

The Fields Family

*(Note: Edith Ora Jacks copied this record in 1968 in Birmingham, Alabama)
(Copy of Fields Family History in possession of Claudia Fields Kraemer-1981)*

The story of the Fields family as secured from census records, land deed and grants, family histories and legends, is as follows:

Isaac Fields came with brother William and new wife in company of 100 others from the Lowlands of Scotland to the New World in 1742. They were Scotch-Irish.

The Fields brothers settled near Bald Mountain, North Carolina. As told in the family the brothers enlisted and fought for American Independence all during the Revolutionary War. They served under General Greene and were under Benedict Arnold at the time Arnold was relieved from command by the Continental Congress.

*Note: By Edith Ora Jacks: It appears logical, from times passage that it was the second generation in America, sons of Isaac and William Fields who fought in the Revolutionary War, but my Aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Jacks Downs, said she had been told these facts by an elderly aunt, Aunt Jane Fields who lived in Mary and Samuel Fields home.)
(Perhaps the Aunt Jane was Jane Sharp Fields, wife of Moses Fields, brother to Samuel)
Original does not have the word "in"....Note by CFK*

A legend told in the family is that the old soldiers did not like the term "Revolutionary War" but called it the War for American Independence.

Other members of the Fields family fought for American Independence all during the revolutionary war years.

Another legend told is that after Arnold had been relieved of his command and was confined to his tent that the company was attacked by a party of Tories and British. Arnold realized they were being attacked and ran from his tent into the thickest of the fight. The old soldier who told this said that Arnold was quick-tempered, proud and high-strung but that he was a brave man and was loved and respected by his men.

In the early 1800's Moses Fields and his wife Elizabeth Ann, sometimes called Betsey, presumably were living in Charlestown, South Carolina. Moses Fields was the son or grandson of Isaac Fields who left Scotland in 1742 and came to Bald Mountain, North Carolina. From that home in Charlestown, two brothers, Samuel and Isaac, sons of Elizabeth and Moses Fields, left for the new lands opening up in the territory to the west.

(Note: Elizabeth Ann Fields' will is included in this record.)(not attached-CFK)

(Note: By E.O.J.: Mrs. Downs believed that Samuel Fields met Mary Johnstone in East Tennessee and that they were married there. However, court records show their marriage license issued in Madison County, Huntsville, Alabama. Census records show that Mary Johnstone and Samuel were both born in South Carolina. Photostatic copy of the marriage license included in this record)(not attached-CFK)

Another source told that the Fields brothers reached Alabama through the Territory of Virginia and East Tennessee. They did come in through northern Alabama as, according to Mrs. Downs, they crossed the Tennessee River at Gunter's Ferry, present day Guntersville, Alabama. Mrs. Downs remembered that some of her earlier family had lived for a time at Gravelly Ridge, thought to be in Madison County.

Mary Johnstone Fields and Samuel Fields first child was a daughter named Nancy, born October 8, 1813, it is thought at or near Huntsville, Alabama.

Samuel and Isaac Fields continued their search for new lands, and leaving their families came to present day Jones Valley in Jefferson County, Alabama. They were accompanied by two other white men, Andrew McLaughlin and John Jones, the latter being the man for whom the valley was named. They also brought with them two Negro slaves.

In Jefferson County they settled near a large spring, later called McWilliams Spring and also Hawkins Spring.

After building their homes and planting crops two of the men returned for the families leaving the others to protect the crops from wild deer.

The families came and it was in their new home that Moses Fields the second child was born to Mary Johnstone and Samuel Fields on December 24, 1816 and was the first white child born in Jefferson County.

The christening of Moses Fields as the first white child born in the county was part of a Pageant given at Legion Field in Birmingham on June 5, 1936 celebrating the founding of Elyton, the Pageant being sponsored by the Elyton Civic Club, the Park and Recreation Board and the Chamber of Commerce. An official program of the Pageant is included in this record.

(No longer attached--CFK)

In the Birmingham News, Monday, July 7, 1930 appeared the picture of Moses Fields, Jr. son of the above Moses Fields, included was an article giving the Fields Family history and the story of Moses Fields. He stated he was then 78 years of age and had been living in Texas a number of years.

Moses Fields Sr. married Verneta Bagley, sister of Joab Bagley, who is officially named one of the first tax collectors in Jefferson County. Joab Bagley is buried in the old Elyton Cemetery in Birmingham. Vernetta and Moses Fields are buried in the old Bethlehem Methodist Church Cemetery located between Fairfield and Hueytown, Alabama.

In the Birmingham News for Friday, May 29, 1936 is an article on the Pageant, the Fields Family and the birth of Moses Fields. Accompanying the article was a picture of Mrs. Mary Fields Gilbert and Miss Gertrude Gilbert, granddaughter and greatgranddaughter of Isaac Fields, and Mrs. Pearl Jacks Knox and Miss Ora Jacks greatnieces of Moses Fields.

Another story that has come down in the Fields Family is that after the new home was established in the valley, one day a riderless, saddled horse was found nearby. A search located the rider who was ill. He was taken into the home and nursed back to health, remaining there about three weeks. The rider was David Crockett, famous pioneer, politician, hunter, frontiersman, trapper and Tennessee patriot who served with General Andrew Jackson against the Creek Indians. *(Note by E.O.J. Some authorities have said that Davis Crockett was ill in the John Jones home, it is possible he was in both homes.)*

Mary Johnstone and Samuel Fields oldest child, Nancy , born October 8, 1813 before the family moved to Jefferson County, married James Rogers and founded the large, well-known Rogers family of Morris, Alabama. They reared a large family at Morris and are buried in the Rogers Cemetery located four miles east of Morris.

The third child, Mary, called Polly like her mother, married Gilbert Craft Jacks, grandson of William Speer and, one of the 18 Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Jefferson County, Alabama, they are buried in Cluster Springs Cemetery near Gardendale. *(Note by E.O.J.: Mary Fields Jacks and Gilbert Craft Jacks are my grandparents and a part of my information on the history and legends in the family were told me by their oldest daughter Elizabeth Jacks Downs. Born 1844 and lived to be 89 years of age)*

Data from the Samuel Fields Bible:

Name of Child	Date of Birth	(Furnished by Kittie Brake) To Whom married
Nancy Fields	October 8, 1813	James Rogers
Moses Fields	December 24, 1816	Verneta Bagley
Mary (Polly) Fields	September 17, 1822	Gilbert Craft Jacks
Betsy Fields (Elizabeth) (Bettie)	January 3, 1825	William Brake
Samuel J. Fields	February 23, 1827	Jane Bivens
Lucinda Martin Fields	April 19, 1829	Billy Bagley (William)
twins		
Malinda Curtis Fields	April 19, 1829	Morgan Isaacs
James J. Fields	July 7, 1831	Elizabeth -- Bagley
William C. Fields	December 2, 1833	Nancy Bagley

Mary and Samuel Fields fourth child was Elizabeth or Betsey or Bettie, named for the Grandmother Fields. She married William Brake, also a grandson of William Speer, Revolutionary Soldier. They are buried at Bivens Chapel Cemetery.

The old Fields Bible is now (1968) owned by Miss Kittie Brake, who lives on land granted William Speer for Revolutionary War service, and sold by him to Bennett Brake, his son in law and Miss Brake's greatgrandfather.

Later in their lives Samuel Fields and his wife, Mary moved some miles farther north, nearer the small body of water called Five Mile Creek, to the location of present day Brookside, Alabama. They lived there the remainder of their lives. Their land is now a part of Brookside School grounds and they are buried in the school yard. Markers were placed at their graves by John Brake , their grandson and father of Kittie Brake. Mary Johnstone Fields died in January 1860 and Samuel Fields died April 1, 1860.

Copied by Edith Ora Jacks, 3500 Cliff Road, Birmingham , Alabama

(Note: By Claudia Fields Kraemer... Samuel J. Fields(son of Samuel and Mary Jonhstone Fields) married Elizabeth Jane Bivens who is the daughter of Robert & Martha Aiken Bivens whose father was Valentine Bivens who married Elizabeth Speer daughter of William Speer)