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Some of the Descendents of Peter Cleaver

By William Jessup Cleaver
13326 West Road
Westfield Indiana, 46074

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<http://www.archive.org/details/someofdescendant00clea>

My corrections to the original text are **highlighted**

James Cleaver, 1800-1890

98. JAMES CLEAVER (John 40, John 14, John 4, Peter I) was born 30 January 1800 in Catawissa, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. He died in Lowville, Ontario 30 March 1890 in his 91st year and is buried in Lowville. He married at Guelph, Ontario, Canada, 3 November 1837 [Algeline DeMond](#), who died 9 January 1841 and is buried at St. Paul's Presbyterian Churchyard, [Halton County](#), Ontario. Her death was three weeks after the birth of her seventh child. James married, second, 19 November 1842 Jane Watson, who was born 29 August 1824 in Durham, England, the daughter of William and Dinah (Richardson) Watson, who emigrated to [Halton County](#) in 1836. William Watson was a merchant with a shop in Hamilton, Ontario. (136) (288) (365)

James was a young boy in 1805 when his family moved to Aurora, York County, Ontario, and when they removed a year or two later to [Halton County](#). He would have been about thirteen when the War of 1812 came to the county in the form of recruiters scouring the countryside for men and horses. When his father's team was requisitioned, James, who would have been tall and sturdy by then (he ultimately was "six feet two in his stocking feet"), volunteered to go with them to be certain they would be returned. The team was especially prized by his father, who had brought the horses from Catawissa after a visit there. Oxen were the usual power on the farms. Horses were a luxury. Though it is uncertain where he might have served with the team, it has been supposed it was at Stony Creek, where an American probe at Hamilton was stopped. In due course he and the horses returned, and he was given a certificate which later would have entitled him to a pension had he not declined it. (I 36) (246) (384)

James attended school first in a one room school house, where elementary education was afforded locally in short terms designed not to interfere with the farm chores of the students. In the meantime, he was one of the men employed by his father cutting timber and splitting it into oak staves for potash barrels. At some point, probably while away from home during the war, he became ambitious to become a Provincial Land Surveyor. For qualification for this designation it was necessary that he attend an academy in the small settlement at Hamilton at the head of Burlington Bay. There is a family tradition that he sometimes shortened the horse ride there by leaving his horse with a farmer and swimming across the bay, pushing his clothes ahead of him on a log. (I 36) (246) (384)

By age twenty he was teaching in a one-room school while he continued his studies for the surveyor's examination. He was over six feet and weighed two hundred pounds, a prime consideration for his employment. His predecessor had been driven out by the "big boys," who here, as in school-houses universally at the time, tested the teacher physically on his first day. His discipline was successful, if corporal, and he was able to teach until he fulfilled his ambition. (246)(384)

Designated as PLS, Public Land Surveyor, he worked first in [Halton](#) and Wellington Counties. It was apparently during his surveying activities that he chose the land upon which to settle. The site was on Twelve Mile Creek in Lowville where, in addition to a small fieldstone house, a flouring mill was built (which still stands). Sometime later a gray stone house was built near the road and the mill. He also had a cheese factory and a farm. He did not marry until the mill was producing. (136) (245) (384)

When he started surveying in Tuscola County, Michigan is not clear. He is listed as entering land in Almer in 1853, 1854 and 1855 along with his son George. Seven sections were entered in the town of Elmwood in 1855 and 1856, and he also had two sections in Ellington and two in

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Columbia in the same years. This was all timberland, obtained at a "moderate price" from the U.S. Government - probably \$1.50 per acre. In the meantime he was "handsomely compensated" at \$5.00 per day and his expenses. (245)(315)

James has been described as a hard working, enterprising man with a wide circle of friends, associates and Interests. He was called "Squire," and he maintained the Quaker code of his ancestry. It was understood by his family that they were "to go as far as they wished with their education." He was apparently active until steam engines were introduced into Canada, decreasing the effectiveness of water-driven milling. (384)

His will is dated 30 January 1877, well before his death in 1890. In it he provided an annuity of \$200.00 to his wife for life, and she was to have all the household goods and residence in the homestead. The Canadian lands, tenements, hereditaments and his personal estate were bequeathed to his executors: son James and nephews John Ramsey, Jr. and George Alton. They were to have complete use of the property, but were to provide the annuity and the education and maintenance of any children under age twenty-one. (All children had become twenty-one by the time of his death in 1890.) He set a termination date of seventeen years from the date of the will for the trusteeship, unless his wife was still living. His instructions for leasing the mill in Lowville and investing his securities were elaborate. The interest and lease money from the mill was to be divided from time to time among his seven daughters. His eight sons were bequeathed land. Son James withdrew from the executorship because he was farming in Michigan. Five thousand seven hundred and twenty acres of land in Tuscola County were distributed (with precise survey description, as would befit him):

- son George - 160 acres, grandson James (son of George) 160 acres
- son John - 480 acres
- son James - 960 acres
- son William - 680 acres
- son Richard - 1000 acres
- son Solomon - 480 acres
- son Thomas - 1000 acres
- son Ellis Hughes - 800 acres

The Canadian real estate was valued at \$6000.00, and the total estate, which apparently did not include the Michigan property, was \$13,485.00. This was a successful enterpriser. (276)

Children of James Cleaver and **Algeline** DeMond:

- i) Mary, b. 24 Sept. 1828; m. 6 May 1850 Thomas Colling. Their children were:
 - 1) (1) James C, b. 14 Dec. 1854, m. 24 Jan. 1881 Alice E. Horlacher and had four children;
 - 2) (2) Sarah, d. 29 June 1908, m. James Hume 27 Mar. 1880 and they had four children;
 - 3) (3) John W., m. Mary J. Richardson and they had seven children
- ii) George, b. 25 June 1830.
- iii) Nancy, b. 30 June 1833; m. David Plewes. Their children were:
 - 1) Angelina, m. Walter Hughes;
 - 2) Mary;
 - 3) Charlotte, m. William Grey McAllister and had two children;
 - 4) Simon E., m. Elsie Jones and had two children;

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- 5) Charles;
 - 6) Alfred H., m. M. Griffon;
 - 7) Nancy;
 - 8) Sarah;
 - 9) Hannah E., m. Charles P. McGregor and had three children;
 - 10) David F., m. Mary Wilmont and had two children;
 - 11) William W. ;
 - 12) Ethel D., m. Robert Crow and had two children.
- iv) I V John, b. 13 Jan. 1835.
- v) V. Rachel, b. 12 Nov. 1837; m. 15 Nov. 1855 Joseph Coverdale. They had four daughters and one son,
- 1) George, who died young;
 - 2) Lillie, b. 13 Sept. 1856, m. Joseph Sherlock 17 Jan. 1882 and had a son H Clarence;
 - 3) Emma E., b. 23 June 1859, m. Earnest Filleul and had no children;
 - 4) Mary A., b. 2 Mar. 1862, m. John Readhead and had a son, Earnest M.;
 - 5) Nancy, b. 26 Dec 1864, m. George Robertson and had eight children
- vi) **Algeline**, b. 17 Sept. 1838; d. 10 Dec. 1905; m. John Shaw. There were no children.
- vii) Sarah, b. 19 Dec. 1840; m. Nicholas Dent, who d. 7 April 1908. (**Algeline died 3 weeks after this birth, on January 9, 1841**) They had:
- 1) George, who m. Lillian Blackwell;
 - 2) James who m. Nellie Cudmore;
 - 3) David;
 - 4) Herbert;
 - 5) Wilbert, who m. Alice Wilkins;
 - 6) Frances who m. George C. Crawford.

Children of James Cleaver and Jane Watson:

- viii) Ann, b. 10 Mar. 1844; d. 9 June 1847.
- ix) James, b. 15 Sept. 1846; d. 31 May 1847.
- x) James W., b. 15 July 1848.
- xi) William, b. 7 Aug. 1850.
- xii) Richard, b. 10 Nov. 1852.
- xiii) Solomon, b. 1 Apr. 1855.
- xiv) Charles, b. 15 Jan. 1858; d. 13 Feb. 1859
- xv) Charlotte, b. 23 Jan. 1860; d. 17 Feb 1888; m. 19 Jan 1884 Thomas Dawson. A son d. in a train accident; a dau. b. in 1886, at Charlottes death lived with her grandparents, James and Jane.
- xvi) Thomas, b. 15 May 1862.
- xvii) Jane A. (Jennie), b. 27 Jan. 1865; d. an invalid – perhaps encephalitis.
- xviii) Ellis Hughes, b. 12 Dec. 1867