

Stephen Calvin Copeland, Sr. (1756 – 1833) P-332030

Stephen Calvin Copeland, Sr. was born about 1756 around Chatham County, North Carolina to Joseph A. Copeland and Sarah Seahorn. Stephen married Sarah Jane Townsend and they had several children.

Stephen Copeland served in the Revolutionary War and attained the rank of Captain. At various times he is listed as being in units under the command of Colonel Isaac Shelby, Lieutenant Walter Greer and Captain John Wood. After the war's end, Stephen moved his family westward over the Cumberland into the frontier of Tennessee. He is acknowledged as having been the first white settler of what would become Overton County, Tennessee. He was granted 640 acres in 1799 and he chose to settle on the headwaters of the Roaring River.

As an experienced soldier and respected member of his community, Stephen Copeland was commissioned as a Lieutenant Colonel of the Tennessee Militia in 1807. When the turbulence of the War of 1812 erupted in the newly settled areas of Tennessee, Copeland sent a petition to the Tennessee General Assembly seeking permission to assemble 500 men to fight against the incursions of the Indians and British. In 1813, the Assembly granted its permission to form the Third Tennessee Regiment and Colonel Copeland was given the command.

Stephen died 03 June 1833 in Overton County, Tennessee at age 77. He is buried at the Roaring River Cemetery in Overton County and there is a memorial marking the site. Stephen Calvin Copeland, Sr. and his family were instrumental in the settlement of Tennessee and many of his descendants still live in Overton, Pickett, and surrounding counties.

Submitted by Lloyd Alan "Buddy" Turman
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