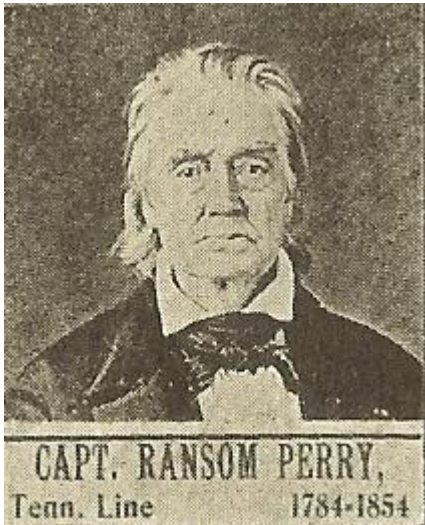


Ransom Perry 6 Feb. 1784-July 1854



Ransom Perry was born 6 Feb. 1784 in Wake Co., NC, later living in Alabama and eastern Tennessee, where he taught school. He served seven months in the War of 1812, as a 3rd Lieutenant, later Captain, in Chiles' Battalion, Mounted Gunmen, East Tennessee Volunteers. They fought under General Andrew Jackson, at the Battle of New Orleans.

Perry married in Tennessee, about 1809, to Katharine Martin, whose family was prominent in those parts. One of her brothers was governor of Tennessee at one time, and another a well-known member of Congress. Ransom and Katharine were parents of thirteen children: Parthenia, Charlotte, Martha, Edith, Simon, Wm. H.H., Gillah, James M., Sarah, Diadema, Jane, Elizabeth and "M." The first seven of these were born Blount Co., TN, James M. Perry in Jennings Co. Indiana, and the remaining five were born in Bartholomew Co. after the family's arrival here about 1822.

Ransom Perry served for a time as Probate Judge of Bartholomew Co. He was a successful man, with numerous business ventures.

Ransom's wife Katherine died in Feb. 1844; he remarried quickly, to Leah Powell, just three months later. This union quickly deteriorated. James M. Perry's personal account states that Ransom Perry sold out his holdings and moved to Missouri. This is borne out by Ransom's several real estate transactions, all dated 22 July 1844. Two additional transactions were recorded on 22 Nov. 1845, where Leah Perry received a total of \$200, marked as her "dower." Ransom afterward divorced Leah, granted 14 Mar. 1846. He stated she had gone to Owen Co., IN. There were rumors later, about a son named Albert, possibly from this union. Little more is known of him, but his existence might have been the reason for the "dower" payment.

Ransom evidently made several trips back and forth from Missouri and Arkansas. He returned and married a third time, to Dicy Ann (Parker) Blunk, May 18, 1846 in Jackson Co., IN. Dicy was divorced, with a young son and several older children. This union also was short-lived; they divorced in a few months. Ransom Perry married for the fourth, and apparently last, time, to Drucilla Prickett, Sept. 3, 1847, in Johnson Co., IN. In 1850, they were enumerated on the census in Carroll Co., AR. He had several land transactions recorded in Carroll Co. in the 1850s. A biographical sketch of a son-in-law, Henry B. Meek, asserts that Ransom Perry died about 1857, near Carthage, in Jasper Co., MO.

Ransom built the Perry home at what is now 2800 Washington St. (out in the country at the time.) Family members were originally buried in "Shell's Graveyard," somewhere in the neighborhood of the house. A

number of graves, including that of Katharine Perry, were moved to City Cemetery about 1915, when that area of Washington Street was platted for residential lots. Presumably this is when the large monument was purchased, and Ransom's name included as a memorial. There is, as yet, no clear proof where or exactly when Ransom Perry died, although research into new leads is continuing. There are no local estate records for Ransom Perry, 1850-1860.