

PERRY FAMILY DESCENDANTS EXPLORE THEIR WARRIOR STAND HERITAGE - SEPT. 2015



Photo: Members of the Perry Family with volunteers and Board members from The Ridge Project at the Warrior Stand Cemetery

Levi Jetson Perry (1774-1850) arrived in Russell County, Alabama as an Alabama Fever pioneer. He had a family of twelve children, several of whom migrated to Warrior Stand in Macon County. On September 14, 2015, The Ridge Project was delighted to host a group of Levi Perry's descendants during their visit to The Ridge Interpretive Center and the Warrior Stand cemetery. Their visit also included a trip to nearby wooded acreage that was once owned by Levi's son Jetson Perry (1801-1878).

In advance of their arrival in Warrior Stand, Williams researched and wrote a document for the family to provide background information on pioneer life, Perry family landholdings and the Warrior Stand cemetery. A new photo exhibit was installed at The Ridge Interpretive Center just in time for the visit. The exhibit features photos of the 19th century Staffordshire pottery, sterling silverware, handmade pine furniture, and Early American Period glassware that William Reynolds McLeod, Ph.D., and his wife Vicki Bond McLeod inherited from Dr. McLeod's grandmother, Addie Mayson Perry. Addie was the daughter of Jetson Perry and Frances Mayson Perry and the wife of William Edward Reynolds. According to Dr. McLeod, some of the artifacts were acquired in Warrior Stand. Other items, that originally belonged to the Gresham's on the Reynolds's side, such as a mirror from the Federal Period, and a first-cut pine

blanket chest, were brought to Warrior Stand from Georgia in a covered wagon on the Federal Road.

An exhibit of cabinet card portraits of mostly unidentified early Warrior Stand settlers was also installed in time for the Perry family visit. The original images feature adults, children and infants and were taken during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The cabinet cards were donated to The Ridge by Mr. Clarence Ballou in March of this year. Mr. Ballou's ancestors are the Grovers from nearby Cotton Valley. Several of Mr. Ballou's ancestors are also buried in the Warrior Stand cemetery.

The Warrior Stand cemetery is located off Macon County Road 10 near the Cooper Chapel AME Zion Church. The white settlers established the Warrior Stand Methodist Episcopal Church, sometime around 1869. The exact location of the church is unknown at this writing, but it was most likely built in close proximity to the cemetery.

After leaving the cemetery, the group visited the former homestead of Jetson Perry, which is located in close proximity to the Interpretive Center. After an approximate 1/3 mile trek into the woods, the group came to a hidden portion of the Federal Road that has been undisturbed over the years and thus retains a high degree of historical integrity. Jetson Perry's property fronts the old road. The homestead was located on a ridge overlooking the Federal Road.

Brian Perry commented that the visit to The Ridge exceeded the family's expectations. Family members commented over and over again just how much they appreciated the work and efforts of The Ridge staff and volunteers to make their experience enjoyable.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Perry family for giving us the privilege of hosting your ancestral home visit to Warrior Stand. Thanks also to The Ridge volunteers Willie Pace, Larry Williams, and Henry Wilson, and to Board members Pastor Katrina Love, Daniel Neil, Jocelyn Zanzot for working to make the Perry family's visit memorable.

****The McLeod and Ballou photo exhibits are additions to our permanent exhibits and will remain on display at the Ridge Interpretive Center.****