

Route # 4,
Sevierville, Tenn.
June 29, 1954

Mrs. Robert Williams
2001 Ross Avenue,
Waco, Texas

Dear Mrs. Williams:

I obtained your name and address from Mr. Hugh Allen with the Murphy genealogical material that you sent to him. I am no authority on the Murphy family, but your descent from Edward Murphy interested me very much. At Shiloh Cemetery near Pigeon Forge I have often looked at an old limestone marker, rather large and crude, which has the plain inscription: "Edward Murphree." On the same marker there is a rougher carving of an old fashioned coffin. There are not legible dates on this marker, but it would be my guess that it marks the grave of your ancestor.

You state that this Edward Murphy was a soldier of the Revolution. Do you have proof of his service? Do you know of descendants who have joined the D.A.R. ? If you have such information I should like to have it for the purpose of erecting an official marker to his grave. The government will furnish such markers if proof can be found of the soldier's military service.

I have checked the Sevier County census records of 1850 for your Murphys and find the following:

Elizabeth Murphy-----	age- 68	born in Va.
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Samuel Murphy-----	age- 54	born in N.C.
Mary "	48	Tenn.
Huldah "	27	"
Isyferny "	20	"
Mary "	18	"
James "	14	"
Elizabeth "	2	"
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John Murphy	Age- 28	born in Tenn.
Jane "	23	"
James "	3	"
Mary "	4/12	"
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Daniel F. Murphy	26	Tenn.
Martha "	8	"
Harrison "	7	"
Mary "	5	"
Sarah "	1	"
William "	70	Va.
Darkus M. "		

All of the above Murphys lived on Walden's Creek (near Pigeon Forge) when the census taker visited them in 1850. Elizabeth Murphy lived alone and was born in Virginia in 1782; she may have been the Elizabeth Murphy whom you list as a

daughter of Edward. The Samuel Murphy, age 54, was born in N.C. in 1796; he may have been the son of Edward that you list. It would be my guess that the John Murphy listed by the census taker was a son of the above Samuel. The other children of Edward that you list had probably died or migrated westward by 1850.

I find that Edward Murphy received a land grant for 81 acres in this County in 1808, also a grant for 11 acres in 1825 and another grant for 50 acres in 1827. I am sure that this land was located on Walden's Creek although I do not have abstracts of these grants. However, one John Murphy received grants for land in 1808 on the West Fork of Little Pigeon River (near Pigeon Forge) and one William Murphy received a grant for 110 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres on Walden's Creek in 1808. These were the first State of Tennessee grants issued for land in this County, and holders of such land grants are considered first settlers here. They may have lived here several years previous to the issuance of these grants. The above John Murphy and William Murphy may have been sons of Edward.

Do you know the names of Edward Murphy's two wives? Do you have a Bible record or any other record showing dates of births and deaths? When did your George Murphy leave this County and where did he settle after leaving? The name "Choate" is not a familiar name here. Do you think that Benjamin Choate also lived here?

You mention the Gobble family which is also a rather old family in Sevier County. I would appreciate any additional information you may have on your Murphys—particularly in reference to Edward Murphy and his Revolutionary service. To obtain the military marker I mentioned it would be necessary to obtain information about his military service and dates of his birth and death.

Yours very truly,

J.A. Sharp