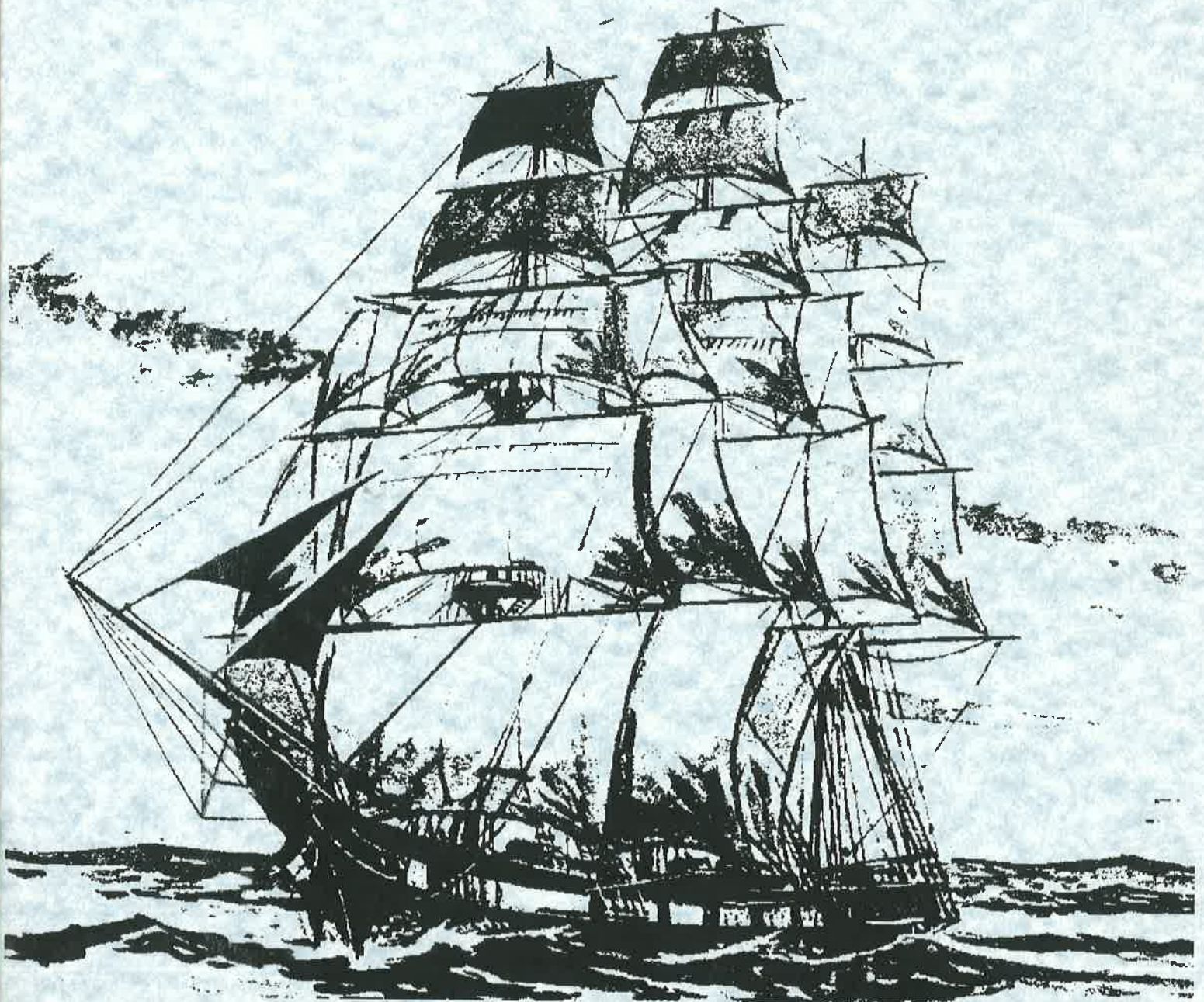


Jackson Heritage Days

Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Immigration
of

John Jackson and Elizabeth Cummins

August 15 –16, 1998



JACKSON HERITAGE DAYS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 14, 1998

6:00 -8:00 pm **Pre-reunion reception** for early "out of town" arrivals, at the home of Nancy Jackson, 507 Haymond Hwy., Clarksburg, WV.

Saturday, August 15, 1998

9:30-10:30 am **Registration at Jubilee Pavilion**, Jackson's Mill near Jane Lew and Weston, West Virginia; beginning of silent auction.

10:30-noon **Business meeting**, memorial service, get- acquainted and fellowship time.

12:00-1:30 pm **Catered picnic.** Menu: chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, watermelon, cantaloupe, punch, coffee, tea, fruit, cookies -all you can eat.

2:30 pm **Time Capsule Ceremony** at Pringle Tree where John Jackson first settled, near Buckhannon, West Virginia.

6:00 pm **Banquet at Masonic Temple**, 427 West Pike Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia. Menu: baked steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, pie, rolls, coffee and tea.

Sunday, August 16, 1998

2:00 pm **Unveiling and dedication of SAR grave marker** for John Jackson's gravesite at Historic Jackson Cemetery, East Pike Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia. Reception following at the Stealey-Goff-Vance House, 123 W. Main St., Clarksburg, WV, sponsored by the Harrison County Historical Society and the Stonewall Jackson Civic Club of Clarksburg.



THE JACKSON BRIGADE CORPORATION

On August 17, 1991, thirty-five descendants of Julia Viola Hall renewed family ties with fellowship and fun at a reunion held at Valley Falls, near Fairmont, West Virginia. Julia Viola Hall was a great-great granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson. Linda Brake Meyers and Gary Wiener were special guests for the day.

During the business meeting it was voted to begin a Jackson Association for descendants of John and Elizabeth (Cummins) Jackson. Those elected to head the organization were: Nancy Jackson, president; Timothy K. Jackson, secretary and Mary Lois Jackson, treasurer. No vice-president was elected. Jacob J. Jackson, Jr. agreed to be editor of the newsletter. The constitution and by-laws were written by the officers and editor and filed with the state along with an incorporation application signed by these individuals. On March 24, 1992, the Jackson Brigade Corporation was made official in the State of West Virginia (see certificate facsimile). Our license has been renewed each year since 1992.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE JACKSON BRIGADE CORPORATION

This 1998 Version of Bylaws is outdated. Use current Bylaws last amended in 2013.

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be **Jackson Brigade Corporation.**

Article II. Purposes

The purposes of the Jackson Brigade Corporation are:

1. To research, preserve and exchange genealogical information about the family in the United States who are descendants of John and Elizabeth (Cummins) Jackson; and to strengthen family ties.
2. To publish a quarterly newsletter called the **Jackson Express Newsletter.**
3. To hold reunions on a periodic basis.
4. To receive gifts and bequests for the support of the Jackson Brigade Corporation.

Article III. Members

1. Any person, whether related to the family or not, upon subscribing to its purposes and paying annual dues, shall be a member of the Jackson Brigade Corporation. This membership shall include all persons of a household living at the same mailing address.
2. Historical, genealogical, and library organizations, and similar institutions shall be members, upon paying annual dues.
3. The annual dues shall be set by a vote of the membership at a general meeting.
4. Each dues-paying membership shall have one (1) vote.
5. Honorary membership may be conferred by a vote of the membership at a general meeting or by vote of the executive committee at other times.
6. The membership year shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Jackson Brigade Corporation, beginning on August 1st and ending July 31st, the following year.

Article IV Meetings

1. The Jackson Brigade Corporation shall hold a general meeting or reunion on a periodic basis. The preferred schedule for a general meeting or reunion will be every year.
2. A general meeting or reunion shall be held for the purpose of a program of family activities, election of Jackson Brigade officers, the receiving of reports from officers and committees, and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting under the order of business.
3. Meetings and activities for special interest groups, with the members, may be scheduled when sufficient interest exists.
4. Active members in attendance at a general meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article V. Officers

1. The officers of the Jackson Brigade Corporation shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Publications Editor and a Jackson Brigade member at large. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed in this Constitution and By-Laws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Jackson Brigade Corporation.
2. The officers shall be elected at the general meeting and shall hold office until their successors are elected and duly qualified. The term of office shall begin at the close of a general meeting at which they are elected and continue for a two year period.
3. In the event of a vacancy in office other than the President, the executive committee shall forthwith fill such vacancy.
4. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

Article VI. The Executive Committee

1. The officers of the Jackson Brigade Corporation shall constitute the executive committee.
2. The executive committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Jackson Brigade Corporation between general meetings, fix a date (s) and place of meeting, make recommendations to the Jackson Brigade Corporation, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in the Constitution and By-Laws. The executive committee shall be subject to the orders of the Jackson Brigade Corporation, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Jackson Brigade Corporation.
3. The executive committee shall conduct its business by mail, and by telephone when appropriate.
4. The executive committee may consult with legal council with respect to the meaning or construction of this Constitution and By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation of this organization, their duties empowered thereunder, or with respect with any action, proceeding, or question in law. The executive committee shall be fully protected with respect to any action taken or omitted by them in good faith pursuant to the advise of such council.

Article VII. Duties of Officers

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Jackson Brigade Corporation, and act as operating head of the executive committee. The President shall appoint all committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the audit committee and nominating committee.
2. The Vice-President shall assist the President and other officers in the work of the Jackson Brigade Corporation and shall assume and perform the duties of the President in the absence of that person. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall become President for the un-expired term.
3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Jackson Brigade Corporation and of the actions of the executive committee, and shall preserve all records and reports. The secretary shall maintain an official membership list.
4. The Treasurer shall receive and record all dues and funds of the Jackson Brigade Corporation and pay all obligations of the Brigade promptly. The monies of the Jackson Brigade Corporation shall be deposited in a banking institution and the account shall be in the name of the Jackson Brigade Corporation. The Treasurer shall be responsible for budget preparation and financial guidelines for the Jackson Brigade Corporation; shall regulate all expenditures in accordance with a budget adopted by the executive committee; and shall prepare regular financial reports for the executive committee and the Jackson Brigade Corporation.
5. The Publication Editor shall provide general supervision for all publications issued in the name of the Jackson Brigade Corporation. The organization's newsletter, Jackson Brigade Express, shall be published on a quarterly basis.

6. The Jackson Brigade Corporation representative at large shall serve on the executive committee and shall assist the other officers in the work of the Jackson Brigade.
7. The officers shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the exercise of their powers and performance of their duties as officers hereunder. The officers shall not be held accountable for any mistakes of judgement or other action taken in good faith, for any loss, unless resulting from their own negligence or misconduct.

Article VIII. Standing Committees

1. There shall be the following standing committees: Program, Nominating; and Auditing.
2. A standing committee shall be composed of three members.
3. The program committee shall be responsible for planning and arranging for general meetings and reunions under the direction of the President.
4. The nominating committee shall nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the general meeting, following which, nominations may be made from the floor before a vote is taken.

Article IX Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current addition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Jackson Brigade Corporation in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and By-Laws and any special rules of order the Jackson Brigade Corporation may adopt.

THE FIRST JACKSON REUNIONS

Linda Meyers and Nancy Jackson, while researching their book, located the original minutes of the "Jackson Clan's" reunions. The first gathering was held at Jackson's Mill in 1921. The last recorded meeting, probably due to the war, was in 1941. Neva Irene Harrison, daughter of Rella Jackson Rinehart, had the minutes and papers from her mother, who was a secretary of the early Jackson reunions. She allowed Linda and Nancy to make copies of these minutes which are being published in the Jackson Brigade Express Newsletter.

It is interesting to note that Nancy's father, Jacob J. Jackson, was at one time president of this organization and these notes show that Nancy attended one of them when she was two years old. So, it is only fitting that Nancy and other members of her family would be instrumental in forming our present corporation.



*I, Ken Hechler, Secretary of State of the
State of West Virginia, hereby certify that*

by the provisions of Chapter 31, Article 1, Sections 27 and 28 of the West Virginia
Code, the Articles of Incorporation of

JACKSON BRIGADE CORPORATION

conform to law and are filed in my office. I therefore declare the organization to
be a Corporation for the purposes set forth in its Articles, with the right of perpetual
existence, and I issue this

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

to which I have attached a duplicate original of the Articles of Incorporation.



*Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of
West Virginia, on this*

Twenty-Fourth day of

March 19 92

Ken Hechler



Dear Cousins,

Our reunion this year celebrates the defining event in our family's history: the Trans-Atlantic immigration of our progenitors, John Jackson and Elizabeth Cummins. I doubt that John and Elizabeth could have imagined that their descendants would be gathering to honor them so many years later. Still, these humble immigrants must have recognized their place in history, as the changes that they and other pioneers wrought upon America's Trans-Appalachian frontier were evident within their own lifetimes.

As important to our history as John and Elizabeth are, it is unfortunate that many family historians have chosen to ignore our more-recent history. Many people seem to feel that our family's history resides in the distant past; it is this misconception that the family historian must confront and dispel. Our history is a living thing. It includes not only the great events of the past, but also the minutiae that comprise our everyday lives in the present. I therefore call upon our members to take an active role in preserving our family's history. Record an oral history interview with an older relative. Take out those old photos and identify them. Share stories and experiences with other family members.

There has never been a better time to take an interest in our family's history. Our reunions and newsletters have provided a useful forum for sharing information and rekindling a sense of family. (On a personal level, the association has given me the opportunity to meet some truly wonderful people whom I feel privileged to regard as cousins.) Our website and group mailing list have insured that our association is accessible to the growing number of researchers who use their computer for genealogical research. (Many of our members were first introduced to one another via computer and will be meeting face-to-face for the first time at the reunion!)

For one interested in our family's history, these are exciting developments. I would like to see our association sponsor even more activities to preserve our unique history, however. I would like to see us working with local communities to preserve our cemeteries and landmarks. I would like to see us encouraging our children, through the use essay competitions, to study our past. And I would like to see us develop a Jackson family archival collection that will be available to all future researchers. Without more involvement in our association, however, these are but pipe dreams.

Currently, the Jackson Brigade remains viable only through the work of a handful of people, whose efforts can not be sustained indefinitely. I urge each of you to become more active in the association. Help to spread the word about our little group; you will find that as our membership grows, so will our accomplishments and relevance. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome, as are suggestions for improvement. Of course, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with data entry and special projects. This is *your* association; it can be no stronger than the effort that we all expend in maintaining it.

It is my hope that, even as we celebrate the past during this special reunion, we may consider the future and the possibility that the greatest chapters in our family's history have yet to be written.

John M. Jackson, Vice-President

FROM ENGLAND TO CLARKSBURG

THE JOURNEY OF OUR IMMIGRANTS

JOHN AND ELIZABETH CUMMINS JACKSON

By Linda Brake Meyers

The following are excerpts taken from the first chapter of *Colonel Edward Jackson 1759-1828*, compiled by Linda Brake Meyers and Nancy Ann Jackson. Some revisions have been made.

So much has been written over the years about our immigrant ancestors that it has been very hard to determine the fact from fiction. Much of the information has been based on family traditions. This is especially true of our matriarch Elizabeth Cummins who has been described as "*a six foot tall Saxon beauty with blond hair, blue eyes, a strong intellect and will*"--characteristics she would pass down to generations to come. Her husband, John Jackson, was said to have been short in stature, "*a diminutive man*". It is tradition that he was a carpenter by trade and was employed by Lord Baltimore to bring a prefab house from London and construct it on the Maryland-Delaware border. Roy Cook in his book makes a reference to the "*Bendy House*," east of Cowentown in the fourth district near the Maryland-Delaware line, which, tradition says, was the home of the father of President Andrew Jackson. Perhaps this is the home John Jackson brought with him from England. We have not determined the origin of this legend nor have we been able to confirm it. Many have searched the Maryland Archives and the records of Cecil County (we have not). It seems that John and Elizabeth left no impress on Maryland soil.

The "*Silver Tankard*" story seems to be the most popular legend told of Elizabeth's early days in London. Mary Anna Morrison Jackson (Mrs. Stonewall) was the first to publish this in 1892.¹

Elizabeth Cummins, the young woman who was the fellow passenger of John Jackson, was a handsome blond, with the stature of a man, six feet in height, and as remarkable for strength of intellect as for beauty and physical vigor. She was well educated her father having sufficiently easy circumstances to own and rent out a public house in London called "The Bold Dragoon", which he derived a good income, and he was supposed to own landed estates in Ireland. After his death, his widow married her brother-in-law--a marriage that was so repulsive to her daughter that she could not become reconciled to it. Her step-father, who was also her uncle, one day aroused her indignation to such a pitch that with her

¹Jackson, Mary Anna (Morrison), *Life and Letters of General Thomas Jackson*, New York: Harpers and Brothers, Franklin Sq., 1892, p. 2.

powerful arm she hurled a silver tankard at his head, and then fled from her home. She scarcely missed her aim, it is supposed, for, as young as she was--not more than 15 or 16--she was not of a nature to do things by halves. However, the unfortunate man must have recovered from the broken head or family tradition would have recorded his death. It was the custom at that time for emigrants who had not the means of paying for their passage across the Atlantic to bind themselves for a certain term of service on reaching the Colonies. As the circumstances of Elizabeth's flight made it impossible for her to procure money for her journey, she proved her heroism by adopting this mode of escaping from a life that had become intolerable to her.

The "*Silver Tankard*" story was altered by another author stating that it was a soldier in her father's inn to whom she hurled the tankard, striking him in the head.

George W. Jackson, grandson of the immigrants, gives another version of the circumstances surrounding Elizabeth's life in London and her departure to the colonies. In 1871 he wrote to Jonathan Arnold the following:

Weston, May 20, 1871

Dear Sir:

I regret that I did not see you when you were in Weston. As I understood from J.C. Jackson you desired some information relative to our family. I believe that I can give you the requisite information that you can rely on. I am now in my 81st year, and was about 13 or 14 years old when my grandfather John Jackson died in Clarksburg. I was placed in the mill with him, as he could not be induced to leave it, as it occupied his mind, etc. Many of the facts that I relate I have from him, some from my grandmother, some from my father (George Jackson), and all confirmed by a detailed statement by my sister, Mrs. Williams, who being intimate with my grandmother for more than fifty years, had them often repeated to her. John Jackson, my grandfather, was born in Ireland. He, with his father and two brothers, moved to London when he was a child. John Jackson's father died when he was young. Arriving at manhood he emigrated to Maryland; he settled in Cecil County. He there married Elizabeth Cummins and remained some time after the birth of George Jackson, my father, and removed to Moorefield, then to Pendleton County, then to Buckhannon, thence to Clarksburg, where both died--grandfather at eighty-five and grandmother at a hundred and one years of age. Elizabeth Cummins and an orphan sister were born in England and raised by a maiden aunt; her sister married and emigrated to the city of New York. Elizabeth would have gone with her but was prevailed upon to remain by a promise that at her aunt's death she would leave her one thousand pounds. She (the aunt) died in two or three years. Elizabeth after obtaining the money sailed for New York, in search of her sister. After her arrival and diligent search, ascertained that she, her husband and two children, had died of yellow fever the year preceding. She then went to Maryland and found some acquaintances from England with whom she lived until she married

my grandfather in 1755. She often assured my sister and felt proud of it that the land patented in her name, including the (site of) town of Buckhannon, was paid for in gold she brought from England, and repeatedly showed with seeming pleasure a few quineas she retained until her death.

The question has often been asked if any relationship existed between my father and General Andrew Jackson, and upon enquiry of my father on the subject I obtained the following facts--Andrew Jackson and my father were members of Congress in '96 or '97 or '98, became intimate, and in after life corresponded, particularly during the exciting campaigns of 1824 and '28. While in Congress they compared notes on the probability of relationship--they settled on this alone, that their parents both lived in the same parish in Ireland; although they had no data to establish relationship and never claimed it, they believed it existed. Both were of Protestant families

With respt., etc.

Geo. W. Jackson

Jona Arnold

If Elizabeth did receive the 1000 lbs. from her aunt then she would have had no need to indenture herself for the passage to the colonies. But, perhaps she still chose to do so, keeping the money, giving credit to the legend that she sat on her trunks at customs and refused to let the officers examine her belongings which were said to include money, silver and linens.

A search of passenger lists reveal that a John Jackson and an Elizabeth Cummins were fellow passengers on the Litchfield which sailed from London in May 1749, Captain John Johnstoun (sic). One family legend tells us they were fellow passengers from London. Calculating from Elizabeth's birthdate of 8 January 1729, and the fact (from her recollection) that she was 19 or 20 when she came from London, we suspect that this is the ship on which they sailed to America.² More recent research disclosed by John M. Jackson in his article "A Distant Situation; New Theories on Our Family's English Origins"³ sheds light on the probability that John and Elizabeth were English convicts transported to the colonies as punishment for their crimes.

It was about seven years after their arrival in America before John and Elizabeth married, (calculated, July 1755), giving more credit to the possibility that one or the other, or maybe both were indentured servants. Nevertheless, shortly after the birth of their first son George, on 9 January 1757, the couple left Maryland, destined to become pioneers of what is now northwestern West Virginia. Following is Elizabeth's recollection of those early years recorded by her grandson, John George Jackson in 1820.

²Colham, Peter Wilson, *Bonded Passengers to America*, Vol: II, Vol: III; Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983, Vol: II: p. 144, Vol: III, p. 38.

³"Jackson Brigade Express Newsletter" Vol. 6 No. 2: February 1998.

Elizabeth Cummings Jackson was 28 yrs. old the day before the birth of George Jackson arrived in America at the age of 19 or 20. John Jackson was born in Ireland in 1716, died in 1807 were married in Maryland about 18 months before G.J. born, had 9 children.

Removed from Maryland to Goose Creek⁴ little River and remained there 1 year and removed to the S. Branch of Potomac and settled there in a fort 4 years at Geo. Wilsons or Mill Creek. Remained on Branch in all 5 years and removed to Buckhannon about the year 1773. Geo. Jackson went to S. Branch where he married mother, spent one year on the Buckhannon prior there to. no settlers on Buckhannon before J.J. family--the first year 3 families--lived there three or 4 years when Indians began war--retreated to the valley and fortified one year in Lewis Campaign, next year fortified at Wests on West Fork--2 next years at Buckhannon.

The Indians killed several and took prisoners Fort broke up in the year 1782--came to Cburg (Clarksburg)1782.

(I tell you as punctually as I can recollect it but I do not know that I would be willing to swear to it. Joined the Baptist Society in 30 (or38 years ago) ago and J.J. the next year.)

John and Elizabeth lived on Goose Creek only one year, moving on to the more fertile valley over the mountains on the South Fork where, Elizabeth says, they settled four years in George Wilson's fort, a location which has never definitely been located. Here at the fort at least two more children were born, Edward in 1759 and John Jr. in 1760.

George W. Jackson says that the Jackson family lived in Pendleton County for one year. This is possible. A John Jackson applied for a land grant of 200 acres on *Elk Horn Run between Pamuters and Oslins land below Mill Creek and South Fork*.⁵ This would have been in Pendleton County. Perhaps he did not obtain a grant for he made his home on the South Branch for the next few years. The Jackson were squatters on the land where they built their first humble home, for there are no records of land transactions for the Jacksons in Hampshire or Hardy counties. Today, a historical marker made from the chimney stones marks the spot of the Jackson cabin.⁶ It is here on the South Branch of the Potomac River that the lives of the Jackson and Brake families began to inter-twine. Jacob Brake and his large family lived only a few miles away, on the South Fork road near a waterfall known as Brake's Falls.

⁴Davis, Dorothy, *John George Jackson*, Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1976, p.2, "Goose Creek drains southeastern and central parts of Loudoun Co. in Va. and is a tributary of the Potomac River. Little River rises in northeastern Fauquier Co., in VA and flows into Goose Creek in Loudoun County near Leesburg, VA". (Hereafter: Davis.)

⁵Armstrong, David, researcher, *Augusta Co., Entry Book#1 1745-1779*, Staunton, VA, p. 57, now in Pendleton County.

⁶Refer to *Colonel Edward Jackson*, Chapter One for details.

In the meantime, the Pringle brothers, who had enlisted for service against the French and Indians, were stationed at Fort Pitt. They became disgusted with their lives and deserted in 1761, eventually seeking refuge in the wilds of western Virginia. Here they made a humble abode in the hollow of a huge Sycamore tree at the mouth of Turkey Run in Upshur Co., WV. Running short of ammunition, Samuel Pringle left his brother and returned to the South Branch in the fall of 1767.⁷ He soon learned that the Indian wars had ceased and that they were safe to return to their home. He gave colorful descriptions of his wilderness home to the South Branch settlers and inticed several to join him on his return. In 1768, it is believed, the prospective settlers accompanied Sam Pringle back across the mountains where they found the brother with only one round of gunpowder left.⁸ Among these bold spirits and hardy men was one John Jackson. What he found on the other side of the mountain whet his appetite and he soon returned to share the news with Elizabeth who waited anxiously for her wandering husband. Soon, he and his sons, George, age 12, and Edward, age 10, were off again with supplies for an extended stay in the valley. The Jacksons were one of the first three families to settle the area. John made his tomahawk claim⁹ to the Sycamore tree property where the Pringle brothers had made their home. Today the area surrounding this site is known as the Pringle Tree Community. A descendant of that huge Sycamore tree stands not more than a stone's throw away from where the mouth of Turkey Run empties into the Buckhannon River.

John and his sons began to carve their home from the dense forest, clearing the land of trees and underbrush, building a cabin with the trees, and planting crops between the stumps, all by hand, with meager implements such as axes, hand saws, iron wedges, hoes and shovel plows. The families of these first settlers did not come at once. After the crops were in, the pioneers returned to the branch. In the fall, they would come again to harvest the crops that would sustain them the next winter. When they returned, they found the wild had invaded their clearings and all the crops destroyed. It would be another spring before new crops could be planted, delaying the time when the pioneers could finally bring their family to their new home.

Back on the Branch, Elizabeth was busy caring for her family, now numbering six, and preparing for the move west. She was an educated woman and no doubt part of her day was set aside for some sort of schooling for her children.¹⁰ Little time was laid aside for

⁷McWhorter, Lucullus Virgil, *The Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia from 1768 to 1795*, reprint, Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, 1991, p. 31-33.

⁸Davis, p. 342, "to travel from the South Branch to the Buckhannon River those following the 'Pringle' route went up Loony's (Lunice) Creek or up the McCullough Trail via Petterson Creek and through Greenland Gap to the present town of Scherr from whence a 'trail' led up the North Branch of the Potomac striking the face of Backbone Mountain near where Bayard now stands; thence reaching the summit near Fairfax Stone. Passing to the western slope, (the trail) descended to the mouth of Horse Shoe Run three miles above St. George. Thence one branch led down Cheat, across Laurel Hill to the Tygart's Valley River (Tygart River Valley) 'above Philippi'. 'Pringle's Ford was on the Tygart Valley River about a mile below the site of Philippi, the crossing place for travelers on Pringle's Trail'.

⁹Davis, p. 5, "settlers could not secure a legal deed for land. Land claims were made by an inferior kind of land title denominated a 'tomahawk right', which was made by deadening a few trees near a spring, and marking the bark of some one or more of them with the initials of the name of the person who made the improvements. "

¹⁰This is legend, however, in deeds she executed after her husband's death she signed her own name.

relaxation for these settlers had to be self-sufficient. They raised their own vegetables and grains, game and firewood came from the forests and fish from the rivers and creeks. Flax had to be broken, hackled, scutched and spun into linen, or mixed with raw wool, hand-carded and hand-spun into cuts and skeins of yarn, made into lindsey or homespun jeans on hand looms. Before the wool could be spun into yarn it had to be scoured in huge tubs of boiling water kept hot on fires started with flint and steel. When clean, the wool was spread out, raked and dried. No doubt Elizabeth gave jobs to every child, as soon as they were old enough to help, to assist her in her daily chores. She probably had few qualms about, once again, pulling up roots and severing ties for she had managed quite well since she had made that first voyage, alone, across the vast ocean at age 19 or 20. In her recollection to her grandson, she stated that the family moved to the Buckhannon about 1773. No doubt they waited until spring after the birth of their seventh child, Samuel, 10 Dec. 1772. With all their belongings strapped to the backs of mules and horses, the family set out to cross the Alleghany Mountains. One can only imagine the difficulties that lay ahead. There were no constructed roads or bridges, just a dim rugged trail. Yet, they were curious and anxious to see what waited for them in the new valley on the river.

Here, on the Buckhannon River,¹¹ the Jackson children grew up, during one of the most frightful and bloody periods of our nation's history. Here Elizabeth would give birth to her last child, Henry, in 1774. She tells us, that due to the Indian wars the family was forced to live in forts for at least four years. It is family tradition that while her husband and sons, Edward and George were out fighting the Indians, Elizabeth with her fabled strong will and dominant courage defended the forts against the savage attacks the Indians raged. Yet, she was sympathetic, kind and supportive to those less courageous souls who were forced to endure these hardships. For these acts of bravery she has been recognized as a Patriot of the American Revolution.¹²

John Jackson was a Pvt. in Augusta County Militia. He is listed as providing 33 diets to the soldiers.¹³

Harrison County was formed by the Virginia Legislature in 1784 and the first court of the county met at home of George Jackson on 20 July 1784. John Jackson was present at this first session, as were his sons George and Edward. The stone house where the meeting

¹¹Davis, p.345, "under the act of May 1779 certificates were issued in 1781 by the four commissioners of West Augusta County to settle titles: 1) John Jackson, 1000 acres by preemption adjacent his settlement near Buckhannon made in 1772; 2) John Jackson 400 acres on Buck River adjacent George Jackson to include his settlement; 3) John Jackson assignee of Samuel Sedusous 300 acres on the water of Buckhannon adjacent land of George Jackson to include his settlement in 1776; 4) John Jackson 400 acres Tygarts Valley Fork adjacent Jonathan Byard to includ his settlement of 1775. The land claimed by the Jacksons lay in Augusta County with the county seat at Staunton, VA. In 1776, when Augusta County was broken up into Ohio County, Monongalia County, Yohogania County, and Augusta County, the land on the Buckhannon River became a part of Monongalia County with the county seat in Morgantown, (W)V."

¹²D.A.R. Lineage Book, Vol:48, #47615, p.287.

¹³Colby, Kenneth, he cites Gwathey, John H., *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolutions*, and Abercromblend, Janice L. and Staten, Richard, *The Virginia Public Claims*, Vol. 2, p. 663.

was held is said to have been built by John but belonged to George. It eventually was owned by John W. Reger who tore it down to build his own home.

It was around this time that the elder Jacksons, with the encouragement of their son, George, moved to Clarksburg. The 1790 census records John Jackson as a resident of Harrison County with 6 living in the family, one dwelling and 4 other buildings. The family lived in a stone house on the south side of East Main Street. It is likely that this home was also built to serve as a fort for the Indian hostilities did not cease until the turn of the century. It was here where Elizabeth is said to have shot her last Indian, while defending her family.

John Jackson's pleasure in his declining years was watching the operations of his son's mill. Here, on Elk Creek, he told stories to his teenage grandson, George Washington Jackson, whose responsibility it was to care for his aged grandfather, who refused to leave the mill site. John died a happy man in the arms of his loving wife at the old stone house in Clarksburg. He was buried 1/2 mile from the home of his grandson, John George, at the edge of the orchard next to the grave of his baby grandson, Thomas, who had died 8 months before. His will is on file in the court house Clarksburg, WV.¹⁴

Elizabeth was the matriarch of the family for three generations.

In 1806 she purchased a patent to the treasury warrants of her husband's Buckhannon property.¹⁵

WILLIAM H, CABELL, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENT SHALL COME, GREETINGS: Know
ye that in virtue of the following claims to wit eight hundred acres by two
certificates of 400 acres each in right of settlement given by the commissioners
and on adjusting the titles of unpatented lands in the counties of Monongahela,
Yohagania and Ohio, and the further consideration of seventeen dollars
and 78 cents paid unto the Treasury of this Commonwealth, 600 acres by
Preemption Warrant number two thousand three hundred and ten issued
the 29th day of June 1782 and fifteen hundred acres by Treasury Warrant
number one thousand eight hundred and sixty one issued the nineteenth
day of March 1796 there is granted by the Commonwealth unto Elizabeth
Jackson widow devisee of John Jackson dec. A certain tractor Parcel of
land containing (3000) three thousand acres by survey bearing date the
twenty second day of October one thousand seven hundred and ninety
eight, lying and being in the county of Randolph on the west side of the
Buckhannon River, adjoining the lands of David and John Casto, Charles
Forenash, George Jackson and others and boundaries are as wit:

¹⁴Harrison County Will Book 1, p. 133.

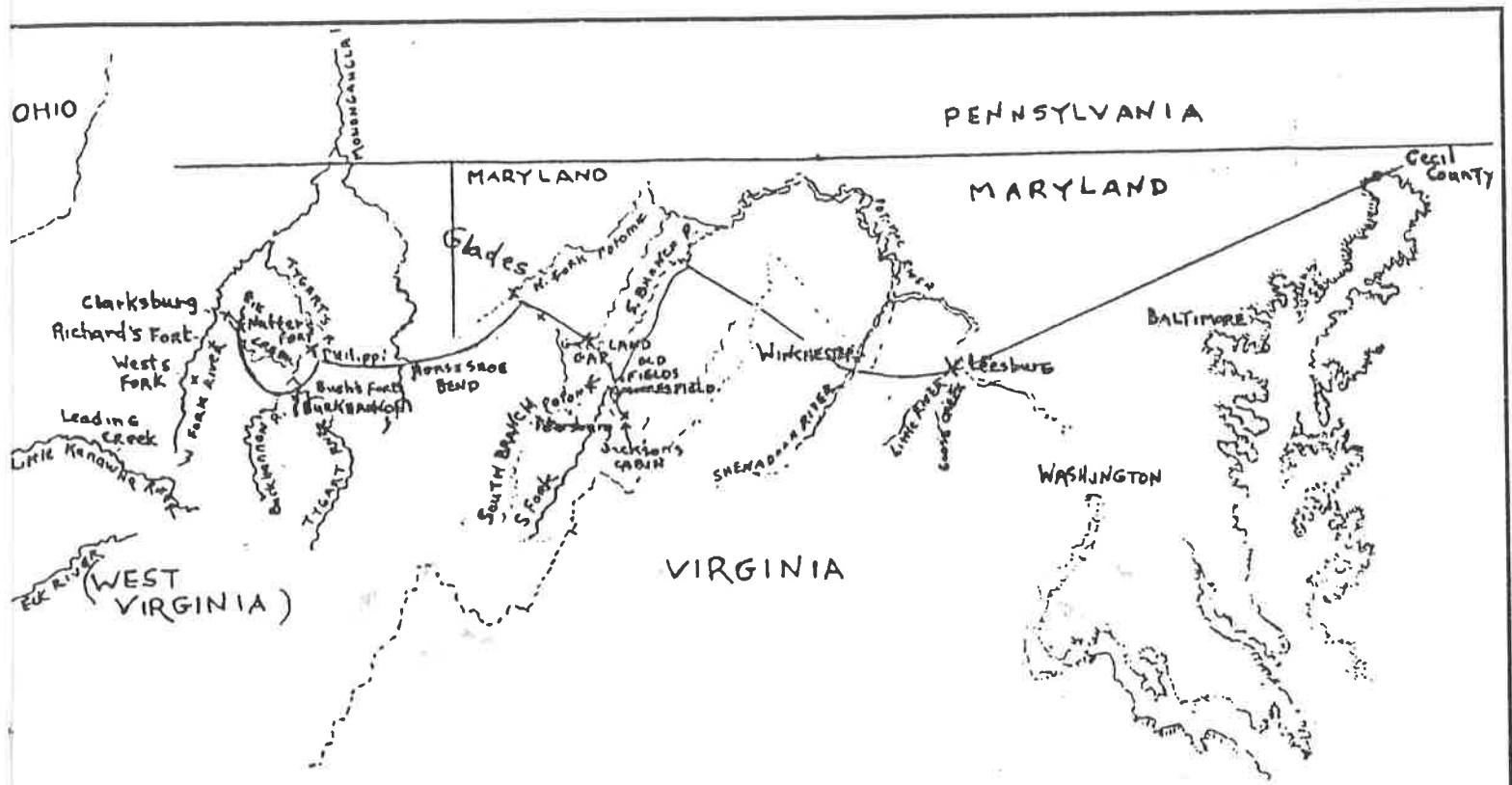
¹⁵Legends say she made this purchase with English coin she brought with her when she immigrated from London.

Beginning at a sycamore (Pringle Tree) standing on the river bank at the mouth of Turkey Run, thence N69E440 poles down the said river to a bend there of at the Forenash house and containing with said Forenash's line across Brushy Run to a white oak said Forenash's corner and with his line N11E274 poles to a white oak his corner N52W57 poles with a ____ of another survey of C. Forenash to a red oak his corner, thence crossing the road that leads from John Jackson's Mill to Anglins Ferry (Philippi) N40W80 poles to a red oak N65W380 poles crossing the right hand fork of Sugar Camp fork to a black ____ end George Jackson and Ambrose Warden S40W150 poles to an ash standing on the line and corner of John Casto thence with three of his lines S65E174 poles crossing said fork to a poplar S11096 poles to a poplar S70W40 poles to a hickory, David Casto corner, thence with three of his lines S9W188 poles down the Buck run to a poplar at the mouth there of standing on the bank of Turkey Run..a S87W102 poles crossing said run to a ____ on the top of the hill N62W45 poles to a sugar tree on the side of the hill S57W65 poles to a white oak and dogwood S70W100 poles to a hickory, N42W100 poles to a white walnut N50W80 poles to a white oak S54W204 poles to a white oak S40W124 to a gum, S25W17 poles to a poplar and white oak corner of Jacob Hire thence with three of his lines E52 poles to a hickory S12E418 poles crossing Raccoon Run several times to a sycamore on the bank of Finks run S20E42 poles to a red oak on the point of an hill Edward Jackson's corner thence with two of his lines S20W150 poles to a white oak S40E80 poles with his line, a red oak his corner W50 poles to a pin oak corner to John Jackson Jun. thence with two of his lines N64 W10 poles to a maple N20E22 poles to a white oak on the river bank, thence down the same N23E10 poles to a pin oak, Jacob Brake corner, thence with three of his lines N28W152 poles to a white oak N85E54 poles to a beach, N18 poles to a large hickory, George Jackson corner, thence with four of his lines north ten degrees E forty poles to a white oak, North four degrees, east fifty poles to a double poplar, red oak and black walnut on the Rich Nob Hill, north twenty five degrees, east one hundred ten poles, two poplars south seventy degrees east eighteen poles to a hickory and maple on the river bank and thence down said river with the several members thereof three hundred and fourteen poles to the beginning...with its appurtenances; To have and to hold the said Tract or Parcel of land with its Appurtenances to the said ELIZABETH JACKSON and her heirs forever. In witness whereof the said William H. Cabell, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto set his hand and caused the leaser Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond, on the twenty fifth day of August in the year of our Lord, One Thousand eight hundred and six and of the Commonweath the thirty first.

..signed Wm. H. Cabell.¹⁶

¹⁶Meigs-Jackson papers, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, OH. Although this property comes very close to the town of Buckhannon it does not encompass it. Platted, Oct. 1993 by Bryan J. Karickhoff, Buckhannon, WV.

Elizabeth remained strong willed until the end. As a young girl she had come to this new country alone. She had helped build her own homes, raise her own food, make her own clothing, bore, educated and nursed her children and cared for her family in pioneer forts. She courageously fought off the Indians after sending her men into battle and buried her husband, children and grandchildren. At around age 96 (not 105 as previously believed) she died, probably at the home of her grandson John George Jackson. No doubt before her death she had the pleasure of holding her great grandson, Thomas J. Jackson, not knowing he was destined to become a famous general. Elizabeth rests next to her husband in the "orchard place burying ground" in Clarksburg.¹⁷



Route John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson took from Cecil County, MD to Clarksburg, WV

Courtesy: Dorothy Davis, author of *John George Jackson*

¹⁷Morrison, Wilbur C., "Sunday Exponent Telegram", Clarksburg, WV, 29 Dec. 1929, "The slab at the grave of Mrs. Elizabeth Cummins Jackson is of native brown sandstone. It has weathered the years of time quite well. The only tribute on it is that she lived to be 105 years old. She died in 1825."

"A Distant Situation"

New Theories on the English Origins of the John Jackson-Elizabeth Cummins Family

by John M. Jackson

On August 15-16, 1998, descendants of John Jackson and Elizabeth Cummins will gather on grounds that their ancestors claimed from the wilderness of present-day West Virginia more than two centuries ago. Here, we will pay homage to our ancestors, share knowledge of our family's history, and renew bonds of kinship with distant cousins. The purpose of this special two-day reunion is to commemorate the 250th anniversary of John Jackson and Elizabeth Cummins' arrival in America. Such an occasion seems an appropriate time to celebrate the heritage of a clan that has grown as diverse as the continent it spans.

Recent research indicates, however, that we may be celebrating this anniversary one year early. In fact, this research throws serious doubts on many of the previous assumptions we have held regarding our family's origin in America. An objective study of existing family histories and newly discovered historical documentation suggests that John Jackson and Elizabeth Cummins arrived here not as fortune-seekers in 1748, but rather as a pair of convicts in 1749. In this article, I would like to present the evidence, explain how it came to light, why it should be regarded seriously, and, ultimately, what implications it has for our family and its historians. I would also like to explain why, in the face of this evidence, the Jackson Brigade Association has proceeded with plans for a 1998 commemoration.

For generations of Jackson family historians, John Jackson and Elizabeth Cummins have represented both the beginning and the end of research into their Jackson lineage. The mystique surrounding this couple's origins illustrates both the attraction and the frustration of genealogical research. While the lack of documentation provides us the opportunity to cloak John and Elizabeth's origins in romanticism and myth, it also plagues those Jackson-Cummins descendants who wish to extend their ancestral knowledge to Europe. Many have spent untold hours searching through existing accounts for some overlooked clue to John and Elizabeth's ancestries.¹ A useful overview of these accounts appears in Nancy Jackson and Linda Meyers' recent book on Colonel Edward Jackson, but for the purposes of this article a brief summary will suffice.

Our knowledge of John Jackson's early life is very sketchy. Most researchers agree that John was born near Coleraine in Londonderry County, Northern Ireland. Some accounts claim that he was born in 1715,² others, as late as 1719.³ All agree, however, that his mother died when John was very young and that he later moved, with his father and two brothers, to London. At the age of 10, we are told, John was fortunate enough to be apprenticed into the builder's trade. In 1748, he contracted to build a house for a landowner in Maryland and sailed for America.⁴

The tales surrounding Elizabeth's immigration are somewhat more complex. Most family histories state that Elizabeth was born in London in 1723. By Elizabeth's own account--as told years later by her grandson, John George Jackson--she was born on January 8, 1729.⁵ (The 1729 date seems more likely, when considering that Elizabeth's youngest child, Henry, was born in 1774. It would also mean, however, that Elizabeth did not live past the age of 100, as tradition holds.)

According to early biographers, Elizabeth's father owned land in Ireland and was the proprietor of a London public house known as the "Bold Dragoon."⁶ Here, accounts of Elizabeth's life diverge. Some say that her father died and Elizabeth's mother married her own brother-in-law.⁷ Others state that Elizabeth's mother died and her father later married a woman that Elizabeth despised.⁸ Whichever the case, Elizabeth is said to have once lost her temper and thrown a silver tankard at her step-parent before fleeing to America.⁹ George W. Jackson (a grandson of John and Elizabeth) gave a somewhat more believable account of Elizabeth's emigration from England:

Elizabeth Cummins and an orphan sister were born in England and raised by a maiden aunt; her sister married and emigrated to the city of New York. Elizabeth would have gone with her but was prevailed upon to remain by a promise that at her aunt's death she would leave her one thousand pounds. [Elizabeth's aunt] died in two or three years. Elizabeth after obtaining the money sailed for New York, in search of her sister. After her arrival and diligent search, ascertained that she, her husband, and two children, had died of yellow fever the year preceding. She then went to Maryland and found some acquaintances from England with whom she lived until she married my grandfather in 1755.¹⁰

These surviving accounts of John and Elizabeth's immigration are based entirely upon hearsay, not documentary evidence, and were not recorded in print until many years after Elizabeth's death in 1825. Not surprisingly, these tales often conflict with one another, and it is not uncommon for them to be self-contradicting. As a whole, these early versions of the Jackson-Cummins immigration lack something in cohesiveness and credibility, and all seem to share a basis in romantic fancy.

The problem presented by the Jackson-Cummins immigration is not unusual in genealogical research. Family historians are often able to easily trace their lineage for several generations in America, only to face the intimidating expanse of the Atlantic once they find their immigrant ancestor. The researcher discovers that emigrants, upon boarding ship for America, often severed all ties with the Old World. Such was apparently the case with John and Elizabeth.

While searching for clues to our elusive European ties in 1986, I happened upon P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*. In this fairly comprehensive index of colonial period passenger lists were found references to several John Jacksons, but only one who immigrated to America within eight years of 1748. The book lists only one Elizabeth Cummins immigrating to America in the eighteenth century. Both of these emigrants left England in 1749, and according to Peter Wilson Coldham's *English Convicts in Colonial America*, both sailed as "His Majesty's Seven-Year Passengers," British convicts sentenced to labor in the colonies.

Although the evidence now seems compelling, I soon abandoned this line of research, for no previous genealogist had mentioned it, and the dates of immigration did not exactly dovetail with existing family history. Renewing my search in 1991, however, I re-discovered the information and followed the lead. Coldham's work led me to contact London's Records Office and Guildhall Library, which generously supplied me with information on the Jackson and Cummins cases.

In mid-January, 1749, a man named John Jackson was brought to Old Bailey, the court for the City of London and the County of Middlesex, to stand trial for theft. A contemporary publication carried a brief summary of the case:

John Jackson, late of St. Giles's in the fields, was indicted for stealing 14 yards of gold lace, val. 5 l. - 120 guineas, one 40 l. bank note, the property of Henry Jackson, Dec. 30.

Hen. Jackson. On the 30th of Dec. I lost out of a little cupboard 9 different remnants of gold lace, 170 l. in cash ; to the best of my knowledge there were 120 guineas and the rest Portugal gold, one bank note payable to one Lefeavor.

Q. How do you know it was the prisoner at the bar that took those things?

Jackson. He was my near relation and servant; he told me the 30th of Dec. he would stay no longer with me, and went away about half an hour after 8 that morning : my workmen after he was gone told me they had seen him with more money than they thought he could honestly come by, of late : then after missing these things, I got a relation to go to take him, who found him in Cheapside : I was sent for, he confest the fact, I put him in a coach, and he carried me to a Jew who keeps a little bucklestall under the Baptist's Head alehouse, Holborn; there I found all the money within about 12 pounds; the Jew took the money out of a box.

Q. have you any of the money here or the note?

Jackson. No, my lord, the prisoner said he was very sorry for what he had done. Guilty of Felony except the bank note.¹¹

During the first week of April, 1749, a woman named Elizabeth Commins¹² (also known as Elizabeth Needles) was indicted for stealing from the home of Thomas Holland, in the parish of St. Catherine Coleman, the following goods:

Item	Value
1 repeating watch with gold case and shagreen case	£30
1 gold watch chain	£ 4
1 cornelian seal set in gold	20s
1 ruby seal set in gold	20s
1 diamond ring	£ 7

1 crystal locket	5s
1 Brilliant diamond ring	40s
1 topaz ring with a diamond on each side	30s
1 emerald ring	30s
1 hoop ring set round with rubies	20s
1 silver candlestick	40s
1 silver pint mug	20s
1 pair silver tea tongs	5s
1 silver tea spoon	2s
1 pair woman's "laced ruffles"	5s
1 double linen handkerchief laced	£ 3
1 linen shirt	7s
2 table cloths	10s

An accomplice, Hannah Martin, was also charged in the crime, but testified against Elizabeth, who was found guilty. Holland's wife pleaded with the court for leniency, however, and Elizabeth was found guilty of stealing only the goods found upon her person, valued at 12 shillings.¹³

Spared the gallows, Elizabeth Cummins was sentenced to transportation. On 19 April 1749, a transportation bond was signed by Andrew Reid, Alexander MacKenzie and John Johnston, all of London, promising to deliver Elizabeth and 33 other convicts to "some of his Majesty's colonies or Plantations in America."¹⁴ In May the *Litchfield*, laden with convicts and captained by the above-named Johnston, set sail, her destination given only as "America."¹⁵

Though he had been convicted in January, John Jackson likely would have also sailed on the *Litchfield*, for it appears to have been the next ship available for transport after his sentencing. Despite the wide variety of accounts concerning the Jackson-Cummins immigration, there is a consensus that John and Elizabeth met on the ship to America.¹⁶ If these two convicts did sail on the *Litchfield* together (which has yet to be proven), then this is certainly the most compelling of evidence to link the four people.

Our family's historians may welcome this evidence as a new opportunity, for the court records provide us with many further avenues for research. Certainly any research plan would dictate a search of parish records at St. Catherine Coleman and St. Giles-in-the-Fields. We already know that this John Jackson was closely related to Henry Jackson, obviously a man of means. Copies of John Jackson's official court record and transportation bond would also be important elements in identifying the couple as our ancestors. The London record offices also hold other records that bear examination. In short, these two court cases may provide the means for us to finally extend our lineage beyond John and Elizabeth through documented sources. Already this theory has gained some legitimacy through the endorsement of James I. Robertson, who used the information in his recent definitive biography on "Stonewall" Jackson.

No doubt some of us will be offended by the suggestion that our progenitors arrived here as convicts, but we must place this story within the context of the times. The circumstances in which these two people found themselves were by no means unusual in 1749. A leading authority estimates that as many as 50,000--or roughly one-fourth of the total--of the British immigrants to America during the colonial period were transported felons.¹⁷ The transportation of convicts to America has been largely overlooked by history until recently, however. Many of those transported were illiterate, leaving no written record of their passing. And once freed from servitude, they rarely saw a need to place the stigma of "ex-convict" on their names. As a contemporary writer observed:

*Those who survive the term of servitude seldom establish their residence in this country; the stamp of infamy is too strong upon them to be easily erased : they either return to Europe, and renew their former practices; or, if they have fortunately imbibed habits of honesty and industry, they remove to a distant situation, where they may hope to remain unknown, and be enabled to pursue with credit every possible method of becoming useful members of Society.*¹⁸

Nor did the contracted transporters of these "emigrants in bondage" leave much record of their activities, for theirs was not a business that lent itself easily to scrupulous behavior. Their business, though unsavory, was sanctioned by the British Parliament in 1718 with "An Act for Further Preventing Robbery, Burglary and Other Felonies, and for the More Effectual Transportation of Felons"... (4 Geo. I, Cap. XI). This act made a business venture of purging British prisons and providing a source of cheap labor to the plantations in America and other British colonies by substituting a 7- to 14-year exile-in-servitude sentence for many crimes that had formerly been punishable by death.

One may wonder why, despite this new view of John and Elizabeth's immigration, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of their immigration in 1998 instead of 1999. Though I am personally convinced that the two convicts are indeed our ancestors, it must be remembered that this theory is based solely upon circumstantial evidence--*strong* evidence, but circumstantial nevertheless. Until such time as the transportation theory is proven beyond any doubt, we should continue to observe 1748--the date history has given us--as the year of John and Elizabeth's voyage to America. The history that has been passed down to us and held as truth for two centuries is a precious thing and should not be discarded so easily in favor of hastily drawn conclusions.

Ancestral pride should be based upon fact, however, not wishful thinking. Whatever happened to John and Elizabeth in England, whatever their reasons for leaving London for the New World, it would be impossible to ignore their role in shaping what was then considered America's western frontier and later participating in the fight for America's independence. The strength that John and Elizabeth instilled in their offspring allowed the clan to become a leading force in the development of a new nation. If the progenitors of our clan were former convicts, then that makes their later contributions and accomplishments so much more admirable. To overcome forced servitude in a strange new land and eventually enjoy the highest status afforded by frontier society would truly be an honorable achievement and a testimony to the resiliency of the human spirit.

NOTES

¹Although a few genealogies claim to have taken the John Jackson line back as far as the early sixteenth century, these lineages have not been corroborated by documented evidence.

²Roy Bird Cook, *The Family and Early Life of Stonewall Jackson*. Charleston, WV: Education Foundation, Inc., 1963, p.7.

³Jackson Arnold, unpublished manuscript, 1956. (Copy in possession of the author).

⁴Cook, *Family and Early Life*, p.7.

⁵Nancy Ann Jackson and Linda Brake Meyers, *Colonel Edward Jackson, 1759-1828, Revolutionary Soldier : History and Genealogy of the son of Immigrants John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson, His Wives, and Families of Mary Haddan and Elizabeth W. Brake, Grandparents of General Stonewall Jackson*. Franklin, NC: Genealogy Publishing Service, 1995, p.4.

⁷Mary Anna Jackson, *Life and Letters of Thomas Jonathan Jackson*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1892.

⁸Arnold manuscript.

⁹A variation of this tale is that Elizabeth's wrath, as well as the tankard, was aimed at one of the King's soldiers. (Cook, *Family and Early Life*, p.8.)

¹⁰Quoted in Cook, *Family and Early Life*, p.8.

¹¹*Old Bailey Sessions Papers* for Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions 14-20 January 1749. Rather than official transcripts, the OBSP were contemporary journalistic accounts of the cases brought to court at Old Bailey.

¹²A variant spelling of "Cummins."

¹³*Old Bailey Sessions Papers* for London Gaol Delivery Sessions 5-8 April 1749

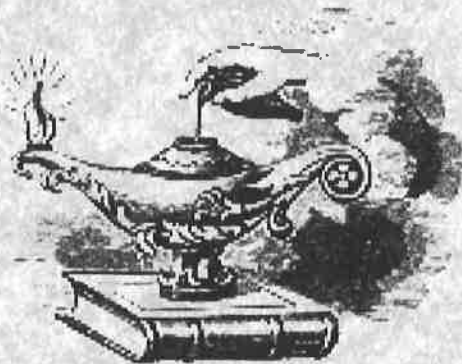
¹⁴Transportation Bond, 19 April 1749. Referenced in letter from James R. Sewell (London City Archivist) to the author, 13 May 1992.

¹⁵Peter Wilson Coldham, *Emigrants in Chains*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992, p.10.

¹⁶Jackson, *Life and Letters*.

¹⁷Kenneth Morgan, "English and American Attitudes Towards Convict Transportation, 1718-1775," *History*, 72: 416, 1987.

¹⁸William Eddis, *Letters from America*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1969, pp. 66-7.





Jackson Heritage Days

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An association of the descendants of John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson