

Re: Alexander Espey

By **Fred Wilhite** February 28, 2007 at 11:00:58

In reply to: **Alexander Espey**

jim byford 2/25/07

* Robert Espy circa 1727 and Rachel Bell circa 1733 had 5 sons: James Espy 1758-1812, George Espy circa 1759-1784, Robert Espy circa 1766, John Espy circa 1767, and Alexander Espy circa 1778. John Espy and Alexander Espy of the 1850 Cannon Co TN census are these last 2 children. They are the grandsons of Samuel Espy circa 1693 and Martha Hay.

Their father Robert Espy(1727) was born in Northern Ireland, came to Pennsylvania with his father Samuel(1693),married in Chester Co PA, removed to Mecklenberg Co NC in 1770 with brother Thomas Espy and around 1780 settled near present day Nashville TN.

Brother Thomas Espy, uncle to John and Alexander, was a gunsmith and member of the Tryon Co Committee of Public Safety and a signer of the 14 Aug 1775 Tryon Declaration of Rights and Independence from British Tyranny. Thomas's family removed to NE Georgia by 1780.

Robert Espy(1727) and family removed to middle TN at the same time.

Robert was granted land in Davidson Co TN in 1784. He built a mill near Nashville TN. Robert Espy's (1727) sons Robert(1766) and George(1759) both died at the hands of Indians. Robert Espy's(1727) son James Espy(1758) married Mary Overall of the Fort Nashborough settlement. James Espy(1758) was a signer of the 1 May 1780 Cumberland Compact as well as James Espy(Espey),George Espy(Espey),William Overall and Nathaniel Overall.

* Mary Overall's father William Overall was a founder of Fort Nashborough. As written by Mattie Love Overall, Mary Overall arrived April 1781 on the Donelson Flotilla.

I have no descendent info on this Alexander or John Espy, only ancestry and concurrent family history of their brother James and his family.

The Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville has much info on the Overall family including manuscripts by Mattie Love Overall and William Jefferson Overall commenting on their Overall and Espy histories.
Historical info can be found at the website of the West Nashville Founders

[museum \(wnfoundersmuseum.org\)](http://www.wnfoundersmuseum.org)

A transcription of the 1850 Cannon Co TN census at the State Archives in Nashville lists the info as

Espy, John 83, Mary 56, Riley 18, Narcissy 15 and Espy, Alexander 72, Gimmima 52.

Charles Espy 48, John W Espy 24, and Robert W Espy 49 are also enumerated in the 1850 Cannon Co TN census, but I do not have info as to which families they belong to. Additionally, Robert Espy 52 is found in the 1850 Rutherford Co TN census.