

## *Descendants of James "Kilgore" LEA*

### *Generation No. 1*

1. JAMES "KILGORE"<sup>2</sup> LEA (*WILLIAM*<sup>1</sup>) was born 02 Jun 1715 in St Stephens Pr., King & Queen Co., VA, and died 02 Jun 1788 in Caswell Co., NC. He married ANN TOLBERT 1746 in Unknown. She was born 1718 in Unknown, and died Unknown in Caswell Co., NC.

Notes for JAMES "KILGORE" LEA:

Note; Source: #437 & #437A: "Caswell Co. "Heritage", by K. K. Kendall. James LEA, 'KILGORE'.

Died intestate at age 73. This gives the birth date.. Called "Kilgore" because he lived on the Kilgore Branch of Cobbs Creek and Hyco R. Progenator of the Leasburg LEA's, called; " the founders of Leasburg". He also had, in addition to the "Kilgore" land, a land holding south of Leasburg, close to the town. He had as an office partner his friend Thomas PHELPS.

The division of the 100 A. in VA on the Mattaponi, near Madison's Mill in King & Queen Co., left by William LEA to his four children helps to define the linkage of this line of LEAS. James "Kilgore" LEA was probably the last surviving heir of this legacy following the sudden death in 1762 of William "Cobbs Creek" LEA. William's tombstone was/is in the now Methodist "LEA's" Chapel Ch.. It is now, some say, supporting the new structure. This William is listed, with "Old" William SARGENT & his wife Sarah (LEA) as founders of the Lea's chapel church, with neighbor, Carter LEA.

On 16 March 1784 James "Kilgore" LEA gave his "Power of Attorney" to Thomas PHELPS, friend and business partner in Leasburg, " as son and heir of William LEA, dec'd to obtain title to land, 100 Acres and sell 25 Acres in K & Q co., VA on banks of Mataponi, near Madison's Mil Ck. Swamp.... "Land falls to me as son & heir". The 25 Acres represents his share, as there are four heirs. The William of "Cobb's" is his bro. He is too young to have been his father, who is getting his VA land in 1714, about the birth time of James. The following further clarifies this line. PHELPS does not sell this 25 acres, as it shows up later in his eldest son's (James) estate in TN. But, PHELPS gr. son m. son of James SARGENT, so may have had a personal family claim in order to have gone up to VA.

References: VA Land Grants, Vol. 10, p. 214, K&Q Co.---16 Dec. 1714. William LEA, 100 A. of land escheats from Thomas WARE, deceased, 200 lbs. of tobacco for each acre. The said land lying on West of Mr. John Madison's Mill Swamp on the North side of Mattaponi R. in St. Stephen's Pr. adjoining TAYLOR & Mrs Anne WILTSHIRE, to Thomas CAMP's line. (CAMP will appear later in Caswell Co., NC., as will the line of Thomas WARE.) Signed: Alexander SPOTTSWOOD."

(This Zachary TAYLOR is the president's line. In 1850 the Presidents son will migrate to LA, in Avoilles Parish, LA as a neighbor of William Franklin GRIFFIN, State. Legislator 20 yrs. Lt. Gov. & Col., C.S. A. They will both be captured by Gen. Banks Union troops at Battle of Yellow Bayou. Fought on plantation of Rich Aunt FIRTH, whose fourth husband was HAYWOOD, 2nd husband, Zachariah LEA, " Country Line" Lea's. Zach's 1st wife was Margaret Muse Clay, of Amite Co., MS fame.) (Gov. Griffin is related to the GRIFFIN brothers in MS, one of which had two daughters who will m. the brothers, Calvin and James Kerr Lea, of Caswell Co. Later Col. James Kerr will m. 2nd Margaret Delpha Sargeant of Caswell Co., NC) ( Compillers gt-fathe, John Lawson Sttanfield's aunt.)

This land document clearly separates this William LEA from the orphans of Virginia's John LEA. John LEA's orphaned son William LEA is documented with guardian Zachary TAYLOR who obtains land for him in this area.

Thomas WARE's line mentioned above will appear in Caswell Co. in early 1800's with the widowed Ann Payne (WARE) 1. RICHARDSON 2. SARGENT. It is noted that K & Q Co. was divided in 1720; Spotsylvania, 1734; Caroline; 1745, Orange Co.'s VA. (In NC, 1777, Caswell; 1782, Person, Co.'s.)

In NC Thomas CAMP, Jr. witnessed the will of James "Country Line" LEA, Sr. 28 Mar 1777, written by Capt. William LEA for James "Country Line", Sr. (From notes by Pearl Lea McPherson.) The Sr. denotes age, not that he is a son of a father James. Capt. William LEA clearly states he is the bro. of said James of the Will. (Bk. B, p. 455, Caswell Co., NC.) Also Witnessing was Henry (BARNETT) LEA. He was a son-in-law, (m. dau. Elizabeth), to Capt. William LEA. Henry was a son of William LEA, "Cobbs" & wife Mary (Barnett). Henry dies, Testate, 1774. Dau. Frances. Elizabeth, "widow", m. James LEA, bro. of Henry. Seven children, names similar as Capt. Wim.'s Many in MS, and a source of much confusion. It was Katherine Kerr Kendall who separated these two William LEAS. (Note: Their bro. Col./Senator George LEA is writers, Betty Fitzgerald's

line. See: Person Co. Heritage Bk. III. DAR. line.)

There is found in NC archives two British pay "promisory" notes, listing in great detail all supplies, taken from this, Capt. William LEA, by the army of Cornwallis as they traveled back to Hillsboro. This is significant, as it was the express policy of Cornwallis, which he stressed from SC on north that they were to give receipts to "Tories" who helped them. He stated: "that we will have to rule these people one day, so we want to keep their 'good will'". All others were simply raided & destroyed, causing the "starving time" for the "Patriots" on the Hyco. There were several families who moved away after the war, with charges of "Tory".

James "Kilgore" LEA:

1768-- Sheriff of Orange Co.

1776--Methodist Circuit Rider Josiah ASBURY, stays in his home, on his circuit travels.

1778--600 A. Both sides E. Fork- Kilgore Br., N. Hyco Ck.

1783--Deed land to son Gabriel. Sold land on Kilgore to Thomas EVANS --he had moved to land just south of Leasburg.

1788--Dies Age 73, intestate. The "other" James LEA, "Country Line" will die in 1792. The date, "179-?" is found on the back, inside Bible cover of the Alexander ROSE bible. Other sources give the year as 1792.

Clearly ROSE would not have been referring to James "Kilgore", who had died almost 4 years earlier. Further, the opening sentence of Alexander's Bible statement calls him bro. to "Capt. Wm. LEA." Ben Rose's bible quote has one line almost completely disintegrated. There is no "ghost" lettering to be made out. The "Country Line" LEA's, father James & son, Major Lea were listed on the tax lists together, as son had his house on father's land. Their place was 10 miles west of Leasburg.

There is another James SARGENT, Jr., (son of Rev. War Continental Army, James, son of "Old" William & Sarah (Lea) Sargeant.) who lived in Caswell who married his cousin Rebekah SARGENT. Rebekah was a dau. of Stephen SARGENT (son of "Old" William). She was a younger sister of Dan', (Daniel) who m. Delpha Carney. This James, Jr. will move to Russell Co., VA with the others of Stephens S. large family, and with the family of John X LEA.

An Uncle, or cousin Henry SARGENT, CAPT/ESQ., will eventually move to Russell Co., but his widow will be found in Caswell, perhaps visiting family, at the estate sale. This will become the SARGENT-REYNOLDS line of VA., founders of Reynolds Alumn. Home is today State Museum with visitors center. They are directly connected to the Robert Payne RICHARDSON line of "Old North State Tobacco", and founders of Reynolds Tobacco. (The Tobacco family will name cigarette after their Winston line, which was part of Patrick Henry's line. These families are all connected by cousin marriages.)

Sources: Heritage Books of Caswell & Person co.'s. Abstracts: Katherine Kerr Kendall; Agnes Sargent Harpole: "Major Sergeants and Their Minors"; Jeannine D. Whitlow, "History of Leasburg Post Office"; Ransom McBride; "Some American Prisoners of the British Army in NC, 1781." Richardson/Sergeant/Stanfield papers.

Notes for ANN TOLBERT:

Notes: Sister: Sarah TOLBERT m. John ?. EX. of father's will.

Children of JAMES LEA and ANN TOLBERT are:

- i. SOLDIER, REV. JAMES<sup>3</sup> LEA, b. Aft. 1747, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; d. Bef. 1830, Bef 1830, Giles Co., TN; m. ELIZABETH ?, Unknown, Giles Co., TN; b. Unknown, Unknown; d. Aft. 1830, Giles Co., TN..

Notes for SOLDIER, REV. JAMES LEA:

Source: #437. K.K. Kendall: "KILGORE BRANCH"; JAMES LEA: PROGENATOR OF LEASBURG LEA'S.

James LEA of the 25 Acres on the Mattaponi, son & heir of James "Kilgore" LEA & Ann (TOLBERT). Lived South of Leasburg. Owned a lot of land.)

1778--600 A., Kilgore Branch & N. Hyco Ck. Richmond & Gloucester Dist.

1768: Sherif of Orange Co.

1776: Methodist preacher, Asbury stayed in home.

Note: James, Jr. spent long years as a soldier in the Revolution. His choice of settling in Giles Co., TN may reflect his war services. Giles borders AL, with the Elk River flowing into the mighty Tennessee. Once a center of the Cherokee nation, today Pulaske is it's courthouse and Bunker Hill a town, clearly, with these names, a "Patriotic" settlement. There he marries a "widow" Elizabeth ?. When he dies she is able to assert her claim at age 80 to the land PHELPS had been authorized to claim on the Mattaponi r. in VA, and she successfully sold the land, "as she was in great need."

This 24 Acres was left to James, Jr. by his father as his share of the 100 Acres, left by a William LEA, of the Mattipone, Madison's Mill Swamp. The three other shares went to the heirs of two brothers and a sister.

One bro. was William "Cobb" LEA, and his son, Archer disposes of a 25 Acres but we do not have a legal record. However, Katherine Kerr Kendall states that it is certain they were brothers!

When PHELPS made his journey, he was probably doing it for his dau. who m. James SARGENT, the son of Sarah (LEA?) SARGENT, who more probably belongs to this group, due to a preponderance of land transactions which she controlled as her "LEA" land, as well as the cousin marriages. Her share of 25 Acres, would also leave a John LEA as the fourth share. Once again, the evidence points to John & Ann (Carter) LEA, as he, and an earlier wife, was probably the father of John (Halifax) and his son William X LEA. (K.K.Kendall supports this view.)

There were many migrants from Caswell co. into the new lands. True TN pioneers were James "Dempsey" & Rachel (PHELPS) SARGENT who were buried on their farm in Sawdust Valley, Maury Co., TN. It is said that Caswell settled MAURY & MAURY settled HAYNES Co., MS. (YAZOO). The young SARGENTS left Caswell after the probate of her father's will in 1823.

The military record of James Lea is long. In 1776 he served under General Griffith RUTHERFORD against the Cherokee Indians of East TN. In the valley of the Tennessee River, they burned the Indian towns of Watangam, Ellajay and Estatae. They routed the Indians in the place where Franklin, TN. now stands. This is also where James's sister Polly and James SARGENT will settle and later be buried.

By 1780, the Continental forces commanded by James's Col. James MARTIN returned to NC. In Oct. 1780, under Gen. RUTHERFORD, James, LEA, Jr. fought the "Tories" at Ramsour's Mill in NC. On Sept. 19, 1781, he answered the call and enlisted in the 10th Continental NC Regt. and served throughout the siege of Yorktown. (Ref: North Carolina Records, by Judge Walter CLARKE. 1107-Vol. XVI.)

Notes for ELIZABETH ?:

Note: She sold husbands 25 Acres on branch of the Mattiponi, in VA. This had to go through the courts to establish her claim. She said she was in great want!. Elizabeth died at age 80 or 89. No record of any children, or age of her as a "widow" when they married.

- ii. WILLIAM LEA, b. Aft. 1749, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; d. Abt. 1806, Caswell Co., NC; m. CATY VAN HOOK, Unknown, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; b. Aft. 1748, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; d. Bef. 1806, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC.

Notes for WILLIAM LEA:

Note: This William LEA had his father's "Kilgore Ck." land when he died. There is another tie with person living on land.

This William is one of the founders of LEASBURG, with the store in the town. [Writing in MS, Casey uses a William LEA as the "MERCHANT FOUNDER OF LEASBURG.". Lorenzo is a son of William b.1776, son of Gabriel, son of James "Kilgore". Therefore: a nephew of William born 1747, MERCHANT OF LEASBURG. He m. Sarah McNeill, a gr. dau. of Capt Wm. LEA, South Hyco, who is bro. to James of "Country Line." Here the two groups of Lea's cross. ] Casey & Lorenzo are in MS.

The placing of Lorenzo Lea, who is descended from both lines is clear. The attempt to make the WILLIAM LEA, " MERCHANT" the bro. of LUKE & MAJOR LEA of COUNTRY LINE lacks support. [Which at one time Rose tried to do.] The Capt William LEA of South Hyco is the brother of JAMES OF "COUNTRY LINE", AS HE STATES IN DRAWING UP THE WILL OF JAMES, AND TWENTY YEARS LATER FILING, STATES AGAIN THAT THEY ARE BROTHERS. The WILLIAM, son of James "Country Line", MIGRATED TO SC, BEFORE THE READING OF THE WILL OF HIS FATHER. (Descendant, Imogene Pace Haggerty. of the "Pace Picante Sauce" people has sent extensive proof of him as her ancestor.)

DR. ALBERT CASEY. "History of Amite Co., MS., 1699-1890." 1957. Source of confusion between the two William Lea's. His info comes from Lorenzo's Lea's & Zachariah's notes. I have files from cousin Eleanor Marshal Blakewood of LA. Among them is a quote from a cousins letter to her cousin of the "other" line: "When cousin Eugenia was here she let me copy from her data-----& later I wrote to her sister Willie. ( "Wilhimena". Names in LA & MS tended to be European empresses). I think they are descendants of the forefathers of Solomon Lea, (Lorenzo's bro.) while I am from the father's side, Dr. CALVIN LEA. He was my mothers first cousin." (The Leasburg educators are from both lines, See the James (Kilgore) lines. While Dr.CALVIN LEA was the bro. of Gen. JAMES KERR LEA who m. Margaret Delphy SARGANT). The two ladies are from the "Other Line". The ladies are truly mixed up, but " they are certain that the "Old" Lea's were Royalist", that is why Luke, her ancestor, and Major emigrated to TN., or rather the old state of Franklin. Luke was the Entry-taker or Surveyor of the land, and Major (some say twin) was one of the Commissioners to lay out the County site, Rutledge." (This area is north of Knoxville, on the Clinch r.)

- iii. MARY LEA, b. Abt. 1752, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; d. 04 Aug 1791, Person Co., NC; m. JAMES SARGENT, Abt. 1772, Person Co., NC; b. Abt. 1751, Caswell Co., NC; d. 1825, Franklin Co., TN. 82 years old. Testate..

Notes for JAMES SARGENT:

James served in the regular Continental Army throughout the Revolution.

Note: In father's will James given "Homeplace", mother Sara allowed to live in it for her lifetime. 1777. 364 A. This plantation is now in the possession of the Daniel SARGENT line, with the clapboard covered log house, built by Daniel son of Dan'l. It on the Hyco lake, in n/w Person Co., NC.

James could have had a claim through Sarah (Lea) of the 1/4 portion of the 100 acres in VA. on Madisons Mill Swamp, on the Mattipone that Phelps traveled to VA to claim for his friend and Partner, James Lea of "Kilgore"l. This would be through Sarah as one of the Lea's of this group.

James SARGENT marries (1.) Mary "Polly" Lea, b. 1752, dau of James "Kilgore" and Ann (Tolbert) Lea, b. ca. 1752. She died in 1781 Person co., she had 14 children and was a cousin of Lorenzo Lea. After her demise the widower m. Jane Love. (All children are believed to be by first wife. But, I just do not know. (K.K.Kendall thought there was probably another wife.) Harpole has this as her line. Over 200 pages of des. There is a strong tradition of Baptist preachers in this large family, both in South & in Ohio.

James Sargent, the last son mentioned in his father's 1768 will, receives land:

"I give to my son James 231 acres of land whereon I now live to him his heirs or assigns forever--provided nevertheless he shall not deprive his mother of living on it her lifetime and she desires it." (It was often the American custom that theyoungest got the "old" homestead, with the proviso that they care for the surviving spouse. The oldest took money and went to "new" lands. This is the reverse of the "Old Country".

Revolutionary War Record of James Sargent, Caswell Co., N. C.

(Reference, Revolutionary War Records of VA, p. 501, by Brumbaugh.)

3604. James Sargent, soldier, service three years. Continental Line Warrents Military District of Ohio. VA. Military Land Warrants Military Dist. of Ohio, granted for Revolutionary War Service State Continental Line, beginning Aug. 8, 1762, lists James Sargent, #3604, soldier 3 Yrs.

(Reference, NC Pension rolls, pp's 13, 111-13.)

James Sargent, living in Caswell Co., having had service in American Revolution as Private in Infantry and Cavalry with NC Continental Line. Age 82, Died Mar 7. 1833..Bounty Warrants Box # 87, 69-2028. James Sargent on Tax List CC, NC, 1777, NC Census, 1784-87, 1786 James & Thomas in Gloucester District, Caswell Co., NC. 1788 on Tax List of Russell Co., VA.1795, he sells land on the waters of the North Hyco in Caswell Co., NC. Bk. K. p. 307. He is part of the "great migration" to take up Bounty lands. 1799-1810 Turkey Ck, Russell Co., VA.

1808-1811 Represented Russell Co., VA in VA House of Delegates.

1812, on Tax List of Franklin Co., TN., until his death in 1833. (Lea's & Phelps are there.)

1812, Appears on Tax List with Aaron, Temple & William Sargent.

1813, Petition of Citizens of TN to the General Assembly asking that a road be cut to Mobile, AL. Temple will move to Wetumpka, AL, serve in their new gov., with Marmaduke Williams & wife, dau. of Ann (Burton) Payne, of Caswell Co., NC. (This follows the Battle of the Horseshoe, in AL against the Creek, and other indian tribes, with their allies.)

Jul. 4, 1814, James S., Sr. of Franklin Co., TN, and wife Jane (Love) sell to George Kendrick of Russell Co., VA 175 acres. Bk. 5, p. 98.

Will: Dated Sep. 21, 1825. Names children: Phoebe Bowers, "Franky" Evans, (Possibly for Dan'l's first child, several in Sargent families.) Rebecca Hannum, Johnson Sargent's children. (Johnson decd.) James S., Henry ., Temple S., Betsy Sargent Jennings, Kitty (Ritty) S. Nicy S., (Probably named Eunice, pronounced "U-Nicy".) Aaron K. S. & Noel S. who were not in Will.

James s. will also mentioned Martha Badgett, his gr-dau, & Mary Jane, "my wife's gr-dau". He left to a gr-son, William russell, a negro boy named Granville.

The James S. will was published in "Southern Kith & Kin", by Jewel Davis Scarborough, Vol., 4, p. 229. It was not probated.

- iv. CAPT. REV. & REP. STATE GABRIEL LEA, b. Abt. 1758, Caswell Co., NC; d. 1834, Caswell Co., NC; m. ELIZABETH ASBURNE, Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. 1757, Unknown; d. 1840, Unknown.

Notes for CAPT. REV. & REP. STATE GABRIEL LEA:

Note. Served in the Revolution, a Captain. Also as member of the NC State Legislature.

1788--"Commission for Leasburg: Founder; with Samuel JOHNSTON."

Served as EX: in PHELPS Will. His sister Mary "Polly" has m. James SARGENT. Their son James "Dempsey" SARGENT m. Rachel PHELPS. When other SARGENT & PHELPS migrate to Franklin, TN, they will remain in Leasburg until her father PHELPS dies, then follow the others, now in Maury Co., TN. It is through James SARGENT that another 25 A. appears, possibly from his mother Sarah (LEA?) SARGENT, wife of "Old" William. PHELPS would have also claimed another 25 Acres for the deceased bro., William "Cobb" LEA, and his wilfe Mary (BARNETT). Certainly 25 A. was for his own family. One share would be for John LEA, which is probably the (CARTER) LEA line.

1788--Commisioner for Caswell Co., Leasburg: FOUNDER with Samuel JOHNSTON, as Co. seat.

This is the year his father James "Kilgore" dies. His older brother, James, Jr. inherits the 25 Acres on the Mattaponi. James migrates to TN., and there on record in Giles Co., his widow will sell the 25 Acres. The legal document refers to her swearing that he received it from his father, as "eldest". Also states that she is having difficult times. The lawyers investigate the claim with VA authorities. (We are thankful that these

persons were very careful about land documents and deed transfers.) Note: The dates on his children's births is only my estimate to enable some distinction be there for the many others of the same names. These are not .lines I have followed, unless someone comes with personal documentation.

- v. PHOEBE LEA, b. Abt. 1765, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; d. Unknown, Tippah Co., MS; m. THOMAS KILGORE, 02 Jan 1786, Leasburg, Caswell Co., NC; b. Abt. 1759, Caswell Co., NC; d. Unknown, Unknown.

Notes for PHOEBE LEA:

Notes for THOMAS KILGORE:

Note: Caswell Co. "Heritage Bk. #421. "Thomas Kilgore, Sr.", by Evelyn Yates Carpenter. the Story of Thomas Kilgore, Sr. is the most exciting that I have read. He truly exemplifies the unique determination of the early generation. I leave the reading to others.

His three children, Lidia Ann , b. 1779 in Orange Co., 2. Thomas Kilgore, Sr., and 3. Charles Kilgore, m. Unice Lea. All will head west, and evidence of the flow from TN, is "Kilgore", TX.

### *Endnotes*

1. NC Bounty Land Warrents, Box 87, NC Pension rolls, pps, 13, 111-3. James Sargent, Died Mar. 7, 1833, Age 82.