

THE STILES ANCESTRY OF
NANCY (STILES) COOPER (1834-1922)

By B. Darrell Jackson¹

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Nancy Stiles was born March 9, 1834, in Hardin County, Kentucky, the first child of Demas Stiles and Margaret Ann Owsley. The photo of her attached was taken about 1910. The Stiles line has been previously studied and in this article I rely extensively on those previous studies. Where I have done additional research, as I have especially on the two last generations, footnotes will indicate that. My research shows that parts of the Stiles family story need to be revised.

The Stiles family can be traced back across the Atlantic, indeed to a particular town and parish church in late 16th century England. For our knowledge of the family, we can thank the Stiles family historians who in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries have searched out and written up the family's genealogy and history. There have been five family historians.

Ezra Stiles, President of Yale College from 1777 to 1795, wrote two versions of a genealogical collection of the Stiles family, in 1762 and 1764. when he was minister of the Second Congregational Church of Newport, Rhode Island. The manuscripts were given to his son Isaac Stiles and are now in the Beinecke Rare Book Library at Yale University.² A portion of it was printed in the book by Henry Reed Stiles.³ Ezra Stiles

¹ 13606 Mt. Hope Rd., Lohman, Missouri 65053 (jacksonda@aol.com). This article is adapted from a chapter in a history of the Jackson family that will be published in late 2008. Nancy (Stiles) Cooper's daughter Elizabeth Cooper married Leonidas C. Jackson in 1871. L. C. Jackson is the author's great grandfather.

² The 1762 version has the general title "Memoirs of the Family of Stiles," and the longer title "A genealogical Collection of that Family of Stiles which Came from Milbroke in Bedfordshire In Great Britain 1634 And Settled at Windsor in the Colony Of Connecticut in New England 1636. At a Time when In twelve years from 1629 to 1641 Four Thousand Men and about three thousand Families Implying Fifteen or Twenty Thousand Souls For the sake of free Exercise of pure Religion Fled out of England from the Tyranny & Persecution Of King Charles the first & ABP Laud And settled in New England Where their Posterity In the year 1760 the year of the English Conquest of Canada, were increased to half a million Souls. Our Family of Stiles was one of this Original Accession & purely English Blood. I Ezra Stiles of Rhode Island and Formerly of Connecticut being the third Generation Born in New England, began to compile This Account 1762; two years after The Death of my Father Rev. Isaac Stiles, aet. 63; And nine years after the Death of my Grandfather; And one hundred & twenty Eight years After the accession of the Family into America." The 1762 volume is contained on the following microfilm: Ezra Stiles Papers, Yale University, 1976, Reel 15. Miscellaneous Papers and Volumes, Reel 3, Folder 328. The 1764 version has the shorter title "A Genealogical Collection of that Family of Stiles which in 1634 Came from Milbroke in Bedfordshire in England, to Dorchester in new England; 1635 or 1634, and settled in Windsor in the Colony of Connecticut in New England 1636. Collected chiefly A. D. 1764 by Ezra Stiles of Newport Rhode Island, the fourth from John

was descended from Nancy Stiles's ancestor John Stiles (second generation), through his son John.⁴ His information is most complete for his own line, but includes some information on Nancy's line (through John Stiles's son Isaac).

Henry Reed Stiles, M. D., of New York City, published the monumental *Stiles Family in America* in 1895. His book connects the Stiles family of Kentucky with the New England and New Jersey Stiles, though only in an addendum to the book (pages 740-747).⁵

Lafayette Stiles Pence of Lebanon, Kentucky, published *A History of the Kentucky and Missouri Stiles* in 1896. His correspondence with Henry Reed Stiles helped connect the Stiles family of Kentucky with the Stiles family of New Jersey. This brief book lists Nancy Stiles as one of the children of Demas Stiles (page 9), but gives no further information on her.⁶

Lewis Ogden Stiles of Irvington, Kentucky, published *The Family of David Stiles* in 1939. He did a complete descendancy starting from David and Elizabeth (Kitchell) Stiles, including the family of Demas Stiles (pages 256-272). Nancy Stiles is Family 177 (page 251). The book reprints major portions of Henry Reed Stiles's history (pages 41-101) and all of Lafayette Stiles Pence's book (pages 103-150).⁷

Lois Ogden Stiles Sparks published *A History of the David Stiles Family, A Genealogy, 1575-1980*, in 1980. This book includes the genealogy of the book by Lewis Ogden Stiles and brings it up to date for certain lines, but not for the Cooper family.⁸

Stiles, inclusive, who was brought an Infant out of England 1634, and the fifth from his Father John Stiles I. This Collection or Genealogy I give to my son Isaac Stiles. Ezra Stiles, Pr. Yal. Coll." The 1764 version is contained on the following microfilm: Ezra Stiles Papers, Yale University, 1976, Reel 16, Miscellaneous Papers and Volumes, Reel 4, Folder 343. I obtained copies of both reels from Yale. References to these manuscript volumes will be by the years of their origin, the page numbers, and, when first cited, the frame number of the film.

³ Pages 12-16 of the book by Henry Reed Stiles.

⁴ For a superb biography of this interesting man, see Edmund S. Morgan, *The Gentle Puritan. A Life of Ezra Stiles, 1727-1795* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1962). One of Yale's residential colleges is named after Ezra Stiles.

⁵ Henry Reed Stiles, *The Stiles Family in America. Genealogies of the Connecticut Family Descendants of John Stiles of Windsor, Conn., and of Mr. Francis Stiles, of Windsor and Stratford, Conn., 1635-1894 . . .* (Jersey City [N. J.]: Doan & Pilsen, 1895). I own a copy of this book. References to it in this chapter will be by the author's name and page number.

⁶ Lafayette Stiles Pence, *A History of the Kentucky and Missouri Stiles, with a Sketch of New Jersey and Other Kindred* (Lebanon, Kentucky: W. T. Hawkins, 1896). I own a copy of this book. References to it in this chapter will be by the author's name and page number.

⁷ Lewis Ogden Stiles, *The Family of David Stiles or The Ten Tribes of The House of David. Ancestry and Posterity of David Stiles a native of New Jersey an immigrant to Kentucky* (Louisville, Ky.: Mayes Printing Company, 1939). I own a copy of this book. It previously belonged to Wilma Jackson Meredith. References to it in this chapter will be by the author's name and page number.

⁸ Lois Ogden Stiles Sparks, *A History of the David Stiles Family. A Genealogy, 1575-1980* (Murray, Ky.: Creative Printers, 1980). References to this book in this chapter will be by the author's name and page number.

Relying on the work of these family historians, except as noted, I give the direct Stiles line, beginning with the parents of the immigrant to America.

1. First Generation: Thomas and Marie Stiles of Millbrook, Bedfordshire

When Ezra Stiles set out to discover his ancestry, he found among papers in the possession of a relative a letter from Thomas Stiles to Henry Stiles of London dated February 15, 1634. The letter gave the dates, the earliest in 1591 and the latest in 1612, on which five boys and four girls with the name Stiles were baptized in the church at Milbroke (or Millbrook) in Bedfordshire, England.⁹ In 1884 Henry Reed Stiles sought confirmation of the parish registry data and found that the eight Stiles children, named Marie, Henry, John, Christopher, Francis, Joan, Elizabeth, and Thomas, were described as the sons and daughters of “Thomas Stylls (or Styles) and marye his wyfe.”¹⁰ The birth surname of Thomas’s wife is not known. In 1614, the registry recorded that “Thomas Styles carpenter” was buried on March 7 and that “Widdowe Styles” was buried on March 20. Little else is know about Thomas and Marie Stiles, though Henry Reed Stiles believes the family was not from Milbrook, but had moved there from someplace else.¹¹

In 1997 my wife and I visited Millbrook and the Church of England parish church there, St. Michael’s Church. Millbrook is a mile and a half west of Ampthill, the market town for the area. It is in the southern part of the County of Bedfordshire, about 40 miles north northwest of the center of London. The church warden, Mr. Hector Chapel, showed us around the church, which was built in the 15th century. It is made of green sandstone, a building material much used in the area. The architecture is Gothic, with a square tower. The church stands on a promontory overlooking the small village of Millbrook, from which it is reached by a steep path deeply cut into the hillside by centuries of use. There is an open view of the Vale of Bedford to the north. According to Mr. Chapel, before air pollution, the North Sea was visible on clear days. The cemetery surrounds the church. There are no Stiles grave stones. According to the warden, only wealthier people had markers until recent times and cemetery space was recycled about every one hundred years. Thomas and Marie Stiles exact place of burial is not, therefore, known, though it was doubtless in this churchyard.

2. Second Generation: John and Rachel Stiles, Immigrants to Windsor, Connecticut

The third child of Thomas and Marie Stiles received the following entry in the Millbrook parish registry for 1595:

⁹ Ezra Stiles, 1764, pages 5-6, Reel 4, frames 9144-9145. This part of Ezra Stiles’ history is transcribed in Henry Reed Stiles, pages 13-14.

¹⁰ Henry Reed Stiles, page 20.

¹¹ Henry Reed Stiles, page 22.

John Stylles the sonne of Thomas Stylles was christened the 25 of December.¹²

He next appeared in public records on a list of passengers who left London for Boston on March 16, 1635, on the ship *Christian*. Among the 27 passengers were the following:

Ffrancis Stiles	35 yeres
Tho: Styles	37
Jo: Stiles	35
Henrie Stiles	40
Joan Stiles	35
Henry Stiles	3
Jo: Stiles	9 mo.
Rachell Stiles	28 ¹³

The first four were brothers, the sons of Thomas Stiles of Milbrook. The first named, Francis, was the leader of a party of 27, mostly men, but a few women and children, who were setting out to establish a colony in Connecticut that had been granted to a group of noblemen headed by Sir Richard Saltonstall. Other records establish that the Stiles brothers had followed their father into the occupation of carpentry. Francis Stiles had achieved a somewhat higher status and was chosen by Saltonstall to head the expedition. The arrival of the *Christian* in Boston on June 16, 1635, was noted by Governor Winthrop: “A Bark of fourty Two arrived, set forth with twenty Servants by Sir Richard Saltonstall to go plant at Connecticut.”¹⁴ Winthrop further noted that on October 15, 1635, about fifty men and women and children went by land towards Connecticut.¹⁵ They chose a location on the west bank of the Connecticut River north of present-day Hartford. Ezra Stiles noted that “The Family Tradition is that John Stiles’s Wife was the first woman (English) that was stept ashore at Connecticut.”¹⁶ The Saltonstall party was soon overwhelmed by migrants from Dorchester in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Saltonstall was unable to maintain his patent, so his party merged with the Massachusetts migrants and formed the town of Windsor.¹⁷ A monument in the present town of Windsor, which I visited in 1963, commemorates the town’s founders, including Francis, Henry, Thomas, and John Stiles. Map 26 shows the location of Windsor and of other towns associated with the Stiles family.

The Stiles brothers appear in the early public records of the Colony of Connecticut. On April 26, 1636, a court at Newton took up a serious offense by Henry.

It was now complayned yet Henry Stiles or some of the ser[vants] had traded a peece wth the Indians for Corne. It is ordered yt [the] said Henry Stiles shall, betweene [this] & the

¹² Henry Reed Stiles, page 20.

¹³ Henry Reed Stiles, page 26.

¹⁴ Ezra Stiles, 1764, Page 15, Reel 16, frame 9149.

¹⁵ Ezra Stiles, 1764, page 15.

¹⁶ Ezra Stiles, 1764, page 15. Also at Ezra Stiles, 1762, page 4, frame 1007.

¹⁷ Henry Reed Stiles, pages 23-28.

next Cort, regaine [the] said peece from the saide Indians in a faire & legall waye, or els the Corte will take it into further consideraction.¹⁸

The “peece”, a firearm, evidently was not recovered from the Indians and two months later the court issued a warrant for Henry to appear before it. The outcome of the appearance is unknown. Our ancestor John was fined two shillings by a jury on June 6, 1644, though the record does not say what the fine was for.¹⁹ In 1649 John was exempted from military duty and training, presumably because of his age.²⁰ Francis Stiles appears in the public records numerous times, in law suits, as a jury member, admitted as a freeman, and so on.²¹

John Stiles lived in Windsor, Colony of Connecticut, for the rest of his life. He had a home lot next to that of his brother Francis and appeared on the list of persons who had paid for seats in the meeting house for 1659-1660. His will has been preserved. It names his children.

Will of John Stiles

I John Stiles being weake of Body but of perfect memory apprehending my day is neere at an ende my soule waiting for the salvation of God doe make this my last Will and Testament.

Impr. I bequeath my soule to god that gave it to me, and my body to a Christian Buriall, as for my worldly goods I thus dispose of them. I give to my wife Rachel all my estate for as long as shee lives in a widowhood condition. But if it please God that shee chang her condition into a married relation then my Will is that the estate that she then stands possessed of shall be divided & my wife shall have a third part & ye rest of my estate shall be equally divided amongst my four children: That is to say: Henry John Isaac and Sarah Steward. Also my will is that when my wife dies the estate that she stands then possessed of shal be equally divided amongst my foure children. Also my will is that if my son Henry can answer the former legacies to my other three children after my wife’s decease according to ye true proportion of their parts then it shall be in my son Henry’s liberty to keep all ye Lands intire to himself. And I desire my Loving friends Jacob Drake and John Gaylord and John Bissell Junr to be my Overseers to see this my will prformed according to ye premises aforesa’d. This being my full desire and Last Will made and subscribed the last day of May 1662.

John X Stiles²²

The inventory of the estate, made August 6 of 1662, following John’s death on June 4, showed that the land Henry would receive consisted of the home lot with barn and orchard plus 22 acres

¹⁸ J. Hammond Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, Prior to the Union with New Haven Colony, May 1665*, vol. 1, 1636-1665 (Hartford: Brown and Parsons, 1850), pages 1 and 2.

¹⁹ Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, vol. 1, page 108.

²⁰ Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, vol. 1, page 195.

²¹ Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, vol. 1, pages 3, 6, 8, 33, 62, 66, 70, 76, 83, 86, 92, 141, and 149.

²² Will of John Stiles, from Henry Reed Stiles, pages 40-41. Emphasis added.

on the “other side of the highway” and “9 acres of meadow.” The total value of the estate was 222 pounds, 4 shillings. Rachel Stiles died September 3, 1674.²³

3. Third Generation: Isaac and Hannah (Palmer) Stiles²⁴

Isaac Stiles was the first Stiles born in Connecticut, though his exact birth date is not known. Ezra Stiles noted the following about Isaac:

In a Journal kept by the Revd W. Sharp an Episcopal Clergyman in the State of New York in Ld Cornbury’s Administration dated Jany 27. 1710 is this Entry “Baptised Isaac Styles the first male child born in the Colony of Connecticut, a man of 80 years of age.”²⁵

As was noted by Henry Reed Stiles, there is a discrepancy in this claim.²⁶ If Isaac Stiles was 80 in 1710, then he was born in 1630, before his parents came to New England. Probably his age at baptism was overstated either by himself or by the clergyman who baptized him.

Isaac Stiles left Windsor, going first to Wethersfield and then to Stratford. He appears on the land records of Wethersfield in the 1660s with a 1.5 acre lot in town and 52 acres.²⁷ Wethersfield was about ten miles down the Connecticut River from Windsor, the first town south of Hartford (Map 26). Isaac married Hannah Palmer, probably in Wethersfield, for she was the daughter of Henry and Katherine Palmer; Henry, a carpenter, owned land in Wethersfield as early as 1645.²⁸

After 1671 Isaac Stiles moved to Stratford on the Housatonic River, just inland from Long Island Sound. He was not the first Stiles to move there. Three of the sons of his uncle, Francis Stiles, appear to have moved to Stratford from Windsor in the mid-1660s. It is possible that Francis himself moved there.²⁹ Isaac Stiles with 6 acres of land is on a 1699 list of proprietors of the

²³ Henry Reed Stiles, page 40.

²⁴ The account of Isaac Stiles, except where otherwise noted, is based on Henry Reed Stiles, pages 407-409.

²⁵ Ezra Stiles, 1762, page 10, frame 1008.

²⁶ Henry Reed Stiles, page 407.

²⁷ Henry Reed Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut*, vol. 1 (New York: Grafton Press, 1904), page 302.

²⁸ Henry Reed Stiles, *The History of Ancient Wethersfield*, vol. 1, page 302. This is the only place I have seen a surname for Hannah Stiles. When he wrote his Stiles family history (published in 1895), Henry Reed Stiles evidently did not have this information. Oddly, he did not put it in the genealogy for Isaac Stiles that is printed in vol. 2 of the *History of Ancient Wethersfield*, page 667. The volume 1 information was assembled by Sherman W. Adams and recast, enlarged, and edited by Henry Reed Stiles. Information on Henry Palmer is given at vol. 1, page 289, and vol. 2, page 525.

²⁹ Samuel Orcutt, *A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut* (Fairfield County Historical Society, 1886), pages 1296-1301 (genealogies for the Isaac Stiles and the Francis Stiles lines) and William H. Wilcoxson, *History of Stratford, Connecticut, 1639-1939* (Stratford: Stratford Tercentenary Commission, 1939), pages 221-222. The sons of Francis who were in Stratford were Ephraim, Samuel, and Thomas Stiles.

town.³⁰ By 1705 Isaac owned additional land, for on June 26 that year he deeded 24 acres to his son Jonathan Stiles. The deed was conditional: "Provided he looks well after me, sufficient meat and drink, boarding & Lodging & washing & all such necessaries & comforts as I shall need in sickness or health"³¹ Two years later Isaac was one of several men who petitioned the Bishop of London to establish a church in Stratford. If he had been a Congregationalist, he evidently ceased being one and became a communicant of the Church of England at the time of the baptism noted above (1710). Isaac Stiles died at Stratford on January 5, 1715. Hannah survived him, but no death date is known for her.

Isaac and Hannah Stiles had seven children: Isaac, John, Joseph, Sarah, Deborah, Jonathan, and Hannah.³²

4. Fourth Generation: Jonathan and Elizabeth (Taylor) Stiles³³

Jonathan Stiles was born in Stratford, Connecticut, March 10, 1688/9. Although Ezra Stiles had little information about the children of Isaac Stiles, he knew a good deal about Isaac's son Jonathan, whom he described as follows:

Jonathan Stiles - - called Great Jonathan being Six feet & four inches high
Who removed into the Jersies: I saw him when a boy³⁴

In another place Ezra refers to him as "Long Jonathan."³⁵ Henry Reed Stiles quoted Ezra as saying that Stiles men were usually short except "the family . . . produced one Jonathan Stiles, whom I have often seen, one of the largest men for stature in New England"³⁶ Jonathan Stiles lived near Stratford until he was about 40 years old, owning land there, including land conveyed to him by his father, Isaac Stiles. He first married Rebecca Canfield, with whom he had eight children. About 1730 Jonathan and Rebecca migrated to northern New Jersey, settling in the town of Pequannock, in Morris County (Map 26). Jonathan's wife died there in 1731 and he married Elizabeth Taylor, widow of John Stiles, a cousin. Four children were born to this second marriage: Thomas, Ebenezer, Stephen, and Isaac.³⁷

On October 2, 1758, Jonathan Stiles executed his will. The original will survives, as well as the will as recorded. The following is my transcription of the original will.

³⁰ Orcutt, *A History of the Old Town of Stratford*, page 264.

³¹ Quoted from Henry Reed Stiles, *The Stiles Family in America*, page 408.

³² Ezra Stiles, 1764, page 11, lists Isaac's four sons and three daughters. In 1762, page 18, he noted that "in this Line I am not fully informed beyond the second Generation."

³³ The account of Jonathan Stiles is based, except where noted otherwise, on Henry Reed Stiles, pages 505-512.

³⁴ Ezra Stiles, 1764, page 11, frame 9147.

³⁵ Ezra Stiles, 1762, page 12, frame 1009.

³⁶ Henry Reed Stiles, page 505.

³⁷ Ezra Stiles, 1762, page 18, frame 1012, lists only four of the children of Jonathan's first marriage and knows only of "three sons" by the second marriage.

Will of Jonathan Stiles

In the Name of God Amen. The Second Day of October in the thirty Second year of His majesites Reign King George the second &c annoq. Dom one thousand Seven Hundred and fifty eight I Jonathan Stills³⁸ of Pequanack in Morris County & Province of New Jersey yeoman Being weak in Body But of a perfect Disposing mind and memory thanks Be to God for the same: Calling to mind the mortality of my Body & knowing it is appointed for all men once to Dye Do make and ordain this my last will and testament That is to say Principally and first of all I give and Recommend my sole unto the Hands of God that Gave it & my Body to the Earth to Be Buried in a Decent and Christain like manner at the Discretion of my Exr Nothing Doubting But at the General Resurrection I Shall Receive the same again By the mighty Powere of God and as Touching such worldly Estate where with it hath Pleas'd God to Bless me in this life I give and Dispos of The Same in matter and Form Following viz I give and Bequeath that all funirell Charges and Lawful Debts be Paid of mine or contracted By me: But where as heartofore I have Given unto my Sons Joseph & John & Jonathan & Ephrem & Thomas & Ebenezer Stills & my Dafter Hanah Smith fifty Pounds Each. Item I Give unto my Daughter Rebecker Primrose to make up fifty Pounds with what I have all Ready Given her. Item I give unto my Sone Stephen fifty Pounds with what he has all ready had: Item I give unto my Grand Dafter Rebecker Parret five Pounds and If there be anything left of my Estate I Give and Divide it into nine Parts Equely to Give Each of my Sons and Dafters one ninth Part: Except my Dafter Hanah Smith and If She Stands in need to keep her from Being a Charge to the town I order my Exectors to Pay the above Said one ninth Part to Her otherwise I give the above Said one ninth Part unto my Grand Son Daniel Smith and to his heirs forever: I Do hearby nominate and appoint my well Beloved Son Jonathan Stills and my Son inlaw Henery Primrose to Be my Executors of this my last will and testament and have hearby Given them full Power Strength and athority to Sell and convey all my lands whatsoever Either By Parts or the wholl at once and they or the surver [sic] of them By vertue of these Presents to Grant Deeds and conveyancs for the same and they shall be and Remain in as full force in the law as if I my Self had Granted them and if one of them should Dye or otherwise be unable to serve as Executor Before the whole Business is compleately finished I Give to the Remaining one all the Powers in Everything that is now Given to Both and that they [sic] I Do Declare this and no other to Be my last will and testament Revoking and Disallowing all former wills by me made In Witness whereof I have hear unto Set my hand and Seal the Day and year above Written

Signed Sealed and
Delivered in Presents of

Joseph Wood
John Plume³⁹

his
Jonathan Stiles
mark

³⁸ The recorded will also has "Stills" here and as the last name of the sons.

³⁹ Jonathan Stiles Will, Morris County, New Jersey, Packet No. 119N, 1758; photocopy provided by the New Jersey State Archives. The will was recorded in East Jersey Wills, Liber G, page 21; photocopy provided by the New

The will does not mention a wife, so it is likely that Elizabeth Stiles died before her husband. Jonathan Stiles' will was submitted for probate on November 30, 1758. The records of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, New Jersey, give the following entry among burials in First Church Yard:

Nov 15, 1758 Jonathan Stiles, aet. 80.⁴⁰

I visited the cemetery on June 12, 1965. There are many Stiles burials, including at least two of Jonathan's sons. Jonathan Stiles and a son and others are memorialized by a large grey obelisk, about 25 feet high, with his inscription reading "Jonathan Stiles 1678-1758." As with his father Isaac, Jonathan's age appears to have been exaggerated, it appears by 10 years.⁴¹

5. Fifth Generation: Thomas and Abigail (Ogden) Stiles⁴²

Thomas Stiles was the oldest child of Jonathan Stiles and his second wife Elizabeth Taylor. His date of birth is not known, but it was probably in the early 1730s. He married Abigail Ogden, member of a prominent New Jersey family (see Chapter 13). They had eight children: James, David, John, Jacob, Elizabeth, Mary, Rhoda, and Sarah. Some information suggests that Thomas Stiles died as early as 1778; other information places his death about 1802. These and other discrepancies raise doubt about this link in the Stiles family line, but the naming patterns of the Kentucky Stiles family and correspondence and documents in their hands in the 19th century seem sufficient to overcome that doubt.⁴³

Jersey State Archives. It is abstracted in A. Van Doren Honeyman, *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, vol. 32, Calendar of New Jersey Wills, Administrations, Etc., vol. 3, 1751-1770 (Somerville, N. J.: The Unionist-Gazette Assoc, 1924), page 21. Henry Reed Stiles, pages 508-510, transcribes most of the will, correcting the spelling of names.

⁴⁰ "Burial in the First Church Yard," from The Record of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, N. J., viewed at www.rootsweb.com/~njmorris/cemeteries/firstchurch.htm.

⁴¹ Henry Reed Stiles, page 508, notes the discrepancy of 10 years between the age given for Jonathan in the cemetery record and on the memorial and the age as calculated from the record of his birth in Stratford. He assumes that Jonathan's age at death was exaggerated and that he was actually 69 or 70 years old when he died. The compilation of burials by Scott Shepherd of Morristown, 2000, "Who's Who in the Grave Yard [of] The Presbyterian Church in Morristown. Interments of Record Dating from 1731," says that the Jonathan Stiles memorial is at Segment 28, Site 30, of the cemetery, but that Jonathan is actually buried in Segment 26, Site 5. Shepherd's compilation viewed at www.pcmorristown.org/cogwhoswho/index.html.

⁴² The account of Thomas Stiles is based on Henry Reed Stiles, pages 512 and 740-744 and Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 3. The two family historians did not agree on certain significant details about Thomas Stiles. There are some differences in the information, for example, between the date of marriage and the birth dates of children. I have followed the version accepted by the Kentucky family.

⁴³ See letters from Stiles, Kitchell, and Ford relatives in New Jersey to Kentucky members of the Stiles family printed in Pence, pages 21-35.

6. Sixth Generation: David and Elizabeth (Kitchell) Stiles⁴⁴

David Stiles was born in 1760, the son of Thomas and Abigail (Ogden) Stiles. About 1784 David Stiles married Elizabeth Kitchell, member of a prominent New Jersey family (see Chapter 13). They had ten children that survived to adulthood. All of the children were born in New Jersey.

Children of David and Elizabeth (Kitchell) Stiles⁴⁵

- Lewis Stiles, born September 13, 1785
- Charles Stiles, born May 14, 1788
- Eunice Kitchell Stiles, born February 1792
- Densy Stiles, born January 27, 1794
- John Stiles, born September 6, 1796
- Chilion Stiles, born 1798
- Rhoda Stiles, born March 1800
- Abraham Stiles, born 1802
- Demas Stiles, born January 1805
- David Stiles, born February 14, 1807

The standard account of David's life as given in the most recent family history is that he joined the Continental Army at the age of 14 and as a result of his service received a land grant of 5,000 acres in Nelson County, Kentucky, to which he migrated with his family in 1809. Eventually, he divided his land grant among his children.⁴⁶ I have been unable to find evidence to support many aspects of this account, including the nature of his military service, the amount and method of his acquiring land in Nelson County, and the date of his migration to Kentucky.

David Stiles's military service

As to the military service of David Stiles, there is no record of his being in the regular Continental Army.⁴⁷ The evidence is that he was a private in the Morris County, New Jersey, militia. In a 19th century compilation by the adjutant general of officers and men of New Jersey serving in the Revolutionary War David Stiles is listed on the official roster of State Troops and

⁴⁴ The account of David Stiles is based on Lafayette Stiles Pence, pages 3-4, and Lois Ogden Stiles Sparks, pages 32-33, and some personal research. For some reason, none of the family historians have given any details about the migration of David Stiles to Kentucky, other than its date, or documented the particulars of his military service, land ownership, or probate activities regarding an estate. I have attempted to fill in these details.

⁴⁵ Names and dates of birth are from Lafayette Stiles Pence, pages 4-10.

⁴⁶ Lois Ogden Stiles Sparks, page 32. See also, Sarah B. Smith, *Historic Nelson County, Its Towns and People* (Bardstown, Kentucky: GBA/Delmar, 1983), pages 252-253.

⁴⁷ Virgil D. White, *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*, vol. 4, S-Z (Waynesboro, Tn.: The National Historical Publishing Co.), page 2605, lists only one David Stiles, a member of a Connecticut militia regiment.

Militia as a private from Morris County.⁴⁸ A search for records of David Stiles' military service made for me by staff of the New Jersey State Archives located his name on a register of men who received payments through Silas Condict (a prominent Revolutionary leader from Morris County) for "the depreciation of his continental pay in the Morris County Militia."⁴⁹ The phrase "continental pay" may be the source of the story that David was in the Continental Army. It probably indicates that he was owed payment from a source higher than Morris County, presumably from the state of New Jersey or from Congress, because his service was in response to a request by state or national authorities. Whoever placed the military marker on David Stiles' grave in the Union Band Cemetery at Stiles, Kentucky, was more accurate than the accepted account. The marker's inscription is: "David Stiles Pvt New Jersey Mil. Rev. War 1839."⁵⁰

I do not know of any record that indicates the specifics of David Stiles's militia service. The general context can, however, be described. The New Jersey militia was made up of all able-bodied non-exempt men between the ages of 16 and 50, so David was obligated to service from some time in 1776 to the end of the war, assuming that the family history accounts are correct in placing his birth in 1760.⁵¹ Morris County certainly had militia units. The adjutant general's compilation named an eastern and a western battalion of the Morris militia.⁵² Militia from Morris County was known as the best militia in New Jersey.⁵³ Indeed, Morris County has been described as a "crucible of the American Revolution" and a "stronghold of rebellious zeal."⁵⁴

There were ample opportunities for the Morris and other militias to see action. Located between New York City, the primary base of British operations during the war, and Philadelphia, the American capital, New Jersey was a center of military action from 1776 to 1780. After the British drove Washington out of Long Island and New York City (where New Jersey militia were with him) in late 1776, they invaded New Jersey, wreaking devastation from Newark and Elizabeth Town in the east across the state to Trenton and setting up outposts all across the state.

⁴⁸ William S. Stryker, compiler, *Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War* (Trenton, N. J.: Wm T. Nicholson & Co., 1872), page 768. David Stiles is included in the *DAR Patriot Index, Centennial Edition* (Washington, D. C.: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1990), page 2812, and *Lineage Book*, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Washington, D. C., 1936), vol. 151, page 157.

⁴⁹ New Jersey State Archives, Revolutionary War Slip, "Stiles, David." The full text of the slip is: "Received certificate No. 897, dated May 3, 1784, signed by Silas Condict for L0:10:10 [ten shillings and ten pence], for the depreciation of his continental pay in the Morris county Militia. (Militia, 2nd Year, page 238.)" The latter reference is to New Jersey State Archives, Receipts and Register for Interest Paid on Revolutionary War Militia Indents, 1787-1796, page 283; reel no. 184, Series 6, Items 4a-4b. The latter appears to me to be a listing of the interest due on the amount owed to the soldiers, probably indicating that they were owed back pay. Photocopies of both the slip and the register were furnished to me by the Archives.

⁵⁰ I visited the cemetery and photographed the marker on August 26, 1994.

⁵¹ For the militia law see Leonard Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution, The War for Independence in New Jersey* (New York: Octagon Books, 1972; orig. pub. in 1940), page 126, and Mark E. Lender, *The New Jersey Soldier* (Trenton: The New Jersey Historical Commission, 1975), page 13. There were many exemptions and a man could avoid service by hiring a substitute or paying a fine.

⁵² Stryker, *Official Register*, pages 345-346.

⁵³ Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, pages 144 and 242.

⁵⁴ The former description is used by Bruce W. Stewart, *Morristown: A Crucible of the American Revolution* (Trenton: The New Jersey Historical Commission, 1975); the latter by Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution, The War for Independence in New Jersey*, page 156.

Washington withdrew to Pennsylvania, from which he began counter operations by the famous crossing of the Delaware and successful attack on the outpost at Trenton on December 26, 1776. At various major battles fought in New Jersey—Trenton, Princeton, Monmouth Court House, Springfield—militia units were involved, but they were better suited to harass the British. This use of the militia is seen in Washington's December 28, 1776, order to Generals McDougall and Maxwell "who are at Morris Town" to "collect as large a Body of Militia as they possibly can, and whether the Enemy advance or retreat harass them on Flank and Rear."⁵⁵ In these harassing actions, the militia developed the techniques of guerilla warfare, sending out units to strike and then retreat into less accessible areas.⁵⁶ These techniques were also used to hinder British efforts to get provisions for their New York based troops from New Jersey farms. Morristown was an ideal location from which to conduct guerrilla operations. It was a hilly area and was protected on the east and south by a double row of mountains. Its relatively protected location and the Revolutionary loyalty of its citizens made it Washington's choice for winter headquarters in 1777 and again in 1780, though the latter ended up as a worse time for the American army than Valley Forge had been in 1778.⁵⁷

It should be noted that the Revolutionary War years were a terrible time in New Jersey. Almost as bad as the warfare between the British army and the American troops was the bitter struggle between the numerous loyalists in the state and those who favored the revolutionary side. It was truly a civil war and terrible things were done by both sides. The militias themselves did not always behave honorably. They often plundered friend and foe alike.⁵⁸ People changed sides depending on who was prevailing at the time; and informers made certain that loyalists and rebels both paid for their views when one side or the other was in the ascendancy. The end of the war did not bring an end to the animosity that had built up.⁵⁹

David Stiles land and his migration to Kentucky

As to David Stiles receiving a 5,000 acre land grant for his military service, another element of the standard account of his life, that is unlikely for several reasons. In the first place, New Jersey did not offer land grants for military service.⁶⁰ In the second place, a private would not have received such a large grant. In the third place, and most directly, there are no records supporting ownership of anywhere near that many acres of land by David Stiles. What the land records show is that on February 15, 1810, David Stiles of Randolph Township,⁶¹ Morris County, New

⁵⁵ Philander D. Chase, ed., *The Papers of George Washington*. Revolutionary War Series, vol. 7. October 1776-January 1777 (Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 1997), page 468. Militia were often unreliable in battle and often unwilling to leave their home counties to defend other locations. See Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, pages 143-144, 239-244, and 353.

⁵⁶ Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, pages 184 and 319.

⁵⁷ Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, pages 217 and 418-422, and Stewart, *Morristown*, pages 11-13.

⁵⁸ Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, page 219.

⁵⁹ Lundin, *Cockpit of the Revolution*, gives a thorough account of the overall character of the Revolutionary War period in New Jersey.

⁶⁰ Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, "Research in Land and Tax Records," in *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, revised edition, ed. By Loretto Szucs and Luebking (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, Inc., 1997), page 257.

⁶¹ Randolph Township is adjacent to Morris Township and northwest of Morristown. See John L. Andriot, *Township Atlas of the United States* (McLean, Va.: Andriot Associations, 1979), page 410. Andriot gives township

Jersey, purchased for \$1,000 from Christopher Hogland of the same township, county, and state, a tract of 600 acres of land in Nelson County, Kentucky.⁶² The land was described as “on the North Side of the rolling fork [river] opposite the mouth of Otter Creek.” This is, indeed, where David Stiles made his home and where the village of Stiles, now almost disappeared, is located. It is in the southern tip of Nelson County.⁶³ Map 27 shows the general location of David Stiles land.

The date of purchase of the 600 acres calls into question another aspect of the standard account—the date of the migration of the David Stiles family to Kentucky. That account says that the family migrated in 1809, but the land was not purchased until 1810, at which time David was still described as a resident of New Jersey. Moreover, David Stiles does not appear in the 1810 U. S. census for Nelson County, though he is in the 1820 and 1830 censuses for the county.⁶⁴ If the family had migrated in 1809, they should have been enumerated in the 1810 census for the county.

Division of the land; death and burial

Finally, as to the division of his land among his children, there is evidence for his giving part of it to two of his sons. On October 9, 1820, David and Elizabeth Stiles sold 206 acres of their 600 acres to their oldest son, Lewis, for one dollar.⁶⁵ And on March 12, 1838, David sold 135 acres of the 600 to his fifth child and third son, John, for \$50.⁶⁶ The deed described the land as “the same tract of land where as the said David Stiles Jn. [sic] now resides” and contained the following language:

This tract of land is conveyed to the said John Stiles reserving to the said David Stiles and Elizabeth Stiles their life in the same nor is their deed to operate so as to enable the sd John Stiles to enter upon this land unless after the death of both the said David Stiles and Elizabeth his wife without their consent and then only at their will and pleasure.

lines used in the 1970 census. Township lines may have been different in 1810, but the township was doubtless in the same general direction from Morristown.

⁶² Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 9, pages 208-211; original examined at the Office of the Clerk. To locate deed records for David Stiles I checked the deed indexes for Nelson County for 1785 to 1875 at the Office of the Clerk, Nelson County, Bardstown, Kentucky. I also consulted *Abstracts of Deeds, 1758-1808, Nelson County, Kentucky*, compiled by Nelson County Historical Society (Bardstown, Ky., n. d.) and *Abstracts of Deeds, 1803-1818, Nelson County, Kentucky*, compiled by Nelson County Historical Society (Bardstown, Ky., n. d.). The latter lists the transaction cited in this note.

⁶³ DeLorme Mapping Company, *Kentucky Atlas & Gazetteer*, 1st edition (Yarmouth, Maine: DeLorme, 1997), page 61, G7.

⁶⁴ 1820 US Census, Nelson County, Kentucky, page 186. The microfilm image is somewhat obscured, but the entry does not appear to make David old enough, the oldest male being in the category 26-45. David Stiles was 60 in 1820. 1830 US Census, Nelson County, Kentucky, page 114. This entry appears correct: the oldest male and female in the household are in the 60-70 age category. The 1810 census for New Jersey is lost, so it is not possible to check those records to see whether the family was still in New Jersey at the time the 1810 census was taken.

⁶⁵ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 14, pages 147-149; original examined at the Office of the Clerk.

⁶⁶ Nelson County, Kentucky, Deed Book 22, page 15; original examined at the Office of the Clerk.

This delay of the operation of the deed indicates that David Stiles intended to live on his land and to control it until his death, which occurred in December of 1839. The language also implies that his wife Elizabeth was alive at the time the deed was executed. This contradicts the standard account that Elizabeth Stiles died eight years before her husband.⁶⁷ Another story is that Elizabeth died of cholera in Lebanon, Kentucky, while visiting her daughter Eunice.⁶⁸ There are no records of any probate activities relating to David or Elizabeth Stiles.⁶⁹ Evidently by the time of his death David held title to no real property⁷⁰ and had transferred ownership of his personal property.

David and Elizabeth Stiles were buried in the Union Band Baptist Church Cemetery only a short distance from their home. My brother, my wife, and I visited the cemetery and surrounding area on August 26, 1994, and had the good fortune to meet Dorothy (Stiles) Miller, a descendant of David and Elizabeth's son John. She showed us the cemetery and the David Stiles home place, which she owns. Thus the home place has been owned by a Stiles for nearly 200 years. The house standing there now replaced the original house, which burned. A slave cabin remains from earlier times. The David Stiles home site is on a small rise near the edge of the valley of the Rolling Fork River. The valley is flat, but lined with very prominent hills paralleling the river. In the middle of the valley is a large pointed hill known as Mount Pisgah, often referred to in accounts of the Stiles home.

The Union Band cemetery is on a hillside on the north side of the valley. Originally the church was by the cemetery, but was later rebuilt at the foot of the hill and remains there today on State Highway 84. A large modern monument located in the center of the cemetery contains the following inscription:

⁶⁷ The discrepancy could be explained by holding that this deed was not in fact the deed of David Stiles, but of his son, David Jr. In fact, the grantor is referred to as David Stiles Junior three times in the deed. But the grantor cannot be David Stiles Junior. First, there is no evidence that David had prior to 1838 deeded the 135 acres to his son David Jr. Second, it is implausible to think that a man 31 years old (David Jr. was born in 1807) would be selling to a brother but reserving use of the land until his death. Third, David Stiles Junior married first Melora Goodman and second Martha Daugherty. (Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 10, gives only the last names of the wives. The first wife's name is from Daniel McClure, *Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, Kentucky, 1776-1876* (Hardin County Historical Society, 1979, page 754; the second wife's name is from 1850 US Census, Hardin County, Kentucky, page 435, dwelling and family 687.) So he cannot have written a deed referring to Elizabeth as his wife, as David Stiles Senior most certainly could. The best explanation of the use of "Junior" in the deed is that it was an error by the clerk who recorded the deed. He wrote "jun" and "Jr" where the deed said "sen" and "Sr." These are easily confused in handwritten documents.

⁶⁸ Joanne Perkins, a Stiles descendant who lives in New Haven, Kentucky, informed me of this in an e-mail dated July 23, 2007. She has no documentation for the story.

⁶⁹ I searched the General Index to Wills, J-Z, at the Office of the Clerk, Nelson County. The earliest Stiles listed is Lewis Stiles, whose will was probated in 1856 (Will Book 9, page 472).

⁷⁰ Two hundred fifty-nine acres of the 1810 purchase of 600 acres are not accounted for in the deed records I located. Perhaps some deeds were never recorded.

DAVID STILES
1760-1839
Who with his Wife
ELIZABETH KITCHELL
First Ancestors of the
Stiles Family of Kentucky
Immigrants from New Jersey
Settled in this Valley
1809
With their Children

The monument also lists the names of the children. A small field stone with the initials “D. S.” and the year “1839” marks David Stiles’ actual place of burial. Also a marker indicates his Revolutionary War service (noted above).

7. Seventh Generation: Demas and Margaret Ann (Owsley) Stiles

Demas Stiles, the father of Nancy (Stiles) Cooper, was born in January of 1805 in New Jersey. His exact birth date is not known.⁷¹ He was about five years old when the David Stiles family migrated to Kentucky. On July 12, 1828, he executed a bond for marriage to “Peggy Ann Owsley” in Hardin County, Kentucky. Thomas T. Owsley, father of the bride, gave his consent. John Hodgen reported that he performed the marriage on July 24th.⁷² “Peggy” was the bride’s nickname; in later official documents she is named as Margaret Ann Stiles.⁷³

Hardin County was the county immediately west of Nelson County, just across the Rolling Fork River from where David Stiles lived.⁷⁴ Map 27 shows the area. Thomas T. Owsley, Margaret Owsley’s father, was a large land owner in eastern Hardin County, listed in 1829 with 1,200 acres on the South Fork of the Nolin River.⁷⁵ That same year Demas Stiles first appeared on the Hardin County tax list, with three horses.⁷⁶ The lists for 1833, 1836, and 1837 show that Demas owned land, variously described as 350 acres on Valley Creek, 420 acres on the Nolin River, and 410 acres on Nolin River and Bacon Creek.⁷⁷ County deed records show purchases of tracts of 428 acres in 1834 and 187 acres in 1837, the latter described as being on the “Southern Branch of Nolynn [River],” presumably the South Fork of the Nolin River which flows in an easterly direction south of Hodgenville in current Larue County.⁷⁸ A secondary source says that he was in the “Southern Half of Eastern District of Hardin County.”⁷⁹ Thus he was relatively close to the Stiles home place to the east on the border of Nelson and Hardin counties. Two of Demas’s brothers, Abraham and David Jr. also lived in Hardin County, but in the western part of the county.⁸⁰ Both of them apparently remained in Hardin County for the rest of their lives.

⁷¹ The January 1805 date is on Demas’s gravestone (see below), and is given by Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 9, and Lewis Ogden Stiles, page 250.

⁷² Hardin County, Kentucky, Marriage Book A, page 186; original examined at the Office of the Clerk. An image of the record and of the bond and permission are viewable on the Hardin County web site at www.hccoky.org. Both Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 9, and Lewis Ogden Stiles, page 250, erroneously give the marriage date as 1827.

⁷³ Two deeds were executed by “Demas Stiles and Margaret Ann his wife” in 1839, recorded in Hardin County, Kentucky, Deed Book S, page 168 and page 336; original books examined at the Office of the Clerk.

⁷⁴ In 1843, after Demas Stiles had migrated to Missouri, the eastern part of Hardin County became Larue County.

⁷⁵ Hardin County, Kentucky, Tax Assessment Lists 1826-1839, Kentucky State Archives microfilm no. 008014, 1829 List, page 54.

⁷⁶ Hardin County, Tax Assessment List, 1829, page not noted. The next year, 1830, page, 52, he had 4 horses and a slave.

⁷⁷ Hardin County, Tax Assessment List, 1833, page 72; 1836, page 103; and 1837, page 19. Tax lists for Hardin County are missing for 1831, 1832, 1835, and 1838, and fragmented for 1834.

⁷⁸ DeLorme, *Kentucky Atlas & Gazetteer*, page 49, H7, G6, and page 48, G5.

⁷⁹ [Carolyn Wimp, Mary L. Sabetti, Judy Nache,] *Early Hardin County, Kentucky. Census and Tax Lists 1793-1836* (Vine Grove, Ky.: Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Inc., 1998), page 194.

⁸⁰ McClure, *Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, Kentucky*, pages 754-756. David and Abraham lived near Howe Valley (DeLorme, *Kentucky Atlas & Gazetteer*, page 48, D2). David and Abraham appear next to each other in 1850 US Census, Hardin County, Kentucky, page 435, dwellings and families 687 and 688. David appears in the 1860 US Census, Hardin County, page 114, dwelling 769, family 758, and 1870 US Census, Hardin County, page 246, dwelling 96, family 95. According to Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 9, Abraham Stiles died in 1856.

In the spring and fall of the year that his father died, 1839, Demas Stiles sold all of the land he owned in Hardin County, 765 acres, and, presumably after the last sale, moved his family to Johnson County, Missouri.⁸¹ I know of no family tradition of why Demas made this move. The Demas Stiles family was enumerated in Jefferson Township of Johnson County by the 1840 census, with four male children and one female child, age 5-10, the latter being Nancy Stiles, who was six years old in 1840.⁸² Demas Stiles' land transactions in Johnson County are shown in Table 13.

His first purchase appears to have been by deed in 1840 (transaction 1). Then in 1841 and following years he bought 160 acres from the United States (transactions 2, 4, and 5). Almost all of Demas Stiles' land was in Section 10 of Township 44 North, Range 24 West, just east of David Cooper's land, which was in Section 9 of the same township and range. (See Map 25.) The 1850 census of agriculture showed him with 80 acres of improved land and 80 acres of unimproved land, livestock worth \$310, and producing 1,500 bushels of corn in the previous year. In 1860 his land holdings included 100 acres of improved land, 180 of unimproved, with livestock valued at \$1,000, including 12 working oxen, but his corn production of 750 bushels was half of the production of ten years prior.⁸³ There is no evidence that Demas Stiles owned any slaves in Missouri.⁸⁴

Demas Stiles evidently liked Johnson County, though not all had gone well there. On August 7, 1847, he wrote to one of his brothers back in Kentucky.

Dear Brother:

This is the best country in the world. Tell John and Abraham to come.

. . . You ask about my children, I have only one of the last set, James Riley. My wife and children join me in sending you much love. Come and see me.

Your brother,
Demas Stiles⁸⁵

⁸¹ The date of the migration is in both Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 9, and Lewis Ogden Stiles, page 250. It is also stated in the obituary of Nancy Stiles Cooper, *The Windsor Review*, Windsor, Missouri, January 26, 1922, page 2, col. 4. The date of 1839 is confirmed by the dates Demas sold all of his Hardin County land, May 20, September 23, and September 30, 1839. Hardin County, Kentucky, Deed Book R, pages 536-537 and Deed Book S, page 168 and 336-337; original books examined at the Office of the Clerk. I have not located two deed records: (1) the sale of 21 acres to Edmond Branch mentioned in Book S, page 169; and (2) the purchase of the 150 acres he sold which is recorded in Book S, pages 336-337, as having been purchased by Demas from the widow and heirs of Anderson Jeffries

⁸² 1840 US Census, Johnson County, Missouri, Jefferson Township, page 118. The last name is spelled "Styles."

⁸³ 1850 US Census, Johnson County, Missouri, Jefferson Township, pages 687-688 of the agricultural schedule; 1860 US Census, page 55 of the agricultural schedule.

⁸⁴ No slaves owned by Demas Stiles are listed on the 1850 or 1860 slave schedules for Johnson County. The Johnson County tax books for 1860 and for 1864, examined at the Johnson County Historical Society Library, do not show him as having any slaves.

⁸⁵ Printed in Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 33-34, and in Lewis Ogden Stiles, page 137-138. The brother the letter is addressed to is not identified.

Table 13. Land Transactions by Demas Stiles in Johnson County, Missouri

<i>Date, Record</i> ⁸⁶	<i>Action</i>	<i>Acres, location</i> <i>(all in T. 44N, R. 24W)</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Total acres owned</i>
[1] 12-29-1840 Book I, 501	Purchased	80 acres, W1/2 NW, Sec. 11, 80 acres, E1/2 NE, Sec. 10	\$300	160
[2] 2-14-1841 U. S. Pat. 21250	Purchased	80 acres, W1/2 SE, Sec. 10	\$100	240
[3] 4-12-1845 Book G, 70	Sold	80 acres, W1/2, NW, Sec. 11 (purch. in transaction [1])	\$300	160
[4] 8-1-1849 U. S. Pat. 28174	Purchased	40 acres, NE SW, Sec. 10	\$50	200
[5] 3-4-1851 U. S. Pat. 31604	Purchased	40 acres, SE SW, Sec. 10	\$50	240
[6] 8-30-1854 Book T, 252	Sold	30 acres, S pt. SE NW Sec. 10 (purch. in transaction [1])	\$130	210
[7] 5-1-1860 Book W, 233	Sold	1.25 acre, in the NE, Sec. 10 for a school ⁸⁷	\$5	209
[8] 6-18-1866 Book 5, 324	Sold	205 acres, the land purchased in trans. [1], [2], [4], [5]	\$3,240	4

The mention of his son James Riley Stiles “of the last set,” indicates that Demas Stiles was married a second time. In 1843, his first wife, Margaret, died.⁸⁸ According to the histories, his second wife was Tamson Bazzill. The marriage register for Henry County, the county immediately south of Johnson County, records a marriage March 25, 1846, between “Demos

⁸⁶ Reference is to book and page of the Johnson County deed books (Missouri State Archives microfilm nos. C3450, C3451, C3455, C3457, and for transaction [8], the original book was examined at the Johnson County Historical Society Library, Warrensburg) and to patent numbers for the U. S. land purchases (original land entry files examined at the National Archives, Washington, D. C.).

⁸⁷ The school may have been the one later known as Pleasant Green School, but the school was eventually relocated to Section 11, about a half mile southeast of this location. The school is shown in Section 11 on the 1955 U. S. Geological Survey Map for the Windsor, Missouri, quadrangle.

⁸⁸ Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 9, and Lewis Ogden Stiles, page 250, give no specific date for Margaret’s death. The latter says she died four years after the move to Missouri.

Stiles & Tamson Epperson.”⁸⁹ Assuming that the family histories are correct, Demas’s second wife was married to a man named Epperson before her marriage to Demas or the justice of the peace who performed the marriage got her name wrong. The former is more likely, for the 1850 census includes in the household of Demas and Tamson Stiles, who was 27, a nine year old female named Emily Basil and a 20 year old male named John Basil, who were the right age to be Tamson’s siblings.⁹⁰

Demas Stiles had fourteen children, six with his first wife and eight with his second wife.

*Children of Demas and Margaret Ann (Owsley) Stiles*⁹¹

- David Thomas Stiles, born about 1830
- Henry Mason Stiles, born about 1832
- Nancy Stiles, born March 9, 1834⁹²
- John Lewis Stiles, born in 1837
- Demas Stiles Jr., born March 2, 1840
- William Kitchell Stiles, born about 1843

Children of Demas and Tamson (Bazzill) Epperson Stiles

- James Riley Stiles, born September 2, 1847
- Francis Marion Stiles, born about 1850
- Charles Cleland Stiles, born January 23, 1852
- Mary Alice Stiles, born October 10, 1853
- Arabella Stiles, born in 1855
- Sallie Audoxia Stiles, born December 21, 1856
- Eliza Jane Stiles, born March 8, 1858
- George Franklin Stiles, born June 27, 1861

⁸⁹ Henry County, Missouri, Marriage Records, Book B, page 45; original examined at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds.

⁹⁰ The name Bazzill is difficult to trace. It is apparently an English name with many forms, including Baseley, Bazeley, Basil, Bassill, Bazell. P. H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of English Surnames*, rev. 3rd edn. by R. M. Wilson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997), page 30. The only occurrence of Bazzill I have found in the U. S. Census for Missouri is Mary Bazzill, age 32, in the 1860 US Census, Henry County, Big Creek Township, page 262; and the family of George W. Bazzill, age 41, in the 1880 US Census, St. Clair County, Missouri, page 371C, in the same township of St. Clair County that Demas and Tamson Stiles moved to later. Both Mary Bazzill and George Bazzill are the right ages to be siblings of Tamson Stiles.

⁹¹ The children are listed by Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 9 (who does not list Demas Jr.), and by Lewis Ogden Stiles, pages 250-257. These sources give birth dates for only some of the children. I have given estimated years of birth for the others from the census or, in the case of Nancy, another source. The 1850 US Census, Johnson County, Missouri, Jefferson Township, page 34, dwelling 421, family 423, shows all four of the sons of Margaret at home. Nancy was already married and was enumerated with her husband, Henry Cooper. The first two sons of Tamson were also listed. The 1860 US Census, Johnson County, Jefferson Township, page 1031, dwelling 2003, family 2149, shows in addition all of the children of Tamson except Francis Marion, who died young, and George, who was not born yet.

⁹² Date of birth from Nancy’s obituary, *Windsor Review*, Windsor, Missouri, January 26, 1922, page 2, cols. 3-4 and from her gravestone in Laurel Oak Cemetery, Windsor, Missouri, lot 4 (Appendix K).

Although Demas Stiles appears not to have been a slaveholder, four of his sons, David Thomas, John, Demas, and William served the Confederacy, with John dying in service.⁹³

In 1866 Demas Stiles made another big move. On March 29, 1866, he purchased 200 acres on Weaubleau Creek in St. Clair County, the second county south of Johnson County. His land was about six miles southeast of Osceola, the county seat.⁹⁴ It is described in the family history as a bottomland farm, but at least half of it consists of very rough and steep hills lining the creek valley. A few months later Demas sold all of his Johnson County land for \$3,240 (transaction 8). His move separated his family. Three of the four surviving children of his first marriage, including Nancy Cooper, remained in Johnson County, but Demas Jr. and all of the surviving children of his second marriage moved to St. Clair County.

Less than two years after he moved to St. Clair County, on January 12, 1868, Demas Stiles executed his will.

Will of Demas Stiles

In the name of God amen. I Demas Styles St. Clair County state of Missouri being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life do therefore make ordain publish and disclose this to be my last will and testament that is to say first after all my Lawful debts are paid and discharged the residence [sic Will Book has "residue"] of my Estate real and personal I give and bequeath and dispose of as follows—to wit—to my beloved wife the Land and Apertanances [sic] situated thereon including all my real Estate and Personal property to have and to hold aforesaid Real Estate and Personal property so long as she remains my Widow and when my youngest child becomes twenty one years of age if she still remains my Widow (or if not) then my Estate shall be equally divided among my heirs.

I will and bequeath to my son David Thomas, Property valued at Two Hundred (200) Dollars which he has received to be valued against him in the final distribution.

I will and bequeath to my daughter Nancy property in the amount of One Hundred and Seventy five (\$175.00) Dollars which she has already received to be valued against her in the final division.

I will and bequeath to my son Demas property to the amount of one hundred and twenty five (125.00) dollars which he has rec'd to be valued against him in the final division.

⁹³ Lafayette Stiles Pence, page 17, for David Thomas Stiles's Confederate service. Lewis Ogden Stiles, page 252, for the Confederate service of the other three brothers.

⁹⁴ St. Clair County, Missouri, Deed Book K, page 55; original examined at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds. The land is described as the SW quarter of Section 17, Township 37, Range 24, containing, however, 199.76 acres, instead of the usual 160. The land lies between State Highway T and Weaubleau Creek. DeLorme Mapping Company, *Missouri Atlas & Gazetteer*, 1st edition (Yarmouth, Maine: DeLorme), page 43, F9.

I will and bequeath to my son William property to the amount of Forty (40.) Dolls [sic] which he has already rec'd to be valued against him in the final division.

I will and bequeath all my real estate and personal property to my children or their heirs who may be living at the time when the final division of the whole is made to be divided equally between them share and share alike.

I will and bequeath to my son James Riley Property in the amount of One Hundred and twenty five (125.) Dolls which he has recd and to be valued against him in the final division.

Likewise I make constitute and appoint my said wife and Charles P. Philips to be executors of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made in witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal this the twelfth day of January AD 1868.

/s/ Demas Stiles

Witness

William Tucker	St. Clair County Mo
J. J. Hughes	St. Clair County Mo
George W. Martin	St. Clair County Mo ⁹⁵

The youngest child was George Franklin Stiles, who was born in 1861. Thus the main division of the estate was not to occur until 1882, when George would turn 21, at which time specific bequests made in the will were to count against a child's share in the final division.

Demas Stiles's will was submitted for probate on December 13, 1870.⁹⁶ According to the inscription on his gravestone (see below), he had died on December 7th. His wife Tamson was made administrator of the estate and filed an administrator's bond on January 13, 1871.⁹⁷ A month later an inventory of the estate showed real estate valued at \$2,000 and personal property (household furnishings, farm equipment, 18 cattle, 9 horses, 2 mules, 1 jack, 31 sheep, one lot of hogs, and notes due) valued at about \$1,500.⁹⁸ The case file contains numerous vouchers of the various expenses Tamson Stiles incurred as she operated the farm, paid for the upkeep of her family, and settled the last expenses of her husband, including medical, funeral, and legal expenses. Final settlement of the estate was filed on April 14, 1874.⁹⁹ This was much earlier than the will had specified. The final settlement showed a balance of \$890.25 in the estate. There is no indication of further distribution to the children.

⁹⁵ The Will of Demas Stiles, was viewed at the Office of the Circuit Clerk, St. Clair County, Osceola, Missouri, in Probate Case File no. 75. The transcription is of the original will, with emphasis added. The will was recorded in St. Clair County, Missouri, Will Book 1, pages 53-57; Missouri State Archives microfilm no. C5993,

⁹⁶ St. Clair County, Missouri, Probate Case File no. 75, Proof of Will.

⁹⁷ St. Clair County, Missouri, Probate Case File no. 75, Administrators Bond.

⁹⁸ St. Clair County, Missouri, Probate Case File no. 75, Inventory.

⁹⁹ St. Clair County, Missouri, Probate Case File no. 75, Final Settlement.

Demas Stiles was buried in the Doyal Cemetery, about six miles southeast of Osceola on current St. Clair County Road 731. I visited the cemetery on July 23, 2003. It is on level ground on the east side of the road and has been maintained by Stiles descendants. There are a few large trees in the cemetery. The grave stones for Demas Stiles and for his second wife are about 100 feet from the road. The inscription for "Demus Stiles" notes that he was born "Jan. 1805" and that he died "Dec. 7, 1871." The year of death is off by one year. Demas died in December of 1870, as the probate records show. The stone for Tamson Stiles gives her birth date as June 24, 1822, and her date of death as May 16, 1885.¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ The Doyal Cemetery is inventoried in *St. Clair County Cemeteries* (St. Clair County Historical Society, 1999), volume 2, page 124. The inscription for Tamson Stiles is listed, but not the inscription for Demas Stiles. Demas's grave stone appears to have been recently repaired, so it was probably not in the cemetery at the time the inventory was made.