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Colonel Edward Jackson
1759 - 1828
Revolutionary Soldier*

by

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.....will, dated 6 Sept. 1758 is the first reference found that **Elizabeth Cooper** was married to a **Brake**. **Jacob Breake** made purchases at the Cooper estate sale., return dated 01 Apr. 1760.¹⁹ This record shows an entry of a 40L debt to Jacob Breake "*to a plantation*".

The *Cooper Lease*,²⁰ dated, 06 Sept. 1762, citing an indenture between **Jacob Bracke and Elizabeth**, his wife, and **John Nisawanger and Magdaline**, his wife and *release*, dated 07 Sept. 1762, are the earliest records documenting **Elizabeth** as the wife of **Jacob Brake Sr.**²¹ **Jacob** signed with his mark. The most concrete evidence that confirms Frederick Co. **Jacob Brake** and Hardy Co. **Jacob Brake** are one and the same. They both signed with a block IB. For comparison, the two best preserved, clearest, IB marks are on the Frederick Co. Disponet estate, dated 03 Apr. 1758,²² and the Hampshire Co., House estate, 13 August 1765. The Cooper sale was not proved until 3 May 1863. There is no indication that the Brakes attended. The last official record of **Elizabeth Cooper Brake** was 7 Sept. 1863.

The exact date **Jacob Brake** left Frederick County and took up residence on the South Fork remains uncertain. The evidence presented shows Jacob was in Frederick County through 7 Sept. 1762. Further, exhaustive search of wills, inventories, estate sales, land records and court records has found no evidence Jacob was in either Hampshire or Augusta County prior to the time he purchased his South Fork land. Jacob completed his purchase of his South Fork property i.e. Lot #1 on 6 May 1763. Lot #1, 640 a. was originally granted to **Peter REED** on 7 Sept. 1749 from the Lord Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia. He built a grist mill known as Reed's Mill. Reed sold Lot #1 to **Peter HAAS**, 22/23 February 1753, but the mill continued to be known as Reed's Mill. **Peter Haas** sold Lot #1, 640 a. to **Jacob Brechtel**²³ of Hampshire County, lease dated 5 May 1753, release dated 6 May 1763. The mill then became known as BRAKE'S MILL.²⁴

After the Battle of the Trough (circa 24th Apr. 1756) there was a period of peace, but hostilities were renewed in 1763 and the Shawnees continued to attack the South Fork until 1765 when hostilities ceased.²⁵ One unreferenced source states *'Last Indian raid in Augusta Co., 1864, Shawnees traveled north through the 'Cow Pasture' up the South Fork, raiding and killing as they made their way north to go to Ohio.'* This reference is significant because the southern boundary line of Jacob Brake's Lot #1 eventually became the boundary between Augusta and Hampshire County. There are in Augusta County tombstones dated 1764 indicating death by massacre.²⁶

These facts provide sufficient evidence that the BRAKE massacre occurred in 1763-1765, and not in 1756 at the Battle of the Trough. The 1763-1765 time span provides greater support to the family tradition and historical accounts that **Jacob Brake Jr.**, the Indian captive, was age 10 or 11 when he was captured at the time of his mother's massacre and lived for a period of time with the Shawnees. In the 1830 Lewis County census, Jacob Jr. brackets his age between 1750-1760. He was probably born around 1752-53, which would make him 10 or 11 in 1763. Earlier reports that he was born around 1749/50 do not fit in with the 1756 Battle of the Trough. Also, his sister, **Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson** has been documented as being born on 22 Feb. 1757.²⁷ This would mean that she was conceived shortly after the Battle of the Trough, probably towards the end of May 1756.

Other errors have occurred in the oral history of this family. **George W. Jackson**, in a letter to his niece²⁸ stated that "**John and Elizabeth Cummins Jackson** emigrated and settled in Calvert County, MD 1754²⁹ and that **Jacob Brake**, the father of my mother³⁰ immigrated with his family of five children at a later period from Germany, prior to the Revolutionary War and settled in Hardy Cy 15 miles from Moorfeld (sic) " In this statement, **George W.** has confused the generations. It was his great grandfather, **Johan Jacob Brake Sr.** who immigrated from Germany, with his wife, **Mary Margaret**, and five children, **Martin, Elizabeth, Catherine, Margaret** and **Jacob**. They settled on Cedar Creek, Frederick Co., VA. Their son, **Jacob Brake, Sr.**, also an immigrant, was the father of George's mother, **Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson**, and eventually settled in Hardy County near Moorefield.

On 17 May 1867 **Laura Jackson Arnold** wrote to **George W. Jackson**, from Buckhannon, WV. In this letter she discusses a letter she received from **Abram W. Brake**. **Abram W. Brake** was the son of captive **Jacob Brake, Jr.** and grandson of **Jacob Brake Sr.**³¹ In his letter to **Laura, Abram W.** made several statements we believe to be incorrect. We believe that this letter has caused much of the confusion about our Brake family.

"George Jackson (*your grandfather*) *was the oldest son of John Jackson Sr.*" **George Jackson** was the oldest son of **John Jackson Sr.** He was NOT **Laura's** grandfather. **Laura** was the daughter of **Jonathan**, the s/o **Col. Edward** and **Mary (Haddan) Jackson.**

"Your grandmother was Elizabeth Brake, daughter of Jacob Brake, who was a native of Germany". **Jacob Brake, Sr.**, native of Germany, was the father of **Elizabeth Brake**, but **Elizabeth** was not **Laura's grandmother.** **Laura** had a stepgrandmother, **Elizabeth (Brake) Jackson**, who was the daughter of **John Brake**, son of **Jacob Brake, Sr.** If **Abram** was confused about this, then he was possibly confused about his next statement.

"He (**Jacob Brake**) married a **Miss Nyeswanan** for his first wife, and after she had six children, she was killed by the Indians on the South Branch where they had always lived." We believe that **Abram** has confused **Elizabeth (Cooper) Brake** with her sister **Magdalena (Cooper) Nieswanger.** When trying to recall his grandmother's maiden surname he inadvertently mullied the married surname of his grandmother's sister. Thus, **Miss Nyeswanan** became known as the wife of **Jacob Brake Sr.**

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