

History of the Lemmon Family



James Lemmon was a messenger boy to George Washington during the American Revolution. He was the son of Robert Lemmon who was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1730. Robert Lemmon with brothers John and James immigrated to America in 1750, settling in Baltimore, Maryland. They remained there a number of years, agitating the question in favor of American Liberty.



When wars came they were in the front lines and heat of battle.

Robert Lemmon and his brothers entered the army during the French and Indian War, and served under General Edward Braddock and his Aid de Camp, George Washington. They were in the Battle of Fort Duquesne on July 9, 1755 on the occasion of defeat and mortal wounding of General Braddock.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, the three brothers again entered the services of their country this time as Captains in the Maryland and Virginia lines. Captain James Lemmon was killed in the Battle of Brandywine. Captain John Lemmon survived and upon the termination of hostilities moved with his family to Green County, Kentucky where he settled on and improved a fine farm upon the banks of the Green River known far and wide as 'Lemmon's Bend'. He reared a large family, the greater portion of whom subsequently became pioneers in the new states and territories. His great-grandson, Major Alexander C. Lemmon, settled in Dallas, Texas in 1889 and it is for him that Lemmon Avenue in Dallas is named.

After serving in the French and Indian War, Robert Lemmon was married to Eleanor Davis. She was born in Wales and of the Jefferson Davis line. In 1786 they moved to Kentucky and settled at Elk Creek, Shelby County. Robert died there after 1800.

James Lemmon, son of Robert, was born near Hagerstown, Maryland. He served as a messenger boy during the American Revolution when a lad of twelve years. It was safer for boys to carry messages than men and therefore James was a valuable asset to the cause. He carried messages from the camp of George Washington to that of Captain Robert Lemmon (his father) and others. He lived in Washington's camp at Valley Forge and affectionately called him 'Uncle

George'. Towards the end of the war, James entered the Continental Army as a private and served until the end of the war.

In 1800, James Lemmon married Sarah Carr and lived in Bowling Green, Kentucky until her death in 1815. He moved his family of children to Indiana where later he married Amy Rawlins. About 1834, they were lured by free land into Illinois where they settled in Green County. They became the neighbors of Roderick Rawlins. In 1844, Roderick moved his entire family from Illinois to Texas and settled in Peter's Colony on a land grant located partly on Ten-Mile Creek in what is known as the southern part of Dallas County. Needing some help in getting his large family to Texas, Roderick brought along Robert Allen Lemmon (the son of James Lemmon) and also Carlos Wise, neighbors and also friends of his own son Alex. These two boys were so delighted with Texas that they selected 640 acre tracts of land lying next to the Rawlins grant and walked back to Illinois to bring their parents.

Robert Allen returned with his father and mother, James and Amy and his younger brother Jackson in August of 1845.

James Lemmon, a citizen of the Republic of Texas, died on July 4, 1858 at his home three miles south of Lancaster on the Dallas-Ellis County line. He was buried in Edgewood Cemetery at Lancaster, Texas near the spot where the Rawlins caravan camped the night he arrived in Peter's Colony in 1844.

James Lemmon is one of the few soldiers of the American Revolution buried in Texas and the only one buried in Dallas County.

Washington, the son of James, and his wife Tamer Stephens had a son named Willis. This family heard the gospel of Jesus Christ in the early stages of the church's beginning and were baptized members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Washington was serving a mission for the church when the Prophet Joseph Smith was martyred. The Lemmon's moved across the plains and were early pioneers who helped settle the Salt Lake Valley.

Willis met his wife, Anna Eliza Homer, in Utah. They moved to Smithfield, Cache County, Utah where they raised their family and spent their adult life.

Information taken from 'History of the Lemmon Family' – credit given to Julia Rawlins family history files – 1997.