

Historical Genealogy of Criswell/Creswell

Family and Genealogy of David Lee (Criswell) Palik

Prepared September 2009

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FIRST SECTION

Exhibit.....Creswell Coat of Arms 1584
Pages 1-5.....Early Creswell / Criswell History (1180AD-1787AD)



The Arms of the Family
of
CRESSWELL OF CRESSWELL
COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND
as recorded to George Cresswell
at the Visitation of the County of York
in 1584

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PAINTING OF THE CRESSWELL COAT OF ARMS

Where this photograph shows black the painting shows red. The helmet is bronze, largely. The white portion here is white in painting.

EARLY CRESSWELL/CRESSWELL/CRISWELL HISTORY

The spelling of our family's surname was originally and most always, CRESSWELL or sometimes CRESWELL (with one S). The spelling of Criswell is an AMERICANIZED VERSION of the original foregoing family name of Cresswell and Creswell. A number of you are probably wondering from where and how I compiled my historical facts on our Criswell/Creswell family. I began my genealogical research in 1990, collaborating with Raleigh R. Criswell, of Houston, Texas, who passed 21 October 2003, at Austin, Texas. Raleigh and I worked together via written correspondence for more than 10 years. Raleigh never owned or learned how to use a computer. Our information was accumulated from written publications of others and intensive use of genealogical libraries including my visit to the DAR library in Washington, D.C., two visits to the church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) library in Salt Lake City, Utah, local branch LDS libraries, the Knoxville, Tennessee large genealogical library, the Bristol, Tennessee genealogical library, the Abingdon, Virginia, small genealogical library, the San Francisco State College genealogical library, and some limited research of LDS INTERNET-ON-LINE records.

In addition to the foregoing I have reviewed and have several books written by various members of our Criswell/Criswell family as follows:

- 1) The Cresswell Family and the American Criswells (1931) by Edgar Golden Criswell (forwarded to me from Raleigh Criswell); was reprinted in 1977 by Genealogist George Ely Russell. There were 6 original prepared books typewritten at a total cost of \$134.29, one held by the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia.
- 2) Creswell-Criswell Genealogical Records (1987) by George Ely Russell (a serial compilation of his published periodical forwarded to me from Raleigh Criswell).
- 3) Descendants of John Yancy Criswell, Sr. and (Mary) Eleanor Vannoy (1988) by Sue Ragland Diggle (forwarded to me by Raleigh Criswell).
- 4) Criswell Family Among Early Settlers and Heroes of Texas History (1991) by Raleigh R. Criswell and Martha Criswell Bailey (purchased from Raleigh after finding his book in the LDS library in Salt Lake City genealogical library).
- 5.) A few copied pages from John Olin Creswell's Book, Creswell History and Genealogy (1967). John Olin Criswell's book can be found at the Knoxville, Tennessee genealogical library and the DAR genealogical library in Washington, D.C. There may be other library locations for this book.

Our family's surname began as CRESSWELL not Criswell. Generally, the use and application of family surnames didn't begin until around the 1100 AD or a little earlier. Before that period individuals were referred to as John, the Apostle, David, the Wise, etc. Our family's surname appears to have originated from those who were managers of WATER WELLS for travelers with the word, CRESS, referring to water, and WELL being the water source. The French version of the Cresswell name seems to associate the family with a "cress" (CREIX) as well as a watering place. For travelers' recognition, watering places, were sometimes marked by a CROSS, and families that lived nearby were known as the families who lived at the CROSS. In these early days WATER WELLS were extremely important to travelers for obvious reasons. Plumbing pipes and systems for running water did not exist, and the only source of water for thirsty travelers came from water wells.

Edgar Golden Criswell's FIRST CITATION for the family's SURNAME was noted in a record of NORMANDY, FRANCE, where a ROBERT de CROISSILES was recorded as being in NORMANDY, FRANCE, in 1180. (NOTE: de CROISSILES is a FRENCH VERSION of the surnames CRESSWELL, CRESSWELL, and CRISWELL. English writers have stated that those surnames ending in "ELL" were considered to be ANGLO SAXON, indicating that the very early Cresswell/Creswell family members were living in ANGLO-SAXON territory in the EXTREME GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF NORTHEAST ENGLAND in the county of NORTHUMBERLAND.

From an Edgar Golden Criswell quote: "Barber's British Family Names states that CRESSWELL is a local name in NORTHUMBERLAND and STAFFORD COUNTIES; in France, a NORMAN-FRENCH NAME, de Croisilles, de Croissiles, or de Creissilles.

There is a 1584 record of the family's COAT OF ARMS being published by the College of Arms in London, England, and provided to Edgar Golden Criswell after his 1928 inquiry. The family's Coat of Arms included three squirrels, and was referred to as, QUOTE: "THE ARMS OF THE FAMILY OF CRESSWELL OF CRESSWELL COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND as recorded to GEORGE CRESSWELL at his Visitation to the County of York.", UNQUOTE. Also Edgar Golden Criswell cited that the later FAMILY CREST (Family Crests came Later than Coats of Arms) included the LATIN MOTTO, QUOTE: "Let not such a joyful day go without a white mark", UNQUOTE. This is a custom and tradition that was practiced by the ROMANS to mark their HAPPY DAYS (on their calendar) with a WHITE MARK. Other later mottos recorded for later of various branches of the family are: (1) "Either do not attempt, or complete"; (2) "Love of Country conquers"

From research done by Edgar Golden Criswell it was concluded that male members of the Cresswell/Creswell family (RECORDED IN ENGLAND) are indicated to be of NORMAN-FRENCH-CELTIC (also perhaps of ROMAN ANCESTRY) from the NORMANDY, FRANCE, area, and whose original members may have accompanied WILLIAM, THE CONQUEROR in his assault on the English Mainland launched from the coast of NORMANDY, FRANCE, in 1066. We do know the family was LANDED GENTRY, and may have been able to acquire their titles and lands because of personal/armed services to the King of England. There is no actual proof of that family members did accompany and fight with WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR; however, because of the relationship between the two early and first recorded dates of Creswell/Cresswell family members, one in Normandy, France, and other in the English county of Northumberland, there is the strong likelihood, possibility, and probability that some family members could have accompanied WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR in his attack and invasion of England in 1066.

CONCLUSION: The early CRESSWELLS no doubt went to England either with WILLIAM, THE CONQUEROR, or soon after his conquest. WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR (1027-1087), was the Duke of Normandy, France, and became the KING OF ENGLAND after his winning his invasion battle over English forces at the battle of HASTINGS in 1066, a Sea Port in East Sussex in SE England. Hastings is about 58 miles SE of London on the coast of England and on the English Channel.

Edgar Golden Criswell wrote, QUOTE: "The PERCIES [Note: a Percy was the Earl (Duke) of Northumberland] and the CRESSWELLS are often found in the company of each other in England, and even in America, for one of the leaders in Captain John Smith's expedition to Virginia in 1607 was CAPTAIN GEORGE PERCY, brother of the then Earl of Northumberland, and a ROBERT CRESSWELL were members of the sponsoring London Company expedition. Much earlier SIR JOHN CRESWELL had been with LORD THOMAS PERCY as companions-in-arms to the Black Prince, son of Edward I, in the wars in FRANCE and SPAIN (1364-68), and another SIR JOHN CRESSWELL had been Constable of Warkwerth Castle, SEAT OF THE PERCY FAMILY." UNQUOTE. Note: Ancestry sources and tradition state the Lords of Percy were of remote Scandinavian Ancestry. The Percy family may have settled in England prior to the NORMAN CONQUEST and may have located in Yorkshire.

From other notes written by Edgar Golden Criswell the following:

- 1) The name CREISILLES appears on French Maps today (1930's) as applying to a village of 1400 people.
- 2) The PERCY family (believed to be originally of Scandinavian Ancestry) came from a Village [Villeneuve(?spelling?)] about 200 miles Southwest of Creisilles.
- 3) Two or three early English Cresswells were named OSWALD, and one referred to as Oswald or Oswiu. This is no doubt a recognition of old SAXON times in Northumberland, for OSWALD was a SAXON KING of NORTHUMBRIA (killed in battle in 641), and was succeeded by Oswiu.

2 - Completed 18 August 2009 - Written By David (Criswell) Palik

In Burke's HISTORY OF THE COMMONERS OF ENGLAND Edgar Golden Criswell cites early CRESSWELL family members were found living in THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND, an area just SOUTH OF THE SCOTTISH BORDER. The family frequently used the given names of HENRY, WILLIAM, JOHN, and ROBERT.

THERE IS THE TOWN OF CRESSWELL IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, ENGLAND, SOME 17.5 MILES NE OF NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, where ROBERT, the ELDEST SON OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, built a fortress. The Cresswell village is currently (in the 1930's) described as a small fishing village on the North Sea Coast of Northumberland. IMPORTANT NOTE by EDGAR GOLDEN CRISWELL: References have been made to CRESSWELL CASTLE and lands which the family held under ENGLISH KINGS in consideration of their keeping up the castle as a fortress and assisting in defending the county (Northumberland) from the attacks of the Scots just across the Northern boundary, some 40 or 50 miles away.

Members of the family, because of primogeniture and especially the younger sons, scattered to other points in England, even to Scotland and Ireland, for we find the family name not only in Northumberland, but in not less than 10 English Counties, and two in Scotland (Lanark and Roxburgh).

The following members of the early CRESSWELL family members LIVING IN ENGLAND at one time or another were reported by Edgar Golden Criswell's research and citations from "Burke's History of the Commoners of England" published in 1854:

1) SIR ROBERT "DE" CRESSWELL was the FIRST RECORDED family member was first recorded and seated from a very early era in the NORTHUMBERLAND part of ENGLAND (just South of the Scottish border), and was shown in an old manuscript to have been in possession of his estate as far back as RICHARD I (1189-1199) who was popularly referred to as, RICHARD, THE LION HEARTED. Sir Robert "DE" Creswell was living at the time of King John (Lackland 1167?-1216, signer of the Magna Carter in 1215) and King Henry III (1207-1272). SIR ROBERT "DE" CRESSWELL, a KNIGHT, was documented as witnessing various deeds of Robert and Ada de Baliol in 1240, 1246, 1249, and 1256.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The "DE" in his name indicates his ANCESTRY to be NORMAN-FRENCH, with "DE" literally translating from the French Language into the English language as the word "OF". Those that had the "DE" in their name were those that had arrived and emigrated from NORMANDY, FRANCE. These people were a mixture of Norsemen from the Scandinavian peninsula who had gone out on raiding and prospecting expeditions in the 8th and 9th centuries, and who had settled in NORMANDY, FRANCE, intermarrying with the FRENCH, and thereby becoming NORMAN-FRENCH.

2) SIMON "DE" CRESSWELL son of Sir Robert "DE" CRESSWELL - above - was witness to a convention between Bertram of Bothal and the rector thereof in 1261 and living in the time of Henry III (1207-1272). Simon was succeeded by son Roger "DE" CRESSWELL.

3) ROGER "DE" CRESSWELL, father Simon just above, was documented in the time of EDWARD I (1239-1307) of entering the tenements enjoyed by his father, Sir Simon "DE" CRESSWELL, and his grandfather, Sir Robert "DE" Creswell. In 1291 Roger "DE" CRESSWELL served as a juror in New Castle and was witness to a deed in 1309. Roger "DE" Creswell was succeeded by son Robert "DE" Creswell.

4) ROBERT "DE" CRESSWELL, father Roger just above, was living in 1327, and in 1358 had restitution of certain of his lands in Cresswell county area. Robert was living in the time of King Edward II (1284-1327), and King Edward III (1312-1377). In 1323 Robert "DE" CRESSWELL's name appears in a list of KNIGHTS and MEN-AT-ARMS in NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY returned by the High Sheriff in 1323. Robert "DE" Cresswell was succeeded by his son, and heir, Alexander "DE" Cresswell and another son John "DE" Cresswell, who was engaged in the French Wars with LORD THOMAS PERCY.

In 1341-46 SIR John "DE" CRESSWELL and LORD THOMAS PERCY acted as Companions-in-Arms to the Black Prince (Edward III's Prince of Wales) in France and Spain. It suggests they took part in the famous battle of Crecy, one the world's greatest battles in 1346. In 1404 Sir John "DE" Creswell was constable of Warkworth Castle, and his son, John, succeeded him as Constable. (NOTE: In 1333 Edward III gave Warkworth Castle to the 10th Baron PERCY. It became one of the principal residences of the PERCY FAMILY. It is about 25 miles NORTH of Newcastle, and TEN MILES SOUTH is the village of CRESSWELL. In 1366-67 the Black Prince led an expedition into Spain. In the "Chronicles of the Black Prince (1330-1376)" who was the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cornwall. A quote recorded in these chronicles the following: "The vanguard was led by the Duke of Lancaster", unquote, and a further quote, "Among the Companions present", unquote, is listed, quote, "Creswell". This would be Sir John "DE" Cresswell, son of Robert "DE" Cresswell, above nbr 4. John "DE" Cresswell was redeemed from captivity in Scotland, evidently a prisoner of war, and ordered to be procured (released) by the King by the 6th of December 1380. The "Black Prince" was the son of Edward I (1239-1307).

5) ALEXANDER "DE" CRESSWELL, son and heir of ROBERT "DE" CRESSWELL (above, nbr 4), and father to John Cresswell (below, Nbr 6), was witness to a deed in 1376, and a juror in the reign of EDWARD III (1312-1377) and RICHARD II (1367-1400), and was living in 1327 and 1358, and in this latter year he had restitution of certain of his lands in area named Creswell. Alexander "DE" Cresswell was succeeded by his son, John Cresswell.

6) JOHN DE CRESSWELL, son of Alexander "DE" Creswell (above, 5), living at the time of King Richard II (1367-1400) and King Richard III (1452-1485), Duke of Gloucester, and King Henry VI (1421-1471), gave evidence in the Scrope and Grosvenor Controversy, and was Constable of Warkworth Castle in 1404. John "DE" Cresswell was succeeded by heir and first son John Cresswell living at the time of Henry V (1387-1422) and Henry VI (1421-1471); also had second son Richard, in Holy Orders, Rector of Kimblesworth in 1462.

7) JOHN CRESSWELL, son of John "DE" Cresswell (nbr 6, above) was first Cresswell cited by Edgar Golden Criswell TO NOT USE the Norman-French "DE" in his name. This John Cresswell was ALSO a Constable of Warkworth Castle, and was succeeded by son George Cresswell of Cresswell land, who married, had two sons, and was living in the time of Henry VI (1421-1471).

7) GEORGE CRESSWELL, of land Creswell, son of John Cresswell (above, 6) had two sons, Robert, his heir, and son Percival who married the daughter of Hassall, of Hanklow, Cheshire, and had son George, who had a son and his grandson Ralph, aged 20 recorded as having a visited Yorkshire in 1584. George Cresswell was living at the time of Henry VII, Henry Tudor (1457-1509), King of England (1485-1509), and Henry VIII, Defender of the Faith (1491-1546), King of England (1509-1547), and George Cresswell by a Deed dated at Cresswell in 1512, he conveyed to his son, Percival, certain lands near Cresswell. George Cresswell had issue: (1) Robert (below, nbr8.); and (2) Percival of Nunkeeling in Holderness, living at the time of Henry VIII, and Elizabeth. Percival married daughter of Hassal, of Hanklow, in Cheshire, and left issue (names not given).

IMPORTANT NOTE: The COAT OF ARMS for the family CRESSWELL of the town CRESSWELL was officially entered in the YEAR 1584 at the COLLEGE OF ARMS (London) and was recognized as being the ANCIENT ARMS OF THAT FAMILY. SEE NOTE, NBR 22 BELOW. THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE FAMILY CRESSWELL OF CRESSWELL, COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND WAS RECORDED TO GEORGE CRESSWELL, above nbr 7) AT HIS VISITATION OF THE COUNTY OF YORK IN 1584.

8) ROBERT CRESSWELL, son of George Cresswell (above7), living at the time of Henry VIII (1491-1546), married Elizabeth Thomas, daughter, of Sir Thomas Lumley, of Lumley Castle, by wife Elizabeth Plantagenet, who was daughter of King Edward IV (1442-1483) and the Lady Elizabeth Lucy. Robert left son, and heir, Oswin or Oswald Cresswell, of the land Creswell (below, nbr 9).

- 9) OSWIN OR OSWALD CRESSWELL of Cresswell land, son of Robert Cresswell (above 8), living at the time of Edward VI (1537-1553) and Elizabeth, married three wives, by the first, no issue, by the second, Jane Errington, he had a daughter Margery who married Mr. Newton; and by the third, Dorothy, daughter of SIR Ralph Hedworth, of Harraton, and his wife, Dorothy, daughter of SIR Henry Gascoigne, of Sedgefield, Oswald had three sons, and with his primogeniture heir being John Cresswell, firstborn; 2nd son Cuthbert, Supervisor of Coal Mines to Queen Elizabeth; and 3rd son, Robert, of Ellington, Deputy Receiver to Queen Elizabeth.
- 10) Miscellaneous Record: JOHN CRESSWELL, recorded in York, about 1591-2, and documented in the register of the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. No link to any particular father or family given.
- 11) JOHN CRESSWELL, of Cresswell lands, eldest son of Oswald (above nbr 9) died 20 October 1599, and left wife Elizabeth (no further information on family).
- 12) Miscellaneous Record: JOHN CRESSWELL shown in the 1615 records of St. James Church, Clerkenwall, London, whose daughter was baptized.
- 13) JOHN CRESSWELL of Cresswell lands, living at the time of James I, who was son of Mary Stuart, King of England and Ireland (1566-1625), and also reigned as James VI, King of Scotland; John Cresswell also living at the time of Charles I (1600-1649) and Charles II (1630-1685). John Cresswell had wife Joan, and sons (1) William; (2) Oswald, "of the Tower of London"; (3) Ephraim; (3) daughter baptized 17 May 1626; and daughter Ann baptized 5 August 1628.
- 13) WILLIAM CRESSWELL, of Cresswell lands and son and heir, nbr 1, of above John Cresswell, nbr 11 above, baptized 17 May 1626, was living at the time of Charles I (1600-1649) and Charles II (1630-1685), died before 1693 leaving probable issue 3rd son Henry Cresswell by Lillis, his wife.
- 14) Miscellaneous Record: ROBERT CRESSWELL died in 1648, and was a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.
- 15) HENRY CRESSWELL, married 6 December 1700, a Miss Jane Wilkinson in Northern England. This HENRY was the 3rd son, and therefore, not the heir to his father's, (William, above nbr 13) estate. Because of primogeniture in English Law, where only the oldest son could inherit his father's property. His father's oldest son was named William, and was likely nbr 16, below. This HENRY CRESSWELL, possibly decided to travel East from Northern England, and because of the date he married, 1700, he is a possible father to the JOHN CRESSWELL who died in 1780 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and has been reported to be the father of firstborn HENRY CRESSWELL, our Criswell's family 5 greats (great, great, great, great, great) grandfather estimated to have been born some time before 8 November 1723 by his signing of a legal contract promissory note 8 Nov 1744 in Staunton, Augusta County, VA, for the sum of two pounds current money of Virginia (a signing of a bond - a sealed instrument under which a person guarantees to pay a stated sum of money on or before a specified day). Only those at least 21 years of age - the age of majority - could enter into and sign such a legal contract.
- 16) WILLIAM CRESSWELL, of Cresswell lands, living at the time of King William, Queen Anne, and George I and II. By his will dated 18 May 1749, he appears to have possessed estates of Cresswell, and other parts of Northumberland, and gives his estates to Lord Kavenworth and Lancelot Allgood, in trust, for the use of William. He left issue (1) William; (2) Henry of New Windsor, who died 3 Mar 1775
- 17) **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The male line in the main branch of the English family appears to have been broken on 10 January 1781, when JOHN CRESSWELL died, leaving TWO DAUGHTERS, who were twins. Frances Dorothea Cresswell, Catherine Grace Cresswell, born in 1760. The firstborn, FRANCES, married FRANCIS EASTERBY, ESQ., in 1787. HE PURCHASED CATHERINE'S (2nd born) interest in the JOHN CRESSWELL ESTATE, and assumed the CRESSWELL name and the family's COAT OF ARMS so the CRESSWELL family name was continued. In 1810 when FRANCIS EASTERBY succeeded to the CRESSWELL estate and assumed the SURNAME and the ARMS of CRESSWELL, the CREST which appears in the pedigree set out in Burke's "Landed Gentry" was granted to him.

SECOND SECTION

Pages 1-2.....LEANDER CRISWELL & EMMA (NEELEY) CRISWELL

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT LEEANDER HARVEY CRISWELL AND EMMARIAH (EMMA) ADALINE (NEELEY) CRISWELL

BACKGROUND

I am just the messenger in this writing, passing on what information follows which comes from earlier, dedicated, and persevering CRISWELL family researchers. Credit for particulars must go primarily to author, SUE RAGLAND DIGGLE with co-author, helper, BRADFIELD RAGLAND HORTON.

SUE RAGLAND DIGGLE began her work in 1955, and completed her book according to its dedication in December 1965, a TEN YEAR PROJECT, a book dedicated to Reverend W. A. Criswell (Wallie Amos Criswell, Jr.) a/k/a Dr. Criswell and who for more than 40 years was associated with the downtown Dallas Baptist Church ultimately becoming the chief manager of its affairs. The title of Sue's book is: "DESCENDENTS OF JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, SR. AND ELEANOR VANNOY", an astounding and very detailed 195 pages of gathered family statistics. My copy of her book was sent to me by Raleigh Criswell, and is a retyped copy done in 1988 by Nada Moon Alexander. I have no information about Nada Moon Alexander; however her comments about the retyping follow, quote: "RETYPED in 1988 with great ADMIRATION and APPRECIATION for SUE RAGLAND DIGGLE, Unquote. This book is the most prodigious, rigorous documentation of family members than anyone could possibly write or imagine. I am sorry I never had the opportunity to meet this woman. She truly was a CRISWELL FAMILY HERO. I am absolutely amazed at her depth of research efforts which continued for 10 years. Keep in mind that this material was assembled before the computer age, and all of the information collected was done by correspondence inquiries, family interviews, and perhaps some phone calls.

I began my genealogical research at the urging of my mother's oldest sister, Maureen (Criswell) Spence. I started with RALEIGH R. CRISWELL and MARTHA CRISWELL BAILEY's book, entitled: "CRISWELL FAMILY AMONG EARLIER SETTLERS AND HEROES OF TEXAS HISTORY", a book I found during a genealogical research trip to Salt Lake City in 1990 at the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) main genealogical library, a library that has records on some estimated 5-6 billion people worldwide. Beginning In 1990 until about 2000 Raleigh and I corresponded as genealogical co-researchers with Raleigh sending the last copy of his book to me in 1990.

LEE and EMMA CRISWELL

Leander (Lee) Harvey Criswell, b. 25 DEC 1848, Black Jack Springs, Fayette County, Texas, d. Monday, 15 MAR. 1926, Dumont, King County, Texas. Married 5 DEC 1872, Lavaca County, Texas. Emma Adaline Neeley, b. 14 DEC 1851, d. Wednesday, 18 OCT 1922, Dumont, Texas. Both Lee and Emma are buried in the Dumont Cemetery. The maiden name of Emma's mother was Nancy Bunting (English).

In 1870-71, Lee Criswell was Deputy Sheriff of Fayette County under Sheriff R. G. Faires.

After they married in December 1872 Lee and Emma made their home in Lavaca County where their first child, WALLIE AMOS CRISWELL, SR, was born 18 SEP 1873, d. 11 NOV 1948, Los Angeles, California.

By 1878 they were living in Coleman County, Texas, where their next 3 children were born, AMONG WHICH WAS MY GRANDFATHER, JOHN LYNCH CRISWELL, b. 23 MAY 1878, d. 21 AUG 1959 in his barbershop, Perris, California, of a heart attack, and is buried there with his wife, my maternal grandmother, Annie Love (Walker) Criswell. Both lived in Redlands, California, for many years. JOHN LYNCH CRISWELL was the first of LEE's sons to move to California circa 1911-12.

Their 12th and last child was born February 1896 in Fayette County where they lived until November 1896.

Lee was a farmer for a long time, and also a freighter, before the family moved to Dumont in 1902.

Lee served continuously as POSTMASTER during his 23 years in Dumont. He also served as a correspondent for the Post City Post newspaper, Garza County, for 15 years prior to his death, and was considered to have been a significant influence in the development of that part of the county.

At 20 Lee converted to the Baptist Faith, and Emma, at age 15. At the time of her death they lacked less than 7 weeks of having been married 50 years.

EMMA'S OBITUARY:

QUOTE: "She was one of the old-timers of Dumont, having lived there for more than 20 years. She was a devout Christian, being a consistent member of the Baptist Church at her place of residence. Her life had been filled with deeds of kindness and words of cheer. Her days were days of usefulness, and she will be missed by her family and a host of sorrowing friends. She was a devoted wife, a loving mother, and lived for others, ever finding ways and means to help the distressed and needy. Her life of unselfishness will prove a lasting monument to her memory.", UNQUOTE.

LEE'S OBITUARY:

QUOTE: "His life was one of consecration and loyalty to the Church. He was a member of the Dumont Baptist Church and served in the building of that Church for 23 years, a large portion of that time as a SENIOR DEACON. Thus another landmark of this county has been taken away. Mr. Criswell was known far and wide over this great section. He came here in the very early days when this was a great cattle country. He made friends with the early settlers, and he has made friends with all who have come since. Everyone spoke of him in the highest regard and the greatest respect. He had no enemies and was looked upon as one of those frontier fathers with the greatest respect and admiration.", UNQUOTE.

CHILDREN OF LEE AND EMMA

- 1) WALLIE AMOS CRISWELL, SR., b. 18 Sep 1873, Lavaca County, Texas.
- 2) Richard Pugh Criswell, b. 11 Mar 1875, Gonzales County, Texas.
- 3) Effie Ewen Criswell, b. 28 Jul 1876, Gonzales County, Texas.
- 4) John Lynch Criswell, b. 23 May 1878, Burkett, Coleman County, Texas (my grandfather).
- 5) Iva Zella Criswell, b. 16 Jan 1880, Coleman County, Texas.
- 6) Lucy Lee Criswell, b. 6 Sep 1881, Coleman County, Texas.
- 7) Joel Sidney Criswell, Sr., b. 10 Nov 1883, Nolan County, Texas.
- 8) Tomas (Thomas?) Grover Criswell, b. 27 Aug 1886, Tom Green County, Texas.
- 9) Dial O'Daniel Criswell, b. 11 Oct 1889, , Coke County, Texas, d. 5 Dec 1963, Livermore, Alameda, California....NOTE: Funeral was officiated by Reverend Wallie Amos Criswell, Jr, and my mother, Mary Margaret (Criswell) Palik and I attended the funeral.
- 10) Alice Jewel Criswell, b. 23 Feb 1891, Coke County, Texas.
- 11) Charles (Charlie) D. Criswell, b. 7 Oct 1892, Kaufman County, Texas.
- 12) Mary Frances Criswell, b. 20 February 1896, Fayette County, Texas.

Note: 1873, Lavaca County (2 years); 1875, Gonzales County (3 years); 1878 Coleman County (5 years); 1883 Nolan County (3 years); 1886, Tom Green County (3 years); 1889, Coke County (3 years); 1892, Kaufman County (3 years); 1896 Fayette County (4 years); 1896 Wharton County (6 years); 1902 Dumont, King County (23 years until death).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If anyone reading the above would like any additional information I have about Lee and Emma's listed children or their descendants as published by Sue Diggle you can contact me either at my internet address, www.crispal@peoplepc.com or my snail mail address, 360 Arbor Court, Benicia, CA, 94510-2112.

THIRD SECTION

Pages 1-2.....JOHN YANCY JR AND REBECCA (O'DANIEL) CRISWELL
Exhibit E-13....20 Dec 1888 published LaGrange Journal Account of
"Thoughts of By-Gone Days" authored by John
Yancy Criswell Jr

FATHER and MOTHER OF LEANDER HARVEY CRISWELL, JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, JR., and GREAT, GREAT,
GRANDFATHER to DAVID LEE (CRISWELL)) PALIK, 6TH CHILD OF JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, SR.

JOHN YANCY CRISWELL, JR., b. 27 NOV 1824, Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky; d. 7 OCT 1896 (71 yrs and three weeks short of his 72nd birthday, Waco, Texas. Married 2 DEC 1847 in the Woods Prairie Settlement of the old Plum Grove area, Fayette County, Texas, to MARY REBECCA O'DANIEL, b. 22 JUL 1831 near Carrollton, Pickens County, Alabama; d. 15 APR 1898, Waco, Texas.

On 4 AUG 1896 John Y. Jr. and Mary R. sold their home place in the old Pine Springs area for \$2500.00 to William Greenshield. They also sold their old log cabin (about 2 miles away which was later used as a barn) to a Czech. This was shortly before John Jr.' death when he and Mary gave up housekeeping and went to Waco to live with their daughter, Fannie Criswell, and her husband, Professor Pugh Kirk. Professor Kirk was then associated with the old Add-Ran Christian University which in 1902 became Texas Christian University, and in 1910 was moved to Fort Worth, Texas. Both John Yancy Jr. and Mary Rebecca died there in Waco and both were taken back to Fayette County, and buried in Oak Hill Cemetery at Flatonia on a lot adjoining that of John's niece, Kate Criswell Routh, daughter of Joseph E. Criswell, Sr. John Yancy Jr's and Mary Rebecca Criswell's wills are filed in Waco.

Note: John Yancy Criswell Jr. arrived in Texas (emigrated from Barbourville, Kentucky with a short stay in Missouri) December 1830 at age 6 with his parents, brothers, and sisters. Participated in what was called the 'RUNAWAY SCRAPE" at age 11 and the family's flight to escape the oncoming Mexican Army marching to the Alamo in 1836.

John Yancy, Jr. and Mary were married by David Ridgley Stout, Justice of the Peace, in the home of Mary's stepmother, Lucinda Kenner (Berry) O'Daniel (Widow of Josiah O'Daniel, Mary's Father, whom she had married 7 NOV 1839) who then lived in the Woods Prairie Settlement, near the present West Point. Mary O'Daniel's father, Josiah O'Daniel, died 17 DEC 1845. On 19 MAR 1848, Lucinda O'Daniel married her 3rd husband, William Gorham. Mary Rebecca (O'Daniel) Criswell adored her step mother Lucinda so when William Gorham moved to Black Jack Springs, Mary and John Y., Jr, moved there also to be near her.

Mary O'Daniel was the daughter of Josiah O'Daniel, b. 27 SEP 1804 in South Carolina; d. 17 DEC 1845 at Woods Prairie, Texas; married about 1827 in Pickens County, Alabama, to Druscilla Millie Maxwell, b. 27 FEB 1810, Alabama, d. 31 MAY 1838, Woods Prairie, the day after their 5th child was born. Josiah and Millie (Maxwell) O'Daniel came to Texas from Pickens County, Alabama, some time after 2 MAR 1836 but before 1 OCT 1837 dates proven by Land Grants dates. Mary Rebecca O'Daniel was named for her two grandmothers, Mary Abercrombie (Williams) O'Daniel and Rebecca (Mrs Robert) Maxwell.

NOTE: Married men arriving in the Republic of Texas after 2 MAR 1836 but before 1 OCT 1837 received Second Class Land Grants of 1280 acres, and single men received 640 acres.

At age 18 in late 1842 John Y., Jr, joined an independent company of Texas Rangers and engaged in desultory Indian fighting. In 1842-43 he served in the Somervell Expedition led by General Adrian Woll to repel the invasion of Texas by Mexico. In 1845 John Y., Jr, entered the Service of the Republic of Texas, along with his brother Joe. At the breaking out of the war between the United States and Mexico, he joined the company of M. L. Gray of the Texas Rangers, served throughout the war, and mustered out 17 JUL 1847. John Jr. and brother Joe served in the Ranger Company under the immediate command of Peter Hansborough Bell who served as Governor of Texas from 21 DEC 1849 to 23 NOV 1853 when he resigned in order to fill the unexpired term of David S. Kaufman in the U.S. Congress. When his term expired, he was elected to Congress and remained there until 1857: BELL COUNTY WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR.

1 - Written by David Lee (Criswell) Palik 9 September 2009

On 2 FEB 1846 John Y., Jr., received 4th Class Unconditional Certificate #134 from the Fayette County Board of Land Commissioners for 320 acres of land. It states that "John Y. Criswell has appeared and proved according to Law that he arrived in this Republic previous to 1840." This was disconcerting as it sounded as though he had recently arrived in Texas, yet his father's, John Yancy Criswell, Sr.'s Texas Land Grant issued 3 JAN 1838 in Fayette County stated that he "EMIGRATED TO THIS COUNTRY WITH HIS FAMILY IN THE YEAR 1830 IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER." It was inconceivable that his son, John Yancy Criswell, Jr, did not also come with him.

In 1846 at the breaking out of the War between the United States and Mexico, John Y. Jr, joined the Company of Captain M.B. Gray, of the Sixth Texas Rangers and served throughout the War. The Mexican war ended 2 FEB 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo being signed in which Mexico renounced all claims to Texas and agreed to accept the Rio Grand River as the boundary between Mexico and the United States. After that John Yancy Jr. was often called "Captain Criswell". He took an active interest through the rest of his life in Texas Veterans and in 1894 was one of the Veterans (age 70) who registered at a meeting in Waco.

In the Spring of 1852 he was given a character reference by then GOVERNOR PETER H. BELL, quote: "Among his fellow soldiers he was in the main a good one. He was fond of trading and running horses, or trafficking, etc., and participated in all the little amusements legitimate in Camp. He was considered a wild young man, but generally esteemed a fit associate by this follow soldiers. He was under my immediate command, and subject daily to my inspection of the manner in which he performed his duties as such.", unquote.

In December 1888 John Yancy Criswell Jr wrote an account of the "RUNAWAY SCRAPE" which was published in the LA GRANGE JOURNAL (newspaper).

NOTE: THERE IS A COPY OF THIS WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF 1888 ENCLOSED - SEE THE NEXT TWO PAGES.

THOUGHTS OF BY-GONE DAYS. (Ed. Journal) By John Yancy Criswell, Jr.

In my communication of the 20th ult. in speaking of the LaGrange Intelligencer, the first newspaper published in LaGrange, carries my mind back to the spring of 1836. The few families that were living in the neighborhood of Wood's Prairie, in which West Point is located, get ready as best they could, to fall back east out of the Mexican's army reach. Some families in sleds, some in 2 wheel wodden carts; but few had wagons, all using ox teams, they met at the old Woods place in said prarie, crossing the Colorado River at the Grassmeyer place, above the Erin farm, then owned by Wm. Barton. The families were as follows: Wm. Barton, Zedeck Woods, Norman Woods, Montroville Woods, James Robinson, George Speers, Noah Karnes (the father of W. P. & G. W. Karnes, living near Plum Post Office) and W. A. Faires, the father of R. O. Faires and brothers, L.F. T. Cottle and my fathers family, and some others the names of whom I have forgotten.

The families effects were floated over the river on beef hides. After crossing the river we camped the first night at the old Cunningham place near the river. Some of the teams wandered off that night, which caused two or three days delay in hunting them. On the morning that we intended to make an advancement for the town of Washington, on the Brazos River, just as day was breaking, the Commanche Indians, who had concealed themselves that night in the river bottom, made a dash through the field, rattling little triks of their make, stampeding and running off nearly all of the horses that were in the crowd. The night previous, the Indians pulled the fence in various places so as to pass out of the field with the stock. W. A. Faires was up that morning quite early and went out to get his ponies, in going along the fence he found some gaps in it. He put up two of the gaps and found one of his ponies out side the field, habled and his head tied down to the front feet. As he got his horse untied the Indians made their start through the field and Faires started for camp without saddle. Stopping and putting up those two gaps in the fence saved him from being cut off from the camp by the Indians.

Some of the crowd were up and saw the Indians run the horses out of the field and off. I saw the sight, but it was done so quick that there was not much to be seen. After the sight was over the men concluded it would be best to recross the river which they did and camped the first night at the Barton place. Next morning three of the men started out to hunt some of the lost teams. They were Montroville Woods, Wesley Scallorn, the other name I have forgotten, came very near being cut off by the Indians, they making a charge on us that morning, but having to run over the ground that had been plowed that spring, saved the three men.

From the Barton place we went down and crossed the river at the old Labide crossing, which is at or near the R. R. bridge at LaGrange; camped at Col. John F. Moore's little log cabin and a block house in the yard used as a fort against the Indians. This was about the first week of April 1836. The ground where Col. Moore's cabin stood is some 4 or 5 blocks up the street from the northwest corner of the public square of your city. Then no one ever dreamed of a town being built on that ground and afterwards a railroad built over the land.

CRISWELL FAMILY

The families being destitute of teams as well as vehicles and horses to ride, the women and children that were big enough to walk had to do it, and besides walking had to carry grub and bedding on their backs. It was a very wet spring that year, we had mud and water without end.

Don't talk about hard times during the Confederate War. It was nothing to be compared with those days. To see nearly the whole crowd walk through mud and water up to their knees, men, women and children, and then bedding down and sleeping on the wet ground at nights without tents was surely a trying time. About half way between the Colorado and the Brazos Rivers, Noah Karnes was killed accidentally by Wayne Barton, he was rapt up in a bed quilt for his coffin and buried where he was killed. On reaching the Brazos, it was up over all the low bottoms, wagons, carts, etc. were crossed over in a ferry boat, each wagon by turn. The boat was run day and night until all was crossed. The families arrived at Robbin's ferry on the Trinity River on or about the 15th of April, 1836. At the Trinity River we found a large number of families awaiting their turn to cross the river, the Trinity was up and over all bottom land; it was five miles wide and took one day to make two trips with the boat which was slow work. Before our crowd got to cross we got news of the Mexicans being whipped at San Jacinto on the eve of memorial day, the 21st of April, then the shouts of women and children went up for joy, at the prospect of going back through the mud and water to their little log cabins they left behind them.

Mrs. O. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Gorham are the only two women that I knew of, who was in our crowd that was anything like grown and W. P. And G. W. Karnes of Plum neighborhood, and myself, are the only men living that were in the crowd, that were not grown. There may be others living, if so, I have entirely forgotten them by name.

In those days there was no fencing, and nobody to want a fence, but plenty of hostile Indians, buffalo, mustangs (wild horses), wild cattle, deer, turkeys, and other small game, but few people to eat the game. In those by-gone-days, all we had to do was take our guns, go out and kill any kind of game you wished, broil it over the fire and eat it without salt and be happy. J. Y. C.

FOURTH SECTION

Pages 1-5.....Ancestry / Genealogy of David Lee (Criswell) Palik

CRISWELL (Maternal Family Surname) ANCESTRY OF DAVID LEE (CRISWELL) PALIK
Edited 29 August 2009 - Printed 29 Aug 2009

- 1) David Lee Palik, B. 8 FEB 1936, County Hospital, San Bernardino, California (Depression Baby).
- 2) Mary Margaret Criswell (Mother): B. 24 JUN 1917, Redlands, California, D. 8 SEP 1980 (63 years - Lung Cancer), San Bernardino, California; Married 12 MAR 1935 (17 years) to Theodore Joseph Palik (21 years) (Father), B. 13 JUL 1913, Yonkers, New York, D. 19 JAN 1973 (59 years - bone marrow cancer), Letterman Military Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco, California. Ted Palik retired from the US Army Signal Corps, rank Lieutenant Colonel after more than 30 years service; then became an Utilities Engineer for the California State Utilities Commission. Mary Palik was mostly a housewife but had experience working as a legal secretary and a retail sales clerk for Macy's
- 3) John Lynch Criswell (Maternal Grandfather), B. 23 MAY 1878, Burkett, Coleman County, Texas, D. 20 AUG 1959 (81 years - cause of death, Heart Attack); Married 16 OCT 1906 (28 years) to Annie Love Walker (24 years) (Maternal Grandmother) at Caddo Macedonia Baptist Church, Caddo, Stephens County, Texas; Annie Love Walker B. 9 APR 1882, 12 miles North of Ranger Texas, at a small village Caddo near La Casa, Stephens County, Texas, D. 9 AUG 1965 (83 years - cause of death suspected to have been Alzheimer's). John and Annie emigrated to Redlands, California from Crowell, Texas, in 1912. John was a ranch hand in Texas and a Barber in California, having his own barbershop at Perris, California, for many years. Annie was always a housewife.
- 4) Leander (Lee) Harvey Criswell (Maternal Great Grandfather), B. 25 DEC 1848, Lavaca County, Texas; D. 15 MAR 1926 (77 years - cause of death unknown); Married 2 DEC 1872 (23 years) to Emmariah (Emma) Adeline Neeley (20 years) (Maternal Great Grandmother), B. 14 DEC 1851, Moulton, Lavaca County, Texas, D. (Wednesday) 18 OCT 1922 (70 years), Dumont, Texas, both Lee and Emma are buried in Dumont Cemetery, King County, Texas. Emma's Mother's maiden name was Bunting or Buntin.
- 5) John Yancy Criswell, Jr. (Maternal Great-Great-Grandfather), B. 27 NOV 1824, Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky, D. 7 OCT 1896 (71 years - cause of death unknown), buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Flatonia, Texas; Married 2 DEC 1847 (23 years) at Wood Prairie Settlement, Fayette County, Texas to (Red Haired) Mary Rebecca O'Daniel (16 years) (Maternal-Great-Great Grandmother); B. 22 JUL 1831, near Carrollton, Pickens County, Alabama, D. 15 APR 1898 (66 years - cause of death unknown), Waco, Texas, buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Flatonia, Texas.
- 6) John Yancy Criswell, Sr. (Maternal Great-Great-Great Grandfather), B. 1786, most likely at or near Abingdon, Washington County, Virginia; D. 30 SEP 1839 (at 53 years - cause of death from historical accounts suggest it was pneumonia), Fayette County, Texas. Emigrated from Washington County, Virginia, or Northern Sullivan County, Tennessee, near Blountville sometime during or after 1807 to Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky. Married there in 1812 (at 27 years) to Mary Eleanor Vannoy (age 18 years) (Maternal Great-Great-Great Grandmother), (B. 1794, Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky, and a French Family Descendant. Mary's mother's maiden French surname was Sallee. Mary's father, William Vannoy (Americanized Surname), was also distantly ethnically French and Dutch. The surname originally spelled Vannoise or Vanois and pronounced Van-Wa came from four generations back to the 1680's when the original John Vannoy emigrated from France to Holland to England and then to Staten Island, New York.

- 7) William Criswell (Maternal Great-Great-Great-Great-Grandfather), B.1761, most likely at Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia; Married c1783 (age 22 years), either at Abingdon, VA, or near Blountville, Sullivan County, Tennessee, to Miss (Elizabeth?/or Mary?) Yancey (age 19-20 years) (Maternal Great-Great-Great-Great Grandmother, B. c1762-3, who is indicated to be John Yancey's daughter by his first wife, Mary Layton. William and Miss Yancey's Marriage most likely performed by bride's Father, John Yancey (1734-1825), Esquire, Justice of the Peace and owner of the first Yancey's Tavern (established 1779), Abingdon, Virginia. In early 1806 John Yancey, Esquire, also married Susanna Yancy Criswell (age=22 yrs), b. 17 Oct 1783, John Yancy Criswell's oldest sister, to Samuel Anderson (age=24 yrs). This marriage date was determined by the birth of their first child, Jane H. Anderson, born 14 December 1806, Bedford County, Tennessee (may have been born near Memphis, Tennessee-unproven). John Yancey sold his Abingdon, VA, tavern in 1782. In 1783 John Yancey returned to Culpeper County, VA - where he was born and had emigrated from. It is suspected he took William Criswell with him from Abingdon, VA, to meet and marry his daughter, given name not known or documented but thought to be Mary or Elizabeth Yancey. It is presumed John Yancey had left this daughter from his first wife, Mary Layton [(1734 -1764) - died young (30 yrs), possibly in childbirth], with his father, Lewis Davis Yancey, in Culpeper County, Virginia, having married second wife, Susanna Coleman, and having a second family with him at the time he emigrated (late 1770's or early 1780's)) to Augusta County, VA, and ultimately to Abingdon, Washington County, VA from Culpeper County, VA. William Criswell (Crisel) was recorded on the Culpeper County, VA, tax rolls for only one year and that year was 1783. It is believed John Yancey's father, Lewis Davis Yancey, fell ill in 1783 for his death was recorded in 1784. In 1784 John Yancey returned from Culpeper County, VA, to that Southernmost part of Virginia (part of Washington County) which later became part of far Northern Tennessee, and purchased his second Tavern (14 February 1784), the Amos Eaton Log Stage Stop North of Blountville, Tennessee. John Yancey, who is believed to be also known as Squire (attorney) John Charles Yancey, was born 1734-35 in Culpeper County, Virginia, of parents Lewis Davis Yancey (B. c.1698) (d.1784 Culpeper County, Virginia) and Mildred Winifred Kavanaugh, B. c1711-1712; d.?). Yancey family researchers believe the Yancey surname is Welsh. John Yancey (d.1825) and Susanna Coleman Yancey died in Todd County, Kentucky

IMPORTANT NOTE: William Criswell is believed to be the first on my Criswell family line to have had his surname spelled with an "i" instead of an "e" (Creswell). The spelling change would have occurred because of one or both of the following reasons: (1) Name was pronounced and spelled phonetically as if the "e" was an "i"; (2) In the old quill pen script handwriting, if the loop on the "e" was not correctly made or formed it would have appeared to be an "i". The Criswell surname is known by professional genealogists to be an Americanized spelling of the name Creswell (also Cresswell).

William Criswell is listed on the 1810 Virginia Federal Census (Census Information taken in 1809) of Washington County, Virginia, with Wife and children: William (+45 years); Wife (+45 years); Son (16-17 years); Daughter (15-16 years); Son (13-14 years); Daughter (11 years); Son (9 years). When 9 year old daughter was born, William Criswell, if born in 1761-62 would have been 47-48 years old in 1810 and Wife [Miss (Elizabeth?)Yancey], if born 1762-63 would have been 46-47 years old in 1809 when the census information was taken which helps establish this William Criswell and wife as belonging to the Henry Creswell and John Yancey families by their ages known by their birthdates.

Researcher David L. Palik's Note: These 1810 listed William Criswell family members have not been identified/documented/researched by this researcher. Miscellaneous Researcher's Note: ALL US Federal Census beginning in 1790 and taken prior to 1850 only listed the name of the head of household. Other family members were unnamed and only shown as a wife, son, or daughter in a given age group.

- 8) Henry Creswell (Maternal Great-Great-Great-Great-Great Grandfather), B. estimated to have been born sometime before 8 NOV 1723 by his signing of a contract promissory note 8 NOV 1744 in Staunton, Augusta County, VA for the sum of Two Pounds Current Money of Virginia (the signing of a bond - a sealed instrument under which a person guarantees to pay a stated sum of money on or before a specified day). Only those at least 21 years of age -the age of majority- could enter in such legal contracts. Henry Creswell was shot either the 20th, or 21st of July 1776 in a Shawnee Indian Ambush led by an English Scout (Cameron), and was the first to have been buried - Died 22 July 1776 - in the Presbyterian Sinking Springs Graveyard at Abingdon, Virginia. Henry Creswell's grave is clearly marked with both a historical headstone marker (early 1900's) and the original headstone. Henry Creswell was driving the wagon (and so was first to be shot and mortally wounded). Other parties on the wagon were Reverend Charles Cummings (Irish), the pastor of the Abingdon Presbyterian Church, James Piper (Irish) (another member of the Church Congregation), and Jobe, Reverend Cummings's manservant - assistant. The ambush occurred two miles WEST of Black's Fort which no longer exists, but there is a vacant lot in Abingdon shown as Black's Fort location and is currently (1999) cited with a historical marker. Those on the wagon had gone to the Reverend Cummings's Cabin to retrieve his religious books and papers, knowing there was the possibility of an imminent Indian attack which would result in the burning of the Reverend's cabin and all that was in it. James Piper lost his thumb and was nicked in the ear during the attack. Reverend Cummings and Jobe escaped injury. The horses were sent into a gallop to seek the safety and refuge of Black's Fort. Just across the street from Black's Fort is Squire John Yancey's Abingdon, VA, Tavern, still operating in 1999 as a restaurant business establishment in Abingdon. The upstairs of the tavern building was used as a hospital treatment center for Civil War wounded, and their graffiti can still be seen (1999) on the walls.

Henry Creswell (age 33 years or more) is thought to have married Rebecca (age 22 years), in York, or York County, South Carolina, JAN-APR 1756. Marriage date was determined by birth of their first son, Andrew, in January 1757. Henry Creswell went to York, South Carolina, to avoid the armed conflicts in the Shenandoah, Valley, VA, during the French and Indian War which began in 1754. Rebecca (b.1734-d.1822, Knox County, Tennessee) was my (Maternal Great-Great-Great-Great-Great Grandmother). Rebecca's Surname has never been determined. In genealogical historical literature she is often shown as Rebecca R. The R is her MARK (initial) and does not represent the first letter of a Surname or a middle name. Her signature has never been found on any document which suggests she was illiterate. This analysis came from certified genealogist Ely Russell, a Creswell Descendant. It is believed she could not read or write because she was never formally schooled. It is thought Henry Creswell may have been introduced to Rebecca by his presumed brother, (William) Andrew Creswell, who lived in York, or York County, South Carolina. In 1754-1755 Henry had fled there (from Staunton, Virginia) for temporary safety to avoid the fighting and conflict of French and Indian War battles in the Virginia Shenandoah Valley area. Henry Creswell later returned to Virginia from South Carolina in 1761, and purchased 400 acres of land from John and Mary Trimble near Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia. In 1767 Henry Creswell sold his property near Staunton, Virginia, and moved to Abingdon, Virginia, to take advantage of the homestead 50 free acres law then in effect. Henry and Rebecca Creswell were living in Abingdon, Virginia, in July of 1776 when Henry's untimely death occurred in a Shawnee Indian - English Allies Indian ambush in July 1776. Henry and Rebecca had 8 children. SEVEN of which have been documented by prior Creswell family researchers and all of their names and birth dates are known.

CRISWELL (Maternal Family Surname) ANCESTRY OF DAVID LEE (CRISWELL) PALIK
Edited - Printed October 2007

There is no absolute/documentated proof that the EIGHTH presumed member of the family, William Criswell, born third, is the missing offspring and shown missing - unidentified by prior researchers and born in 1761. Based on genealogical research principles of evidence (geography, dates, age, events, suggested familial relationships, and clues gained from information from other researchers), this researcher, David L. (Criswell) Palik has concluded with another researcher, Raleigh Criswell, that William Criswell was the third child of Henry Creswell of Abingdon, Virginia.

NOTE: Henry Creswell's origins and family ancestry are undocumented, but earlier researchers, including a certified genealogist, George Ely Russell of Maryland, believes he emigrated through Roanoke, Virginia, to Staunton, Virginia, from Chester County, Pennsylvania, and followed the early pioneer migratory trails as follows:

(1) PHILADELPHIA WAGON ROAD - West by Southwest from Philadelphia through Lancaster, Pennsylvania to Hagerstown, Maryland, approximately 140 miles (part of the GREAT INDIAN WAPATH into the Shenandoah Valley). This road went through the Pennsylvania Counties of Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster, York, and Adams; through the Maryland County of Washington; through the West Virginia County of Berkeley; through the Virginia Counties of Frederick and Shenandoah;

(2) GREAT VALLEY ROAD or GREAT WAGON ROAD - Southwest direction from Hagerstown, Maryland, through the Shenandoah Valley to Roanoke, Virginia, approximately 150 miles, (part of the GREAT INDIAN WAPATH). **IMPORTANT NOTE:** What is also known is the GREAT WAGON ROAD continued South from Roanoke, going through Staunton, and Abingdon, VA, past Black's Fort and past John Yancey's Tavern all the way to its terminal point at YORK, YORK COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, where Andrew Creswell, Henry Creswell's younger brother, had settled.

Henry Creswell Ancestry (continued) - There have been a number of postings on the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) genealogical records indicating Henry Creswell's father was John Creswell who married (most likely in Chester County, Pennsylvania) spouse Jane in 1721. This record states John Creswell died in 1780 in Mecklenburg, North Carolina. This researcher has not yet been able to verify this information, but it may be worth considering since son (William) Andrew Creswell settled in York or York County, South Carolina, which is geographically close to Mecklenburg, North Carolina. I have not researched this John Creswell, but if his will could be found it would not show Henry Creswell as an heir (killed July 22, 1776), but it may show (William) Andrew Creswell (Henry's Brother) as a son and heir. (William) Andrew Creswell has been reported not to have died until 1796 so he was still alive in York County, South Carolina in 1780 when John Creswell died, Andrew Creswell having been reported on the 1790 Census and his death having been reported occurring in 1796 in York County, South Carolina. Mecklenburg is almost due North on highway 77 from York, South Carolina. Hopefully, sometime in the future, I can find the time and energy to research this John Creswell to see if there are any clues to his familial relationship/connection to (William) Andrew Creswell, and it would logically follow that Henry Creswell would be also his son. Henry Creswell of Abingdon, Virginia, named his first and oldest daughter, Jean, perhaps after his suspected to be mother, Jane, who has been reported to be John Creswell's wife, Henry Creswell's first and oldest daughter, Jean, would have had a maternal grandmother named Jane, assuming the information to be correct. The presumption is that this daughter was named Jean instead of Jane to differentiate her from her grandmother, possibly to eliminate a given name confusion between the two, yet still follow to some extent the tradition in some families to name the first daughter after the father's mother.

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More than one LDS citation, there are several, indicates a John Creswell married Jane X in 1721 with family members as follows: Henry Creswell (b.1722-1723); Mary Creswell (b.1725); (William) Andrew Creswell (b. 1727-d.1796), Married Elizabeth Moore 1757; James Creswell (b.1729); Abraham Creswell (b. 1731); Matthew Creswell (b.1733); Samuel Creswell (Dr.) (b. 1735). Note: There is no assurance that these LDS citations are accurate or even that these are John Creswell family members as stated or that they are members of my Criswell (Creswell) family ancestry.

There is no assurance the citations on LDS which show John Creswell's birth to be in Virginia are correct, and in fact, this researcher thinks it is highly unlikely. He may have emigrated from either Ireland or England. Maps of early migration trails in the Eastern United States do show a migration trail from near Williamsburg, Virginia, running through Richmond, Virginia, on a Southwesterly course where it connected-intersected the GREAT VALLEY ROAD at Roanoke which was referred to as the RICHMOND ROAD or CHESAPEAKE BRANCH of the GREAT INDIAN WARPETH. It is the writer's [David L. (Criswell) Palik] opinion, additional research in Virginia's genealogical Records (Deeds, Marriages, Wills) might uncover whatever reasoning or documentation was used to state that John Creswell was born in Virginia. There is a citation showing that a John Creswell was a landed taxpayer in 1725 in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the London Britain Township. William Penn opened Pennsylvania up for settlement in 1682. In the period 1715-1720 many Ulster (Northern Ireland) Irish emigrants arrived in Pennsylvania by ships which sailed from Belfast, Ireland, and other Ulster (Northern Ireland) Ports. It is also known and documented by ship's passenger lists that some Creswells had earlier emigrated to the American mainland by the 1680's. Some may have come even earlier.

Because of the year (1725) John Creswell is noted to have been a taxpayer and very close to the time period Henry Creswell was born (before November 1723). These two events may be related, and it seems more likely that John Creswell was an immigrant from either Ulster (Northern Ireland) or England. It is known the average age of those aboard these ships coming from Ulster was about 25. John Creswell was at least 21 years old in 1725 in order to have been recorded on the tax rolls. The Creswell surname is English and landed gentry. Research has shown some male members of the surname family may have been Norman-French-Celtic and who accompanied William the Conqueror in his assault on the English Mainland launched from Normandy, France, in 1066 for which they were given lands for their service and became landed gentry for their support of his efforts. Later (1600's) there was a large scale ingress of Scotch and English into Ulster (Northern Ireland) set up and requested by English Kings James I, II, and III to pacify and quell the always rebellious native Irish. Many of these emigrants would later sail to America to escape the harsh economic sanctions England imposed on Northern Ireland because of their economic successes in their exporting wool and other products to England. These Ulster exports impacted England's economy to such an extent that England ultimately banned all imports from Ulster.

Further SPECULATION on a possible father for John Creswell aforementioned and believed to have been born about 1700 (odds are at a 50% probability that he was born about 1700 are based on average age of emigrants - early 20's - who were recorded passengers on ships arriving North America) follows:

In the book, THE CRESSWELL FAMILY AND AMERICAN CRISWELLS by Edgar Golden Criswell dated 1931, there are CRESSWELL citations from BURKE'S "HISTORY OF THE COMMONERS OF ENGLAND" (1854), pages 290, 291, and 292. These family members who follow lived in the County of Northumberland, England, and the family frequently used the given names of HENRY, WILLIAM, JOHN, (and Robert).