

# The History Of the Pioneer Families of Conley and Sage

By  
Glen Harrison Sage

"This is the life accounts of family members that contributed to the settlement and development of the New River and Clinch Valley Settlements of Southwest Virginia and their descendants that have continued to make America the great nation that it is today!"

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## Preface

I developed an interest in the accounts of my family, related to me by my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Nancy Conley, when I was a small child. She was born in 1875 and her world was so vastly different from my own.

She would talk to me for hours on end, about growing up in the mountains of N.C. and her early years in Southwest Virginia and later West Virginia. I knew with my passing that a lot of the oral tradition and recorded records that I have researched would be lost to future generations if I didn't place this information in permanent written form.

Over the past two decades I have spent many hours in the Clerks of Circuit Courts offices of Counties in NC, VA and WV researching family historical information. I have also made regular trips to libraries with good genealogy research available in order to "flesh out" this book.

It is my hope that the collection of this information will give our children and our children's children an appreciation for who they are and a knowledge of some of the great sacrifices that their forefathers made to help develop this mountain region and our nation into the land that it is today.

This is not just a book of who our grandparents and great-grand parents are but through life accounts, they will become people that are a part of who we are today.

My hope is that this book will instill in others an interest to add to this volume of information so that future generations will have even a greater understanding of the proud heritage of these hardy mountain families. I would hope when they mention they are descendants of the Conleys and Sages of Virginia, that a great sense of pride would be part of that acknowledgment.

G.H.S.

*Kinship of James Conley*


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Name	Relationship with James Conley	Civil	Canon
Anderson, Frank	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Bailey, Pam	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Barerett, Eliza Jane	Wife of the grandson		
Boling, Mary Jane	Daughter-in-law		
Brown, John	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Buckley, Betty Vaux	2nd great-grandmother	IV	4
Clark, Brenda Virginia	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Conley, Abiga Thomas	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Alexander	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Ambrose Grayson	Son	I	1
Conley, Andrew P.	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Arthur	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Arthur	Grandfather	II	2
Conley, Arthur	Uncle	III	2
Conley, Bailey	Brother	II	1
Conley, Barbara	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Blanche	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Conley, Bridget	Sister	II	1
Conley, ClaIr M.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Conley, Clarence Arthur	Great-grandson	III	3
Conley, David	Uncle	III	2
Conley, Edmond	Great-grandfather	III	3
Conley, Edmund	2nd great-granduncle	VI	5
Conley, Elizabeth	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Evelyn Viala	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Conley, Fredrick H.	Great-grandson	III	3
Conley, G. George	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Garland	Brother	II	1
Conley, Gordon Cloyd	Son	I	1
Conley, Harmon	Granduncle	IV	3
Conley, Harrison	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Hazel Nannie	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Conley, Henry II	2nd great-grandfather	IV	4
Conley, Isable	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, James	Self		0
Conley, James	Son	I	1
Conley, James	Grandson	II	2
Conley, James C.	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Jean	Aunt	III	2
Conley, Jean	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, John	2nd great-granduncle	VI	5
Conley, John	Great-granduncle	V	4
Conley, John B.	Great-grandson	III	3
Conley, John William	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Lawrence Ervin	Great-grandson	III	3
Conley, Layer	Daughter	I	1
Conley, Martha	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Mary	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Mary	Aunt	III	2

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The Sage & Conley Families of Virginia

Name	Relationship with James Conley	Civil	Canon
Conley, Mary	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Conley, Mary C.	Granddaughter	II	2
Conley, Mary Molly	Granddaughter	II	2
Conley, Mary Viola	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Conley, Peggy	Daughter	I	1
Conley, Phillip	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Conley, Robert	Uncle	III	2
Conley, Robert	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Robert	Son	I	1
Conley, Roy Martin	Great-grandson	III	3
Conley, Rufus Britton	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Sarah	Aunt	III	2
Conley, Sarah Kinser	Wife of the grandson		
Conley, Thomas	2nd great-granduncle	VI	5
Conley, Thomas	1st cousin once removed	V	3
Conley, Thomas E.	Grandson	II	2
Conley, Walter V.	Grandson	II	2
Conley, William F.	Grandson	II	2
Conley, William J.	Great-grandson	III	3
Connelly, Henry I	3rd great-grandfather	V	5
Corder, Edward	Grandfather of the wife		
Corder, Leah	Mother-in-law		
Crotty, Betty	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Dale, Jane	Wife of the uncle		
Edgefield, Mary	Great-grandmother	III	3
Gillispie, Nissa Leigh	Wife of the 3rd great-grandson		
Green, Nancy	Wife of the grandson		
Hall, Megan Lynn	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Hall, Morgan Ann	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Hall, Regan	Husband of the 3rd great-granddaughter		
Hall, Wesley Regan	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Havens, Elizah	Son-in-law		
Jackson, Nancy	Wife of the 1st cousin once removed		
Jane	Great-grandmother of the wife		
Jean	Grandmother	II	2
Kahle, John Brian	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Kahle, John Bruce	Husband of the 2nd great-granddaughter		
Kahle, Katlain	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Levingston, Elizabeth	Wife of the uncle		
Lewis, Sharleen Marie	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Malloy, Sarah Ann	Daughter-in-law		
McColley, Joseph	Husband of the aunt		
Miller, Melissa	Wife of the 3rd great-grandson		
Peery, Ada	Wife of the great-grandson		
Sage, Barron Edward	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Sage, Donna Marie	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Glen Harrison	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Herman Lester	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, John Franklin	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Leonard A.	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Sage, Lisa Dawn	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5

The Sage & Conley Families of Virginia

Name	Relationship with James Conley	Civil	Canon
Sage, Mary Ruth	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Paul Edward	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Rose Marie	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Samantha Brooke	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Sharon Bailey	Ex-wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Sage, Stephanie Renee	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Tanya Denise	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Treasa Lynn	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Valerie Kay	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Vicky Lynn	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sinder, Jacob	Son-in-law		
Smiley, Bethany Nicole	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Smiley, Emily Hope	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Smiley, Paul Alan	Husband of the 3rd great-granddaughter		
Smith, Betty	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Smith, Carl Mason	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Smith, Ray	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Smith, Shirley	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Smith, Susie	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sr., James Conley	Father	I	1
Sr., John Conley	Uncle	III	2
Sr., Thomas Conley	Granduncle	IV	3
Stafford, Brammer	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Stobaugh, Adam	Uncle of the wife		
Stobaugh, Henry	Grandfather of the wife		
Stobaugh, Henry	Uncle of the wife		
Stobaugh, John	Father-in-law		
Stobaugh, Rachael	Wife		
Stowers, Mildred Evelyn	Wife of the great-grandson		
Strain, Mary	Wife of the uncle		
Stratton, Susan Howard	Wife of the grandson		
Stratton, Tabitha	Daughter-in-law		
Thomason, James	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Thomason, John William	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Thomason, Roy James	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Thomason, Tommy Roy	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Thompson, Garrent	Wife of the great-grandson		
Thorp, Samuel	Husband of the 1st cousin once removed		
Vaughan, Bailey Sage	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Vaughan, Samuel R III	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Vaughan, Samuel R. II	Husband of the 3rd great-granddaughter		
Waggoner, Adam	Great-grandfather of the wife		
Waggoner, Ann	Grandaunt of the wife		
Waggoner, Chritina	Grandaunt of the wife		
Waggoner, David	Granduncle of the wife		
Waggoner, Elizabeth	Grandmother of the wife		
Waggoner, George	Granduncle of the wife		
Waggoner, Jacob	Granduncle of the wife		
Waggoner, Mary Ann	Grandaunt of the wife		
Waggoner, Peggy	Grandaunt of the wife		
Waggoner, Susannah	Grandaunt of the wife		

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Name	Relationship with James Conley	Civil	Canon
Walker, John	Husband of the aunt		
Walker, Margaret	Wife of the granduncle		
Wells, Abe	Husband of the 2nd great-granddaughter		
Wimmer, Betty Jo	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		

*Kinship of James Sage*


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Name	Relationship with James Sage	Civil	Canon
Bailey, Pam	Wife of the 4th great-grandson		
BETSY	Wife of the grandson		
Bright, Mary	Wife of the great-grandson		
Bryant, Elizabeth	Daughter-in-law		
CATY	Daughter	I	1
Cody, Ephra	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Comer, Comfort	Wife of the grandson		
Comer, T.Jane	Wife of the grandson		
Conley, Hazel Nannie	Wife of the 3rd great-grandson		
Cooper, David Hart	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, Ephriam	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, Fountian	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, John C.	Son-in-law		
Cooper, Joseph Alexander	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, Lindsay	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, Mahalah	Granddaughter	II	2
Cooper, Malinda	Granddaughter	II	2
Cooper, Matthew L.	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, Patience	Granddaughter	II	2
Cooper, Sylvester	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, Thomas	Grandson	II	2
Cooper, William P.	Grandson	II	2
Cornett, Freel	Husband of the granddaughter		
Cornett, Sarah	Wife of the grandson		
Crane, Chief Tarhe	Son-in-law		
Delp, Ann	Granddaughter	II	2
Delp, Freel	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Delp, George	Grandson	II	2
Delp, Jacob	Son-in-law		
Delp, Jacob A.	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, James S.	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, John W.	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, Joseph M.	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, Lula Alma	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Delp, Martha J.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Delp, Mary Elizebeth	Granddaughter	II	2
Delp, Mary M.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Delp, Michael	Grandson	II	2
Delp, Peter M.	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, Robert Eli	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, Sarah	Granddaughter	II	2
Delp, Sarah A.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Delp, Stephen E.	Great-grandson	III	3
Delp, Susanna Elizebeth	Great-granddaughter	III	3
DOC	Grandson	II	2
Duncan, Mary E.	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Frost, Warrior	Son-in-law		
Gillispie, Nissa Leigh	Wife of the 5th great-grandson		
Glass, Elisabeth J.	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4

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Name	Relationship with James Sage	Civil	Canon
Glass, Ethel C.	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Glass, Franklin L.	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Glass, Henry Sherman	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Glass, Howard J.	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Glass, Jerome Wesley	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Glass, Nancy Almeda	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Glass, Rosa Fay	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Glass, Sarah E.	Wife of the great-grandson		
Glass, Una J.	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Hall, Maggie	Wife of the great-grandson		
Hall, Megan Lynn	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Hall, Morgan Ann	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Hall, Regan	Husband of the 5th great-granddaughter		
Hall, Wesley Regan	6th great-grandson	VIII	8
Hammond, Rebecca	Wife of the grandson		
JIM	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Jr., John Davis Sage	Great-grandson	III	3
Kahle, John Brian	5th great-grandson	VII	7
Kahle, John Bruce	Husband of the 4th great-granddaughter		
Kahle, Katlain	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Kirk, Clarissa	Wife of the great-grandson		
Lambert, Jacob	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Lambert, Lillie	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Lambert, Marvin	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Lambert, Titia	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Lambert, Viola	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Lambert, William	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Lewis, Sharleen Marie	Wife of the 4th great-grandson		
Lloyd, Sarah Minerva	Wife of the grandson		
Logs, Between-The	Son-in-law		
Miller, Melissa	Wife of the 5th great-grandson		
Moore, Samuel	Husband of the 3rd great-granddaughter		
Munsey, Julia	Wife of the great-grandson		
Nelson, Ann	Granddaughter	II	2
Nelson, Daniel	Grandson	II	2
Nelson, James	Son-in-law		
Nelson, James W.	Grandson	II	2
Nelson, Martin M.	Granddaughter	II	2
Nelson, Seth	Grandson	II	2
Nelson, William H.	Grandson	II	2
Osborne, Addie	Wife of the 3rd great-grandson		
Ott, Catherine	Sister-in-law		
Ott, Frederick	Brother-in-law		
Ott, Lovis	Wife		
Ott, Margaret	Sister-in-law		
Ott, Mary	Sister-in-law		
Ott, Silvester	Father-in-law		
POLLY	Daughter	I	1
Price, Claude V.	Husband of the 3rd great-granddaughter		
Ratliff, Lynda	Wife of the grandson		
Sage, Absalom Lloyd	Great-grandson	III	3

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Name	Relationship with James Sage	Civil	Canon
Sage, Addie A.	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Alpha Rettie	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Amanda	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Amanda Geneva	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Andrew J.	Grandson	II	2
Sage, Anna	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Anna E.	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Anna Ruth	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Annie Laura	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Arthur Lee	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Auburn	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Barron Edward	5th great-grandson	VII	7
Sage, Beverly	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Bobby Ray	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Bruce	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Burgoyone Campbell	Grandson	II	2
Sage, Cameron	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Sage, Catherine	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Catherine	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Chapma Alex	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Charity	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Charlene Kate	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Charles Comer	Son	I	1
Sage, Charles W.	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Charles Westly	Grandson	II	2
Sage, Claude Swanson	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Cordelia Lee	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Dona Belle	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Donna Marie	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Dora Horton	Wife of the 2nd great-grandson		
Sage, E. Victoria	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Effie	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Elizabeth	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Elizabeth	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Elizabeth Fannon	Wife of the grandson		
Sage, Emma	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Emory Wesley	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Esther	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Euna Rebecca	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Ezekiel	Son	I	1
Sage, George	Grandson	II	2
Sage, George Taylor	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, George Vastine	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Geraold Keith	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Glen Harrison	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Gloria	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Harold Keeneth	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Harry J	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Harvey	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, Henderson	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, Henry Harrison	2nd great-grandson	IV	4

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Name	Relationship with James Sage	Civil	Canon
Sage, Henry Morgan	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, Herman Lester	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Hugh Everett	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Ida Fay	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Ida May	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Jackson A.	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, James	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, James	Self		0
Sage, James B.	Grandson	II	2
Sage, James Dale	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, James F.	Grandson	II	2
Sage, James II	Son	I	1
Sage, James T.	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, James W.	Grandson	II	2
Sage, John	Son	I	1
Sage, John	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, John Davis	Grandson	II	2
Sage, John Franklin	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, John Wesley	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Judy	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Leonard A.	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Sage, Lisa Dawn	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Lotus Gayla	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Lovis	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Luther Wesley	3rd great-grandson	V	5
Sage, Lydia	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Lydia	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Lydia	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Lydia	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Lydia Fletcher	Daughter-in-law		
Sage, Margaret	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Margaret	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Marry Jane	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Martha Glass	Wife of the great-grandson		
Sage, Martha Jane	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Martha Lee	3rd great-granddaughter	V	5
Sage, Martin	Son	I	1
Sage, Martin Van Buren	Grandson	II	2
Sage, Mary	Daughter	I	1
Sage, Mary Almeda	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Mary Ruth	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Maurice Claude	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Milam	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Mildred Lee	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Minerva E.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Minnie Pauline	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Nancy L.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Nannie Emma	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Nettie	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Oakley	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Ozias	2nd great-grandson	IV	4

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Name	Relationship with James Sage	Civil	Canon
Sage, Paul Edward	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Phyllis Sue	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Polly Ann	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Rebecca Ann	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Rebecca Elizabeth	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Rhoda J.	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Robert William	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Rose Marie	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Rose Sidney	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Roy Jackson	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Ruby Justice	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Sallie	Granddaughter	II	2
Sage, Samantha Brooke	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Sage, Sampson	Son	I	1
Sage, Sampson	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, Samuel	Son	I	1
Sage, Samuel	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Sarah	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Sarah	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Sarah Minerva	Great-granddaughter	III	3
Sage, Sharon Bailey	Ex-wife of the 4th great-grandson		
Sage, Sherman	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, Stephanie Renee	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Tanya Denise	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Tobias	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, Treasa Lynn	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Valerie Kay	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Vesta	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Sage, Vicky Lynn	5th great-granddaughter	VII	7
Sage, Vivian	4th great-granddaughter	VI	6
Sage, Walker Daniel	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, Wayne Neal	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, William	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, William	Son	I	1
Sage, William Emmet Sage	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, William Henry Harrison	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, William Jefferson	Grandson	II	2
Sage, William Mckinley	4th great-grandson	VI	6
Sage, William Paul	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Sage, William Sampson	Great-grandson	III	3
Sage, William Washington	Grandson	II	2
Sage, William Winfield	Grandson	II	2
Sage, Young Russell	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Smiley, Bethany Nicole	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Smiley, Emily Hope	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Smiley, Paul Alan	Husband of the 5th great-granddaughter		
Taylor, Alice Minerva	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Taylor, Fay Jane	2nd great-granddaughter	IV	4
Taylor, Henry Clay	Husband of the great-granddaughter		
Taylor, Hiram Harvey	2nd great-grandson	IV	4
Taylor, Richard	2nd great-grandson	IV	4

The Sage & Conley Families of Virginia

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Name	Relationship with James Sage	Civil	Canon
Trent, Martha	Wife of the grandson		
Vaughan, Bailey Sage	6th great-granddaughter	VIII	8
Vaughan, Samuel R III	6th great-grandson	VIII	8
Vaughan, Samuel R. II	Husband of the 5th great-granddaughter		
Vaught, Matilda J.	Wife of the grandson		
Wells, Abe	Husband of the 4th great-granddaughter		
West, Clementine	Wife of the great-grandson		
Wimmer, Betty Jo	Wife of the 4th great-grandson		
Wright, Susannah	Daughter-in-law		
Wyatt, Steven	Husband of the granddaughter		
Yates, Magdalene	Wife of the 3rd great-grandson		
Young, Fay	Wife of the great-grandson		

## Chapter One

"The Conley Family from Ireland"  
(Conley, Conlley, Connolly, Conelly, Connaley)  
1700-1800

The first Conley of our line in Virginia is found in records of Augusta County. This county stretched from Orange County in eastern Virginia west to the Mississippi and north to the Great Lakes. Two brothers James, John and were found in the New River Settlement area of Augusta County in the 1740's. James Conley is found mentioned in court records of Augusta County in 1746. He was living on Reed Creek near the modern day town of Wytheville Virginia. In this court session he was convicted of killing 38 "red deer" contrary to law and was fined. In 1749, prior to his death James Conley the settler was commissioned to lay off a road from Reed Creek to the Woods River (New River) and worked on this project from the Calhouns' house to the New River. A branch flowing into the New River was named "Conley Branch". Later in Augusta Court records we discover that James Conly died and his estate was appraised by Tobias Bright, Thomas English, and Richard Hall. On October 1, 1751, Day Throughgood was charged with the murder of his master James Connely. He confessed and was sent to trial. During this time the records indicate that slaves that killed their masters in Augusta County were hanged and their heads were then severed and the head was impaled and displayed along major roadways. This murder and execution happened in the year 1751, so we know James Conley died prior to 1752 on Reed Creek. In his estate, he had 7 head of cattle and 2 horses and a number of personal articles. In the settlement of this estate it was mentioned that he had no wife or children. George Breckenridge was named administrator of the estate. George was a friend of his brother John Connley the settler. From the information that we have listed, we can deduct that James Conley made his living as a "Long Hunter". This meant that he made trips beyond the forts to the wilderness areas of present day West Virginia and Kentucky. He was no doubt a skillful shot. When he got in trouble with his killing of the "red deer", his neighbors were willing to go on bond for him. His brother John Conley doesn't appear to be as nearly well liked by the community.

John was always in trouble with the law and at one point was chased out of the state of Virginia into North Carolina. An account of this is as follows: "The Emperor of the Cherokee Nation had a very different grudge with Erwin Patterson. Through his intepreter Watts he told Patton (Col. James Patton) a story which he asked to be sent to the Governor.

Watts said, "At Erwin Patterson's house the Emperor of the Cherokee nation being there was made drunk and afterwards insulted and abused in a very gross manner. Erwin Patterson ordered him to be layed which John Conley did and in so doing, the Emperor was so much abused that the blood gushed out of his mouth and nose. Watts came and relieved the Emperor. He said it was well for him he was there otherwise he believed they would have killed him." "John Connolly who had attacked the Emperor was a well-known trouble-maker on New River. This was not the first complaint against him. In 1749 George Draper of Drapers Meadows went out hunting and never returned. It is not known if Eleanor Draper suspected Connolly of harming her husband but the same year he disappeared she complained of Connolly to the Augusta Court. (she also named George Breckenridge in this complaint).

John Sinclair also complained that Connolly killed and skinned a deer and left the carcass on his fence. When Sinclair complained Connolly killed his "two find dog which guarded his home." "This was a great loss because the settlers relied on their dogs to warn them of the presence of Indians. Col. James Patton now issued a warrant which read: "Connolly is a vagrant, loose in his morals and worse in his behavior which he has verified for these three years past on New River. During this time he has had no certain place of abode but sulking about and pretending to be a hunter and has been very abusive to several of his majesties subjects in those remote parts. The Emperor says unless he has satisfaction he will inform his nation who will have revenge on the white people. Patton ordered "To all sheriffs and constables and officers of the militia and others of His Majesty's liege people of Augusta but in particular Capt. Adam Harmon, Ebenezer Waistcoat, Alexander Sayers, Joseph Crockett, Samuel Stalnaker and Robert Box to make diligent search for Connolly and when found bring him before me. He will be dealt with according to law. I forbid all persons to succor him." Patton then notified Williamsburg, "I have sent out warrants against Conolly who has since fled to Carolina."

John and James Conley the settlers also had two younger brothers on the New River in the 1760's. They were Arthur Conley and Thomas. Artur and Thomas were only two of the four to have children (James was not married at the time of his death in 1751).

Our family line comes from Arthur's branch. Arthur was married to Jean (last name unknown). Arthur was the son of Edwund Connelly and Mary Edgefield. Mary named her son Arthur after her father, General Arthur Edgefield of Charleston South Carolina. Edward the father of Arthur was the son of Henry

Connelly and Betsy Vaux Buckley of Charleston SC. The Conley clan arrived in the "New World " in the late 1600's at Albermarle Point near present day Charleston South Carolina. Henry the "settler" was Henry II, son of Henry I that was born in Armagh County, N. Ireland around 1635. Henry I died in Ireland about 1700. The natural children of Arthur Conley are; James Conley Sr.- born about 1755, served in the Revolution under Capt. Patterson of Augusta County and later as an Indian Scout in the western frontier of Virginia.

Thomas Connelly brother of Arthur married Margaret Walker, daughter of Alexander Walker Sr. and Elizebeth Walker, prior to 1767 in Augusta County Virginia. Thomas served in the Revolution with two of his sons (Thomas Jr. & Robert) under Reuben Harris. He served under Capt. Givens in Cambell's company with his sons, Arthur and Thomas. He served in the same enlistment with his brother Arthur and his two sons Robert and James Conley Sr. Thomas also had a son, Alexander and daughters Martha, Mary, Elizabeth, Barvara Jean, and Isabel.

Arthur Conley Jr. married to Jane Dale, Dec. 19, 1785 , then married to Elizabeth Levingston on Jan. 1787 in Augusta County, Virginia.

Sarah Connelly married John Walker on Sept. 8, 1791 in Augusta County Virginia

Mary Conley married Zechariah Perdue in Montgomery County Virginia on Sept. 18, 1792.

David Conley married Polly Strain prior to 1789. David served in Capt. John Adams' Company from Montgomery County Virginia, after March 12, 1777. James Sage served in that same unit and was listed on the same rooster with David Conley.

Robert Connelly served under Capt Givens of Col. Campbell's Company and Reuben Harris' Company in 1776.

James Conley Sr. was the son of Arthur Conley Sr., and is the second generation of Virginia Conleys in my family line. James Conley Sr. of Little Sugar Run branch of Walker Creek in what was then Montgomery County Virginia, was born prior to 1755. James purchased land from John White in the year 1792. This land jointed the farm of Joseph Eaton and Capt. Joseph Cloyd, a Revolutionary War hero that fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain and a number of other important battles of the

Revolution. On the Joseph Eaton farm is located the Eaton Memorial Methodist Church and a cemetery with the cemetery predating the century old church. This land transaction was witnessed by the 3 sons of Joseph Cloyd. The boys were less than 20 years old and were close to the same age as James Conley Jr. James Jr. was to name one of his sons after General Gordon Cloyd, one of the three witnesses. This son, born in 1833 was named Gordon Cloyd Conley. The first record that we have of James Conley Sr. was a listing of "Scouts" that watched the Indian trials of the Clinch and New River Valley. These records are recorded in "The History of Tazewell County and Southwestern Virginia", by Pendleton and a book titled "History of the Middle New River Settlement" by David Johnson. This role of "Scout" started in 1776 during the "Dunmore War". In 1776 James was old enough to serve in this kind of military capacity. Some of these "scouts" were only 15 years old at the time. Samuel Lusk was only 15 at the time that he served. He later was captured by the Shawnee, taken north of the Ohio River where he escaped and helped Virginia Wiley escape from the Indians.

In order for us to understand what James Conley did as a "Scout" we must also understand the time and the area during that era. The Clinch and Upper waters of the New River was the far western frontier of America. No white men lived in permanent settlements beyond this area. On occasions, white hunting parties would go into Kentucky and what is now West Virginia, they didn't live beyond the line of forts that stretched from "seven mile ford" near Abington to the fort at Lewisburg West Virginia, a distance of over 160 miles.

These forts or "Block houses" included such names as Wynn's Branch, Crab Orchard, Maiden Springs, and Burkes Garden in Tazewell County. Linking Shear Branch, and Bluestone Creek Montgomery County, Beaver Pond near New Hope in Mercer County WV and White Sulphur in present day West Virginia.

The life and times of James Conley of Walker Creek in Southwest Virginia was one that was fraught with danger and hardship. The area that he lived was the far western frontier of the English Colony and later the American Colony.

The New River Settlement and the Clinch River Settlement was made up of a few brave souls scattered along the creeks and rivers of the area. It was not uncommon in the mid to late 1700's for your closest neighbors to live 5 or more miles away. This land was a buffer zone between two major Indian nations with a number of smaller tribes passing through from time to time. The Shawnee tribe wintered to the north along

the Ohio River and the Cherokee were to the south along the mountains of western North Carolina and Tennessee. This placed the new settlers squarely in the middle of lands claimed by these Indians. Both these tribes used this area as a hunting ground and later as a land to raid for needed supplies. Some of these families were attacked and suffered the loss of family members captured or killed on two or more occasions. Thomas Ingles was one such person. Some of these early settlers witnessed infants from their family being killed by being "brained". (Indians would grab a small child by the ankles and hurl them against a nearby log or tree) They would also drown small captive children that would slow them in their escape from the settlements. If infants were born of pregnant women captives, on the trip back to Ohio, the new born children were usually killed in these ways.

Prior to 1775 there were raids into this area as a by-product of the French and Indian War. The French used the Shawnee to attack the English settlements. Following the French and Indian War, Lord Dunmore decided to wage war against the Indians along the Ohio, in hopes of ending these attacks against the Crown and to punish the Indians for being pawns of the French. The Battle of Point Pleasant was the last official battle of this campaign. The end result was far different than what had been hoped.

The decade following 1774 was one of the most difficult for the New River Settlement and those along the Clinch. It was during this era that we get the first real glimpse of James Conley (Sr).

There was a major Indian warpath that stretched from west of Kingsport TN. along what is known as "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine". This trail went through southwest Virginia up through the Clinch Valley and entered into modern day West Virginia near the present city of Bluefield.

There were a number of Indian trails that intersected with this major trail system. This placed these early settlers in Tazewell, Bland, Giles, Mercer, Wythe, Pulaski, and Montgomery Counties in the middle of this trail system.

Following the Dunmore War of 1774-5 there was a great outbreak of attacks by the Indians on the white settlers. Col. James Graham and his family was attacked, Donnally's Fort was attacked, the Mchensey family was attacked, John Pauley and wife were attacked, Capt James Moore and family were attacked, William Wheatley was attacked, James Roark was attacked, Virginia Wiley, John Davidson, Mitchell Clay, Thomas Ingles, were all attacked by Indians in the 1780's and early 1790's.

In one year over 28 people were killed by Indians in these settlements. In some cases whole large families were killed or carried into captivity. In at least one case a whole fort was wiped out in a single raid. At times raiding parties of 40 or more Indians would make their way into the New River Valley. Usually they came in parties of 6 to 12 Indians.

This was also a time that the Colonies were in a war for their life with the "Greatest Military Power" in the world, England. Many of the younger men from these mountain settlements were called on to fight with the Colonial Army. This left the New River Settlement very short of man- power to protect them from Indian attacks.

In order to protect the remaining settlers while the troops were away fighting the British, a group of "scouts" or "spies" were used to detect impending Indian attacks.

The following is a description of the role of these men and a list of their ranks; "These men were to hold themselves in readiness to act as circumstances might demand. To make them more efficient, spies were employed to hang upon the great trails leading into the settlements from the Ohio. Upon discovering the least sign of Indians, they hurried into the settlements and warned the people to hasten to the forts or stations, as the case might be. They received extra wages for their services, for they were both laborious and important and also fraught with danger. For such an office the very best men were chosen; for it will be readily seen, that a single faithless spy, might have permitted the Indians to pass unobserved, and committed much havoc among the people, before they could have prepared for defense. But it does not appear that any spy failed to give the alarm when possible to do so. They always went two together, and frequently remained out several weeks upon a single scout. Great caution was necessary to prevent the Indians from discovering them; hence their beds were usually of leaves, in some thicket commanding a view of the warpath. Wet or dry, day or night, these men were ever on the lookout. The names of several of these people have been preserved, among them; 1 James Conely (James Conley Sr.)

James Bailey  
John Bailey  
Joseph Belcher  
Robert Belcher  
Thomas Brewster  
Edward Burgess  
Chrisopher Caffin  
James Conley

Samuel Lusk  
Robert Lesley  
Samuel Lusk  
James Martin  
John Maxwell  
James Perry  
John Pruett  
Archibald Thompson

John Cottrell  
John Crockett  
John Evans, Jr.  
John Evans Sr.  
Joseph Gilbert  
Absalom Godfrey  
William Hall  
David Lusk

John Ward  
James Witten  
Michael Wright  
Oliver Wynn  
Hezekiah Wright

This role of "Scout" continued for these men over a period of about eighteen years from 1776-1794. With the victory of Col. Wayne over the Indians in 1794, raids into the Clinch and New River Valley ceased. It was strange that the frontiers should have furnished so many men for the army, when their absence so greatly exposed their families. But when we reflect that no people are readier to serve the country in the day when aid is needed, than those of mountainous regions, we shall at once have an explanation to their desires, and consequent assistance, in bringing the war to a close. Beside, the people of Tazewell have ever been foremost in defending the country; showing at once that determination to be free, which so eminently characterizes the people of mountainous districts.

Another family connection with these "Scouts" and forts was the name of James Bailey. James was the great-great-great-great uncle of the authors daughters through their mother's family. James was noted for his great running ability and he also built a fort at Beaver Pond, near the present Beaver Pond Fair property about 1 mile from New Hope in Mercer County West Virginia. This fort was where Mitchell Clay's wife ran after the Indians attacked her home at Lake Shawnee and killed several of her children. She ran over 6 miles through the forest to the safety of the fort. James Bailey joined in the hunt for these 11 Shawnee warriors and they caught them in modern day Boone County West Virginia. Several of the Indians were killed in the battle that followed but there was no loss of life among the settlers. One of the Indians begged for mercy in broken English but mercy was not granted after the savage attack and scalping of the Clay children. Sections of hide were removed from the backs of these slain Indians by Edward Hale, a neighbor of Thomas Conley, and used as razor straps by the Hale family for many years.

During this period of "Scouting and Indian fighting along the frontier of Virginia, people lived mostly off the land. When Indians were reported in the area, settlers would often leave their crops without harvesting them. That meant the following winter they had to depend on wild game and what their

neighbors might share with them. Game was very plentiful in the area. The main cash crop was the raising of hemp for rope. Some of the hemp plants have survived until modern times and cows have been known to eat the "crazy weed" and then walk about as though they had been drugged. The settlers were unable to raise hogs or pigs due to the heavy bear population and the fact that bears loved pork. There was a great population of deer, bear, elk, and buffalo. The main food items were deer and bear and the hides of all these animals were used by the settlers and taken to Fincastle and traded for salt. It was not unusual for two men to go on a 2 to 4 week hunt and come back with as many as 50 deer hides and 4 or 5 bear skins. There was a man by the name of Ebenezer Brewster in Tazewell County that died in 1850 and it was reported that he killed over 1200 bear in his lifetime. A friend of Brewster, William Peery killed over 1000 black bear in his lifetime. There are accounts that these settlers would be awoken in the morning to nearby howling of wolves and at night hear the screaming of a "Panther" (eastern cougar). In the 1750's Augusta County (that now covers the New River Settlement) paid bounty on as many as 2000 wolf heads per year. By the late 1700's most of the wolf population had vanished from the New River Valley. The last of the panthers was killed in Burkes Garden in 1903. It was stuffed and placed in the museum at the state capital building in Charleston West Virginia. Another threat to the mountain people was that of rattlesnakes and copperheads. These "pit vipers" were abundant and snakebite was not uncommon. It was usually treated with bear grease. Most of the clothing was made from deer skin but many of the houses also had a spinning wheel and a loom for weaving. Feather and chaff filled tick beds were usually made after a settler had time to finish building his log house. Their sugar came from "tapping" maple trees in the Fall and some settlers had as many as 500 trees running at a time. They would then boil the sap down and make sugar from it. They also had lots of beehives and when the men went to war they would carry a few swarm with them for fresh honey. Most of the building was done in the winter because they didn't have to fear Indian attacks. The Shawnee stayed in their villages along the Ohio River during the cold time of year. They liked to wage war in the warm months when the settlers would be out in the fields a long way from their cabins. Many of the attacks recorded showed the Indian preference for this type of warfare. During Fall and Winter, there was no foliage to help hide them, if they had snow fall it would make it easy for the settlers to track them on their escape to Ohio. If they raided the settlements in winter, the cold icy rivers were difficult to cross and food was more scarce. The settlers would be in their cabins, with bars on the doors and could fire through the gun ports, thus they

would be able to ward off a good size raiding party.

The next glimpse we get of James Conley Sr. is a tax record in Montgomery County when it is recorded that he owns 3 horses. This is recorded in 1790. He is involved in a land transaction on Walker Creek in modern day Giles County but what was then Montgomery County. This was on December 24, 1793 when he purchased land on "Little sugar waters" of Walker Creek a branch of New River. The land was purchased from John White for a sum of four pounds Virginia money. Joseph Cloyd owned the land on the southern boundary of James Conley's land. Joseph had sons near the same age of James Sr.'s son James Jr. All three of these sons were witnesses to the land transaction. This included David, Thomas, and Gordon Cloyd. James Conley next appears in Kentucky in 1794 along with Arthur Conley and his extended family.

In addition to the role of spy and scout along the Indian trails, James Conley would have been involved as part of the Militia in three major engagements. These were the battle of Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River, the battle of Kings Mountain and the Battle at Guilford Courthouse. In September of 1780 a call went out for "Backwater Men" of the New River and Clinch to go to Sycamore Ford on the Watauga River (near Elizabethton TN. There were 200 men from the Wolfe Creek area of Montgomery County that answered that call. One of these men referred to as the "Paul Revere of the South" rode from near Christiansburg Virginia to Elk Creek, calling out the militia. He made this ride in less than 12 hours and his horse died on Elk Creek. He was given another horse and he rode it to Marion Virginia, then secured another fresh horse and rode this third horse to Bristol Virginia. He completed this trip in about 24 hours. The Army of Virginia and Tennessee backwoodsman made the march across the mountains to Kings Mountain and arrived there on September 26, 1780. These "Backwater Men" didn't line up in formation but fought from behind the rocks and trees. They would charge the British lines and after their Deckard rifles had been fired they retreated down the mountain because they had no bayonets for "hand to hand" fighting. When the British would follow, the "Backwater Men's" reserve units would fire on the British from the woods. The British would retreat back up the mountain and the Virginians would be right on their heels with fresh loaded rifles. This was the first major victory of the Revolution and gave heart to the people of the colonies. Over 600 British were taken prisoner and a number were killed.

Following the Battle at Kings Mountain, in October of 1780 a message was delivered to Major Joseph Cloyd, on Back Creek, that help was needed to put down a Tory uprising on the Yadkin

River of N.C. He was ask to raise three troops of horsemen. No doubt he went to his close neighbors for help. One of these men was Thomas Farley of Walker Creek and Captain Pearis, who wounded in the battle that was to follow. I feel sure that James Conley, neighbor of Joseph Cloyd, and the owner of 3 horses answered that call. There is no written record of the 160 horsemen that served in that battle but the half dozen names that we have listed were neighbors of Major Joseph Cloyd. In that battle fifteen Tories were killed and the losses to Major Cloyd was one Captain and 4 privates wounded. These men that served under Cloyd were called "Emergency or Minute Men.

On February 10, 1781, Col. Preston ordered the militia of Montgomery County to assemble at the Lead Mines (Austinsville, near Wytheville Virginia) and on the day appointed three hundred and fifty men assembled pursuant to the order of their commander, Major Joseph Cloyd. One author has written" that it to be regretted that the names of the men who went with Preston and Cloyd have not been preserved. Only 6 Privates from the role of 350 men has been recorded. They are Matthew French, John French, Edward Hale (the next door neighbor to Thomas Conley), Joseph Hare, Isaac Cole and Thomas Farley (father-in-law of Garland Conley son of James Conley Sr). One company of these men from the middle New River Valley was commanded by Captain Shannon of Walker Creek. I'm sure that James Conley Sr. the "Scout" was among that number. It would have taken every able bodied man in the region to make up that large of a force. Those in command were his neighbors. On the way to North Caroline, they passed through Adam Waggonors farm and he furnished a steer for them and pasture for a number of their horses. Thirty years later the granddaughter of Adam Waggonor would marry the son of James Conley Sr.

These Virginia Militiamen met the British on the sixth of March, 1781 at Wetzel's Mill and a severe engagement took place. Preston's horse threw him, Preston was a heavy man and unable to keep up with the retreating army of Virginia. Major Cloyd seeing his condition dismounted from his horse and gave his mount to Preston. During the battle one of the boys from Walker Creek, Matthew French, was watching the supply wagon along with several other men. When the battle broke out he left the wagon and rushed into the middle of the battle. The officer in charge wanted to Court Martial him. Major Cloyd remarked that "as French ran not from the fight but towards it, if they court marshaled him for such a cause, he would never again draw his sword in behalf of the country". The British commander commented after the battle that his troops were badly hurt by the Backwoodsmen from Virginia. After this battle the men returned home to provide protection for their

homes that were threatened by Indian incursions. They had to station 20 men along Sugar Run, the home of James Conley Sr. to protect it from the Indians. Thirty men were placed at Captain Pearis', 25 men were placed at the head of the Bluestone and 16 men at the head of the Clinch River, 30 men at Powell's Valley, 20 at Richlands and 30 at Castlewoods. These men were placed along a 164 mile line to defend the homes. This was a difficult time for the early settlers. George Washington committed on hearing accounts from the settlements along the New River, saying, I would give my life to the Indians, if I knew they would stop their raiding and plundering of the western settlements.

This is the last written record in Virginia that we have on James Conley Sr., the "Scout" and Indian fighter. He doesn't appear in Giles County records, which means he must have left the area prior to when Giles County was formed. His father Arthur and several of his brothers had moved to the Big Sandy Valley of Eastern Kentucky after General Wayne's victory over the Shawnee in 1792. We find land records of James Conley in Scott County Kentucky in 1794. A number of the Conley family went to the "Big Sandy Valley of Kentucky" in 1763 along with Henry and James Skaggs of Reed Creek near Fort Chiswell Virginia, and Daniel Boone. Harmon Connelly and Thomas Connelly were part of this early expedition. When the Connelly family began to settle Kentucky in the 1790's they had thousands of acres of land. This land must have been claimed back in 1763 when they made their first trip into the "Wilderness of Kentucky." I feel the Conley family, Skaggs family and Daniel Boone learned of this rich Kentucky land covered with "Bluegrass" from the James Conley that settled on Reed Creek in the early 1740's and was a "Long Hunter" in Kentucky and sold many of his skins to James Skaggs. He was changed in Augusta County Court, in 1746 for having 38 "Red Deer Skins" at the home of James Skaggs. In 1751 this James Conley was killed by Day Thoughgood a slave belonging to James Conley. James Conley Sr.'s son was later to move from Walker Creek across the mountain into Burkes Garden and marry at about the age of 32 years old in the County of Tazewell. This was on May 22, 1806 when he married Rachel Stobough, daughter of John Stobough and Leah Corder. Leah and John were married in Montgomery County on Nov. 3, 1787. John Stobough's father, Henry Stobough took the "oath of allegiance" on the courthouse in Philadelphia Pa. steps in 1752. Henry married Elizabeth Waggoner the daughter of Adam Waggoner, one of the early settlers of the New River Valley. Leah Corder's grandfather was one Edward Corder who got drunk and robbed a store in London in 1721. He was sentenced to be transported to the colonies and was to serve 15 years. He arrived in Virginia and rented from Lord Fairfax. James Conley Sr. son of Arthur

Conley had several children a few of which were James Conley Jr., born in 1774, Garland Conley born in 1776, Bailey Conley, and Bridget Conley. All these children were in Tazewell County Virginia by 1803.

James Conley Jr. married in Tazewell in 1806 and may have worked for his father-in law in Burkes Garden for several years before purchasing land of his own but in 1832 he bought 100 acres of land from the Stobough's for 100 dollars. This land, lies near the "Blue Spring" in Burks Garden. This spring has a flow of over 3900 gallons of water per minute and is the largest in the state of Virginia. He sold this land for 100 dollars in 1838. Then in 1851 he purchased 37 acres of land on Banks Ridge in Burkes Garden, located in Clear Fork District.

James Conley Jr. had several children and our family line extends through Gordon Cloyd Conley born in 1833. Gordon married Mary Jane Boling on July 16, 1854. Mary Jane was the daughter of Harrison and Martha Boling of Bount County Tn. Gordon and his wife took care of James (Jr.) and his wife Rachel all of their livies. James lived to be 96 or 97 years old and died in 1871.

During the time that the Conley family was settling into the New River and Clinch Valleys of Virginia, the Sage family was moving into the South side of the same valley and across Iron Mountain unto the Elk Creek Valley. Our next chapter will follow the migration and lives of the early Sages.



## Chapter 2

### The Sage Family Arrives In America

One of the earliest records that we have on James Sage "The Settler" was found in his old notebook made with a home tanned leather binding which is still owned by a descendant. James recorded that he was born near London England about 1749. He referred to Shepton Mallet, which is located in Summerset County of England as his "dwelling place". He also recorded in his notebook, "James Sage, Baker, for His Majesty, King George III". He made a notation about his departure from England, this note reads, "James Sage, Baker, from London 23 July, 1773.

We have learned from other records that James sailed from Middlesex, where he was sentenced to transportation. He sailed on the Hanover Planter and the Captain was Master William McColloch. James was sent to the "New World" as a sentence for misconduct. This was a common practice for even minor infractions. This may also explain why James fought for the independence of the colonies against Great Britain.

A record of his trial is shown below. He was tried in London England at the Old Bailey located in the western part of the city about 200 yards northwest of St Paul's Cathedral. It is also located next to the Newgate prison where James would have stayed from May 31, 1773 until his trial on July 07, 1773. At that point he would have been returned to the Newgate prison until he was loaded on the ship (Hanover Planter) on July 23, 1773 and he was transported to America to serve his 7 year sentence as an exile from England.

**JAMES SAGE, THEFT: SIMPLE GRAND LARCENY, 07 JUL 1773.  
The Proceedings of the Old Bailey Ref: t17730707-10**

TRIAL SUMMARY:  
ORIGINAL TEXT:

405. (M.) JAMES SAGE was indicted for stealing a linen shirt, value 1 s. and two linen shifts, value 2 s. the property of Abraham Robbins, May 31. Abraham Robbins. I am a farmer at Kingsbury: my house has been twice broke open; the last time was on Whit-Monday; I was alarmed in the night; I missed a shirt off the clothes; the door was broke open, and there was all the appearance of somebody having broke into the house. Edward Williams, I am son-in-law to Mr. Robbins: my mother

waked me; I jumped up, opened the window, and saw the prisoner run from the house; I put my shoes, stockings, and breeches on: I went out and saw a man behind an elm tree; I went after him; I traced him as far as Davis's; there I got intelligence of him, and then took him at the Black Lion, at Kingsbury; there were three more, which three were in the house; whether those two were in the house or no I cannot tell; the house is a lone house 30 yards out of the lane, and a considerable way out of the high road; there is no other house near it. When I took him, his white stockings were all wet and dirty, seemingly as if he had been going through wet grass. I am sure the man I took at Kilburn is the same man I saw at the door; I know him by the clothes, and one shoulder was higher than the other.

John Sket. I saw him go through the farm yard; I said old acquaintance where are you going? he said down to Kew Green. The people came after him; I described him to them, and it appeared he was the same man they were in pursuit of. Robert Smith. I lie in the room over the room where the people got in; I was waked by a clattering at the window; I saw three men in the house, neither of whom were the prisoner. I heard them unlock the door, and heard them afterwards go out; I saw these three men turn round the corner by the yard, and immediately afterwards the prisoner went away from the wall of the house and went straight forward.

#### Prisoner's Defence.

I was going to Kilburn to see after a place; I heard it was disposed off, and so was returning back again. The prisoner called three people who lived in White-cross-street, who said he lived in their neighbourhood, and gave him a good character.

#### Guilty. T.

From the court proceeding above we learn a tremendous amount about this two-month period of James Sage's life. First we discover that he was a resident of Kilburn a section of Kingsbury that was part of the old Middlesex County. This area is in the northwest part of London and most of his friends lived near the White-Cross-Street area. This is a street that runs through much of London. He had friends that were willing to come and testify on behalf of his character. This was a great asset to him in the trial. The offence of breaking into a house was punishable by death at that period of history but they tried him for the lesser offense of simple grand larceny. We also learn that he at least at this point had a shoulder injury (one shoulder was higher than the other). James was required to stand in the "Old Bailey"

before a large mirror that focused light on his face so the judge and jury could see his facial expressions clearly to assist them in making a determination of guilt. After the sentencing, he was returned to jail and on the 27th of July 1773 he has loaded in the lower galley of the Hanover Planter along with 44 other prisoners that were sentenced to transport to American. Three years later this practice of transporting people to American would cease with the beginning of the American Revolution. In 1779 the British would begin to send those that they exiled to Australia.

The journey to American was difficult on this ship that was at least over 70 years old in 1773. Water would become very bad on a cross Atlantic crossing, and there was little occasion for sunlight and fresh air. Many people died on such a trip. Our line through James Sage continues because of the mercy of the court, the providence of God and James being in good health and only being 24 years old at this time. The ship that James was transported on was ship-wrecked near Long Island off the coast of Scotland 6 years later with the loss of 3 lives.

James arrived in Philadelphia and came down the "Great Wagon Road" that stretches from eastern Pennsylvania through the Shenandoah Valley into the New River Valley. James settled in the New River Valley in the late 1770's on Cripple Creek near where it empties into the New River. It was there he met his wife-to-be, Lovis Ott the daughter of a German settler, Sylvester Ott (Utt) and they were married in Montgomery County (now Wythe County) on December 25th, 1780. James Sage was the administrator for the estate of Sylvester Ott and at the time of Sylvester's death, around 1803, Sylvester owned 60 acres of land on the New River, at the edge of Peak Creek in Wythe County but was living in Grayson County when he died.

James and Lovis continued to live on Cripple Creek, Montgomery County (now Wythe County) for few years after their marriage. It was rumored that prior to his coming to Virginia that he was with Gen. George Washington and that he was at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. He served a number of enlistments in the Continental Army and most of these were for six months at a time. He was no doubt part of local militia call up for short local battles, mostly in NC. In his regular service he served under Capt. Robert Sawyer's company in 1779; 6 months in 1781 with Capt. James Montgomery; 6 months with Col. John Montgomery in 1782 and he also served in Col. Crockett's regiment in 1783. James Sage was listed in other publications as serving in the Colonial Army in the battles of Monmouth, Bunker Hill and Sullivan's Island. These engagements took place from 1775-1778, this would have meant

that he served in the military from the time that he arrived in America until the end of the Revolution in 1783 and would have still been a private. I feel this is highly unlikely that he served over this span of time as a private when he had the ability to read and write. The first enlistment that we have records for was shown as 1779. Therefore the battles that he may have been involved in, under the commanders listed, would have been the Chickamauga Indian Villages around April 30, 1779. The Tory uprising on the Yadkin River of North Carolina in October 1780. Col. Joseph Cloyd raised 3 troops of horsemen (160 men) to ride south with him into North Carolina. James Sage raised "high bred" saddle horses and was a skilled horseman and a patriot. These troops would have had to ride south near James' house on the way to N.C. There is only a list of about 15 of these 160 men but I feel James Sage would have been one of those unlisted men.

"Backwater Men" also answered the call to assemble at Sycamore Shoals near Elizabethton Tennessee. This was for the purpose of confronting the British at Kings Mountain. A rider went from near modern day Christiansburg Virginia into the Elk Creek Valley, across Iron Mountain into Cripple Creek then to Marion, Seven-Mile-Ford and then into Bristol. He rode three horses into the ground as he called upon the "Minute Men of Virginia" to stop the advance of Gen. Cornwallis and Ferguson. These British commanders had sent word to the people of Virginia, warning them if they joined the fight, that the English would march into southwest Virginia and hang those that served with the militia and burn the homes and crops of the general population. The battle that followed was a great victory for America and gave new courage to the cause of freedom. Again the messenger gathering troops passed the home of James Sage and his brother-in-law, Fredrick Ott (Utt) on Cripple Creek. James Sage was listed as serving with Captain John Adams militia in his roster of March 12, 1783. Others listed on the roster include David Connelly (Conley) brother of James Conley Sr., David owned 400 acres of land on Walker Creek in an area known as Crab Orchard. Richard Chapman was among that militia company, he married Susannah Conley and this marriage took place in Montgomery County on May 5, 1790. Fredrick Ott (Utt) was listed on the roster of Fredrick Edwards company of militia on March 24, 1781. Details of the acts of bravery in the Battle of Kings Mountain are recorded in chapter one of this book.

On February 10, 1781, word was sent to Maj. Joseph Cloyd to gather troops to assist Gen. Nathaniel Green in North Carolina. A message went out through Montgomery County to

assemble at the lead mines (Austinsville) south of wytheville, on the New River. Answering this call was 350 men. This was at a time when the adult male population of Montgomery County (present Montgomery, Floyd, Patrick, Carroll, Grayson, Tazwell, Wythe, Pulaski, Giles, and all the counties of southwestern West Virginia) was less than 1800 men. Many of the men in this 1800 total population count, would have been too old, young or physically unable to serve in the militia. Therefore about every able-bodied man that was able to get the word and get to the lead mine was there. We have no list preserved, but I'm sure that the Sages, Otts and Conleys were well represented. This meeting place was only about 8 miles from the home of James Sage and less than 20 miles from the Conley clad. Details of this engagement are found in chapter one of this publication.

There was a number of other battles fought in North Caroline, through 1783 and James Sage was listed as being active in the militia through the ending of the Revolutionary War. Some of these battles were Whitsels Mill, Great Island, Cherokee Indian Campaign, Guilford Court House, Reedy Creek and the search for Tories.

Other writings have suggested that James Sage moved to Elk Creek in present day Grayson County in about 1791. I believed that he moved there over 7 years prior to that date. On November 14, 1784 James Sage signed a petition in Montgomery County to give himself and others title to land in present day Grayson County, that "many of these people had lived on for over 30 years". This land was part of a 10,000 acre grant owned by Peter Jefferson, Thomas and David Mealeweather, and Dr. Thomas Walker. Those holding the land grant had sold land to these people of Grayson County (the Montgomery County) but they had not given them a deed. This contest was settled by the people paying the government \$4.22 per 100 acres to secure title to their land. Stephen Austin, the father of Stephen Austin II later the governor of the state of Texas also signed this petition. Another indication That the Sage family moved to Elk Creek prior to 1791 was the wording in a survey appointment; "On September 28, 1790 a survey was to be made from the Elk Creek road to where Sage's wagon overset on the Dry Branch near Spedwell."

In the period of 1740-1800 the state would tax the people by having them raise hemp for the making of rope and other related products. Most of the small land owners on the western frontier were busy raising enough crops to feed their families, building cabins and fending off Indian attacks and they had little time to produce hemp. Most of the larger

plantation owners didn't have this problem. On May 24, 1782 James Sage signed a petition in Montgomery County, to be submitted to the Virginia Legislators, requesting that a different system of tax be approved for the frontier. This would allow people to pay with deerskin rather than hemp. James Sage was more a hunter than a farmer at this point in his life. Using deerskin for currency is where the term "buck" originated.

From the time that James Sage arrived in America until the end of the Revolution, every day was a struggle for survival on the frontier. The winters were cold and brutal, summer brought Indian raiding parties into the New River Valley. Threats from wild animals were very real (bear would kill hogs, bounty was paid on wolfs heads, rattlers and copperhead snakes were abundant). From 1777 until 1794 almost every family had close friends and relative to die or be captured by Indians. Some of these families experienced loss at the hands of the Indians more than once in their lifetime. In one year over 28 people in the New River settlement lost their life to Indian attacks. Many more were wounded or carried into captivity beyond the Ohio by the Shawnee. These Indian attacks were more frequent on the north and west areas of the New River Settlement. This may have influenced James Sage in his decision to move a little to the south across Iron Mountain. Just over the mountain to the south of Cripple Creek lay a very fertile valley that was well watered by Elk Creek. This valley lay nestled between Iron Mountain to the north, Point Lookout Mountain to the southeast, White Top and Mount Rogers to the west. These mountains to the west were over a mile high and had a climate much like Canada, due to their high elevation. The mountain ranges provided great hunting conditions and the valley was a wonderful farming district. The Cherokee used White Top as a major hunting area. There remains evidence of this, even today, around and in some caves on the top of this mountain.

A decision was made by James and Lovis Sage to move across Iron Mountain unto the banks of beautiful Elk Creek. This decision was made in the late 1780's. At this point all the settlement in the Elk Creek Valley had occurred by families moving up from North Carolina through the gaps in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Sage family was the first to come from the north across Iron Mountain. There was nothing but "bridle trials" across the mountain and James had accumulated enough house wares that a wagon was required for the move. James packed up the family and started up Dry Run Creek, he came to a waterfall that was over 6 feet high. James "scotched" the wheels, unloaded the wagon and then disassembled the wagon and

carried it piece by piece over the waterfall and reassembled it on the top. He re-hitched the horses and became the first settler into the Elk Creek Valley from the Iron Mountain side. For many years this waterfall was know as "Sage Falls". There is also evidence that James Sage's wagon overturned on this trip across Iron Mountain. Mary Kegley in her book, "Early Adventurers on the Western Waters", noted a reference on a road survey as, "ending at the point of the Sage wagon upset". Following the move across Iron Mountain, new neighbors would join in to help construct a cabin. These cabin raisings could often be completed in as little as two days. People in Elk Creek were always glad to see new settlers because neighbors were "far and few". Additional settlers meant greater safety from both Indians and roving rogues. James Sage was later to suffer greatly from both elements.

In 1791 James Sage received title to the land that he was living on in Elk Creek. He purchased a superb stallion and began to raise horses as a money crop and for his own use. He also had a neighbor, that raised horses, Mr. Cornute (Cornett). In the summer of 1792 Mr. Cornett went to check on a number of horses that he was grazing in a nearby pasture field and he discovered that three of his horses were missing. He found tracks and other sign that would indicate that his horses had been stolen. He along with Michael Delp and James Sage begin to track these horse thieves and their trial led toward White Top Mountain. The trail divided but Sage and Cornett continue on the trail leading toward White Top. Near the summit in a saddle in the mountain, in an area known as Elk Garden, the horses were found grazing and hobbled. Perhaps the thieves knew that someone was hot on their trail, so they left the horses and ran for their lives. If you stole a man's horse, and was caught you would be hanged. The recovered horses were brought back home to Elk Creek.

After several weeks James and his older boys were clearing "new ground" for future planting. His wife Lovis was washing clothes in the creek and their five year old daughter, Caty was playing with a rag doll nearby. When Lovis began to look for the young girl, she was nowhere to be found. There was the small rag doll lying where Caty had been taken. It is thought that the horse thieves may have returned and kidnapped her. Indians may have been responsible for both the abduction and trading of Caty. A search was made by the neighbors, James Sage spent the better part of a year trying to locate his missing daughter. For years after the abduction, the family followed every lead to no avail. At one point James traveled to North Caroline to confer with a fortune teller named "Granny Moses". Granny told him that Caty was alive and

well, but he would never know where she was or what happen to her. She added that late in life, Caty's mother would have news concerning her but would never see her again. She also said that Lovis, Caty's mother would outlive Caty. All of these predictions came to pass.

Caty (Catherine) was taken to the top of White Top Mountain by the horse thieves or Cherokee Indians and was later traded to the Wyandotte Indians. She was taken by way of trails along the New River into Ohio and was soon on the Great Lakes at Sandusky Ohio. She and her tribe were moved west to Kansas to a reservation in the 1830's. She was found by a brother in 1847. Her brother Charles was hauling supplies for the military on the "Old Santa Fe Trail". He went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1847, to pick up supplies for the U.S. Army that was fighting in the Mexican War in Mexico. When they were about to leave, a Wyandotte Indian told them of an old white lady who had been with their tribe many years. Charles wrote a letter to his mother and brother with a description of te white lady living with the Indians. She had a "Ginger bread" colored birthmark and a scar that she received from a burn prior to her being kidnapped. Her oldest brother Samuel came and was able to identify her and had to talk with her through an interpreter, she had forgotten how to speak English. Letters were exchanged back and forth between Elk Creek and Kansas and Caty was planning a visit back to Elk Creek but she died of Pneumonia fever before she could make the trip. Caty's death took place on January 21, 1853. In letters written by her brother Samuel, she described her conversion to Christianity thirty years before and gave an account of many of the events of her life. Several books give additional details of her life, these are "March of the Sages," by Ball; " Red Trails and White", by Bonnie Ball, " Yourowquains, A Wyandot Indian Queen", by Bill Bland.

James Sage lived out the remainder of his life on Elk Creek where he and Lovis raised 14 children of their own and one grandson. In genealogical listings there are 15 children due to the grandson that was raised by James and Lovis (Martin Sage born in 1803) and there is no paternal listing of his natural parents. These children are as follows;

1. Samuel Sage - born August 5, 1781, Montgomery County Va: M. Charity\_\_\_\_\_?
2. John Sage -b Oct. 24, 1782. Montgomery County, Va: d. in infancy
3. James Sage Jr. - b June 17, 1782 d. April 21,

The Sage & Conley Families of Virginia

1869; M. Catherine

Canny, Grayson County Va.

4. Mary (Polly) Sage - b. Dec. 4, 1785; M- John Hall, Oct. 30, 1804

in Grayson County Va.

5. Catherine (Caty) Sage - b. Jan. 5, 1787

Montgomery County Va.:d.

Jan 21, 1853 in Wyandotte, Kansas, married three times to Indians

6. Lovis Sage II - b. March 1, 1788 Montgomery County Va.; M. Peter

Rauhoff, May 1811 Grayson County Virginia

7. Margaret (Peggy) Sage - b. Feb. 1, 1790, Wythe County Va.; d.

Oct. 15, 1870 (unmarried)

8. Sampson Sage - b. Feb. 11, 1792 Grayson County Va. D. March 25,

1872 Lee County Va.; m. Lydia Fletcher in 1816 Lee County Va.

9. Esther (Hester) Sage - b. Oct. 26, 1793 Grayson County Va.; m.

John Cooper, Sept. 17, 1817

10. Anna (Ann) Sage - b. Oct. 26, 1795, Grayson County Va. ; m. James

Nelson

11. Charles (Comer) Sage - b. July 11, 1797. Grayson County Va. M.

Elizabeth Bryant

12. William Sage - b. May 11, 1800 Grayson County County. Va. D. Feb. 1,

1824

13. Ezekiel Sage - b. May 17, 1803 d. in infancy

14. Elizabeth (Betsy) Sage - b. April 12, 1805; m.

Jacob Delp in 1836

James died on March 17, 1820 on Elk Creek. Lovis died on August 28, 1854 and they are both buried in the Sawyer Cemetery at Elk Creek. This cemetery is located on a hill looking down on the Elk Creek Dragway. A marker was placed on the grave of James Sage by the D.A.R. in 1936. On Labor Day of 1995, a marker was placed on Lovis' grave by 10 descendants. All the other graves in the Sage section appeared to be marked with fieldstones and no inscription. The infant children, that was lost by James and Lovis were buried on the Sage family farm and today are marked only with a fieldstone with no inscription. My line extends from the eighth child of James and Lovis Sage and I will now continue to follow the progression of that line. This was Sampson Sage who was born on Feb. 11, 1792 and was married to Lydia

Fletcher on Nov. 18, 1816 in Lee County Virginia. Lydia was born on Feb, 3, 1798 in Montgomery County (present day Giles County). Lydia was the daughter of Aaron Fletcher and Elizabeth (Milam) (Davis) Fletcher, who were married in Montgomery County in 1797.

Sampson's oldest brother Samuel made his way to Lee County Virginia in the early 1800's. Sampson may have moved at the same time or a little later than his brother. Samuel was later to serve in the War of 1812 as a private in George W. Camp's Company, 4th Regiment, Virginia Militia. He was discharged at Fort Norfolk in 1814. Sampson also served in the war of 1812.

Sampson Sage purchased a farm on the foothills of Powell Mountain, near Allen's Creek, at Stickleyleville, in Lee County Virginia. His land bordered Claiborne Young's farm and his Sampson's grandson married Mr. Young's granddaughter over 2 decades following Sampson's death.

Sampson's wife Lydia served as a midwife and traveled miles to perform her services. According to reports her normal charge was fifty cents. This usually included staying with the family for a few days and helping with house keeping and nursing the baby and mother.

For many years a legend persisted that Lydia had buried a lot of money in a small pottery jar. A number of People have searched for Granny Sage's lost treasure but it has never been discovered. Much of this money was buried during the Civil War. It was during this time was that the renegade band called "Witchers" killed and decapitated her oldest son, John Davis Sage. In chapter four, I will trace the family line through Sampson's third son William Winfield Sage.

## Chapter 3

### The Conley Family from 1800 Through the Civil War

Burkes Garden had been discovered in the 1750's and those that visited this high mountain valley saw it as "the garden spot of the world". It is the highest valley in the State of Virginia. In the 1770 and 80's it was a dangerous place to live due to the Indian threat from the north. In the early 1780's there was only two families living in the valley of over 20,000 acres. Following Wayne's victories over the Shawnees in 1792, there was no more raids by the Indians into Tazewell County. People began to move back into Burkes Garden in the late 1790's and early 1800's. James Conley Jr. was one of the first to move into the area and was one of the first marriages recorded in the newly formed County of Tazewell. He was married to Rachel Stobaugh on May 22, 1806. From this union a number of children were born. Ambrose Conley, Gordon, Robert Conley, Abiga Thomas (also listed as Abigale) Conley. James also had a two brothers and a sister that spent time in Tazewell County shortly following it's formation. These were Bridget, Bailey and Garland Conley. Garland later moved to Logan County West Virginia and died there.

James Jr. and his new bride lived near or on the farm of his father-in-law, John Stobaugh. James and Rachel bought 100 acres of Land in burkes Garden in 1832. This land was purchased from J. Stobaugh for a sum of \$100.00. Prior to this land purchase, he helped with the construction of a community church that was built in Burkes Garden. James Conley was listed on a historical list of

those that gave money and helped with erecting this log building. This church was built in 1826 and was the oldest church in the area. The Methodist, Lutheran and Presbyterian worshiped in this building but later the Methodist and Presbyterian build churches of their own and the Lutheran continue to hold title to this pioneer church. This church was located on the Fancy Gap-Tazewell Turnpike. James donated a pulpit chair and helped to cut 16 pair of 17ft 6" rafters. He assisted his father-in-law, John Stobaugh with the rafter cutting. The early Conleys in Tazewell County had strong leanings to the Lutheran but by the 1850's the preference seems to have been Methodist. Rachel being from German background on both sides of her family would have been Lutheran but James Conley grew up near a strong Methodist community and would have been more inclined to be Methodist.

James Conley continued to farm this fertile land until he made a decision to sell. In 1838 he sold this farm for the same price that he purchased it, one hundred dollars. We are not sure where he lived at this point but he purchased a new farm of 37 acres 13 years later at the Banks Ridge section of Burkes Garden, in 1851. He held on to this land and at his death it went to his son, Gordon Cloyd Conley that had been keeping he and Rachel. He gave this land to Gordon through an agreement that was entered into on March 25, 1862. This was in the middle of the Civil War. Rachel died some time between 1862 and 1870. James died in 1871 at the age of about 96 or 97 years old.

During these later years of James Conley Jr. and Rachel's life, they made their home with their son Gordon. As the extended family lived together, grandchildren would approach him and say Grandpa tell us a story about when you were a boy. One of the best forms of entertainment of those days was telling stories of their past. My Grandfather was one of those small children that gathered around the knees of James to hear his accounts of growing up on the American frontier.

He no doubt related to them stories of growing up on Little Sugar Run Creek that flowed into Walker Creek. James Sr.'s brother, Thomas lived on Walker Creek as one of the first settlers beyond "Big Lick" (modern day Roanoke Virginia). His uncle Thomas died when James Jr. was about 17 years old in about 1791. James's Grandfather Arthur, and great-uncles James and John were on the New River when some of the first explores came through (Dr. Thomas Walker in 1752). The Conleys were here at least as early as 1746 according to court records. John and James Conley (this was the James that was murdered on Reed Creek in 1751) were "long hunters", when they first arrived at the New River Settlement. They would spend months on end hunting in areas of present West Virginia and Kentucky. There were no permanent settlements in this wilderness. James Jr. would have spent time at his Grandfather's cabin hearing about his coming down the "Great Wagon Road" from Pennsylvania unto the "Valley of Virginia" and on across the Allegany Mountains into the western frontier where only the bravest would venture. Just a few miles from James' grandfathers house in 1755 the Shawnees raided the settlement of Drapers Meadow and killed a number of people and took Mary Draper Ingles north into Ohio. After five months she escaped and made her way back to Eggleston Springs where she was found almost dead, this was in November of 1755. The man that found her was Adam Harmon a neighbor of Thomas Conley. When she returned home, her hair was snow white. She

left one of her sons Thomas Ingles when she escaped but he was ransomed later and became one of the first settlers in Burkes Garden of Tazewell County.

James Conley Jr.'s father was a scout and served in this role while James Jr. was growing up. His father would go out on the Indian trails and look for sign and watch for Indians coming south out of their winter villages in Ohio. These scouts went out in parties of two and sleep in the leaves and thickets. If Indians were seen the scouts would have to run to all the cabins between the forts or block houses, that their watch covered, and help gather the people into the forts. This required these men (some as young as 15 years old) to have both speed and endurance in running. The full list of scouts is found in chapter one of this publication and they are listed in several history books that cover the early history of southwest Virginia. (Early Adventures on the Western Waters, by Kegley, Tazewell County by Louise Leslie and History of the Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory by David E. Johnson). When James Sr. was out scouting, James Jr. was the oldest boy left at home and had to help his mother raise the crops and defend the house. The "scouts" were out all summer because this was when the Indians would raid.

James Sr. also served in some Fall and Spring campaigns of the Revolutionary War. His neighbor Joseph Cloyd would have called on him when he raised 160 horsemen to go to North Caroline in October of 1780. This was to put down a Tory uprising on the Yadkin River. James Jr. as a six year old boy watched his dad, a backwoods farmer, saddle one of his three horses to ride south and confront the "greatest military power in the world." Each time that James Jr. watched his dad leave home to scout for Indians or fight the British, he was unsure that he would ever see his father again. He also was not sure if the Indians had returned to the Ohio by early October and if he and his mother and brothers would be safe while his father was away. To say that he grew up surrounded by danger is an understatement.

On February 10 of 1781 the call again went out along Walker Creek and throughout Montgomery County that help was needed in North Caroline to turn back the British. They assembled 350 men at the lead mines of Austinsville, near Grahams Forge and Wytheville. James Jr. watched his dad again ride away with his neighbor, Maj. Joseph Cloyd, this was nearing the time of year that the Shawnee began their raids into the New River Settlements. His neighbor, Joseph Cloyd was to dismount from his horse in the battle of Wetzels Mill and give his horse to Col. Preston. The Colonel had his horse to throw him and he

has so large he could not run and keep up with the retreat that the American Militia was making. So, Cloyd gave up his horse to Preston and that saved Preston's life that day. These North Carline battles stretched on into March and the men from New River began to get concerned about Indian attacks on the homes. These men rushed home to watch the home front and 20 men were stationed at Sugar Run where James Conley was living. So, in March 1781, 20 men from the Militia were camped and no doubt were coming and going from the home of James Conley. Here was James Conley Jr. a seven year old boy listening to the accounts of these battle harden frontiersmen telling about all their war stories of the Revolution and Indian raids. When young James was nearly 100 years old, during and following the American Civil War he would be setting around the fireplace at Gordon Conley's home, sharing these same accounts from a century before with his grandchildren. In 1871 James went home to be with the Lord.

Rachael Stobaugh wife of James Conley Jr. had deep family roots in the New River Valley of Virginia. Rachel's father was John Stobaugh, the son of Henry Stobaugh and Elizabeth Waggonor. Henry Stobaugh took the oath of allegiance to the Crown in 1752 on the Philadelphia Courthouse steps. He then took the oath of allegiance to Virginia in Montgomery County in 1777. Elizebeth's father, Jacob Waggoner was one of the wealthiest men in the valley and was found to here as early as 1769 . Rachael's mother was Leah Corder the daughter of Edward Corder that came to American due to being sentenced to transportation from England in 1721. John Stobaugh married Leah Corder in Montgomery County, Virginia on Nov. 3, 1787.

**EDWARD CORDER , THEFT: SHOPLIFTING, 06 DEC 1721.**

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OLD BAILEY REF: T17211206-6

## **TRIAL SUMMARY:**

- CRIME(S): THIEF SHOPLIFTING
- PUNISHMENT TYPE: TRANSPORTATION, (PUNISHMENT DETAILS MAY BE PROVIDED AT THE END OF THE TRIAL.)
- VERDICT: GUILTY THIEF UNDER 5S, .
- NAME SEARCH FOR: EDWARD CORDER,
- DEFENDANT'S HOME: ST ANDREWS HOLBOURN

## **ORIGINAL TEXT:**

EDWARD CORDER , OF ST. ANDREW HOLBOURN, WAS INDICTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING OUT OF THE SHOP OF JOHN JACKSON , A WOODEN DRAWER, VALUE 2 D. AND 19 S AND THREE HALF PENCE IN MONEY, THE GOODS AND MONEY OF JOHN JACKSON ON THE 2D NOVEMBER LAST. ELIZABETH JACKSON DEPOS'D THAT AS THE WAS SITTING IN A BACK ROOM, ABOUT 7 AT NIGHT, THE PRISONER CAME INTO THE SHOP, AND TOOK OUT THE DRAWER, WHICH THE HEARING, RAN OUT AND STOPT THE PRISONER IN THE SHOP, WITH THE GOODS UPON HIM, TILL SOME OTHERS CAME TO HER ASSISTANCE. THE PRISONER LAID IN HIS DEFENCE, THAT HE WAS DRUNK, AND KNEW NOT WHAT HE DID. THE JURY FOUND HIM GUILTY TO THE VALUE OF 4 S. AND 10 L.

The children of James Conley Jr. and Rachel Conley are as follows; Ambrose Grayson Conley born in 1830 and married Sarah Ann Molloy, Gordon Cloyd Conley born in 1834 and married Mary Jane Boling. These two children are proven by Tazewell County marriage records. Other children that are not proven are Layer Conley that married Jacob Snider on March 27, 1834, Robert Conley married Tabitha Stratton on February 28, 1850. Peggy Conley married Elizah Havens February 26, 1833. My line continues through Gordon Cloyd Conley.

Gordon Cloyd appears to be one of the younger and perhaps the youngest of the children of James Conley. It is in the early 1800's the people in the New River Settlement begin to give their children a middle name and so James and Rachael named Gordon after one of James' childhood friends and neighbors. Gordon Cloyd the son of Joseph Cloyd. At the time that Gordon Conley was born, Gordon Cloyd had achieved the rank of General in the American Army and was a major figure in Virginia politics, he was a member of the constitutional convention of Virginia in 1829-30.

Gordon Cloyd Conley married Mary Jane Boling, the daughter of Harrison and Martha Boling. Mary Jane was born in Blount County Tennessee 1833.

Gordon & Mary Jane Conley were the parents of 9 children as follows.

Harrison Conley born Oct 1854 and died at 10 months of age  
Abiga Thomas Conley born in 1856 and died in McDowell County WV

Rufus Britton Conley born in 1857 and died in 1937, Tazewell County

Andrew P. Conley born in 1860

John William Conley born on Mar. 10 1864 died 1928 Mercer County WV

Mary Molly Conley born Nov. 23 1865

G. George Conley born in 1867

Thomas E. Coley born 1869

Walter V. Conley born May 10, 1870

Gordon entered the "War Between the State" in the very early period of the war in 1861. He enlisted with the Original Kanawha Artillery, under Brig. General John B. Floyd of Abingdon Virginia and served in Battery "A" under Capt. Thomas E. Jackson of what was later to be West Virginia. Many of the early engagements of this unit were in northwest Virginia in areas that were to become WV in 1863. This unit gave the Confederacy one of their first victories of the Civil War at Cross Lanes in Nicholas County WV. Later the Kanawha Artillery was reorganized in May of 1863 due to Capt. Hales Battery being broken up by the capture of Fort Donelson in February of 1862. This unit took 54 men to Gettysburg in July of 1863. They had started with 191 men in 1861. During the battle at Gettysburg General Lee had all the artillery firepower available to fire on the "Bloody Angle" prior to "Picket's Charge". This was the most intense cannon volleys very recorded in the history of warfare up to that point. Gordon C. Conley would have been a participant in that encounter. Gordon C. Conley from Virginia also served in the 37 Battalion of the Virginia Cavalry (Dunn's Battalion, Partisan Rangers). This would have been sometime after April 1864 during the big buildup of that unit. They went from 300 effectives in April to over 10 companies by June of 1864. Gordon's military record can be found in the National Park Service records.

Service in the Artillery and Cavalry would have been a natural for Gordon C. Conley. His grandfather James Conley Sr. had owned several horses back in 1790. His father had horses and Gordon's sons; Britton and John W. Conley were skillful with horses.

Gordon was wounded through the shoulder with small arms fire in the latter part of the war and returned home prior to the wars end in April of 1865. After returning back to Burks Garden near the wars end, he farmed and cared for his aging father James Conley Sr. who died in 1771 or 72 at over 97 years of age. Gordon then sold the land and house in Burks Garden in 1872 and moved to Lynn Hollow near the "divides" very close to the WV State line.

1 History of the New River Settlement, P. Johnson, page 144



As the 1700s came to a close and the 19th century (1800s) began, we find the older children of James and Lovis Sage reaching maturity. The family holds title to a little over 200 acres on both sides of Elk Creek on the Vaughan branch section of Elk creek. This land has belonged to the family since 1789 and was part of the Walker survey (belonging to the Loyal Company which was made up of a group of eastern land speculates that included the father of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Lewis). James Sage was on this land prior to having a title. There is reference in a road survey of September 28, 1790 of a landmark called "the place where the Sage wagon oversett on Dry Branch near Spedwell." This also indicated that James Sage had made the trip with his family to Elk Creek prior to that date. He signed a petition in 1784 requesting that title be given to the people in a section that was later to become Grayson County, for land they had purchased. This was land that that was part of a grant given to Peter Jefferson, Thomas and David Mereweather (sic) and Doctor Thomas Walker. "Some of the people had lived on this land for over 30 years" in 1784. Steven Austin the father of the Steven Austin that was the "father of Texas" also signed this petition with James Sage. Steven Austin Sr. was supervisor of the lead mine at Austinville and moved to Missouri when Steven Jr. was 7 years old.

The 200 plus acres of land was not enough to support his 14 children if he subdivided it to each for farming. The sons of James set their sights toward the west and begin to leave one of one seeking land that would support them and their families. Samuel had move to Lee County Virginia and was living there in 1812-13-14. He served two terms in the army during the War of 1812. By 1830 he had moved to Sevier County TN. Around 1840 he and his family migrated to Taney County Missouri. Samuel had been asked to come to Ft. Leavenworth KS. Charles was sure that he had found his long lost sister Caty that had been kidnapped back on July 6, 1792 on Elk Creek. Samuel came and made the identification based on his memory and a birthmark on her shoulder and a burn on her leg. It is thought he may have return to Elk Creek in Virginia and died there around 1864 at the age of 82. Most of Samuel's children and offspring continued to live in Missouri.

James Sage Jr. moved first to Ashe County NC and then purchased land in Lee County Virginia in 1817 but sold it in 1819 and returned to Elk Creek in 1820. He served in the War

of 1812 and lived out the remainder of his days in Elk Creek with his wife, Catherine Cannoy Sage.

Lovis Sage II married Peter Rouhoff and by 1830 they had moved from Grayson County and it appears they had relocated in Sevier County TN.

Sampson Sage the 8th child of James and Lovis Sage, followed his older brothers to Lee County Virginia and married Lydia Fletcher who was born in modern day Giles County Virginia on Feb. 3, 1798. The marriage took place on Nov. 28, 1816 in Lee County Virginia. Prior to his marriage, Sampson served in the War of 1812.. I will continue with Sampson's line with more details later in this book.

Esther (Hester) Sage the 9th child of James and Lovis Sage, married John Cooper the son of George Cooper. They were married in Sept 9, 1817. Between 1819 and 1825 they moved to Campbell County TN via the way of KY. Some of their children were born in KY.

Anna (Ann) Sage was the 10th child of James and Lovis and she was born Oct 26, 1795. She married James Nelson. They had 6 known children and Anna Died sometime after 1853 and is buried on Fox Creek section of Grayson County.

Charles Comer Sage was the eleventh child of James and Lovis Sage. He was born on July 11, 1797 and married Elizabeth Bryant about 1816. Elizabeth was born on Dec. 22, 1795 in Grayson County Virginia. Charles moved to Lee County Virginia prior to 1820 but was in Whitley County KY by 1820. According to land records he was back in Lee County Virginia in 1832. In about 1840 he moved to Jackson County Missouri and was living there when he miraculously discover his sister who had been abducted from their home in Grayson County Virginia in 1792 and had lived with the Cherokee Indians for some years. Later she lived with the Wyandotte tribe that migrated to land near Kansas City MO. in 1840. Following this discovery he wrote 10 interesting letters to his mother. Nine of the 10 letters still exist and are own by a descendant. Charles had become a "bonded trader" and was driving wagons from Ft. Leavenworth through Texas to supply the US Army during the war with Mexico in 1846. He continue to haul for the army and this is what brought him to Kansas. To follow is a description of Charles finding Caty Sage in Kansas.

In 1848 the aged Lovis received a surprising letter from Charles mailed from Van Buren County, Missouri (near Independence).. He said he had been in Ft. Leavenworth and there had met a Wyandot Indian. This man, after observing Charles closely, told him that there was a white woman living with his tribe who resembled Charles in both looks and voice. When Sage told the Indian of the strange disappearance of his sister Caty, they both became convinced that the Lost Child of Grayson must have been found.

For several months letters crossed and recrossed the country trying to establish the true identity of this woman Charles believed to be his sister. From a letter describing Caty: "She is perfectly ignorant of her origin herself, but the oldest Indian in the nation told me that between 50 and 60 years ago the Cherokees, in one of their annual visits to their country, brought her to them as a present, as was usual in that day with the Indians. When they got her she could not talk (the Indian language)... Now I will describe her as near as I can. She is about the height of Sister Esther. Her hair is yellow like Esther's. She has a large nose like Sister Betsey. She has a foot and toenails like Mother's and walks with a kind of a swing as Mother used to do with going from you."

Shortly thereafter, Samuel joined Charles and together they went again to see this mysterious white woman. Samuel was about 11 when Caty was last seen at Elk Creek and he had some recollection of her. He asked her through an interpreter if she had a burn scar on her thigh. She replied that she did and that she once asked the woman who reared her how it got there and was told that it had always been there. Another mark that Lovis described between her shoulders was found to be there. Known to the Wyandots as "Sally," Caty Sage had lived a full life. She was married three times. Her first husband, Crane, was head chief of the nation. They had one child who died in infancy. Her second husband was Chief Between-the Logs and her third husband was named Frost. Caty died on April 15, 1853 of pneumonia. They had made plans to return home with Caty but she became ill and died before she was able to return to Virginia.

The last of the James and Lovis Ott Sage family was Elizabeth (Betsy) born April 12, 1805 on Elk Creek. She married Peter Delp on Feb. 11, 1836 and died on Jan. 8, 1902 at the age of 97. Betsy and Peter remained on the homestead and cared for

her mother Lovis and Betsy and Peter lived there until their deaths.

We will now return to the Sages of Lee County and information on the family until the time of the War Between the States. Sampson Sage and Lydia Fletcher Sage, sometimes referred to as Granny Sage because she spent much of her life working as a mid-wife. They made their home on Wallen Creek at Stickleyville. He owned a large boundary of land near the base of Powell Mountain in Lee County. Lydia was know far and wide for her service as a midwife and she would come and deliver the baby and stay with the new mother and child for several days following the birth for a fee of fifty cents. For many years after her death the rumor continued that she had hidden a large sum of money in a money crock during the Civil War. Many people spent fruitless hours looking for this pot of money to no avail. Their oldest child John Davis Sage lost his life during the Civil War. A description of that event is described below.

John Davis Sage, the oldest child or Sampson and Lydia, -was born at Stickleyville, Lee Co., Va., Dec. 28, 1818; d. July 11, 1862. He m. Sarah Minerva Lloyd, a dau. of Absalom Lloyd, c8 pioneer Lee Co. settler, and Mary (Luck) Lloyd, on Sept. 7, 1843. They lived on a farm overlooking Powell River, near the present site of Woodway.

During the summer of 1862, a "gorilla" warfare raged in the Cumberlands of Virginia. A southern renegade leader known as "Witcher", and his company preyed upon those citizens of Southwestern Virginia and surrounding areas who were opposed to secession, and in sympathy with the Union. One of them 'was John Davis Sage, who was captured by 'Witcher's band ,while going to a grist mill near Powell River.

He was taken, with a number of others, to a log church called "Blue Springs Church, at Stickleyville. Here, only a few hundred -yards from Sage's birthplace the group, was imprisoned for the night. Their captors barricaded all windows and the single door, then built a campfire under the large oak trees in the churchyard. Today a deep depression may be seen in one of those trees.

It happened that two of the prisoners were smaller than the

rest. They discovered that, by lifting a loose puncheon in the floor, they could squeeze themselves through the opening and crawl from under the floor, into the deep shadows of surrounding willow and sycamore saplings at the rear of the old church. The two were missed when time came for the morning round-up. Their captors were infuriated by the escape. The remaining prisoners were taken eastward under heavy guard, and were brutally slain, one by one. Southeast of Stickleyville, on the south side of Powell Mountain, near a spring, John Davis Sage was decapitated. As soon as friends and relatives dared, they recovered his body, which was identified by his underclothes that Sarah had improvised of bed ticking. He was buried in the Duff Cemetery at Stickleyville. His box-like tomb bears the story of his slaying. It is carved of native limestone by M'Nelius V. Glass, a stone mason and union soldier, whose daughter, Martha, married a nephew of John Davis Sage eleven years later.

James (Doc) Sage was the second child of Samson and Lydia Sage. He was born at Stickleyville, Lee County Virginia on June 28, 1820. He was known as "Doc" due to his practice of herbal medicine. He married Rebecca Hammond on Dec. 30 1860. There was only one child born to this union, Harvey Sage, There was a separation and perhaps a divorce but she had three children after the separation (Isaac Harrison, John and Mary) and gave all these children the Sage name.

Doc Sage wrote a letter back to Grayson County to his relatives on Elk Creek, following the death of his brother John and went into much detail about the circumstance surrounding the killing and the political mood in Lee County during the Civil War.

The third child born to Sampson and Lydia was William Winfield Sage know as "Billy". He was born at Stickleyville in 1822 and married Elizabeth Fannon in 1848. She was the daughter of Bryant and Abigail (Munsey) Fannon of Giles (later Bland) County Va. William Winfield (Billy) Sage served as sheriff of Lee County during the 1860's. Billy had abilities in a number of areas and worked in farming, timber and was owner of a great deal of property in Lee County. He was a very generous man and secured the notes of many of his neighbor's loans and this reduced his holdings in the later years of his life. He was licensed as a lay Minister in the Methodist Church in

1778. After the death of his first wife, he remarried Lynda Ratliff at the age of seventy-one. Lynda was also an elderly lady.

William was also a great writer and carried on extensive correspondence with friends and relative. Due to his detailed record keeping we have an excellent record of the Lee County Sage's. We are all indebted to the large notebook that he kept which is still in possession of one of his descendants. William died in Nov. 28, 1902 at the age of 80.

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