

# Who was the father of James Dyer of Grainger County, Tennessee?

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## Objective

Who was the father of James Dyer, born in about 1804 in North Carolina or Tennessee, and resided with inferred wife Bedey Dyer in Grainger County, Tennessee, in 1850 and 1860?

## Background Information

### Project Background

The parents of John Robert Dyer have been under investigation for decades. With autosomal DNA testing, progress has been made and has pointed to a relationship between John Robert Dyer, b. 1813 in NC or TN and lived in Hawkins Co., TN, and James Dyer b. 1804 in NC or TN and lived in Grainger Co., TN. This report seeks to determine the father of James Dyer of Grainger and determine if he's a candidate for the father of John Robert Dyer too.

### Locality Background

Grainger County, Tennessee borders Hawkins County on its eastern edge. It also borders Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Union, Claiborne, and Hancock counties. Grainger County was created in 1796 from Knox and Hawkins Counties. In 1850, Union county was created from several counties, including the eastern part of Grainger County. In 1870, Hamblen County was created from the southeastern part of Grainger and Hawkins Counties.

Grainger County has marriage, court, land, and probate records from 1796. In 1946 the courthouse burned and many records were damaged. Probate records from 1796 to 1832 were lost. Census records for 1800 and 1820 were lost, and part of 1810. A partial 1810 census was compiled by Pollyanna Creekmore.

### Starting Point

The following table (table 1) provides an outline of the known information before this phase of research began.

Table 1. Summary of Starting Point		
Date	Detail	Source
Bef 1785	James Dyers' parents were born in North Carolina	1880 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 1, p. 10, dwelling/family 75, James Dyer household; image online, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4244587-00527">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4244587-00527</a> : accessed 9 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1257.
1803- 1804	James Dyer was born in 1803 or 1804 in North Carolina or Tennessee	1850 b. 1804 in NC 1860 b. 1803 in TN 1870 b. 1810 in TN 1880 b. 1806 in NC
1830	"Williams Cuzzort" resided in North Regiment, Granville Co., NC; he is the hypothesized father of Bedey/Tempie Cozart	1830 U.S. census, Granville County, North Carolina, population schedule, North Regiment, p. 12, line 13, Williams Cuzzort; database with images, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8058/images/4410773_00027">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8058/images/4410773_00027</a> : accessed 29 October 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 121.
1823- 4	James Dyer probably married Bedey	Calculation from first son's birth (William L. Dyer b. 1825)
1825	James lived in Tennessee by the time of inferred son William's birth, 1825	1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 119, dwelling 853, family 886, Wm L Dyer household; image online, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038_00125">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038_00125</a> : accessed 9 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.
1849	James' inferred son William L. Dyer married Mary A. York on 29 Jan 1849 in Grainger Co., TN	"Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002," Wm L. Dyer - Mary A. York, 29 Jan 1849, Grainger, Tennessee, database with images, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2318579:1169d">https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2318579:1169d</a> : accessed 7 May 2023).
1850	James resided in District 8, Grainger Co., TN, with inferred wife Bedey and inferred children John, Jane, nancy, Hubbard, Warren, Sarah, Mary, Corbin, Emeline, and Eliza	1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 122, dwelling 869, family 902, James Dyer household; image online, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6150599:8054">https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6150599:8054</a> : accessed 7 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.
1860	James resided in District 8 of Grainger Co., TN with inferred wife Bedey and inferred children Jane, Calvin, Emaline, and Eliza	1860 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 116, dwelling/family 833, James Dyer; image online, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/19142584:7667">https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/19142584:7667</a> : accessed 2 Oct 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1250.
1850- 1860	John A. McKinney was a neighbor to James Dyer in 1850 and 1860 in Grainger County, TN	1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 122, dwelling 871, family 904, John A. McKinney household. See also 1860 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 115, dwelling/family 830, John A. McKinney.
Bef Dec 1866	Bedey died and James remarried Mary Shaver in Grainger Co., TN; Thomas Brown was bondsman	"Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002," James Dyer - Mary Shaver, 21 Dec 1866, Grainger Co., database with images, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1574623:1169">https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1574623:1169</a> : accessed 9 May 2023).
1867	Daughter Emeline married James A. Roach in Grainger Co., TN	"Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002," Susan E. Dyer to James A. Roach, 21 Nov 1867, Grainger County, database with images, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4815722:1169">https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4815722:1169</a> : accessed 7 May 2023).

12 Dec 1867	Son Calvin Dyer married Ann Ethridge in Barry Co., MO	"Missouri, U.S., Marriage Records, 1805-2002," Calvin Dyer - Ann Ethridge, 12 Dec 1867, Barry County, database with images, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1171/images/vrmmo1833_c5_40-0346">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1171/images/vrmmo1833_c5_40-0346</a> : accessed 9 May 2023).
1870	James resided in District 10 of Grainger Co. in 1870 with wife Mary, inf. dau. Jane, stepkids Elizabeth and Robert Shaver (listed as Dyers), and inferred children Harriet and James.	1870 U.S. Census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 10, p. 2, dwelling/household 16, James Syer [Dyer] household; image online, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4276873_00222">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4276873_00222</a> : accessed 9 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M 593, roll 1530.
1880	James resided in District 1 of Grainger Co. in 1880 with wife Mary, and children "Harriate, James N. and Samul"	1880 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 1, p. 10, dwelling/family 75, James Dyer household; image online, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4244587-00527">https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4244587-00527</a> : accessed 9 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1257.
1899	Son William L. Dyer died in 1899 was buried in Greene Co., Illinois	Find a Grave, database and images ( <a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/116735395/william-lee-dyer">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/116735395/william-lee-dyer</a> : accessed 07 May 2023), memorial page for William Lee Dyer (1825–12 Apr 1899), Find a Grave Memorial ID 116735395, citing Richwoods Cemetery, Athensville, Greene County, Illinois, headstone image by Judy Grubb Smith, memorial maintained by Brenny (contributor 46950964).
1919	Daughter Susan Emeline (Dyer) Roach died in 1919 and was buried in Missoula Co., Montana; death cert listed father as James Dyer and mother as Tempie Cargent.	"Montana, U.S., State Deaths, 1907-2018," database with images, Mrs. Emma Roach, died 17 June 1919, Missoula County, Montana, Ancestry ( <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/942572:5437">https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/942572:5437</a> : accessed 8 May 2023); citing certificate no. 137.
1935	Daughter Mary (Dyer) Jones died in 1935 in Grainger Co., TN. Death cert lists father as Jimmy Dyer.	"Tennessee Deaths, 1914-1966," Mary Dyer Jones, 19 April 1935, Grainger County, Tennessee, database with images, FamilySearch ( <a href="https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DRBF-4X">https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DRBF-4X</a> : 9 May 2023), 004184433 > image 676 of 2524; Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville.

## Findings

### Marriage Records

Tennessee and North Carolina Marriages were searched for James Dyer and Bedey. No marriages were found.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Tennessee Marriages, 1796-1950," and "Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1950," and "Tennessee Church Marriages, 1810-1965," and "North Carolina Marriages, 1759-1979," and "North Carolina, Civil Marriages, 1763-1868," and "North Carolina, County Marriages, 1762-1979," negative search for James Dyer and Bedey from 1800-1850, databases, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 3 Nov 2023). Also "Tennessee, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1784-1825," and "Marriages of Granville County, North Carolina, 1753-1868," databases, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>: accessed 3 Nov 2023).

## Tax Records

Studying the tax lists of 1851-1855 revealed two instances of James Dyer being taxed. Twenty-nine Dyers were taxed in the county at this time. In 1851, the following men with the surname Dyer were taxed in Grainger County:<sup>2</sup>

Count	Name	Tax District and Revenue Commissioner
1	Lea Dyer	5th Civil District, Lea Dyer
2	Thos Dyer	6th Civil District, Samuel West
3	James H. Dyer	7th Civil District, Wilford P. Whitlock
4	James Dyer	8th Civil District, John A. McKinney
5	John Dyer	8th Civil District, John A. McKinney
6	Isaac B. Dyer	10th Civil District, S.B. Cunningham
7	Wm Dyer of Isaac	10th Civil District, S.B. Cunningham
8	Thos S. Dyer	10th Civil District, S.B. Cunningham
9	Thomas Dyer	10th Civil District, S.B. Cunningham
10	George W. Dyer	12th Civil District, Reuben Wolfinbarger
11	Joseph Dyer	12th Civil District, Reuben Wolfinbarger
12	Willie B. Dyer	12th Civil District, Reuben Wolfinbarger
13	Marshall Dyer	12th Civil District, Reuben Wolfinbarger
14	Charlton Dyer	12th Civil District, Reuben Wolfinbarger
15	Isaac Dyer – heirs	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
16	Pleasant Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
17	Pryor H. Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
18	George Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
19	Booker Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
20	Wisener Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
21	James Dyer Jun	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
22	William Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
23	James Dyer Senr	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
24	James Kiner Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
25	Anderson Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
26	Robert Dyer	14th Civil District, Joseph Hill
27	Owen Dyer	15th Civil District, Wm Colvin
28	Wm Dyer	15th Civil District, Wm Colvin
29	Anderson J Dyer	15th Civil District, Wm Colvin

Five of the twenty-nine men were named James. The James Dyer taxed in the 8th Civil District is almost certainly the James who resided with Bedey in 1850. In 1850, James was 46 years old, living in district 8, near John A. McKinney. His household included inferred son John Dyer, age 21.<sup>3</sup> In 1851, the 8th district

<sup>2</sup> Grainger County Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1851; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63C8-P9Q2> : accessed 30 Oct 2023).

<sup>3</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 122, dwelling 869, family 902, James Dyer household; image online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6150599:8054> : accessed 7 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.

tax record reveals that James Dyer was taxed for 1 white poll and paid \$0.15 county tax, \$0.15 state tax, and \$0.50 total tax, by revenue commissioner John A. McKinney.<sup>4</sup> Also in district 8 was John Dyer, taxed for 1 white poll, \$0.15 county tax, \$0.15 state tax, and \$0.50 total tax.<sup>5</sup>

In 1852, James and John Dyer were taxed in district 8, where John A. McKinney was the revenue commissioner.<sup>6</sup>

In 1853, James and John Dyer did not appear on the tax list for the 8th district. There was also a new revenue commissioner for district 8 – John Nance. The only Dyer in the 8<sup>th</sup> district in 1853 as Neri Dyer, taxed for 1 WP, paying \$0.15 for county tax, \$0.15 for state tax, and \$0.55 total.<sup>7</sup>

Tennessee taxed free men between the age of twenty-one and fifty years.<sup>8</sup> Because James Dyer and Bedey were residing in District 8 in 1860, it's likely that James aged out of the tax by 1853, and that's why he was not listed in the district 8 tax list. If he was age fifty in 1853, he was born about 1803-1804. This corresponds with his 1850 census age of 46 (b. 1804) and 1860 census age of 57 (b. 1803).<sup>9</sup>

Who was Neri Dyer, who was taxed in District 8 beginning in 1853? He probably moved from Hawkins County, Tennessee, where he resided during the 1850 census.<sup>10</sup> His household included the following individuals:

- Neri Dyer, male, age 23, b. Tennessee, Labourer
- Pertina Dyer, 17, b. Tennessee

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<sup>4</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1851, 8th Civil District, John A. McKinney Esquire Revenue Commissioner, first page, line 34, James Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63C8-PSLW> : accessed 29 Oct 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1851, 8th Civil District, John A. McKinney Esquire Revenue Commissioner, first page, line 37, John Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63C8-PSLW> : accessed 29 Oct 2023).

<sup>6</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1852, 8th Civil District, John A. McKinney Esqr. Rev. Commissioner, first page, lines 30-31, James Dyer and John Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63C8-PSNH> : accessed 29 Oct 2023).

<sup>7</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1853, 8th Civil District, John Nance Esqr. Rev. Commissioner, first page, line 30, Neri Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3C8-PQN6> : accessed 30 Oct 2023).

<sup>8</sup> John Haywood and Robert L. Cobbs, *The Statute Laws of the State of Tennessee: Of a Public and General Nature*, Vol. 1 (Knoxville: F. S. Heiskell, 1831), p. 336; image copy, Google Books ([https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Statute\\_Laws\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_of\\_Tenness/pAVOAAIAAJ](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Statute_Laws_of_the_State_of_Tenness/pAVOAAIAAJ) : 30 October 2023).

<sup>9</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 116, dwelling/family 833, James Dyer; image online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/19142584:7667> : accessed 2 Oct 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1250.

<sup>10</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Hawkins County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 12, p. 402a, dwelling 62, family 62, Neri Dyer; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6218226:8054> : accessed 30 October 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 882.

- Pinckney Dyer, 2, b. Tennessee

Neri Dyer's neighbor was Wiley Cozart, age 40, a Carpenter born in Tennessee.<sup>11</sup> His surname is the same surname hypothesized for James Dyer's wife, Bedey (Cozart?) Dyer. Perhaps Neri Dyer and Wiley Cozart are relatives to James and Bedey Dyer. Wiley Cozart's household included:

- Wiley Cozart, 40, b. Tennessee
- Nancy Cozart, 21, b. Tennessee
- William Cozart, 1, b. Tennessee
- Lucinda Cozart, 18, b. Tennessee

Neri was also taxed in District 8 of Grainger County in 1854 and 1855:

- 1854 – Nira Dyer, 1 white poll, .40 county tax, .40 state tax, .75 total tax<sup>12</sup>
- 1855 – Nero Dyer, 1 white poll, .40 county tax, .40 state tax, .75 total tax<sup>13</sup>

In 1856, he was not taxed in District 8. Future research could expand the search to additional districts outside of 8 for Neri the 1856 tax records.

**Tax Records Conclusion:** Tax records in 1851 and 1852 revealed James Dyer and John Dyer were taxed in district 8. Neri Dyer was taxed there in 1853. James Dyer likely aged out by 1853, confirming his birth year of 1803-1804. Future research should examine tax records in Grainger County prior to 1851 to determine when James arrived there. Neri Dyer could be a relative to James Dyer. He lived in Hawkins County in 1850 which is a possible connection to John Robert Dyer of Hawkins County. He lived near Wiley Cozart, which is a possible connection to James' wife, Bedey (Cozart?) Dyer. Future research should examine Wiley Cozart for further clues about Bedey's origins, and Neri Dyer, for any familial connection to James Dyer.

## School Census

In 1848, the school commissioners of Grainger County took a census of the names of parents and how many students they had in their household. James Dyer was found in District 8 having 8 students.<sup>14</sup> The

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<sup>11</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Hawkins County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 12, p. 402a, dwelling 61, family 61, Wiley Cozart; database with images, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206040\\_00415](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206040_00415) : accessed 30 October 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 882.

<sup>12</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1854, 8th Civil District, John A. McKinney Esqr. Rev. Commissioner, first page, line 28, Nira Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63C8-P9S1> : accessed 30 October 2023).

<sup>13</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1855, 8th District, second page, line 11, Nero Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3C8-PSQN> : accessed 30 October 2023).

<sup>14</sup> James L Douthat, *Grainger County, Tennessee Various Records 1796-1848* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 1996), 48-49.

ninth district had a descriptive paragraph about the school census before this list of names and number of students, which probably applies to District 8 too:

As part of Common School Commissioners of the 9th School District of Grainger County for the year ending June the 30th 1848. There has been three schools taught in the 9th Dist. within the year ending June 30th 1848 two was for 2 months and the other for five. No. of white children residing in the 9th Dist. on the last day of June over 6 and under 21.<sup>15</sup>

James Dyer had ten household members between ages 2-21 in 1850.<sup>16</sup> This correlates with 8 students ages 6-21, and probably included James' oldest son, William.

### Inventories of Estates and Wills

A book of abstracts containing names of people mentioned in inventories of estates and wills from Grainger County, 1833-1852. Only the first pages were copied at the FamilySearch Library, up to the year 1842. The pages that contained estates and wills from 1840-1842 were searched, but nothing looked like a match to James Dyer of District 8.<sup>17</sup> Future research should continue to examine this book of abstracts for the years 1842-1855 to look for mentions of James Dyer of District 8.

### Apprenticeship Records

A book of apprenticeship records extracted from the Grainger County, Tennessee, court minute books was reviewed.<sup>18</sup> Men named James Dyer were mentioned four times in the extracts.

1. Elisha and James Dyre. \$6/mo. allowed for their support as objects of the county. William Dyre, their father, to report to the next court. Aug 21, 1800.<sup>19</sup>
2. Ruth Mitchell, orphan girl age 6 years on March 27, 1809 bound until age 18 years to James Dyer, Sr. May 15, 1809.<sup>20</sup>
3. An orphan child of the name of Coleman Cutts bound unto James Dyer, Sen. until age 21. Feb 18, 1834.<sup>21</sup>
4. William Atkins, orphan age 14 years, bound to James H. Dyer until age 21. March 5, 1849.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 50.

<sup>16</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 122, dwelling 869, family 902, James Dyer household; image online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6150599:8054> : accessed 7 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.

<sup>17</sup> Mary E. Reeves, *Grainger County, Tennessee Inventories of Estates and Wills, Nov. 1833-May 1852* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1989), p. 37-55.

<sup>18</sup> James L Douthat, *Grainger County, Tennessee Various Records 1796-1848* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 1996), ii.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 1.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 11.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 16.

None of these entries appear to be for James Dyer of District 8. The James H. Dyer in entry 4 is probably a different man, since in 1851, James H. Dyer was taxed in the 7th district.<sup>23</sup> The first two records mentioning James are too early, since our James Dyer was born about 1803-4. The third entry, mentioning a James Dyer, Sen., is probably not our James Dyer, since in 1834 he would have been only 30 years old, not likely to be the senior James in the county.

## Deeds

If James Dyer received land by deed in the 1840s, that could indicate when he arrived in the county. The Grainger County deed index of conveyees for the years 1840-1852 includes several James Dyers, but none of them appear to be the James of District 8. It's not likely that James owned land, because in the 1860 and 1870 censuses, his real estate was left blank and personal estate was valued at \$240 and \$200, respectively.<sup>24</sup> The deed index of conveyors did not have entries that appeared to be for our James Dyer, but there were many entries for James H. Dyer and James Dyer Sr. It seems likely that James Dyer never owned land in Grainger County.

## 1840 Census Search

Where did James Dyer of District 8 reside in 1840? The 1840 census was searched for men named James Dyer living in Tennessee. There were seven results for James Dyer:

1. James Dyer Jr. of Grainger County, TN<sup>25</sup>
2. James Dyer Sr. of Grainger County, TN<sup>26</sup>
3. James Dyer of Knox County, TN<sup>27</sup>
4. James Dyer of McMinn County, TN<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1851, 7th Civil District, Wilford P. Whitlock Esquire Revenue Commissioner, first page, line 20, James H. Dyer; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-63C8-P9NM> : accessed 29 Oct 2023).

<sup>24</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 116, dwelling/family 833, James Dyer; image online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/19142584:7667> : accessed 2 Oct 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1250. See also 1870 U.S. Census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 10, p. 2, dwelling/household 16, James Syer [Dyer] household; image online, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4276873\\_00222](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4276873_00222) : accessed 9 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M 593, roll 1530.

<sup>25</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 133, line 17, James Dyer Jr.; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3421331:8057> : accessed 1 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 525.

<sup>26</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 133, line 18, James Dyer Sen; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3421332:8057> : accessed 1 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 525.

<sup>27</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Knox County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 36, line 16, James Byer [Dyer]; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2999790:8057> : accessed 1 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 527.

<sup>28</sup> 1840 U.S. census, McMinn County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 84, line 8, James Dyer; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3001177:8057> : accessed 1 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 527.



5. James Dyer of Giles County, TN<sup>29</sup>
6. James Dyer of Jackson County, TN<sup>30</sup>
7. James S. Dyer of Sumner County, TN<sup>31</sup>

The first two results, James Jr and James Sr., were located in Grainger County, on the same page with each other, near John Hill and William Hubbs. These are probably the District 14 Dyers, since in 1851 there was a John Dyer Sr and John Dyer Jr taxed in District 14 along with William Hubbs and John Hill.<sup>32</sup> Where did the James Dyer in District 8 live in 1840? One of James' notable neighbors in 1850 was John A. McKinney. John A. McKinney's neighbors on the 1840 census did not include any Dyers.<sup>33</sup> If James did not live in Grainger County in 1840, he probably lived somewhere else in Tennessee, since his son William stated he was born there in 1825. The map below shows the location of each county where a James Dyer resided during the 1840 census. The third result, who lived in Knox County, appears to be the closest to Grainger County.



Figure 1. Location of James Dyers in 1840

<sup>29</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Giles County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 113, line 27, James Dyer; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2997215:8057> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 523.

<sup>30</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Jackson County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 12, p. 297, line 21, James Dyer; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3416924:8057> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 524.

<sup>31</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 352, line 25, James S Dyar; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3430959:8057> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 534.

<sup>32</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Duplicates, 1851, 14th Civil District, Joseph Hill Esquire Revenue Commissioner, John Dyer Sr, John Dyer Jr, William Hubbs, and John Hill; image online, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-D3C8-PQ73> : accessed 2 November 2023).

<sup>33</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 113, line 10, John A McKinny; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3420724:8057> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 525.

The third James Dyer, of Knox County, had a household of eleven individuals.<sup>34</sup> The age of the oldest male was 30-39, and that was likely James, the head of household. The research subject was born 1803-4, so he would have been age 36-37 in 1840. Knox County borders Grainger County, so it's likely this James is the research subject, who sometime between 1840 and 1850, moved from Knox County to Grainger County.

The fourth James Dyer in Tennessee in 1840 was located in McMinn County. The oldest male in his household was 40-49, and the other males were under age 14.<sup>35</sup> This is not likely to be our James Dyer, because he was too old. However, he did have nine children, just like the James Dyer in Knox County. On the same page was a John Dyer.

The fifth James Dyer lived in Giles County, Tennessee.<sup>36</sup> He was probably the oldest male in the household, age 40-49, also too old to be the research subject. There were 4 people under 20 and 2 people 20-49. Giles County is several counties to the west of Grainger County. On the same page was a Nathan Dyer.

The sixth James Dyer lived in Jackson County, Tennessee.<sup>37</sup> There were two adult males, one age 50-59 and one age 20-29 – neither the right age to be the research subject. The complete household included seven people under 20, two people 20-49, and one person over 50.

The seventh James Dyer lived in Sumner County, Tennessee, and was likely the eldest male, age 30-39.<sup>38</sup> He was listed as James S. Dyar. The other males were under age 9. There were 5 people under 20, two people 20-49, and two slaves. The household included a person employed as a learned professional engineer. The research subject was usually listed as a farmer or laborer, so this is not likely the same man.

This leaves just James Dyer of Knox County, Tennessee, as a candidate to be the research subject. The next step is to focus on James Dyer of Knox County, then if he is not the research subject, expand to other states. There were 43 total James Dyers living in the United States in 1840.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Knox County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 36, line 16, James Byer [Dyer].

<sup>35</sup> 1840 U.S. census, McMinn County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 84, line 8, James Dyer.

<sup>36</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Giles County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 113, line 27, James Dyer.

<sup>37</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Jackson County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 12, p. 297, line 21, James Dyer.

<sup>38</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Sumner County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 352, line 25, James S Dyar.

<sup>39</sup> "1840 United States Federal Census," search for James Dyer, *Ancestry*

([https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/?name=james\\_dyer&count=50&name\\_x=1\\_1](https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8057/?name=james_dyer&count=50&name_x=1_1) : accessed 2 Nov 2023).

## James Dyer of Knox County, Tennessee

James Dyer of Knox County, Tennessee, is the most likely to be the research subject, due to his age, and the proximity of Knox County to Grainger County. The full 1840 household makeup included 9 people under age 20 and 2 people age 20-49:<sup>40</sup>

- 2 Free White Persons - Males - Under 5
- 1 Free White Persons - Males - 5 thru 9
- 2 Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 14
- 1 Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19
- 1 Free White Persons - Males - 30 thru 39
- 1 Free White Persons - Females - Under 5
- 2 Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9
- 1 Free White Persons - Females - 30 thru 39
- 4 Persons Employed in Agriculture
- 2 White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write
- 9 Free White Persons - Under 20
- 2 Free White Persons - 20 thru 49
- 11 Total Free White Persons
- 11 Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves

There was no James Dyer living in Knox County during the 1850 census, so the hypothesis that James moved to Grainger County by 1850 could be true.<sup>41</sup>

Comparing the children from James and Bedey's 1850 and 1860 households to the 1840 household may help determine if the households match.

Table 3. James and Bedey Dyer Household Comparison 1840-1860			
	1840 Census <sup>a</sup>	1850 Census <sup>b</sup>	1860 Census <sup>c</sup>
	James Dyer, free white male 30-39	James Dyer, 46, NC	James Dyer, 57, TN
	Free white female 30-39	Biddy Dyer, 47, NC	Bedey Dyer, 57, TN
1	Free white male 15-19		
2	Free white male 10-14		
3	Free white male 10-14	John Dyer, 21, TN	
4	Free white female 5-9	Jane Dyer, 19, TN	Jane Dyer, 24, TN
5	Free white female 5-9	Nancy Dyer, 17, TN	
6	Free white male 5-9	Hubbard Dyer, 15, TN	
7	Free white male under 5		

<sup>40</sup> 1840 U.S. census, Knox County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 36, line 16, James Byer [Dyer]; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2999790:8057> : accessed 1 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 527.

<sup>41</sup> "1850 United States Federal Census," negative search for James Dyer in Knox County, Tennessee, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8054/> : accessed 2 Nov 2023).

8	Free white male under 5	Warren Dyer, 13, TN	
9	Free white female under 5	Sarah Dyer, 11, TN	
10		Mary Dyer, 9, TN	
11		Calvin Dyer, 7, TN	Calvin Dyer, 16, TN
12		Emeline Dyer, 5, TN	Emaline Dyer, 12, TN
13		Eliza Dyer, 2, TN	Eliza Dyer, 10, TN
Sources:			
a. 1840 U.S. census, Knox County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 36, line 16, James Byer [Dyer].			
b. 1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 122, dwelling 869, family 902, James Dyer.			
c. 1860 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 116, dwelling/family 833, James Dyer.			

The households match up pretty well; there are just 3 potential sons missing in 1850 that were listed in 1840. One of them is almost certainly James and Bedey's probable son William L. Dyer. He was the head of his own household District 8 of Grainger County in 1850 and was age 25.<sup>42</sup> He was probably the male age 15-19 on the 1840 census.

In 1830, a James Dyer lived in Knox County, Tennessee, with 3 boys under five, and a man age 20-29, and a woman age 20-29.<sup>43</sup> This matches the 1840 household for James Dyer, and is probably the same man. It's probable this is the same man as the 1850 census of District 8, Grainger County, but at this time, impossible to say for certain.

## Tax Records in Knox County

What other records can be found in Knox County, Tennessee for James Dyer? The Ancestry database for early Tennessee tax records was searched, and two entries were found for James Dyer:

1. James Dyar, 1804<sup>44</sup>
2. James Dyer, 1836<sup>45</sup>

<sup>42</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 8, p. 119, dwelling 853, family 886, Wm L Dyer household; image online, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038\\_00125](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038_00125) : accessed 9 May 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.

<sup>43</sup> 1830 U.S. census, Knox County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 375, line 4, James Dyer; database with images, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8058/images/4409700\\_00745](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8058/images/4409700_00745) : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 178.

<sup>44</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," Knox Co., Tennessee, 1804, Captain Steel's Company, page 19, line 12, James Dyar; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/65888:2883> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing The Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

<sup>45</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," 1836, Knox Co., Tennessee, district 4, p. 245, line 8, James Dyer; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/223263:2883> : accessed 2 November 2023).

The first entry is too old to be our James Dyer, since the research subject would have been an infant (born in 1803-1804). The 1836 entry is likely the research subject. The tax data for James Dyar in 1804 is listed below:

Dyer, James ... 1 poll, 62 tax, 12 state tax, 62 county tax<sup>46</sup>

It appears that there were marks in the land columns that were erased. This tax entry seems like the tax entries in 1851-1853, taxed only for a poll, and not for land.

The other surnames in the tax district include Ailn, Arnold, Alfonzo, Booker, Ballinger, Bennett, Beal, Carnes, Chiles, Coffman, Cooper, Clapp, Cannen, Crabtree, Clapp, Crawford, Cassidy, Chamberland, Caruthers, Crozier, Cobb, Cloun, Corum, Davis, Dannwood, Davis, Darning, Duncan, Douglass, Fogg, Fizgearde, Forest, Furguson, Forest, Luttrell, Legg, McDaniel, Junior, Mynatt, Mourey, Moweny, Morgan, McBee, Norman, Price, Pen, Qualls, Roberts, Rutherford, Stout, Slagle, Smith, Sharp, Sammers, Skaggs, Sawyers, Shipe, Smart, Trout, Thompson, Todd, Water, waden, Wills, Walker, Weaver, Woods, Webster, White, Zachry, Maggot, Ray, and Tinker.

Who was this earlier James Dyer, taxed in Knox County in 1804? If he was taxed in 1804, he was over age 21, so he was born before 1783.<sup>47</sup> His 1804 tax entry includes the following details:

Dyar, James, 198 acres of taxable property on Hickey Creek, 1 white poll<sup>48</sup>

Other surnames in the district include Ashworth, Bankson, Brewer, Craine, Catcham, England, Fuson, **Fogguesson**, Fulsher, Gillentin, Gollihier, Grayson, Halmark, Harden, Hellems, Hutcheson, Howard, Hoult, Helloms, Hambright, Hightower, Love, Lee, Lankerster, Lewis, Maxwell, Matheny, Montgomery, Maxwell, Pate, Pryar, Phibbs, Pruitt, Ragen, Roach, Shannon, Scarbrough, Smith, Steel, Shelton, Vance, and **Walker**. Bold surnames indicate surnames that were also found in the James Dyer taxed in 1836 in District 4 of Knox county.

The *Ancestry* database, "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," includes the years 1796, 1803, 1804, 1806, 1836, and 1842 for Knox County. James Dyer was not found in 1842.<sup>49</sup> He likely had moved to Grainger County, Tennessee by 1842.

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<sup>46</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," 1836, Knox Co., Tennessee, district 4, p. 245, line 8, James Dyer.

<sup>47</sup> John Haywood and Robert L. Cobbs, *The Statute Laws of the State of Tennessee: Of a Public and General Nature*, Vol. 1 (Knoxville: F. S. Heiskell, 1831), p. 336; image copy, Google Books ([https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Statute\\_Laws\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_of\\_Tenness/pAVOQAQAAIAAJ](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Statute_Laws_of_the_State_of_Tenness/pAVOQAQAAIAAJ)) : 30 October 2023).

<sup>48</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," Knox Co., Tennessee, 1804, Captain Steel's Company, page 19, line 12, James Dyar.

<sup>49</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895," negative search for Dyer in Knox County, 1842, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2883/>) : accessed 9 Nov 2023).

## Deeds in Knox County, Tennessee

The elder James Dyer who was taxed for property on Hickey Creek, may have deeded land to heirs. Who were his heirs?

### Direct Index

Two entries were found in the direct index for Knox County deeds from 1800-1850:<sup>50</sup>

1. James Dyer to Jonathan Courtney, recorded in book N1 page 47, for 3 December 1805, filed on 29 July 1808. The deed was for 198 acres on Hickory Creek.
2. The heirs of Sam W. Dyre to Hugh M. Craig, recorded in book D2:20, on 3 April 1840. The deed was for 135 acres on Turkey Creek and was dated 22 January 1839.

The deed from James Dyer was witnessed by Amos Hardin and James Roach, and the land described bordered "Horner's line." The consideration was \$500. No other names or relationships were provided.<sup>51</sup>

The second deed was actually the heirs of Hugh Conn, deceased, selling land to Hugh M. Craig. One of their heirs was Jane W. Dyer, not Sam W. Dyre.<sup>52</sup> Jane was probably a daughter of Hugh Conn, who married a Dyer. An entry in the *FamilySearch Family Tree* was located for Jane W. Conn, who married William R. Dyer in 1835 in Knox County, Tennessee, and was a daughter of Hugh Conn.<sup>53</sup>

### Reverse Index

Two entries were found in the reverse index for Knox County deeds from 1800-1850:<sup>54</sup>

1. James Dier was granted land in a deed from James Bray, recorded in L1:24, on 15 Mar 1803, filed 11 Jan 1804. This was for 198 acres on Black Oak Ridge.
2. William Dyer was granted land by H.L. Rutherford on 23 Nov 1850, recorded 24 Jan 1851, 170 acres on Clear Fork Flat Creek, found in Book P2:470.

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<sup>50</sup> Knox County, Tennessee, Direct Index to Real Estate Conveyances from beginning to Dec. 31, 1931; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4T-LT54?i=131&cat=147206> : accessed 2 Nov 2023), image 132 of 328.

<sup>51</sup> Knox County, Tennessee, Deeds N1:47-48, James Dier to Jonathan Courtney, 3 Dec 1805; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKX-F5LM> : accessed 2 Nov 2023).

<sup>52</sup> Knox County, Tennessee, Deeds D2:20-22, Heirs of Hugh Conn to Hugh M. Craig, 22 January 1808; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3QB-V923-X> : accessed 2 Nov 2023).

<sup>53</sup> Jane W. Conn, 1810-1884, ID KZMG-K2W, *FamilySearch Family Tree* (<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KZMG-K2W> : accessed 2 Nov 2023).

<sup>54</sup> Knox County, Tennessee, Reverse Index to Real Estate Conveyances from beginning to Dec. 31, 1931; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4T-52HP> : accessed 2 Nov 2023), image 394 of 568.

James Bray of Anderson County, Tennessee, conveyed land to James Dier, of Knox County, for \$100, 198 acres on Hicry Creek. No other names or relationships were provided.<sup>55</sup>

## Probate Records in Knox County, Tennessee

To determine the heirs of the elder James Dyer of Knox County, Tennessee, probate records should be searched. No will or probates were found for Dyers in Knox County, Tennessee, in the Ancestry database, "Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008."<sup>56</sup> The digitized Knox County court and probate records at *FamilySearch* should be searched.

## Marriages in Knox County, Tennessee

Marriage records were searched for Knox County. From 1800-1850, the following marriages were found in Knox County:

- Joel Dyer married Rachel Adkins on 24 August 1830<sup>57</sup>
- William R. Dyer married Jane W. Conn on 12 January 1835<sup>58</sup>
- William Dyer married Polly McDaniel on 1 January 1827<sup>59</sup>

## Cozart Research

James Dyer's wife Bedey is identified in an Ancestry public member tree as "Bedey Tempie Cozart," daughter of Williamson Anderson Cozart and Lydia Culverhouse.<sup>60</sup> The following sources document Williamson Cozart's residences from 1800-1830 and his marriage to Lydia:

- 1800 census for Williamson Cozart in Granville County, North Carolina<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Knox County, Tennessee, Deeds L1: 24-25, James Bray to James Dier, 18 March 1803; image online, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKX-F95Y-N> : accessed 2 Nov 2023).

<sup>56</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008," negative search for Dyer in Knox County, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9176/> : accessed 9 Nov 2023).

<sup>57</sup> "Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1950," Joel Dyer and Rachel Adkins, 24 August 1830, Knox, Tennessee, United States; database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XZ44-NL7> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing FHL microfilm 1205068.

<sup>58</sup> "Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1950," William R Dyer and Jane W Conn, 12 December 1835, Knox, Tennessee, United States; database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XZ4D-SL8> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing FHL microfilm 1205069.

<sup>59</sup> "Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1950," William Dyer and Polly McDaniel, 1 January 1827, Knox, Tennessee, United States; database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XZ44-3XP> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing FHL microfilm 1205067.

<sup>60</sup> ElisabethEros, "Family Tree," Williamson Anderson Cozart (1761-1837), "Public Member Trees," *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/5654641/person/432451811731/facts> : 2 November 2023).

<sup>61</sup> 1800 U.S. census, Granville County, North Carolina, population schedule, Hillsboro, p. 576, line 16, Williamson Cozart; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/324882:7590> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 31.

- 1810 census for Wm Cozart in Granville County, North Carolina<sup>62</sup>
- 1820
- 1830
- One of the sons of Williamson is listed as Hubbard.

The family tree includes Littleton Cozart and Wyatt Cozart as sons. These men are found in Hawkins County, Tennessee in 1830.

James and Bedey also named a son Hubbard, perhaps after Bedey's brother.

LeRoy Dyer resided with a James Dyer in District 14 of Grainger County in 1850.<sup>63</sup> Who was this James Dyer whose household included Emeline T. Dyer, Sarah Elkkns Dyer, and LeRoy Dyer?

## Identification of Dyers in Grainger County, Tennessee

### 1810 Census

The 1810 Federal Census is partially extant for Grainger County, Tennessee. The following Dyers were some of the men living in Grainger County at that time, though the list is probably not inclusive:<sup>64</sup>

1. Dyer, Thomas - 1 male under 10, 2 males 10-16, 1 male 16-26, 1 male over 45, 1 female 10-16, 1 female 26-45
2. Dyer, William - 4 males under 10, 1 male 10-16, 1 male 26-45, 1 female under 10, 2 females 10-16, 1 female 26-45
3. Dyer, Anna - 2 males under 10, 3 females under 10, 2 females 10-16, 1 female 16-26, 1 female 26-45.
4. Dyer, Joseph - 1 male 10-16, 1 male over 45, 2 females 10-16, 1 female 16-26, 1 female over 45
5. Dyer, Jesse - 1 male under 10, 1 male 10-16, 1 male 16-26, 1 female 16-26
6. Dyer, George - 1 male 16-26, 2 females under 10, 1 female 16-26
7. Dyer, William - 1 male under 10, 1 male 16-26, 1 female under 10, 1 female 26-45
8. Dyer, Joseph - 1 male under 10, 2 males 10-16, 1 male 26-45, 2 girls under 10, 1 female 26-45
9. Dyer, Spilsby - 1 male under 10, 1 male 16-26, 1 female 16-26
10. Dyer, William - 2 males 10-16, 1 male 16-26, 1 male 26-45, 1 male over 45, 2 females 16-26, 1 female over 45

In the list above, households 1-3, 5, and 7-9 all had at least one male under 10 years old. These are candidates for the father of James Dyer of District 8. Further research should identify each of these men more fully and attempt to identify their children so they can be ruled out as the father.

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<sup>62</sup> 1810 U.S. census, Granville County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 895, line 1, Wm Cazort; database with images, Ancestry (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/376441:7613> : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M252, roll 40.

<sup>63</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 14, p. 121b, dwelling 1715, family 1796, James Dyer; database with images, Ancestry ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038\\_00251](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038_00251) : accessed 2 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.

<sup>64</sup> G.T. Transcription Team, "1810 Federal Census," *Grainger County, Tennessee Genealogy and History, Genealogy Trails History Group* (<https://genealogytrails.com/tenn/granger/census1810.html> : accessed 7 Nov 2023); citing McClung Historical Collection Special Studies No. 1.



## 1810 Tax List

Tax records in Grainger County in 1810 identify the following Dyers:

1. James Dyer Jr., owned 234 acres on Flat Creek, **1 WP**, Charles Hutcheson district<sup>65</sup>
2. James Dyer Sr., owned 60 acres on F. Creek, 0 polls, Charles Hutcheson district<sup>66</sup>
3. William Dyer Sr., 0 WP, 2 BP, Richard Coates' Company<sup>67</sup>
4. William Dyer Jr., **1 WP**, Richard Coates' Company<sup>68</sup>
5. Thomas Dyer, owned 30 acres of land W Flat Creek, 0 WP, Charles Hutcheson District<sup>69</sup>
6. William Dyer Jr., owned 200 acres of land, **1 WP**, Capt Thos Morris Company<sup>70</sup>
7. Joseph Dyer, owned 165 acres of land, 0 WP, Capt Richardson Company<sup>71</sup>
8. Spilsby Dyer, owned 110 acres of land, **1 WP**, Capt Richardson Company<sup>72</sup>
9. William Dyer, owned 400 acres on Flat Creek, **1 WP**, Capt Richardson Co<sup>73</sup>

Those who were taxed for one white poll (WP) were likely between the ages of 21-50.<sup>74</sup> Thus, they were born between 1760-1789. Those with 1 WP have that detail in bold. Men who were too old for the poll tax were over age 50, and thus born before 1760. Some men may have been too young, and those ones were born after 1789.

Four of the men owned land on Flat Creek, which probably indicates they were related: James Dyer Sr, James Dyer Jr., Thomas Dyer, and the William Dyer who owned 400 acres in Capt Richardson's Company.

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<sup>65</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Charles Hutcheson district, James Dyer Jr.; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>66</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Charles Hutcheson district, James Dyer Sr.; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>67</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Capt Richard Coates' Company, p. 198, William Dyer Sr.; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>68</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Capt Richard Coates' Company, p. 199, William Dyer Jr.; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>69</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Charles Hutcheson district, Thomas Dyer; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>70</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Capt Thos Morris Company p. 223, William Dyer Jr.; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>71</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Capt Richardson Company, Joseph Dyer; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>72</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Capt Richardson Company p. 229, Spilsby Dyer; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>73</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Tax Lists, 1810, Thomas Brown JP List for Grainger County, Capt Richardson Co., 1810, p. 231, William Dyer; images online, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>74</sup> John Haywood and Robert L. Cobbs, *The Statute Laws of the State of Tennessee: Of a Public and General Nature*, Vol. 1 (Knoxville: F. S. Heiskell, 1831), p. 336; image copy, Google Books ([https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Statute\\_Laws\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_of\\_Tenness/pAVOQAIAAJ](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Statute_Laws_of_the_State_of_Tenness/pAVOQAIAAJ) : 30 October 2023).

Flat Creek is in present day Hamblen County. Hamblen was created in 1870 from Grainger and Hawkins Counties.<sup>75</sup>

To more fully identify the James Dyers who lived in Grainger County, Tennessee, additional marriage, probate, land, and census records were correlated. The following men were identified:

### James Dyer (1774-1858), md. Temperance Jimmason

- James Dyer Sr. took out a bond to marry Temperance Jimmason on 27 Aug 1839 in Grainger County, TN.<sup>76</sup> William Hubbs was bondsman. The marriage was performed by John Tidwell, minister of the gospel, on 29 Aug 1839.
- James Dyer, a farmer with real estate valued at \$1400 and an inferred wife named Emeline T. Dyer, resided in District 14 of Grainger County in 1850.<sup>77</sup> He was age 76 (born 1774) with a birthplace of Virginia. Emeline was age 62 (born 1788) with a birthplace of Tennessee. Also in the household were Sarah Elkins (age 38) and Leroy Dyer (age 13). The household was split between two pages, and the top of the second page lists "Sarah Elkins" and then "Leroy Dyer." This probably means Sarah was not a Dyer, but it's unclear.
- James Dyer, Sr.'s will was recorded 20 Aug 1858 in Grainger Co.<sup>78</sup> The following relationships were found:
  - Wife Emeline Temperance Dyer
  - Son James Dyer
  - Son Anderson J. Dyer
  - Daughter Winneyford Carden
  - Daughter Luraney Acuff, and her son, [James?] Acuff
  - Daughter Hannah Dennis
  - Daughter Nancy McBee
  - Daughter Rebecca Acuff
  - Daughter Elizabeth McBee
  - Grandson James Acuff

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<sup>75</sup> Tennessee County Formation Map, *Map of US* (<https://www.mapofus.org/tennessee/> : accessed 8 Nov 2023).

<sup>76</sup> "Tennessee, County Marriages, 1790-1950," James Dyer and Temperance Jimmason, 27 August 1839, Grainger, Tennessee, United States; database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XZWH-8WR> : accessed 3 November 2023); citing FHL microfilm 1358480.

<sup>77</sup> 1850 U.S. census, Grainger County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 14, p. 121b, dwelling 1715, family 1796, Emeline T Dyer; database with images, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038\\_00251](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4206038_00251) : accessed 3 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 880.

<sup>78</sup> Grainger Co., Tennessee, Wills, 4:10-12, James Dyer Senior, will dated 29 April 1856, recorded 20 Sep 1858; "Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4066125:9176> : accessed 3 November 2023); citing Tennessee County Court (Grainger County).

- Son James Dyer: to receive land bank of the Mountain fork of flat creek, mouth of a hollow, creek below Popjoy; all the land on the northeast side of line
- Son Pryor H. Dyer: all the land on the southwest side of said line
- Executors Samuel Shiels and Milton Shields
- Henry, son of PH Dyer, make a deed back to me; b/c back water on my bottom field from Wm Hubbs mill pond
- Witnessed by Booker Dyer, John Griffin, John Boils
- Son Anderson J. Dyer, deceased, who had four sons (my four grandsons) – Leroy Dyer, Alfred Dyer, Marion Dyer, and James A. Dyer
- James Dyer, the only heir of my daughter Luraney Acuff (deceased)
- Codicil witnessed by James Dyer, Alfred Acuff, Wm Donehoo, and B.H. Dyer
- Recorded 20 Sep 1858

### James Dyer (b. before 1784), md. Elizabeth Garroth

James Dyer married Elizabeth Garroth 11 October 1802 in Grainger County, TN.<sup>79</sup> If he was married at about age 18 or later, he was likely born before 1784.

### James Dyer (b. 1795), War of 1812 Soldier, md. Polly Harmon

- James Dyer married Poly Harmon on 7 Sep 1814 in Grainger County, TN.<sup>80</sup>
- James Dyer served in the War of 1812, enlisted 9 Oct 1813, discharged 8 Feb 1814<sup>81</sup>
  - Private in Capt. Zachariah Copeland's Company
  - Bounty Land 19308-80-'50 and 24174-80-'55
  - Widow Polly Hannon, married 8 Sept 1814 in Grainger Co., Tenn
  - Pension Numbers - SO 2270 and SC 1764
- Pension Application File<sup>82</sup>
  - Wife's name was Polly Harmon, married her in Grainger Co., TN on 8 Sep 1814
  - Age 56 in 1851 and resided in McMinn Co. (born 1795)

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<sup>79</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1784-1825," James Dyer and Elizabeth Garroth, 11 October 1802, Grainger Co., *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4843:2099> : accessed 3 November 2023).

<sup>80</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1784-1825," James Dyor and Poly Harmon, 7 September 1814, Grainger Co., database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5409:2099> : accessed 3 November 2023).

<sup>81</sup> "U.S., War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, 1812-1815," James Dyer, enlisted 9 October 1813, Tennessee, widow Polly Hannon, database with images of index cards, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/34302:1133> : accessed 3 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M313, roll 29.

<sup>82</sup> "US, War of 1812 Pension Files, 1812-1815," database with images, *Fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/310391813> : accessed 3 November 2023), James Dyer (Pvt Capt Zachariah Copeland's Co Tenn Mil), p. 20, bounty land claim; citing War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, compiled ca. 1871 - ca. 1900, documenting the period 1812 - ca. 1900, The National Archives, roll RG15-1812PB-Bx1109.

- Age 60 in 1855 and resided in McMinn Co., Tennessee
- Age 60 in 1871 and resided in Erie, McMinn Co., Tennessee
- 1875 residence in Sweetwater, [McMinn Co.], Tennessee
- 1838 Marriage to Florentha Vaughn<sup>83</sup>
- 1850 residence in McMinn Co. with Flourentha. Household included James, 56, Foletha, 38, Nancy, 20, Jasper, 18, Newton, 16, Ephraim, 14, Abigail, 12, Louisa, 10, Algerina, 1.<sup>84</sup>
- 1860 residence in McMinn Co., household included: James Dyer, 65, Flountha Dyer, 49, Ephraim Dyer, 19, Elijah Dyer, 18, Louisa Dyer, Algina Dyer, 10, Joseph A Dyer, 8, and Harriet E Dyer, 6.<sup>85</sup>
- 1870 residence in McMinn Co., household including James Dier, Joseph Dier, 19, Paralee Shiply, 17, Emily Shiply, 17, and Elgeraner Shiply, 21. James was born in Virginia, owned \$150 of personal estate and \$1500 of real estate.<sup>86</sup>
- James probably died by 3 Feb 1879, when administrators were appointed for his estate in McMinn County.<sup>87</sup>

### James Dyer (b. before 1803), md. Milley Needham

James Dyer married Milley Needham on 6 Dec 1821 in Grainger County, TN.<sup>88</sup> If he was 18 or older when he was married, he was likely born before 1803. The identity of this James Dyer is not fully understood. Due to the hypothesized age, it's possible this is a previous marriage of James Dyer of District 8 before Bedey. Or it could be a completely different James Dyer.

## Conclusion

This research phase did not identify James Dyer's father. James Dyer was identified in Grainger County as living in District 8 on the 1850 census, 1851-52 tax records, and 1848 school census. Neighbors and associates Neri Dyer and Wiley Cozart were discovered. Possible 1830 and 1840 location of James Dyer

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<sup>83</sup> Tennessee, U.S., Marriage Records, 1780-2002, "James Dyer and Florantha Vaughan, 4 June 1838, McMinn Co., database with images; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2334724:1169>) : 3 November 2023).

<sup>84</sup> 1850 U.S. census, McMinn County, Tennessee, population schedule, Subdivision 23, p. 299a, dwelling 1551, family 1061, James Vyse [Dyer]; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/6353617:8054>) : accessed 3 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 887.

<sup>85</sup> 1860 U.S. census, McMinn County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 2, p. 214, dwelling 141, family 132, James Dyer; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/19351138:7667>) : accessed 3 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1262.

<sup>86</sup> 1870 U.S. census, McMinn County, Tennessee, population schedule, District 2, p. 13A, dwelling 46, family 46, James Vier [Dier]; database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4775048:7163>) : accessed 3 November 2023); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1549.

<sup>87</sup> McMinn Co., Tennessee, Administrators and Executors Bonds 2:104, James Dyre, 3 February 1879; "Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4334464:9176>) : accessed 3 November 2023); citing Tennessee County Court (McMinn County).

<sup>88</sup> "Tennessee, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1784-1825," James Dyer and Milley Needham, 6 December 1821, Grainger Co., database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5818:2099>) : accessed 3 November 2023).

was discovered in Knox County, Tennessee. Future research should find a Y-DNA test-taker who descends patrilineally from James Dyer of District 8 to compare with the Y-DNA surname project. Many Dyer men lived in Grainger County, Tennessee, in 1810 and through the 1850s. Identifying them and their children, then comparing with test-takers who don't match at the Y-DNA surname project, can help eliminate father candidates in future research.

## Future Research

- Search for Neri Dyer in tax records in 1856 in other tax districts besides 8, and in 1857 and trace him forward in time.
- Trace Neri Dyer for any familial connections to James Dyer.
- Examine tax records in Grainger County, TN prior to 1851 for James Dyer.
  - No tax records appear to be extant in Grainger County in the 1840s. 1797-1837 are available.<sup>89</sup> Check additional repositories.
  - Since James likely lived in Knox County in 1830-1840, there probably won't be tax records for him in Grainger County prior to 1836.
- Knox County court and probate records at FamilySearch should be searched for James Dyer's heirs (the James Dyer taxed in 1804).
  - [Will books, 1792-1803, Knox County, Tennessee](#) – images, locked
  - [Knox County Estate Books, 1792-1863](#) – images
  - [Administrators, executors and guardians records, 1792-1905](#) – images
- Examine Wiley Cozart for further clues about Bedey's origins.
- Search inventories for the years 1842-1855 for James Dyer of District 8.
  - Mary E. Reeves, *Grainger County, Tennessee Inventories of Estates and Wills, Nov. 1833-May 1852* (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1989),
- Find a Y-DNA test-taker descendant of James Dyer of District 8.
- Further identify the men in the 1810 Grainger County, Tennessee, census, and identify their children with other records.

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<sup>89</sup> "Early Tennessee Tax Lists at the Tennessee State Library and Archives," *Tennessee Secretary of State* (<https://sos.tn.gov/tsla/guides/early-tennessee-tax-lists-at-the-tennessee-state-library-and-archives#index> : accessed 9 Nov 2023). See also FamilySearch Library Catalog, Grainger County, Tennessee *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/> : accessed 9 Nov 2023).