

THE VANDEVEER FAMILY

The Van der Veer family is, of course, Dutch. Early Van der Veers popped up in the New Amsterdam area, or New York as it is now known, in the 1650s. I cannot find any connections with these early immigrant families and our lines.

The earliest firm records we have of our line of Vandevcers who married into the Danner Family was in Rowan County, or in what is now Davie County, North Carolina in the early 1770s. It would seem the family had been in the North Carolina area by the 1750s and came originally from Pennsylvania.

EARLY VANDEVEERS

An Aaron Vandevcers was in Anson County in 1751. Rowan was formed from Anson in 1753, so he well may have been our Patriarch in the Carolinas.

A Mary Vandever Frederick wrote a family history in 1934. She indicated that a John Vandever was born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania and married a Polly Jones. They moved to Rowan County in 1734 and had the following children: Berry Vandever; John Vandever a sea captain who died at sea; Thomas Vandever who died at nineteen years of age; Charles Vandever; George Vandever, born in 1732. These children were all born in Pennsylvania. The following children were born in North Carolina: Sally Vandever who married James Austin, Polly Vandever who married William Jones, Betty Vandever who married Joshua Speer, Ruth Vandever who married Joshua Speer, and Nancy Vandever who married David Pettijohn. All the marriages took place in North Carolina.

No one so far has been able to positively tie this Vandever family in with our John Vandever of Rowan County who married Amelia Speer in 1773. In my opinion, it does look promising, however.

I poured through the old tax lists and found in the 1778 tax list of Rowan County a listing for Charles Vandever and John Vandever living two doors away. Charles was taxed on a good size farm, John on a modest one. I am of the opinion that Charles was John's father. The preceding paragraph indicates that Charles was one of the elder John Vandever's sons born in Delaware County, Pennsylvania about 1731 to 1733. The following sections are firm, however.

JOHN VANDEVEER

John Vandever was born in Rowan County sometime in the 1750 to 1755 time frame.

John Vandever and Amelia Speer were married in Rowan County on January 9, 1773 with her father Aaron Speer as bondsman. Family tradition has it that John Vandever and two of Amelia's brothers fought in the Revolution under General Francis Marion, the 'Swamp Fox,' but no records remain.

John Vandever received a Land Grant for 100 acres in adjacent Surry County, North Carolina on November 3, 1784. John sold the land in July of 1797 and prepared to move to Kentucky.

He first appears on the tax lists for Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1803 along with his son, John jr. Other Vandevveers in the area were Ashbury, Charles senior, Charles junior and George.

In June of 1807 he received a grant for 166 acres on Wolf's Creek in what is now Russell County (then Adair County), Kentucky. He appears in the 1810 census of Kentucky living in Henry County just east of the present city of Louisville. Shortly thereafter he headed west across the Ohio River into Orange County, Indiana.

John and his family settled in Stampers Creek Township. His brother George came to the same area about 1814 and established a school. This school eventually became known as Danner Schoolhouse in 1832.

The Vandevveers were quite prominent in forming Baptist Churches in the area. Thomas and Aaron Vandevveer were preachers in Orange County, Indiana.

John Vandevveer and his family remained in Orange County and were all quite prominent. John Vandevveer senior died sometime prior to June of 1835 as a deed on June 1st of 1835 refers to Amelia Vandevveer as the widow of John Vandevveer, deceased. John was living in Southeast Township of Orange County in both the 1820 and 1830 Federal census reports. We do not know the exact dates of the deaths of either John or Amelia nor do we know where they are buried. It is felt they were buried on the family farm in Southeast Township, but no records remain.

The following is a brief recap of what is known of the children of John and Amelia Speer Vandevveer.

JOHN VANDEVEER JR. was born in 1783 in Kentucky County, Virginia and married Susannah French in Adair County, Kentucky on December 27, 1804. He moved to Stampers Creek township in September 1814. They remained in Orange County all their lives and both died sometime in the 1850s. They raised 8 children: James, Perry, Harriet, Lewis, Bennett, Joel, Tandy and John.

AARON VANDEVEER was born on February 7, 1785 in Kentucky County, Virginia. He married Nancy French in Henry County, Kentucky in June of 1805. They moved to Indiana and then on to Sangamon County, Illinois in 1829. He ran for the Illinois Legislature in 1836. Aaron died in April of 1857 and Nancy on August 7, 1871, both on Clear Creek Farm. They had 6 children in Kentucky, four in Indiana and one in Illinois: Sarah, Caroline, Elisabeth, Sophronia, Thomas, Horatio, William, Harriet, Aaron, Zipporah and Lavinia.

CHARLES VANDEVEER was born in Kentucky in the 1780s. Nothing much is known of Charles. He may be the same Charles Vandevveer who became a preacher and moved to Warren County, Illinois in 1836. He was in Stampers Creek, Indiana in 1830. If this was he then he later moved to Sangamon County, Illinois where he died in 1854.

GEORGE VANDEVEER was born in Kentucky in the early 1790s. He married twice. First in Henry County, Kentucky on March 9, 1812 to Jane Eliza Speer. George and Jane moved to Indiana and then to Sangamon County, Illinois. After Jane died he remarried a widow, Mrs. Nancy Kirkpatrick Williams in Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois on November 15, 1850. Both George and Nancy remained in Hillsboro until their deaths in the 1860s. There were six children all from the first marriage: Charles, John, Aaron, Cynthia, Joel and another daughter.

JOEL VANDEVEER was born in 1794 and is in our direct line and will be covered in the next section.

AMELIA VANDEVEER was born May 11, 1795 in Kentucky. She married Abraham Noblitt in 1814 in Orange County, Indiana. After his death she remarried to a Mr. Hazelwood. Amelia remained in Southeast township until her death on March 2, 1860. She is buried in Danner's cemetery alongside her first spouse.

CYNTHIA VANDEVEER was born October 30, 1800 in Adair County, Kentucky. She married Garvin Ralston in Orange County on October 30, 1817. They moved to Kansas where she died near Pratt in about 1887. They had three children: Alex, Will and Bertha Ralston.

NANCY VANDEVEER was born in Kentucky and married Jesse Elgin in Indiana on January 28, 1819. She died in Rochester, Sangamon County, Illinois some 12 miles southeast of Springfield.

POLLY VANDEVEER married William Noblitt in Indiana. He was a preacher at the Rock Spring Baptist Church. They later moved to Martin County and then Bartholomew County, Indiana where they died.

JOEL VANDEVEER

Joel Vandever was born in 1794. In the 1850 census he lists his birthplace as North Carolina, but I think it should have been in Kentucky unless the family returned to North Carolina for a short period. At any rate he grew up in Kentucky and then traveled with his family into Indiana. He was married there in 1815. At that time what is now Orange County was a part of Washington County until the year 1816. The marriage was therefore recorded in Washington County. He married Rachel Moore on October 4, 1815 and it is recorded in Book A.

Rachel Moore was born on December 6, 1799 and was the daughter of William Moore and his spouse Rachel. William Moore was a Revolutionary War soldier. William Moore was born on December 16, 1754 in Botetourt County, Virginia. He moved to North Carolina as a child. When the War broke out he served as a private in Captain Charles Goldston's Company, Colonel John Luttrell's Regiment of the North Carolina Militia. He received a pension (number S17592). William Moore died on April 15, 1833 and is buried in the Stampers Creek Church Cemetery. William Moore's spouse Rachel was born in 1762 and died on May 19, 1839 in Stampers Creek.

Joel Vandever helped to establish both the first church and the first school in Stampers Creek and in Orange County. In addition he was a singing teacher. He and Rachel raised their family in Indiana. They lived on the Pike Road running from Indianapolis to New Albany. He was Superintendent of the road in 1850. He was also a Justice of the Peace and active in the Baptist Church. In 1840 he attended the State Democratic Convention. He was a representative several times and was a School trustee as well as a Town Trustee in Stampers Creek.

Rachel Moore Vandever died in late 1844. An old newspaper account states *"She departed this life on Friday night November 20, 1844 after an illness of five and a half days at the age of 44 years, 8 months and 20 days. She left behind a husband and a large number of children."* However her tombstone in Stampers Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery four miles east of

Paoli, Indiana reads, "*Rachel, wife of Joel Vandever, December 26, 1799 to November 20, 1844.*" I cannot account for the difference in the months.

Joel continued to live and farm in Stampers Creek and appears in the 1850 census. In 1860 he moved to Taylorville, Christian County, Illinois and appears there for the 1860 census as being 69 years old, his son John and John's spouse Ruth living with him.

Joel remarried later that year. On October 19, 1860 he married Rebecca Britton Duncan, a widow. Rebecca was born in Ohio. Joel appears in the 1870 census of Christian County along with Rebecca. But in the 1880 census only the 'widow' Rebecca Vandever age 61 remains. There is no record of Joel's date of death. One family tradition is that he was returned to Indiana and buried along side of his first spouse Rachel.

Joel and Rachel Vandever had at least 11 children all born in Stampers Creek.

AMELIA VANDEVEER was the eldest child and was born about 1816. She married Joseph Danner Jr., and it is through his marriage that our line descended. The lives of Amelia and Joseph Danner are contained in the main body of this work.

GEORGE W. VANDEVEER was born about 1817. His wife's name was Nancy.

WILLIAM M. VANDEVEER was born in 1818. He married Sarah Cornwell on February 14, 1843. They moved to Pana in Christian County, Illinois where they remained all their lives.

EVALINE VANDEVEER was born about 1821 and married Joshua Speer.

JAMES HAMILTON VANDEVEER was born on December 1, 1824 and he married Elizabeth Beason.

JOHN A. R. VANDEVEER was born in 1832-33 and married Ruth Everet.

JOEL P. VANDEVEER was born in 1834. His wife's name was Sarah.

MARY JANE VANDEVEER was born in 1836 and she married Frederick Gifford. She died on August 10, 1853 at the age of 17 years, 5 months and 21 days. She is buried at the Stampers Creek Cemetery.

RACHEL VANDEVEER was born in the early 1830s and married Joseph Pounds on April 26, 1847 'with the consent of father.'

CAROLINE VANDEVEER married William McClain on June 19, 1845 again with her father's consent.

ELIZABETH VANDEVEER was the youngest child being born in 1838. She married Allen McCoy.

More details on the Vandeveres for the next several generations may be found in the book, THE VANDEVEERS OF NORTH CAROLINA, KENTUCKY AND INDIANA, by Mabel Van Dyke Baer published in 1960. I discovered that in 1986 she was still alive and living in Washington. I

called and spoke to her. Obviously she was quite old. She said, "*Hello. No, I don't do genealogy anymore. Goodbye.*" and sweetly hung up. Oh Well.