

# 1. WHAT I KNOW and What I've heard of The Blackhard Family Tree - ①

Family Tradition (or) handed down stories - The 1<sup>st</sup> Blackhard <sup>male</sup> was scotch (A Highlander - Left Scotland went to Wales married welch girl - Crossed the ocean to America with his wife and two small children - my child idea was that this ancestral family waded the ocean each carrying a child on his or her shoulder - The reason I thought so was this grandmother was (as welch women often are) quite tall and large she was said to be as tall as a <sup>or nearly so</sup> six foot man -

Coming to facts as they are on record here at the state capitol - and can be verified easily - Willoughby Blackhard or Blanchard } joined the va militia at

The age of 16 years and served through  
The Rev-War - was given a grant of  
land - I would have to look at my  
notes to see the exact amount but  
the same as was given all soldiers  
for their services.

This grant of land, according to  
the records here - was at the head waters  
of Big Reed Island Creek in  
Carroll County - but then <sup>known as</sup> Wythe County

In 1835 The Sec. War asked  
for the names of all living Rev-soldiers  
and if they were receiving pensions -  
The name of Willoughby Blackard  
was given and his age 86 (I think  
that is right <sup>his age</sup> but I'd have to look  
at my notes again to be certain of  
the age - and that he was receiving  
a pension for his services in the  
War -

The rest of the stories were told  
me by my father - or family tales  
handed down -

3/ as far as I know I was the  
only one of the children <sup>father</sup> he ever  
told or talked <sup>with</sup> about this grant  
of land and where it was - When I  
was 15 years old I made a trip to  
what is called <sup>Carroll county Va.</sup> Aug spur to attend  
school exercises that my two girl  
friends (later to be my sisters in  
law - were attending A Summer school  
They were boarding at a very old home  
a log house, about a mile from the small  
village - I spent the night with them at  
this home - when I got back my  
father asked me about this place and  
if it was such and such a distance  
and such a direction and if there was  
a beautiful white sandy spring  
at the far corner of the kitchen porch  
I told him yes the most beautiful  
spring of water I ever saw - clear  
as crystal and in white sand - he  
said "that was the house your great  
grandfather <sup>Blackard</sup> built on his grant of  
land -

again one time  
a clear sky - your Great grand  
mother Blackard was Susan  
Owen (an aristocrat) of Kentucky.

In the deeds and wills I found a  
forty acre sale of land deed signed  
by Willy Bee Blackard and his  
wife Susan -

at Independence Grayson County Va.  
our grandfather Thomas and grand  
<sup>mother's</sup> marriage is recorded - just

Thomas Blackard and Elsie  
Stephin married in 1822. (I think  
August the tenth) nothing more as  
to who their parents were etc.

That is legally the missing link.

Our father use to say that great grand  
father was a wrestler and went far  
and wide (and I suppose that he met  
Susan Owen on one such trip.

and I think this is about all I have  
in my notes

5. <sup>Great granddad</sup> General Green (of Scotch ancestry) (5)  
That Gen-Green was a very serious man  
and the story I always enjoyed - that  
Willy Bee said the only time he ever  
saw Gen Green laugh heartily was  
when a half wit soldier pointed the  
end of a log like the mouth of a canon  
and in the night dragged the log in  
to position over looking a small  
town of the enemy and at day break  
called on the people to surrender  
and that they did promptly - one other  
story (your Dad has this one I'm  
sure) that ancestor Willy Bee was taken  
prisoner by the British and was lined  
up with other prisoners to be shot.  
They were blindfolded and ordered to  
kneel - The officer in charge walked  
down the line looking down on  
them that he saw Grandfather had a  
double crown and this officer himself  
a Scotchman recognized Granddad as a Scotch  
man too and ordered him released -

110  
11  
(Willoughby said to be a Welch name)  
(Double crown two tufts of hair on the back  
of head - Susie's Billy is the only one  
I know of that has this double crown  
in our generation)  
(General Green was said to be a  
very taciturn man - but was said to have  
laughed heartily at this "half wit" taking  
the small town with a log -)

I have here some where the address  
of one Blackard a Methodist minister.  
I found this story in the Richmond  
Times Dispatch a few years ago - that  
he was going as a delegate from the  
Southern Methodist Conference to Eden-  
burg Scotland he was serving a church  
at Spencer N.C. at the time. I believe  
this is John Blackard's son Earnest.  
John had two sons Edgar and Earnest.  
Edgar (I think) died with J.B. about  
1911 or 12 - I've wondered if this preacher  
found any trace of our kirk in Scotland