

THE SHANKS AND MADDUX FAMILY (#876)

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Pg. 316 & 317 – Sometimes when researching family history we assume something must be true in our family tree and it hinders us from finding the real story. This happened to me when researching the Shanks and Maddux families.

I knew that Van Everett Shanks, my great grandfather married Ellen Denton Maynard on 21 July 1900. They lived in the Buckner community at the head of Big Indian Creek. I remember he died on my 11th birthday, 19 November 1953. I heard stories about the still that he and my great uncle ran, and that he and his in-laws were always “getting into it.” I still recall how much he loved to tease his many grandchildren.

I had heard a lot of stories about his father Michael Craven Shanks, but one always stood out in my mind.

Craven, as he was called, joined the army during the Civil War. The story goes that his life was saved when he laid down next to a log and the enemy went right by him. Since the Confederate army uniforms were grey I always assumed he was in the Southern army. I researched and did more research and couldn't find a thing on this man. One day it dawned on me to check out the “other side.” There he was, all the information I needed to complete the Maddux and Shanks history.

He was a private in C Company 1st Mounted Infantry Federal Army. He joined in Nashville in 1865. He died lying down next to a log to hide from the rebel soldiers and he covered himself with snow so he wasn't found.

He had two wives, Nancy and Elizabeth Burgess who was Van's mother. She was the daughter of George and Elizabeth Charlotte McBride Burgess. She was born 29 August, 1842 and died in 1925.

Craven's father was William Simon Shanks, born 1799 in Virginia and died in Putnam Co. in 1846. He married Margaret “Peggy” Maddux who was born in 1805 also in Virginia.

William's father was Michael Shank, (the “s” is missing) born in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania 15 June, 1766. He was married to Mary Michaels, daughter of Daniel and Mary Stover Michaels on 14 February 1811. He died in 1848 in Salem, Virginia.

Michael's father was Heinrick Schank, who was married to Anna Catherin Rudisil. He was born in Germany.

Back to the Maddux or Maddox family – Margaret's father was Craven Maddux, born in Virginia in 1782. On 12 Dec. 1802, he married Elizabeth (Betsey) Davis, also born in Virginia. They moved to Jackson Co. TN, later to be part of Putnam Co. in 1831. They lived in the Big Indian Creek Community located on Walton Road near Baxter in the west end of the county. He was also one of the commissioners appointed to survey and make a plot of the new county of Putnam. Since that effort failed, he died around 1850 before it was reestablished in 1854. No one is sure where he was buried but there's a marker with his and his ancestors names on it placed in the Maddux Cemetery.

Craven's father was William born in 1750 in Prince William Co. Virginia and died in 1810. He was married to Margaret Palmyra Whorton.

Thomas Maddux, Jr. is the father of Craven. He was born in 1720 in Somerset Co. Maryland and died in 1783 in Virginia. He married Margaret Scholfield.

Junior's father was the senior Thomas Maddux and he was born in Virginia or Maryland on 6 Jan. 1683/84. His spouse was Mary.

Lazarus Maddux was Thomas Sr.'s father. He was born in 1657 in Northampton Virginia. He was married before 1679 to Sarah who was born about 1656, and died in 1717. He died 19 March 1715/16.

Alexander Maddux, Lazarus' father, was born in England in 1613. On 24 Oct. 1635 he came aboard the Abraham of London bound for Virginia. He was 22. he married Elizabeth about 1640 and had four children by her. He then married Elinor White, the daughter of Lewis White and Kathryne White. For some reason he did not exercise his "head rights" for transporting six people to the colony until 28 Feb. 1652/3 when he was granted 300 acres. His name also appears on a list of those in Northampton who declared themselves loyal to the Commonwealth of England in 1651. He died 20 Jan. 1658/59 in Virginia. Elinor died 17 Nov. 1694 and named Lazarus her executor and practically sole heir. She had three marriages total.

Prior to Alexander, his father John or Thomas was married to Rebecca, and that's the extent of information I have about the Maddux family.

One thing is clear, not only did the Maddux family have an influence on Putnam County, but they were here long before this country became the United States of America.

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