





Old Cheesequire, a Cherokee Indian

<i>Birth:</i>	<i>1765, USA</i>
<i>Death:</i>	<i>1880</i>
	<i>Graham County</i>
	<i>North Carolina, USA</i>

Old Cheesequire, a Cherokee Indian, is reported to have said that he played ball on the present site of the city of Knoxville, TN when it was only sage grass fields. He said that he was born in 1743 and that he was 16 years old when the last herd of buffalo left the Cheoah Valley in what is now Graham County, NC. He is said to have followed the buffalo herd across the present Hooper Bald as they headed west. He is remembered wandering about the countryside in his later years in all kinds of weather, clothed in deerskins, barefooted, and wearing a pointed hat.

Cheesequire is buried near Robbinsville, near the trail that goes from Stump Ford to the town, and close to Ground Squirrel Branch.

A lot of people tracing their family trees mistakenly think Cheesequire and Nathan Kirkland were the same person. However, Nathan died about 1850, while Cheesequire was alive in what is now Graham County, in the home of J. Featherhead in 1870, along with a 100 year old female Naca, most likely his wife. Cheesequire age is given as 105. It is believed that he died in 1880, making him about 115 years old.

Burial:

Cheesequire

Robbinsville

Graham County

North Carolina, USA

Plot: Ground Squirrel Branch

CHEESESQUIRE
AN INDIAN 137
YRS. OLD IN 1880
IS BURIED HERE
NEAR THE OLD
TRAIL FROM
STUMP FORD
DATE OF DEATH
UNKOWN

Cherokee said to be age 137

The following article is the fifth in a series, "The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee County," and will feature tribal members and their descendants living in the Murphy area, their lives, customs and activities.

By Linda Miller
Staff Writer

A mystery began to unfold when an article published by The Cherokee Scout in a September 1960 issue was recently found to reveal important information about a 137-year-old Indian.

The article, "Grave of Old Cheesquire, Cherokee Indian, Marked," informed readers about the man who lived in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee during the 18th and 19th centuries.

A sixth great-granddaughter of the chief, Linda Henderson, of Frankford, Illinois said she does not believe Cheesquire lived to be quite that old.

But, last week she said she did not know that Cheesquire was listed in the 1870 Cherokee County census as a 106 year old resident of Valleytown (now Andrews), North Carolina.

Descendants of the old Indian include him in family lore as Chief Cheesquire; they think he also had an English name, Nathan Kirkland, Henderson said.

Back in 1960, citizens from Murphy, Andrews and Rob-

The marble marker came from Hayes Dockery's plant in Murphy where the stone was faced and lettered, according to The Scout.

The Scout reported three men from Robbinsville donated time and equipment for the project. It said Roscoe Orr donated his services and the use of his horse and sled; Walt Wiggins furnished wire and posts for fencing around the gravesite and Claude Hyde furnished the truck to haul the headstone to the Cheesquire's resting spot at Ground Squirrel Gap, just north of Robbinsville.

Cherokee countians who remember what the roads were like back then and consider the elevation of area where Cheesquire rests know it was quite an undertaking.

Cash contributions were made by Robbinsville residents T. M. Jenkins, attorney Ed Ingram, Belle Slaughter, Leonard Phillips, Pat Small, Smith Howell, Justice of the Peace J. J. Dula, E.M. Queen and Ross Smith to fund the monument that would replace an old stump to mark the final resting place of the ancient Indian.

Some Graham County residents said Cheesquire told them about following the last buffalo across Hooper Bald when the herd left Cheoah

Valley forever, the Scout reported. Cheesquire said he was 16 years old at the time.

The old Indian also told them about playing ball on the



Scout Photo By Linda Miller

MYSTERIOUS INDIAN GRAVE: Grave marker placed on a ridge in 1960 still stands at the burial site of 137-year-old Cherokee Indian, Cheesquire.

present site of Knoxville, Tennessee when it was just an old sage grass field, the article reported.

Back in 1960, Charlie Denton and Mrs. Henry Millsaps of Athens, Tennessee said they remember as far back as 1878 and recall seeing him.

According to Henderson Cheesquire's wife, Lillie Paw Berry, was born in about 1758 and died in 1851. Descendants

say the couple had nine children.

Reports of Cheesquire's age vary from census information and family compilations but they are certain he lived to be more than 100 years old.

Libby Nations of Sylva North Carolina, another descendant of Nathan Kirkland Nations said the family is no sure about some of their information. "Most of it is family lore," she said Monday.

Nathan known as Cheesquire?

From:

DisplayMail('cs.com','JAGiles1936');JAGiles1936@cs.com

Subject: [MCMINN] Re: KIRKLANDS

Date: Sun, 16 Feb 2003 14:28:57 EST

Hi Gene, My computer crashed a few months ago. My son was able to retrieve one of my large files but I am still scratching around working to fill in the many blanks. I don't remember writing to you before but that could be my memory glitch. If you wrote and I did not answer, I apologise.

There are as many opinions on old Nathan Kirkland as there are researchers and as varied. Cheesquire, 105 NC & his wife Naca, 100 NC are listed on the 1870 Cherokee Co. NC census in the Cheoah Trap, PO Valleytown on 7/12/1870, as # 102 living with Jesse Featherhead 65 NC & children. All are listed as Indian. #/s 29-32 are some of my Millsaps relatives # 54-69 are my Williams, (my ggg gps are here) Millsaps & Kirkland/Giles relatives. #96-97 Millsaps, Hooper. # 108 & 110 Williams & Caringers. # 69 are John Jackson (the Bushwacker) & Julia Ann Giles Kirkland. Julia is my gg aunt, the sister to James Madison Giles, my gg gf. James M. Giles son Thomas E. married Sarah Caroline Kirkland, dtr of

Jesse, Giles & Kirklands on my gf, George W. Giles side. Williams & Millsaps on my gm, Mary Williams Giles side. I have seen all the Cherokee Applications pretuing to this Kirkland heritage. Nowhere & no one says Nathan is also known as Cheesquire. It was never said as such til Paul Long saw a drawing that was "suppose" to be Cheesquire . The drawing was most like the copy we have that is "suppose" to be Nathan except it is reversed. Paul wrote a "supposition" because of the likeness, could they be one and the same person?? I refuse to believe that all my relatives who lived in that area at the same time of Cheesquire would not have know their own gg gf lived so near them but was known by another name. He was not named a chief in any of the NC history books. The monument was placed to Cheesquire many years after his death as an honor to him. It was placed by a couple of local Cherokee Co. men. I had a copy of the article that was written in the Graham? Co. newspaper. Only God knows where it is now. In one of these many boxes would be my guess. Please let me know how you come in this line. I work at including as many of Nathans decendants as possible in the Kirkland file. Also any lines connected with them. I hope this helps. Blessed Be, Jo Ann Giles



The Controversy

From: DisplayMail('cs.com', 'JAGiles1936');JAGiles1936@cs.com

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7/12/1870, as # 102 living with Jesse Featherhead 65 NC & children. All are listed as Indian. #/s 29-32 are some of my Millsaps relatives # 54-69 are my Williams, (my ggg ggs are here) Millsaps & Kirkland/Giles relatives. #96-97 Millsaps, Hooper. # 108 & 110 Williams & Caringers.

69 are John Jackson (the Bushwacker) & Julia Ann Giles Kirkland. Julia is my gg aunt, the sister to James Madison Giles, my gg gf. James M. Giles son Thomas E. married Sarah Caroline Kirkland, dtr of Jesse. Giles & Kirklands on my gf, George W. Giles side. Williams & Millsaps on my gm, Mary Williams Giles side. I have seen all the Cherokee Applications pretaing to this Kirkland heritage.

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Nathan Kirkland (Cheesquire)

*Ilene4077 added this on 11 Mar 2009,
then edited the original entry on Jan 4, 2010*

#941 The Kirkland Family (in part)

The Kirkland family in Monroe Co. Tn. goes back long before written history. The family traces its roots to the first records of the Cherokee Indian Nation. Nathan Kirkland (Cheesquire) (1750 -1851) was a Cherokee Chief, who lived to be 101 years old. Nathan married a Cherokee maiden Lilly Berry Faw, (1758) and raised 9 children. James Altonia (1781) -m- Swan Boston, John Jackson, -m- Sarah Shelton, Joseph Jackson (1785) -m- Esrer Rymer, Nathen Berry (1789) -m- Melanie Baucum, Samuel Joseph (1793) -m- Lorenia McKee, Lawrence William (1794) -m- Nancy Thomas, George Washington (1796) -m- Louise Harmon, Jonas Joel (1799) -m- Nancy Linn, Nanthan is buried in N.C. but is believed that Lillie Berry Faw is buried in Polk County.

I just received my copy of Monroe Co, Tenn. Heritage Book 1819-1997 (Jan. 4, 2010) This was a reprint of the "out of print" book that had to be ordered prior to shipment. This is just one entry, in part, that was submitted by one resident of Tellico Plains, Tennessee. I will add parts of other submissions so everyone can decide what is actually history and what is folklore. We may never know for sure!

CHEESESQUIRE

*"By Marshall McClung
Contributing Writer to the Graham Star
Copyright January 26, 1995*

Much of the history and heritage of Graham County is deeply rooted among the Cherokee. One of the most interesting and probably the oldest Cherokee in Graham County was Cheesesquire. Several variations in spelling his name are found including Cheesesquaw, Cheesequire, and Chesquah. The spelling on his gravestone is Cheesesquire. Some local Cherokee say the name means 'tredbird.'

Cheesesquire was said to have been 137 years old in 1880. The actual date of his death is lost in history. Cheesequire lived near the Ground Squirrel community near the point where Ground Squirrel Branch entered the Cheoah River. This site is now under the waters of Santeellah Lake. Sam Shope said that members of the Orr family told him that when their ancestors moved into the Ground Squirrel community in the early 1800's that Cheesesquire was living there then and was an "old gray-headed man. Cheesesquire operated a blacksmith shop there.

Cheesesquire would repair cooking utensils for people, repairing holes in pots and pans with some type of metal that he would melt and patch the holes with.

Cheesesquire would take a trip every so often and be gone about three days and nights. When he returned, he would have a sack of what looked like rocks. From this he would "melt down" the material used for his repairs to their pots and pans. There is speculation as to what

this metal was. Some think it was silver or perhaps brass. No one knows for sure where Cheesesquire dug this material as he would never allow anyone to go with him. Some think he traveled to the Slickrock Creek area.

Cheesesquire is said to have always gone barefoot the year around. He told of playing Indian stickball in a large grassy field where the present day city of Knoxville, Tennessee is located. He told of seeing large herds of buffalo near where Robbinsville is now located.

Dow Hooper is said to have taken a photograph of Cheesesquire. Photographs in that time period were taken and then transferred to tintypes. Mary Howell of Robbinsville did a drawing of Cheesesquire perhaps from an old photograph that appears in a volume of "Tennessee Ancestors" in a section entitled "Mystery of the Cherokee Indian Chiefs". Also in this book is a photograph of Nathan Kirkland known by the Cherokee as Ni-di-ni- Gi-gi-li-ni. The men in both photographs appear very similar. Both are seated in a chair holding a cane, and both are barefoot. They are wrapped in a blanket, have leg wrappings, and similar head dresses. In addition, their facial features are similar.

Are Cheesesquire and Nathan Kirkland the same person? Many researchers and some descendants think so. The Cherokee were said to often have several names and that it was not unusual for them to have a Cherokee name and a "white man's" name.

The cause and date of Cheesesquire's death remain a mystery as does much about him. It is said that some of the Orr family found him lying dead in the woods one

day near where he is buried and that he appeared to have died from natural causes. A Cherokee version of his death is that some people came in the night, took him from his bed and dragged him into the woods. They attempted to learn the location where he dug the metal he used and when he would not tell, that they killed him and left his body in the woods where the Orr's found it."

Cheesesquire's grave is located a few miles north of Robbinsville and is on private property. His gravestone is inscribed:

*"Cheesesquire an Indian 137
yrs. old in 1880 is buried here
near the old trail from Stump
Ford Date of death
unknown."*

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE KIRKLAND GROUP.

W-586

This group consists of about 283 applications representing the claims of persons who for the most part live in the State of Tennessee and in Monroe County. They all base their claim on the fact that they are descendants of the common ancestor whose name was Nathan Kirkland, and who they represent as being a Cherokee Chief, and because of that fact and for convenience, all of these cases have been grouped together, marked and designated as the Kirkland Group.

After a careful investigation, it is found that none of the applicants nor any of the ancestors through whom they claim, are enrolled on the roll of 1835 or the roll of 1851, nor is there any one of said names on said rolls. It does not appear from Miscellaneous Testimony, Page 425-G & 7, which was taken in the field in regard to this group of cases, that any of the applicants or the ancestors through whom they claim, were living within the Cherokee domain in 1835-G and 1849 as recognized members of the Eastern Cherokee tribe. Nor does it appear that they ever lived with the tribe as recognized members of it. Miscellaneous Testimony, Page 428 - Mr. Andrew Kirkland who was examined before the Special Commissioner at Madisonville, Tenn. on the 20th day of June 1908, testified in part as follows:

"I was born in Monroe Co., Tenn. I am 57 years old. I know James Kirkland, my grandfather. My mother was born about 1818. My father and mother were generally known as white people. I never received any money as an Indian. My father and mother never received any money that I ever heard of. I never heard of my father or mother leaving suddenly and going away any where so that people did not know where they were. I never heard of their hiding away in the mountains. I know of no reason why an exploring officer of the U. S. could not have found them."

Page 425 of Miscellaneous Testimony - the witness who was examined at the same place and time by the Special Commissioner, testified in part as follows:

"My mother was married about 1835. My father and mother were generally known in the community as white people. I never heard of my grandparents living in the Nation, altho they lived among them at times. My grandparents owned a little property at that time, and that was one of the reasons why they were not enrolled in 1851. My grandparents lived up here in the upper end of the county in 1835-G. They owned a place on Gans Creek. I have also heard my grandfather say that her

After receiving 223 kindred applications of Matthews, the Social Compiler concluded "After a careful investigation, it is found that none of the applicants nor any of the ancestors through whom they claim are included on the list of 1825 of the roll of 1840." Here he had that they were included in some spots in which he said they were never. It was very probable that they were included in the database although they may have had some trace of Cherokee blood, were not some 500 members of the tribe. Therefore this group of cases is rejected (196-4582).

According to one family tradition, Nathan Gibbs family was Lily Bony Fay, supposedly also Cherokee. Though the writer has been unable to find her, nor her family, on any scale of Cherokee records, the 1825 list, the children of Nathan Gibbs and James Kibben, viz. Carter, Richard, Anne to Isaac, John, Anthony, and John Kibben. These were already known children who were listed.

In any case, it was a Cherokee source for the children to take the address Levy's name, and not the Gibbs. Yet, the evidence for the father was at least instead of the mother name. The only name evidence in the Cherokee quarter. It is also interesting to note that all children with a head on quarter Cherokee blood were recorded and. The Kibben, or previously mentioned, were not recorded, so were they lying.



Arthur Gibbs (180-1800)

According to the 1825 census of Vance County, Tennessee, Nathan's son James Kibben lived near 1701 in North Carolina. He was given James Kibben's wife as Susan Kibben and their children as John Kibben, Clark Kibben, Jesse Kibben, Will Kibben, Jos Kibben, Rebecca Kibben, and Copie Kibben. The 1825 census of Polk County, Tennessee shows old James Kibben a neighbor to son Daniel's second husband of Springfield, Miss Kibben, born 1765, was married to Sarah Gibbs on June 15, 1840.

James Kibben died in Polk County in 1848, age 83. C. Wright's Kibben's, which is Springfield, Tenn. (Chick) in 1783, age 84, and had a wife in 1783, according to the records and the Matthews' Company. James was buried in Dennis City Cemetery, P.O. Dennis, Tenn. 37624.

Source: <http://www.familysearch.org>

606 KIRKLAND

One of the more common families of Polk County and surrounding areas was David and Eliza Jackson Kibben of Ga. 5, 3rd Regiment, 104th Infantry, CSA. He was born in 1827, and November 6, 1850, and a buried in Greaty Creek Cemetery, in Polk County.

It was written that Kibben was involved in many guerrilla activities against the Union Army. Some historians state that there were many other motives for bushwhacking, and some may have included personal gain, revenge against a neighbor, justice, greed, and a try to do better for a degraded nation.

The 1827 John Jackson Kibben was a son of Benjamin Kibben, born in North Carolina about 1801 or 1804, and died in 1866. Benjamin married in 1821, Cope Caroline Kibben, who Jackson had first married Julia Ann Wren, then about 1828-30, in South Carolina, who died about 1875-78. She was a daughter of Thomas and Nancy Gibbs, and a sister of Elizabeth, North Carolina.

John Jackson Kibben married the Misses Fanny Wicker, born February 22, 1826 at Weldon, North Carolina. She was a daughter of Mr. Wicker and Permelie Ann Tucker, mother who was married October 18, 1873, possible in Polk County. After John died, Martha married William Harmon of Carr, Arkansas on November 23, 1880. Gordon had a second husband, John Downing.

The children of John Jackson Kibben, as far back as records, began with Nathan Kibben, born about 1780-83. The data was obtained from records Cherokee Indian claims filed in 1842-1847. These Kibbens appear to have had Indian ancestry, yet are recorded with their marrying into a known to be West in 1825.

The children of Nathan Kibben are supposed from Charles Kibben, dated Aug. 22, 1827, James, born about 1781 in North Carolina, possibly South Carolina. John Jackson Kibben was connected with Thomas Kibben, James J. Jones about 1760-82, in North Carolina, and a friend Sarah Sally Graham, daughter of John Michael, no date given, born about 1760 in North Carolina. C. H. H. born about 1764 in NC, July, was ca. 1770 in NC (not authentic listing).

Of the foregoing children, the second son, John Jackson Kibben and his wife, Sally Graham, had nine children: William, born 1824 in NC, married first, Mary, who died in 1870, married second, Mary, born 1841 in NC, married the first daughter, Fanny Kibben. Kibben's first wife, daughter of the brother John Jackson Kibben, James, Nancy, three daughters, Mary, Johnson, and others.

Benjamin and wife, Copie had no children. John Jackson (the bushwhacker) - one son, James M., born 1826 in NC, married Mary C. Roberts and died July 20, 1846. Sarah M. born 1824 in TN is believed to have married John White on February 1, 1827. Willam T. born March 7, 1826 in NC, married July 2, William Roberts, married Jackson Robert White, born 1840 in TN, died 1865. James, born 1842 in TN, died 1864. Andy, born January 4, 1851, married Martha Jane Goff. Albert C. born 1851, in TN, married Elizabeth Cook.

William's first appears as if a bushwhacker who was a leader in some, and found partnerships with the army - in a way that may be the first bushwhacking activities, just because they had the same family name.



1842-43, Benjamin, Ben White and family. Next to John, 25, second from left, William's Grandson.

625 KIRKLAND

The name is found in the history of the early Kibben family comes from the "Woods of America," *Cherokee America* in the 1750s. Grandfather, 1650-1820, Kibben lived in a 2000. William Kibben was born about 1760 in North Carolina, probably in the area which later became Randolph and then New York, and a brother of the 1825.

Nathan Kibben became associated with the Cherokee nation, but more probably before he had a full-blood Cherokee. Nathan Kibben and wife, Jesse Kibben are listed together as heads of households on the 1810 census of Madison County, North Carolina. By 1825 Nathan Kibben had moved to Monroe County, Tennessee and lived a very short time as a slave in the New York County Court (Grandfather's Mother Kibben's residence on the Trail of Tears) in 1826, nor any of his family.

Kibben does not appear to follow persons in 1826. A man Kibben, a descendant of Nathan, testified before the Social Commissioner at Madison on June 26, 1830, saying: "I never heard of their hiding away in the mountains. I know of no reason why as a vesting officer of the U.S. could not have found them." William Linn, age 77, also testified that same day. "I never heard of the Kibbens hiding away in the mountains and they were well known people in the county."



Nathan Kirkland



Lilly Berry Faw Kirkland
Wife of Nathan Kirkland

DEPT. OF CLAIMS.
NOV 31 1909



476

Nathan. Kirkland.
Ni-di-mi; Gi-Gi-li-mi

CHEESESQUIRE
AN INDIAN 137
YRS. OLD IN 1880
IS BURIED HERE
NEAR THE OLD
TRAIL FROM
STUMP FORD
DATE OF DEATH
UNKOWN

Here is another blog I had found....Beverly

Would like to hear from anyone doing research on the KIRKLAND family. My 5th great grandfather was Nathan "Cheesquire" KIRKLAND. He was at least 1/2 Cherokee. His wife was Lillia Berrie FAW. He was born about 1750. Nathan is buried in the National Park near Robbinsville, NC and a large monument placed by US Park Service. His Cherokee name "Cheesquire" is on the monument.

Would like any information on these Kirklands and related families: Shelton and Hodge. Thank you.





Outstanding One who
Travels Across the Ocean
- Aqkkash detiassash

Genai' Anne Cross
ARTIST

Chief Mackin Hubbard
Wife - Name
Holly Berry-Faw

B. 1758

Claimant
18597 in
1788



Francis Rose was source of information
Maurice had on letter

Chief Faw



Father of Lilly Be.
Faw Kirkland

Sketch

Our source for most of the history of the early Kirkland family comes from the "Records of Eastern Cherokee Ancestry in the U.S. Court of Claims, 1906-1910", Kirkland file #556. Nathan Kirkland was born circa 1760 in North Carolina, probably in the area which later became Rutherford and Buncombe Counties, which is indicated in the file.

Nathan Kirkland became associated with the Cherokee Indians. But, many researchers believe that he was a full-blood Cherokee. Nathan Kirkland and Jesse Kirkland are listed together as heads of households on the 1810 census of Rutherford County, North Carolina. By 1825 Nathan Kirkland had moved to Monroe County, Tennessee where he is expressly listed as a citizen in the Monroe County Circuit Court Record Books. Nathan Kirkland did not go on "The Trail of Tears" in 1838, nor any of his family.

Kirkland descendants applied for the Indian pension in 1906. Andrew Kirkland, a descendant of Nathan, testified before the Special Commission at Madisonville on June 25, 1906, saying: "I never heard of their hiding away in the mountains. I know of no reason why an enrolling officer of the U.S. could not have found them." William Linn, age 77, also testified that same day: "I never heard of the Kirklands hiding away in the mountains and they were well known people in the county."

After reviewing 223 Kirkland applications at Madisonville, the Special Examiner concluded: "After a careful investigation, it is found that none of the applicants nor any of the ancestors through whom they claim are enrolled on the roll of 1836 or the roll of 1851 ... from the fact that they were generally recognized as white people and were owning farms, it may be presumed that they were intruders in the domain, and although they may have had some trace of Cherokee blood, were not bona fide members of the tribe. Therefore, this group of cases is rejected" (File #566).

According to one family tradition, Nathan Kirkland's wife was Lily/Berry Fay, purportedly also Cherokee, though the writer has been unable to find her, nor her family, on any published Cherokee records.

In Nathan's day, it was a Cherokee custom for the children to take the mother's family name, and not the father's. Yet, the children took the father's name of Kirkland instead of the mother's name, thus adding more confusion to the Cherokee question. It is also interesting to note that all persons with at least one-quarter Cherokee blood were removed west. The Kirklands, as previously mentioned, were not removed, nor were they hiding.

944 KIRKLAND-MILLSAPS

Nathan Kirkland died 1844, wife Rachel Towser - parents of John died 1850, wife Sarah or Sally Shelton parents of Benjamin, wife Olive Kirkland, parents of James M. and wife Molly C. (Polly Roberts) showing up in the Monroe County on the 1840 census.

PIONEER

Nathan Kirkland (ca 1750/80-) was the first of our Kirkland ancestors that can be proven at this time. Several newspaper accounts, books, government claims, and family records state that Nathan Kirkland was at least one-half Cherokee and was also known as Chononegure, plus an old family photo leaves little doubt of this fact. Records state he was a Chief, probably a clan chief. Chononegure is buried near Robbinsville, N.C., near the old trail from Stump Port. A tombstone was placed on his grave by the government.

Nathan Kirkland, possibly was the son or grandson of an early Scottish soldier or trapper who married a Cherokee woman of status in the tribe. A white man who married into the tribe would be allowed to live and hunt on Cherokee lands, without fear of being harmed.

Nathan Kirkland did not have to be full blooded or even half Cherokee to become a Chief. The Cherokee at that time only required some Cherokee blood. It should be remembered that John Ross, principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation during the Trail of Tears, was only one-eighth Cherokee.

The name of Nathan Kirkland's wife is not known, but his children were: James Kirkland (ca 1781-); John Jackson Kirkland (ca 1782-); Joseph Kirkland, and Nathaniel Kirkland.

941 THE KIRKLAND FAMILY

The Kirkland family in Monroe County goes back long before written history. The family traces its roots to the first records of the Cherokee Indian nation. Nathan Kirkland (Cherokee name) (1750-1851) was a Cherokee Chief who lived to be 101. Nathan married a Cherokee maiden Lily Berry Fay (1758) and raised nine children: James Allison (1781) - m- Susan Boston, John Jackson (1782-1802) - m- Sarah Shelton, Joseph Jackson (1785) - m- Esther Rymer, Nathan Baily (1790) - m- Matena Saurum, Samuel Joseph (1793) Lorena McKee, Lawrence Williams (1794) - m- Nancy Thomas, George Washington (1795) - m- Louise Harmon, Jonas Joel (1799) - m- Nancy Linn. Nathan is buried in N.C., but is believed that Lily Berry Fay is buried in Polk County.

948 NATHAN KIRKLAND, CHEROKEE INDIAN CHIEF.

PIONEER

Nathan Kirkland, a Cherokee Indian Chief, was born probably between 1750 and 1780, and lived to be over 120 years old in the archives in Washington. DC there are 223 Eastern Cherokee documents from persons who claim to descend from Nathan Kirkland. None of the Kirkland's were removed to Oldshome during the Cherokee removal of 1838. By this time most of Nathan's descendants were living on farms among white people. From the Indian Claims data, Nathan Kirkland had the following children: James Kirkland, born ca 1781 in NC, married Susan Boston, John Jackson Kirkland, born ca 1780-1782 in NC, married Sally (Sarah) Shelton, Joseph Kirkland, no other data on him; Nathaniel (Nathan), no other data. Other possible sons, listed on the 1850, 1880 census of Monroe county, TN: Samuel Kirkland, born ca 1793 in NC; G.W. Kirkland, born ca 1795 in NC; Lem Kirkland, born ca 1790 in NC.

According to a Newspaper article "The Democrat" Mar. 12, 1985, written by Paul J. Long. Old Cheesequire d. aft. 1880. Buried on Ground Squirrel Branch (low gap on the old Indian trail from the Stump Ford to Fort Montgomery), Now Robbinsville, NC. "Cheesequire is reported to have said he played ball on the present site of the city of Knoxville, Tn. when it was only a sagegrass field. He said he was born in 1743 and he was 16 years old when the last herd of buffalo left the Cheoah Valley. He is said to have followed the herd across the present Hooper Bald as they headed west. He is remembered wandering about the countryside in deerskin, barefooted and wearing his pointed hat in all kinds of weather." Nathan Kirkland listed for year 1825 in Monroe Co., TN. Source: Monroe Co. Records 1820-1870 Vol.2 by Reba Bayless Boyer.

Andy Kirkland, a resident of Tellico Plains and great-grandson of Nathan Kirkland, submitted the photograph of Nathan to the Cherokee Claims office. On February 11, 1909, Andy submitted the following statement: "Andy Kirkland makes oath in the due form of law that the foregoing picture is a true and perfect copy of his great grandfather, Nathan Kirkland, who was a Cherokee Indian who lived and died in the state of North Carolina and that he has an application No. 8597 in the claim of the Cherokee Indians". The affidavit was subscribed before G. W. Isbell, Notary Public, on January 22, 1909. Andy Kirkland's mark was witnessed by Sarah Dunn and J. T. Vaughn. The photograph shows Nathan Kirkland, Cherokee Chief, sitting in a chair, wrapped in an Indian blanket, wearing an Indian headdress, and either barefooted or wearing some type of sandals. Some type of braid is wrapped around his legs and is attached to a walking stick that is resting against his leg. At the

top of the photo is stamped "Filed August 31, 1909, Court of Claims". Below the photograph is the caption "Nathan Kirkland" and the inscription "Ne-di-ni Ge-Gi-li-ni". There is another copy of this photograph which was made from the same negative, and was then enlarged and printed in reverse. This was done so that it could be compared to an old drawing of another Cherokee Indian Chief known as "Old Cheesequire". He became largely known in his time because of his advanced age. The drawing was made from an old tintype made by Lorenzo Dow Hooper about 1878, and it appeared in a publication of the Graham County, North Carolina Centennial in 1972. The drawing and the photograph are identical. Old Cheesequire and Nathan Kirkland are one in the same person.

The controversy still exists

The controversy still exists if Lilly was in existence - was a wife to Nathan Kirkland - mother to some of his children. On the research I have done and seen I have never found any mention of Lilly in any records. I have never seen the tombstone being stated as hers. The Indian Records of Rolls-Documentation-Census-Payment for Treaties that were paid has no listings at all for Lilly or Faw at that time period. The pictures that are posted are not of Lilly as there could only be a sketch of someone who has been described as of Lillie - which should be stated as so it is not misleading to new genealogists. A picture that could be of Lillie would have to be in or around 1858 and up. Tintypes were invented at this time and were not popular until the mid 1860's. The picture of controversy over Cheesquire or Nathan Kirkland was taken about 1878 by Dr. Hooper of his patients and surrounding neighbors. There are also other pictures that were taken around this time that the Hooper family found in an attic. First of all if Lillie died (as reported) in 1851 there is no possibility that any photo of her was ever taken. The pictures that are shown of Lillie is not a correct statement. These are my findings. 1. The first picture that surfaced was in 1957 as far as I know. The writing on the picture that states is wife of Nathan & #8597 in 1908 are not on any documents or presented during the claims filed in 1906 to 1908. I have all the claims; read; searched them there is no mention of a wife or Lilly . 2. The dress she is wearing is of Crow Indian not Cherokee. 3. The painting of Penni Cross did in the 1900's is of the same exact Indian woman you can buy on ebay. 4. Spirit Scents on internet has a card you can send today that is very similar; not exactly alike. 5. The picture that is supposed to be Lillie where there is a Frontersman-Wagon-Indians -and in the middle her is also not of Lillie. 6. The picture is also on the Georgia Indian's Site. 7. You can purchase this painting from the Tennessee State Library. Ben Hampton did the painting and calls it The Cherokee Ghigau, The Beloved Woman of the Chota, Cherokee Princess Nancy Ward. The above information with the pictures to compare for your own determination is on a public tree I have just started. My original tree is private until cleaning up some errors and duplications done during upload. Since I have had quite abit of this information I decided to put some on a public tree for anyone to see and make their own decisions. Nathan and Cheesquire are NOT in my opinion the same person. Everyone has the option of seeing information on both and compare together.---Feel free to contact me if you have any other information on Lillie Berry Faw that is in existence; I will gladly change my mind if I am wrong on the above information--This public tree is a working project with only the controversial sides of this family to be explored and hopefully we can all work together on these for the benefit of everyone.