# Biographical Sketch of Rebekah Greaer Vaughan, Missouri Pioneer

By Helen Vaughan Michael



Leaving Tennessee and the Clinch River Valley, Looking Back

## **Introduction to My Vaughan Narratives**

... Enquire I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of thy fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow. . . Job, IX: 8 & 9. KJV

In my search for ancestors I have been aggravated by finding that--this record exists here and that record exists there, and that there exists family talk linking the two, but, no paper trail between them can be found. Recent news that in Texas old boxed up paper files are turning to dust means that more written family history could be disappearing. Add these to files that have gone up before in the fire and smoke of homes, churches, courthouses, and government buildings. Most of my family trees have suffered heavily from such losses.

The Vaughans suffered the least. Thanks to my great-great grandmother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, one of the branches of my family tree left a fine paper trail to accommodate my talkative kin and my need to write down everything I hear. Sometimes I see a story emerge from what I've heard and what has been written, and most of the time the spoken word and the written word actually match up and form a fact about the Vaughans. Then, the loose ends, when played with, and trailed through American history, can turn into quite a yarn. Being in love with the English language, I spin words into my stories for fun. Loving history, I write to record what facts are still readable, combine them with stories Vaughan chroniclers have told, and in effect, use facts for fun and family. Along the way a photo or relic or letter has turned up here and there to help sort out the fibs from the facts. The final result is--my folks get to take up a page in the annals of their nation's history, which, though un-named, they helped to make. Sometimes, as in the case of James L. Vaughan, they should have been named . . . .

The whatifs, the wudduh-cudduh-shudduhs, and the maybes expressed in my stories are products of a blend of curiosity and imagination and are intended to provide interest and provoke my descendants, and others, to keep digging before all they have to dig through is ashes and dust. The views expressed and the questions I raise are my own. Tim Childress provides a repository at his website, http://www.childresscousins.org, to preserve my old-fashioned, often flowery, ramblings in case I am on to something. Being deeply motivated by belief in a spiritual world—motivation that might be viewed in some circles as insanity—I always feel one ancestor or another may be reading over my shoulder, saying, "It's about time."

Helen Vaughan Michael 9/20/2013 Rebekah Greaer Vaughan, daughter of John Vaughan, was given an Irish name in Nancy Callicott Vaughan's Daybook; both she and actress Greer Garson have Irish ancestors-- two lasses named Greer. The name of the actress came from her grandfather in Castlewellan, County Down, Ireland. Perhaps John Vaughan took his Irish mother's maiden name and, likewise, bestowed it upon Rebekah.



#### Rebekah Greaer



Beginning in 1801 Thomas Jefferson oversaw the expansion of the United States from sea to shining sea. With the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in1803 and--to explore the new purchase--the launching of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804, he provided a whole new world for our pioneering ancestors. During those years, Rebekah Greaer Vaughan was just a toddler exploring the Tennessee home of her parents, John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan, but one day she would leave them and her siblings and head out into these western lands which Thomas Jefferson's policies opened up for her.

There is a kind of symmetry in her history flowing with the history of the nation. Her journey began with her father's service in the American Revolution. First of all, John Vaughan and a man named Robert Livingston served in a Maryland Artillery unit together. John was serving with an artillery company from Maryland when twenty-five year old Robert Livingston, signed on. Robert Livingston's service record says that he came from the State of New York, Albany County, but he was born in Maryland, so he enlisted in the Maryland Company. He continued to serve with John until the close of the American war.

The end of the war was just as much a time of beginnings. A western valley in the Clinch Mountains with a river running through its pristine meadows and woods had been painted to sound like a

dream. Perhaps the final encampments of the two men were turned into gathering places where the waiting and watching soldiers like themselves talked about hopes and dreams for their families--and of families in the future-living in the new, free country for which they had fought. (Excerpts from: Sergeant John Vaughan, a Soldier of the American Revolution)





After the war, Robert Livingston returned home with John as far as Annapolis, Maryland, but he continued on from there to Albany. New York where the name. Robert Livingston, was famous. It was on the door of the governor's mansion, and in 1776 it had been one of five names that appeared final draft of the Declaration of Independence Thomas which Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston--of Albany, New York—presented to the Continental Congress for consideration.

(Pictured, above, John Trumbull painting of 1776 drafting committee,

consisting of John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut, to write a declaration of independence.)

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For his part, John Vaughan eventually headed toward the western valley of pristine meadows and forests in the river valleys of the Clinch Mountains. In April of 1803, while his daughter Rebekah was toddling around in his new Tennessee home, the Louisiana Purchase Treaty was signed by Robert Livingston, the former Governor of New York, and plans were made for the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore and chart the territory. Maps of the times refer to that part of North America as Parts Unknown, places where, one day, Rebekah, a sister, and three of her brothers would trod.

Rebekah was the fourth child of John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan. (*Daybook, p1, left, and Detail, below, right*.) Rebekah Greaer is the name her mother wrote in her daybook, but in time Rebekah was spelled in a variety of ways. Rebekah's middle name, Greaer, being an Irish name, could be a clue to the maiden name of John Vaughan's mother. According to family lore, both John and his mother were born in Ireland and immigrated to America in the 1760's. Greer is a famous name in Castlewellan, County Down, Ireland and was also common in Londonderry County. An Andrew Greer was on record in the register's office in Nancy Callicott's childhood hometown of Charlottesville, and a few

Kelukak grever Was Bors Sune Min 94 day 1800 Greers made the move west into Tennessee with other pioneers of the time. Perhaps when her parents named Rebekah, they were honoring an Irish immigrant ancestor of one of these families.

#### THE IRISH CAMPHOR BOTTLE,

a Vaughan Family Story, as told by Helen Vaughan Michael

#### **PREFACE**

"In the year 1907 it seemed good to me to write a sketch of information relative to the Chaney Family for the consolation and interest of the members who are now living, and their descendants, in order that they may trace relations back as far as they desire and that they may know who their ancestors were and something about them...." Henry Watson Chaney, at age 61.

This, I think, is a good idea. As Chaney did, I hope to write as accurately as memory serves concerning stories the old ones told me long ago when, before tv, oral history was a fascination and entertaining. Henry Watson did this for the Chaney branch of my family, now I'll try to do the same for the Vaughan stories I know. . .

Sitting at the feet of my grandpa, or in his lap, I listened with a child's wondering heart to Pa's tales of travel, adventure, and family. I even loved his name—Sam Houston Vaughan. Nowadays, remembering his stories, I can read on the internet from files and histories and can recognize a member of his family—and mine. As I puzzled over a 1762 grandpa named John Vaughan and wondered about his place in our family, John spoke up for himself. ...He wanted to get married—the bride-to-be was Nancy Callicott—and they filled out their forms. This 18th century John Vaughan put down that he was born in 1762 and that he was born in Ireland, and as I now read his record, it is clear that he was Pa's Irish John Vaughan, and mine.

Pa's American family history begins perhaps in 1765 with a man whose first name I don't know for sure. From my research, I'm guessing, and hoping, his name is also John. On an Immigration Passenger List at a Baltimore port, there is a John Vaughan; according to Pa's details this John Vaughan could be his great-great-grandfather who came to this country on a big boat, bringing with him a wife who was carrying a youngster on her lap as they crossed the big sea. The family of this Great-great-Grandfather Vaughan, Pa told me, carried with them an apothecary jar of old Irish glass filled with camphor. Pa was proud of being Irish and loved all things Irish, and now, in the 1940's, the camphor bottle he was telling me about, he held in his own hands, handed down through his family from grandmothers, Nancy Callicott, Malvina Church, and Sarah Snodgrass Vaughan, one after another, to their sons.

Sometimes he let me hold it; mostly though, I just got to look at it. I knew it was important to Pa and that he loved to talk about its trip to America.

Today, I own the camphor bottle from Ireland, and I hope to find out about its original owner. I hope the name of the man who brought it over is named John Vaughan and that he arrived at a dock in Maryland in 1765. Pa is Sam Houston Vaughan (1869-1965, m.Lunette

Chaney), son of George Washington (1846-1920, m.Sara Snodgrass), the son of Samuel N(1814-1863 m.Malvina Church), the son of John (1762-1842, m.Nancy Callicott), the son of an Englishman who possibly got off that boat in Maryland with a wife and son who were born in Ireland, carrying a bottle of Irish glass full of camphor.

Pa's story and a picture of him with Ma appeared in The Gainesville Daily Register (of Texas) about 26 June 1953. (Photo, Right—note bottle in left hand) It was their 60th Anniversary. He is holding his precious bottle.



The story and photo are also published in **George Washington Vaughan and Descendants**, compiled by Opal Francis Vaughan, 1985.

I listened to these stories as a very small child—less than six years old. But, I have a memory that goes back to lace window curtains blowing in a breeze against my baby crib, and I heard these stories more than once, and to me they were exciting. Pa was an orator with a great voice. Over and over again I would climb into his lap and beg for a story or a song, urgently tugging at his suspender straps—or gallouses, as he called them. He would feign a lack of interest, protesting that he had told me this or that story a hundred times. "You're more trouble than you're worth," he might tease, then, he'd tell his tale. He was very old, but he had a good memory too.

Pa's story: Pa told me that a long time ago his grandfather's family lived in the faraway land of Eire/Ireland. His Ma and Pa and brothers and sisters and everybody. Then one day some of them wanted to go somewhere else, so here they came. One of them was just a little boy, "...just about your size," he told me. (I was not yet school age.)

The trip was frightening to the child, he continued. The big water. The big boat with the loud, popping sails. The big wind. The sailors with mean voices. At this point my grandmother might interject that I should never get on a boat—never mind that we lived in Texas at the onset of a drought of biblical proportions. These stories were so powerful to me that when I was grown and went on family outings to water ski at Lake Texoma, I always looked to the heavens and apologized to my grandmother, who was certainly watching over me. Not only that, I was in high school before I knew you weren't supposed to call a ship a boat. Pa could tell a powerful story. The fears of little John, clinging to his mother's lap the entire time he was crossing the ocean made me snuggle close to my grandpa.

Later on, Pa's Great-Grandfather John, the frightened youth on a mother's lap—on a ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean—made his own stories to tell. When he was fifteen he became a gunner in the American Revolution, and he--and his medicine bottle--made it through six years of war, unscathed. (see: Sergeant John Vaughan, Soldier of the American Revolution.)

I didn't know what "Irish" was but I knew Pa was proud of being Irish because he said so all the time. My mother—his daughter-in-law—used to argue with him that he was not Irish. "You're not Arish," she'd say, and he'd faithfully reply, "I guess I ought to know where my own folks came from." (I don't know what she knew, but she did like to argue.) Then one day, in a real touch of drama, Pa handed down his Irish camphor bottle to Mother. Not to Daddy, his son, but to his argumentative daughter-in-law. Later on, in a gesture that seems even stranger to me, she gave it to me. Today, I sometimes wonder what it was like when it was given to John--and then. . . Nancy, his wife, gave it to their son Samuel; then, Samuel's wife Malvina gave it to their son, George Washington; then, George Washington's wife Sarah Caroline gave it to their son, Sam Houston. Because he was said to be his mama's favorite son, I wonder if that's how it was decided for all the other sons. I wonder did it mean so much to any one of them as it meant to Pa.

#### **EPILOGUE**

No record of John Vaughan's parents has ever been found. For him to have joined the Revolution so young, perhaps he was an orphan, but perhaps not. Most of his fellow soldiers were young also. Where ever his parents were, an anchor to them, or to a kind caretaker, was his Irish camphor bottle. Someone kept it safe through five years of war. Perhaps at least his mother, who had brought the bottle from Ireland, was alive and, as a female, simply impossible to trace.

I now recall Pa's Irish tale with a sense of joy. How happy it would make him to know that he has an audience. I wish I had his eloquence, his style, his voice; then the "listener" could enjoy his story even if in the wings they had a tv show waiting to be watched.

Rebekah Greaer was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee, lived for a long while in Virginia after she married and started a family, and life's final journey ended for her in Missouri. She died in Missouri, and she is buried in that state in Barry County's King Cemetery.

After the wedding of Rebekah's parents, John and Nancy Vaughan resided in Halifax, Virginia with their two little boys, James L. and Beverley. After Tennessee became a state, they moved from Halifax about the year 1800, and came to Hawkins County to a spot near the Virginia border. This northernmost part of Hawkins County was later changed to Hancock. They settled near the Clinch River close to the Virginia neighborhood of Rebekah's future husband, John Roller.

Rebekah was a child growing up on the frontier--she had a brother who was older than the State of Tennessee. Folks were clearing the land for their farms, using the felled trees to build houses, barns, fences, furniture, trading posts, churches, schools, and jails—until they had built communities in which they could raise their children. The Vaughans were true pioneers.

Children worked at vital jobs in the nation's budding

agricultural industry, but they didn't have to give up their childhood to earn their keep, and pioneer families with a lot of kids considered themselves lucky. Parents were free to do the heavy chores as their small ones fed the chickens and yard birds, gathered eggs, picked berries and beans, and even helped in the fields where they could. Working in the fields, they enjoyed the excitement of discovering arrow heads, catching bugs. chasing butterflies, and picking herbs and wildflowers. Rebekah would join her older sister, Mary Polly, and later on help the younger Nancy with the laundry, cooking, cleaning, sewing, and tending smaller siblings. Her mother could read and write, and evidence that pen and paper were ever-present in the home suggests that Nancy



1800 Log Timbers of Vaughan Home



1998 Vaughan Homestead, still standing. Photo courtesy of Mabel Harp.

Callicott was her children's frontier teacher. Several of Rebekah's siblings left written documents, but sadly, her records say that she never learned any literary skills. Her father had been able as a teenage gunner on a 1778 cannon to figure amounts, velocities, and trajectories—a headful of numbers and scientific facts—but he was also illiterate.

It must have felt strange, growing up in a house where people were reading and writing when she was unable to do so herself. Still, her sister Mary Polly was about her own age, so she always had a playmate. Surely they had dolls and may have claimed a favorite spot in the woods, or down by the creek, where they could play house—or even school. Furthermore, a number of musicians have shown up amongst the descendants of the Tennessee Vaughans, typical of Tennesseans—as have orators and storytellers, so perhaps there were songs sung and stories told by children who could not handle the written word and put pen to paper. After all, stories can be told and songs can be sung over work and play.

Like Mary Polly, Rebekah, being an older daughter, would have spent a lot of time in the kitchen. It was a busy place.

In latter day images of the old Vaughan home of hewn logs, and according to visitors who have seen it, the kitchen seems to have been attached to the house at some later time. Because of kitchen fires, and in part to contend with summer heat, many frontier families built their homes with separate summer kitchens.





Two sides of the Kitchen—Front, restored/remodeled (1997), and Back, before restoration (1985).

Not only would the family's meals be prepared and eaten in the kitchen, the food itself was processed in the kitchen. Milk had to be strained and separated before it was turned into buttermilk, yogurt, and cheese, and the cream churned into butter, and then it all had to be stored. Meat had to be cured, sliced, chopped, or ground—after it was skinned or plucked, before it was baked, boiled, roasted, smothered, stewed, or fried. On a kitchen doorstep the feathers of many a goose got plucked by the nimble fingers of farm girls like Rebekah, who then saved the precious fluff to stuff them into soft beds and pillows. In the wills of fathers of this time, it was not unusual for beds to be handed out as if they were treasures.

Rebekah may have picked peppers, herbs, and spices from a kitchen garden growing just outside the back door. And after meals, when she was through helping her mother and Mary Polly clean up, perhaps there was time to chase fireflies outside in the yard and play games with the other brothers and sisters in the evening twilight.

After Rebekah, for the next eighteen years there was always a little brother or sister.

Benjamin, Nancy, and Mahala came next, and in 1808 their Virginian aunt, Dicey Callicott
Vaughan Ford, moved into their Hawkins neighborhood. Perhaps it was Aunt Dicey who helped with the birth of new nieces and nephews, for after 1808 the handwriting changed as the name and day of birth were entered in Nancy's baby book. Nancy's big sister was no doubt a welcome help with her growing brood of Vaughans.

The birth of three more brothers—John Jr., Samuel N., and George Washington, along with their sister Martha, filled up the home by 1820.

Then, just as it filled up, the nest began to empty. The two oldest brothers, James L. and Beverley, moved westward toward the lands Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Lewis and Clark opened up for them. James L., a Captain in the Texas Revolution of 1836, kept up the winning of the west, while the sons of Beverley fought and died in winning the 1848 War with Mexico, growing the nation ever nearer to its Pacific horizon. Mary Polly married in the early twenties, and Rebekah was eighteen when she and John Roller got married. So close were their marriage dates, she and Mary Polly could have had a double wedding. Rebekah may have beaten her older sister to the altar. While Mary Polly stayed put in Hawkins County, Rebekah's wedding in Scott County, Virginia was a first step on her way to Missouri.

Mystery surrounds Rebekah and John Roller's Virginia marriage record in which her name is listed as Rebekah Fallin. The Fallin name, in fact, commonly appears on Virginia census lists, and the Fallins were numerous in Scott County.

U.S. and International Marriage Records,

1560-1900

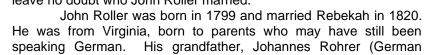
about Rebekah Fallen

Name: Rebekah Fallen Gender: Female Birth Place: TN Birth Year: 1801

Spouse Name: John Roller Spouse Birth Place: VA Spouse Birth Year: 1799 Marriage Year: 1820 Marriage State: VA

The error, if there was one, may be from both pronunciation and script at the time of application. Falsifying records, and using an alias, however, did occur in this family from time to time. No records

have been found to explain her changed name, but future records leave no doubt who John Roller married.



spelling for John Roller) was not long off the boat, *Patience*, a ship of immigrants from Germany; the Germans were, in part, recruited by William Penn to come settle his colony in Pennsylvania. Johannes

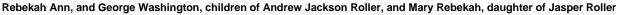
did come early enough to become a patriot of the Revolutionary War, serving as a

private of the 3rd Virginia Regiment. It is said that this Johannes Roller who migrated from Pennsylvania to Rockingham and Shenandoah Counties with his wife Anna is the father of all the Rollers of Scott County, Virginia. Because of county lines which changed with population growth—as with Hawkins and Hancock in Rebekah's Tennessee neighborhood, children--such as her 1799 John Roller--who were born in Rockingham or Shenandoah Counties, had alternating places of birth attached to their names. His family did not move from Rockingham County to Shenandoah County, instead, the part of Rockingham County in which his folks lived was changed to Shenandoah County, then to Lee, and in 1814 changed for good to Scott County. The resulting confusion of these county name changes is reflected also in the birth records of Rebekah Vaughan Roller's babies.

Sometime before 1809, three of Johannes Roller's sons--Jacob, Casper, and John E.—were living in Lee County, Virginia, the part that became Scott County in 1814. Casper—Rebekah's future father-in-law, and Jacob, lived and died in Scott County. John's other uncle, John E., however, moved to Hawkins County, Tennessee and later on to Barry County, Missouri, where he died. Perhaps it was through Uncle John E. that Rebekah met her John. The couple also ended up in Barry County.

They had ten children, all born in Virginia. Jasper, their first son, was born in 1820. Nine more children would be born over the next twenty-four years. Their sons and daughters, in addition to Jasper, with uncertain birth dates are: Andrew Jackson 1822; George Washington 1824; Amos 1826; Elizabeth 1828; Mary Polly 1833; John 1839; Lucinda 1840; Patrick 1841; Philip 1844. Their dates vary from record to record, but sometime after Philip's birth the family moved to Missouri. There were ten Roller weddings, and before long Rebekah was a grandmother many times over.

## Three Faces of Grandchildren of Rebekah Greaer Vaughan Roller





Like her mother before her, Rebekah doesn't seem to have lost a baby, but sadly, she was to outlive most of her adult children. In the 1840's Rebekah still lived near enough to Hawkins County to be remembered in her father's will.

Hawkins County, Tennessee, USA
I, John Vaughan, do make this my last Will & Testament:
Ninth. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Rebekah Roller \$1.00.
. . . . This 27th day of December, 1841.
John his x mark Vaughan

John Vaughan died in July of 1842. Since there is a settlement of Casper Roller's will on the 11th of October that fall, her father-in-law must have died as well:

### 11 day of October 1842

Casper Roller Settlement-Scott County Virginia Book 7 page 90-91

Articles of an agreement made and entered into this 11th day of October, 1842 between John Roller, Phillip Roller, Amos Roller, and William Lewis, Heirs and distributors of Casper Roller Dec'd of the one part, and Elizabeth Roller widow of said Casper Roller Dec'd of the other part, witness that the said heirs and distributors have this day made a settlement with the said widow by which settlement they have given the said widow the following property as her share of the property of the said Casper Roller and which she the said widow hereby receives as her portion of said estate to wit one Clay Bank mare, one cow, and yearling, six head of sheep, seven head of hogs, one spinning wheel, one bed, fifty dollars in money, and fifty acres of land being the tract of land on which William Herd now lies situated in Scott County, Virginia on the North waters of the North fork of the Clinch River to be held by the said Elizabeth Roller during her natural life and the said heirs bind themselves to build the said widow a good comfortable dwelling house on said land by the first of March. the house is to be sixteen or eighteen feet square, plank floors, good door, and windows with lights, and good chimney, and the house is to be furnished comfortable and the said heirs are to furnish the said widow with sufficient corn and meat till middle of October next and two of the above hogs are to be used as part of the meat, and the heirs are to let the widow have a reasonable quantity of coffee for use to wit twenty pounds. In witness whereof the said parties set their hands and seals this 11 day of October 1842.

John Roller-Seal Phillip Roller-Seal Amos Roller-Seal William Lewis-Seal Elizabeth Roller-Her Mark Thus, when John Roller's grandfather, Johannas Rohrer, died in 1816 he left John's father, Casper, some property. Johannas wrote, in part, that all real estate was to be sold and that the proceeds were to be divided between all the children, which he named--Jacob, Casper, Catharine, Mary, John, Barbara, Rachel, Paul, Andrew, George, Margaret, Sarah, Michael, David, Peter—singling out his son, Paul Roller, "...whose share is to be \$200 less than any of his brothers or sisters. This deduction I make from his share in consequence of his disobedience to me, ... before he come of age and taking up with a woman of profligate character."

In 1841, Casper presumably had something left of his inheritance to leave John and Rebekah.



On a future census list, John's mother, Elizabeth Roller, can be found living alone, perhaps enjoying her little house with its plank flooring, a sturdy door, glass windows to look out upon the world, and a safe fireplace to cook over and to keep her warm in winter.

Pictured--Left, replica of a small frontier cabin, with snake-rail fence.

# Leaving the Clinch River Valley, Looking Back

During the 1850s the times, people, and borders in Tennessee were changing with the rest of the growing nation. Stephen A. Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854 opened up Kansas as a territory and set the stage for a six year preview of the incivilities of the Civil War. The Missouri-Kansas border area was already primed for neighbor going against neighbor when Rebekah's family arrived in southwestern Missouri on the very frontier of Bleeding Kansas.



The times had certainly changed for Rebekah. In 1858 with Civil War coming, her mother died in September. By that time, she, along with four of her siblings, had gone west. Some say the Rollers settled in Barry County, Missouri as early as 1850.

Her brother George Washington was said to be living near Nashville, Martha's family was in Knoxville, and Beverley had been seen in Arkansas, probably by his older brother. Neighbors reported that James L. had earlier come home from Texas for a visit, but he had left by the time of his mother's death. In their mother's 1858 pension application, Benjamin spoke of his sister Rebecky moving to Missouri, and then, on the eve of the war, Benjamin, himself, took his family to Texas.

These Vaughan children were following the American migration west toward cheaper lands which the earlier frontiersmen had inspected for them fifty years before. Since they already owned farms in Virginia and in Tennessee, they may have naively been looking for a place to live out a war in peace.

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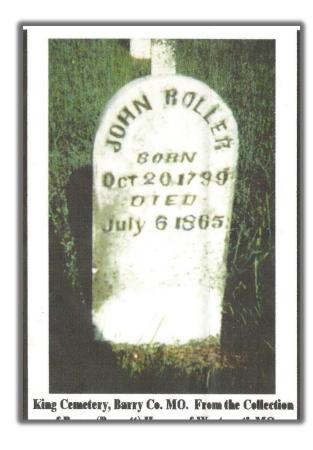
## Rebekah in 1860 Barry County, Missouri

A piece of the explored lands from the Louisiana Purchase became the State of Missouri in 1821. Because slave-holders boating up the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers settled the area, Missouri entered the Union in 1821 as a slave state as agreed in the Missouri Compromise of 1820, in which it was said that no state north of Missouri's southern border with Arkansas could enter the Union as a slave state. Maine entered the Union as a free state in the deal to even up Missouri's entrance. All this had taken place as Rebekah was marrying the German American, John Roller, and starting her family.

By 1850, Missouri's southern hordes began to be replaced by a diversified non-slaveholding population, including many, many German immigrants which Rebekah's family joined and was surely considered a part. By 1860, with war approaching, most people in Missouri wanted to stay out of the conflict by remaining in the Union, but as a neutral state. Since there are no records of military service for her sons, maybe Rebekah's family was able to maintain some degree of neutrality, but unfortunately the war did not stay out of Missouri, and Rebekah's children and grandchildren would not know the idyllic childhood she and her siblings had known growing up in the pristine meadows and woods alongside a creek curling through the Clinch Mountain ridges and valleys of Hawkins County, Tennessee.

For some reason German families congregated in Barry County, Missouri. According to family research, when the Rollers settled in Barry in 1850 they lived in Sugar Creek Township with a number of Arnhart, Earnheart, Ehrendheardt, etc. Germans. Several marriages would be contracted out of this Roller-Arnhart community, and some of these unions lead back to members of Rebekah's family of Vaughans. The Roller-Arnhart link had actually begun earlier in Perry, Tennessee when Jacob Roller's son, Jacob Wesley, married Catharine Arnhart. Jacob Wesley is John and Rebekah's nephew, and Catharine Arnhart is the future aunt-in-law of Rebekah's Tennessean nephew, George Washington Vaughan, Sr., born in 1846 to her brother Samuel N. and his wife, Malvina Church Vaughan. The branches of the Roller-Vaughan-Arnhart family tree were starting to look more like a tangled vine.

In 1860 Rebekah's residence was Sugar Creek, Barry County, Missouri, Post Office--Washburn Prairie. Four children still lived with her and their father; their birth dates vary considerably from census to census-- Mary 22; Lusinda 20; Philip 16; and Patrick E. 19 with his wife, Rahanah 19. The son of Samuel N., would later come to live in the same neighborhood. This nephew was George Washington Vaughan, and he and members of his Sugar Creek family would not only merge with members of the Arnharts, but later on, some Deckards in Grayson County, Texas. These Deckards just may be the lost family of Rebekah's sister, Mahala. Mahala Vaughan Deckard died in Tennessee in the 1830's, leaving hardly a trace. Incidentally, among the Roller, Deckard, and Arnhart families there are several females named Mahala— notably true for the family of John Roller's uncle, John E., who lived in Hawkins County before moving out west.



of her adult children, and, sadly enough, she became a widow in 1865, at the end of the Civil War, when John Roller died. He is buried in King Cemetery, Seligman, Barry County, as are at least four of their children. Although in 1860 the Roller estate—both real and personal—was worth \$3,300, after the death of her husband no value is listed for the widow Rebekah's estate. She has a house, so fortunately she is not a homeless widow. Five years later, with all but four of her own children gone, she has an interesting young woman from Tennessee listed in the home with her. Polly George, 25 and single, with her children—John T., 7, and George W., 2--is living with her. Rebekah's address is still Sugar Creek, and her Post Office is Cassville. The relationship of Polly George and Rebekah is unclear, but the link to her may be her nephew. George Washington Vaughan from Tennessee, who lives two houses down from her. He's twenty-three, with his young family, and it is known that he has an illegitimate son somewhere named George Washington who would be two years old that summer. Some attempts have been made to list Polly George as Rebekah's Mary Polly, but she is ten years too young and hails from Tennessee—not Virginia, where Rebekah's Mary Polly was born. Nevertheless, Miss George later marries another

Rebekah, herself, would have to bury several

Tennessean, James Coward, and after she dies, her gravestone, which reads Polly Coward, is unexplainably linked to John and Rebekah Roller.

# 1870

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In 1867 someone who could be Rebekah's true daughter, Mary Polly, married Francis Marion Skelton in Arkansas, and in 1870 the Skeltons have their very own Seligman, Barry County, Missouri address, and it's not far from where Rebekah and Miss George are staying. It's after the war, and the

Skelton family has an interesting Union soldier and his wife living with them--James Ireland 29, and his wife Sarah 23. Ireland served with an infantry unit from New York; when he came out west he became a teamster in Missouri. There is a certain symmetry here: ten years later a stagecoach driver is lodging in the Skelton house, where, in 1880, Rebekah is also staying—a teamster and a stagecoach driver, two iconic stars of westward expansion whose very job it was to keep people moving west. Rebekah, in the sunset of life, and well-settled in Missouri, is now an aging bystander as such men as these—without whom the roads to the Pacific Ocean would have never been laid—moved the next generation, ever westward, into the horizon of eons of setting suns. Teamsters who drove the wagons, stage drivers who taxied the travelers, pony express riders and telegraphers who kept lines of pioneer communication open, and finally railroad men who laid rails all the way to Jefferson's other shining sea—all continued the western voyage on which Rebekah had booked an early passage.

Later records strongly indicate that Mrs. Mary Polly Roller Skelton is Rebekah's niece. Niece or daughter, before the 1880 census was taken, Rebekah did move in with Mary Polly and the Skeltons. That year there was an immigrant from Germany staying with the family named John Pope, the stage driver. Francis Marion and Mary Polly had been blessed with four children, who, hopefully, delighted the elderly pioneer woman in her final years. Three years later Rebekah Greaer Vaughan Roller died, and she is buried beside her husband in King Cemetery, Seligman, Barry County, Missouri.

# The End





## **Timeline for Rebekah Greaer Vaughan**

Daughter of John Vaughan 1762 - 1842 and Nancy Callicott 1777 - 1858

1802 24 Jun Birth

Hawkins County, TN, USA Second daughter. Rebekah Greaer was Bornd June this 24 day 1802. (1801 altered to 1802) Daybook, page 1.

1812 Age: 10 Childhood Hawkins Co

1820 Age: 18 Marriage VA, U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900

1820 Age: 18 Marriage to John Roller Virginia, United States

1820 - 1859 Jasper Roller born

1822 - 1897 Andrew Jackson Roller born

1824 - 1865 George Washington Roller born

1826 - 1889 Amos Roller born

1828 - 1883 Elizabeth Roller born

1836 - 1860 Lucinda Roller born

1838 - Mary Polly Roller born

1839 – 1864 John H Roller born

1841 -- 27 Dec Age: 39 Father's Will

1841 - Patrick E Roller born

1842 -- Death of father

1842 -- Death of John Roller's father

1844 - 1863 Philip Roller born

1844 Age: 42 Residence

Scott Co, Virginia. Philip Roller, Rebekah's last child, was born in VA. All of her children are listed as b. VA, back to her 1820 VA marriage. Scott VA was across the fence from Hawkins

1850 - Family Iore, no data, Age: 48 Residence

Barry County, Missouri USA Abt 1850 Rebekah's children and grandchildren's addresses began changing from VA to MO.

1858 Age: 56 Residence

Missouri, USA State of TN, Co of Hancock-- on this 28 day of May AD 1858 appeared Benjamin Vaughan, duly-sworn doth on his oath say.... Rebecky lives in the State of MO the last account. In witness, Benjamin Vaughan (Affidavit, NCV's Pension application 1858)

1860 Age: 58 Residence

Sugar Čreek, Barry, Missouri, United States 1860 Census abt Rebeacca Roller 59 b abt 1801TN; Home in 1860: Sugar Creek, Barry, MO; PO: Washburn Prairie; Hh Members: John Roller 60; Rebeacca 59; Mary 22; Lousinda 20; Philip 16; Patrick E 19; Rahanah 19

1865 Age: 63 Death of Spouse, John Roller

Barry County, Missouri USA

1867 25 Jul , Marriage of Mary Polly (likely a niece instead of daughter) to Francis Marion Skelton, Arkansas, USA Name: Francis M. Skelton Spouse: Mary Roller Marriage Date: 25 Jul 1867 County: Benton State: AR. Subsequent address of daughter and her new husband—1870, Sugar Creek, Barry, Missouri Frances Skelton 23 **Polly Skelton 26** James Ireland 29 Sarah Ireland 23. Irelands are from NY. James is a Yankee soldier friend. In 1880 Census Mary Polly Roller Skelton and her mother or aunt Rebekah Vaughan Roller. 1880 Census; abt Rebekah Roller 79 b abt 1801 TN; Members: Frank Skelton 33; Mary Skelton 38; Vesta 10; Randal 5; Nancy 3; Sallie 7m; John Pope 41; Rebekah Roller 79.

NOTE: Existence of four other Mary Rollers and Polly Rollers.

1870 Age: 68 Residence

Sugar Creek, Barry, Missouri, United States 1870 Census abt Rebekah Roller; 67 b abt1803 TN; Home in 1870: Sugar Crk, Barry, MO; PO: Cassville; Hh Members: Rebekah Roller 67; Polly George 25\*; John T George 7; George W George 2 (Relationship to the George family is unknown.)

1870 United States Federal Census: sons and nephew and elderly James Coward next doors.

1880 Age: 78 Residence

Sugar Creek, Barry, Missouri, United States 1880 Census abt Rebekah Roller 79 abt 1801 TN; Hm in 1880: Sugar Creek, Barry, MO; Single; Father/Mother b.TN; Hh Members: Frank Skelton 33; **Mary Skelton 38**; Vesta 10; Randal\* 5; Nancy 3; Sallie 7m; John Pope 41 (from Germany); Rebekah Roller 79

1880 United States Federal Census \*Rand signs Mary Roller as spouse on 193- dc for dad.

1883 5 Mar Age: 80 Death Barry, Missouri, USA, Findagrave

1883 6 Mar Burial

King Cemetery, Seligman Barry Co MO

#### Sources

Sergeant John Vaughan, Soldier of the American Revolution, page 72.

Nancy Callicott Vaughan Daybook, Page 1

In 1858 the Daybook was in Benjamin's possession.

State of Tennessee

County of Hancock,

Be it remembered that on this 28 day of May AD 1858 formally appeared . . . Benjamin Vaughan aged about 54 years . . ., who further certifies that. . . " the enclosed record of my father John & Nancy Vaughan is the record which was found among my father's old papers and it has ever since remained to my possession."

(Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, 1858)

Nancy Callicott Vaughan Pension Application, 1858: Excerpts

State of TN, Co of Hancock-- on this 28 day of May AD 1858 appeared Benjamin Vaughan, duly-sworn doth on his oath say... . Rebecky lives in the State of MO the last account. In witness, Benjamin Vaughan

(Affidavit, Nancy Callicott Vaughan's Pension application 1858)

John Vaughan Will, December 1841.

Casper Roller Settlement-Scott County Virginia Book 7 page 90-91, 11 October 1842.

Johannas Roller Will. 7th June 1806.

Johannas Roller Will, Proved in Rockingham County, April Court, 1816.

Rebekah's Marriage Records, names her as Rebekah Fallen.

1860 Census.

1870 Census (2).

1880 Census.

Arkansas Marriages, 1851-1900 about Mary Roller Name: Francis M. Skelton Spouse: Mary Roller Marriage Date: 25 Jul 1867 County: Benton State: AR.

Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002, about Pollie George, Marriage Date: 8 Oct 1872, Marriage Location: Barry, MO, Marriage County: Barry, Spouse Name: James Coward.

Find A Grave Memorial #7947280, #7938258, #7948292, #7947285.

Photo of Bottle, Photo of Bottle with Picture of Grandparents, Newspaper Article with Picture

#### COUNTY COURT PAPERS. Paper endorsed: John Roller's last will.

I, John Roller, of the County of Shenandoah. Some of children of very tender age. All real estate to be sold by executors and proceeds divided between all the children, viz: Jacob, Casper, Catharine Roller, Mary \_\_\_\_\_, John, Barbara, Rachel, Paul, Andrew, George, Margaret, Sarah, Michael, David, Peter. All to share alike, except my son, Paul Roller, whose share is to be \$200 less than any of his brothers or sisters. This deduction I make from his share in consequence of his disobedience to me and \_\_\_\_\_ of before he come of age and taking up with a woman of profligate character. Sons to be put to learn trades.

Executors: Casper Roller and Andrew Zirkle, Jr.

Dated, 7th June, 1806.

(Signed in German.)

Test: John Crondson, James Anderson, Jane Allen, James Allen.

Proved in Rockingham County, April Court, 1816, by Anderson, and at June, 1816, by Crondson.

Executors refused to execute. Widow refused to administer. Administration granted George Roller.

Test: S. McWilliams, clerk. Test: H. J. Gambill, C. K. C.

A copy, from notes prepared by William Oliver Roller, 1998. [Brøderbund Family Archive #17, Ed. 1, Birth Records: United States/Europe, Birth Records AAI Birth Records Extraction, Date of Import: Oct 6, 2000, Internal Ref. #1.17.1.28218.7]

New York Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts, 1861-1900; Archive Collection #: 13775-83; Box #: 214; Roll #: 1082-1083. Civil War Muster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United States Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops [ca. 1861-1900]. (microfilm, 1185 rolls). Albany, New York: New York State Archives. For James Ireland.

Findagrave

http://www.childresscousins.org

http://tngenweb.org/hawkins/some-records-from-blackwater-church/

Church Enroled [sic], 1824 to 1842 for Rebecca Vaughan Roller and Family

William Walling, Senr., exp. Oct. 2nd Sat. 1824 James Walling Daniel Bloomer Eligah Hurd, experience Sept. 2nd Sat. 1824 Jessy Hurd, experience Sept. 2nd Sat. 1824 William Walling, Junr., experience July 2nd Sat. 1824 George Henderson May 2nd Sat. 1820 Adam Reel, letter John Presly, experience Nov. 2nd Sat. 1826 Ezekiar [sic] Miner, experience May 2nd Sat. 1824 Daniel Rapp, experience Sept. 2nd Sat. 1818 John Garison David Garison Thomas Johnson John Briscoe Isaac Briscoe Jerdin Goodman

Joseph Garison \*William Vicars (?) Thomas Walling, letter Apr. 2nd Sat. 1828 Thomas Rutlege John Rolar, experience June 2nd Sat. 1824 Benjamin Bunch **Thomas Roberts** Denston Rogers, experience Mar. 2nd Sat. 1824 Georg Stapleton John Hird Jessy Roberts, letter July 2nd Sat. 1831 \*Seeth [sic] Morris, letter (Manis?) Aug. 2nd Sun. 1831 Swimpfield Anderson, letter Nov. 2nd Sat. 1831 George Wallin, experience Dec. 2nd Sat. 1833 George Hird, by experience Feb. 2nd Sat. 1834 Apr. 2nd Sat. 1834 Jessy Hird, by experience William Bloomar, by experience Apr. 2nd Sat. 1834 Addam Smith, by experience Apr. 2nd Sat. 1834 William Garrison, by experience Apr. 2nd Sat. 1834 James Hird, by experience Apr. 13th 1834 Henery Fisher, by experience Apr. 13th 1834 Wiley Manis, by experience May 2nd Sat. 1834 James Anderson, by experience May 2nd Sat. 1834 Zephenial Goins, letter May, 2nd Sat. 1834 William Couch, experience Aug. 2nd Sun. 1834 Simmeon [sic] Frost, experience Aug. 2nd Sun 1834 Soloman Robnet July 1st Sun. 1834 Sept. 2nd Sat. 1834 Joseph Bloomar, experience Sept. 2nd Sun. 1833 Jessy Gause, experience Claburn Roberts, experience Sept. 2nd Sun. 1834 John Inglan, experience Oct. 18th 1834 William Hird

\*\*James Vaun, letter Aug. 2nd Sat. 1831 \*\*Stokley Lawson, exp. Jul. 2nd Sat. 1824 Milicent Ryan

Thomas Bledsoe

\*Mary Walling, Senr. (wife of Wm. Walling, Sr.?) \*Mary Hurd, Senr. (wife of Elijah Herd, Sr.?) Mary Hurd, Junr. Nov. 2nd Sat. 1825 Mary Walling, Junr., experience July 2nd Sat. 1824 Elizabeth Walling, experience Aug. 2nd Sat. 1824 Millicente Hurd, experience Feb. 2nd Sat. 1825 Sept. 2nd Sat. 1824 Lucy Bloomar, experience \*Jane Roberts (mother of Claiborne) Elizabeth Walling, experience Sept. 2nd Sat. 1824 May 2nd Sat. 1824 Anna Roberts, experience Nancy Lawson, experience Nov 2nd Sat. 1824 Oct 2nd Sat. 1816 Nancy Rapp, experience Amy Anderson, experience Oct. 2nd Sat. 1824 Elizabeth Presly, experience June 2nd Sat. 1825 \*Elizabeth Brookses [sic] (née Walling) J [sic] Sary Froste Prasilla Green, experience Mar. 2nd. Sun. 1824 Stephens (Carshabay?) Mary Johnson Hetty Briscoe Mary Berten, experience May 2nd Sat. 1824 Rebeckey Goodman Elizabeth Garison Sary Prat Mary Anderson Sary Belcher (now Roller) Susannah Wallin, letter Apr. 2nd Sat. 1828 Abby Lawson, experience May 2nd Sat. 1824 Rebecke Rollar, experience June 2nd Sat. 1824 Hannar Briant Mar. 2nd Sat. 1830 Mary Stapleton, Senr. Sally Rolar Mary Inglan Elizabeth Willis Rebecka Rolar Tildy Gipson

Mary Stapleton

Elizabeth Rogars, experience Mar. 2nd Sat. 1824

Nancy Roberts, letter Oct. 2nd Sat. 1831

Millicant Bledsoe

Mary Bunch

Ellender Warden

Susannah Manis, letter Aug. 2nd Sun. 1831

Elizabeth Anderson, experience Oct. 2nd Sat. 1831

Mary Johnson Feb. 2nd Sat. 1834

Pheby Hird, by experience Mar. 2nd Sat. 1834

Mary Smith, by experience Apr. 2nd Sat. 1834

\*Peggy Hird, experience (Margaret?) Arp. 2nd Sat. 1834

Polly Garrison Apr. 2nd Sat. 1834

Susannah Wallen May 2nd Sat. 1834

Peggee Wallen May 2nd Sat. 1834

Elizabeth Wallen May 2nd Sat. 1834

Susannah Sisemore May 2nd Sat. 1834

Elizabeth Luis, experience May 9, 1834

Susannah Millar, experience June 2nd Sat. 1834

Susannah Bloomar, experience June 2nd Sat. 1834

Fanny Manis, experience June 2nd Sat. 1834

\*Jene Berten, experience (Jenny?) June 2nd Sat. 1834

Rachel Couch, experience Aug. 2nd Sat. 1834

Elizabeth Smith, experience Aug. 2nd Sat. 1834

Hanner Roberson, experience Aug. 2nd Sun. 1834

Rody Mieculler, experience Aug. 2nd Sun. 1834

Elizabeth Robnet Sept. 12 1834

\*Milicent Roberts (wife of Claibourne) Sept. 2nd Sat. 1834

Anna Markem, experience Sept. 2nd Sat. 1834

Happy Fisher, experience Oct. 1834

Nancy Hird, experience Oct. 1834

Mary Bledsoe, experience Oct. 18 1834

Mary Bloomar, experience Oct. 18 1834

Susanna? Amos?, experience Oct. 18 1834

Lucinday Luis Oct. 18 1834

Patsy Bloomar

Elizabeth Anderson	
Peggy Robinson, experience	Jan. 2nd Sat. 1835
Milcent Levesy, experience	
Sary Johnson	
Mary Wallen	
Abigil Lasson	
George Wallen	
Greenburg Wallen	
Nancy Wallen	
John Johnson	
Isaac Ausborn	
Wallen	
Anny Frost	
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Solomon Robnett	
Samuel Robnett	
Anny Robnett	
Adam Smith	
Thomas Walling	
Susannah Walling	
Roberts	
Elizabeth Anderson	
Rolar	
George Osborn	
Smith	
Rebeca Rollar	
Lawson	
Sarah Johnson	
*Elindar (?) Warden	
Marget Roller	
Jane Walling	
Margarett Anderson	
Daikey Roberts	
Seth Manes	

Susannah Manes Zephaniah Goyens Mary Johnson Elizabeth Walling

\*Note by Jean Horton

\*\*Note: Did not find on church roll

We the Church appointed brother John Roller as Clerk of this Church

We the Church have chosen Brother Greenberry Walling as moderator when you are absent

Second Satterday of Feb. 1842