

Descendants of Susannah Cole

Generation 1

1. **SUSANNAH¹ COLE** was born on 06 Jan 1735 in VA, United States. She died in 1815 in Hickman county, TN. She married **THOMAS WELLS**. He was born on 10 Sep 1774 in VA. He died in 1776 in Greenville, South Carolina, USA.

Thomas Wells and Susannah Cole had the following child:

- i. **LEWIS² WELLS** was born on 22 Jun 1750. He died on 12 Aug 1846 in Perry County, IL, USA. He married **ELIZABETH BATES**, daughter of John Bates and Anna Smith. She was born in 1750. She died in 1846 in Perry County, IL, USA.

Notes for Lewis Wells:

Information furnished by Bonnie Ward Williamson on findagrave.com

Most older biographies of Lewis Wells state that he was born in South Carolina. Evidence exists that Lewis was born in Virginia, the only child of Thomas and Susannah Cole Wells. On the 1880 US Census, his son, Giles gave his father's birthplace as Maryland, mother's as Virginia. Possibly these were reversed?

At age three, Lewis' maternal grandfather, John Cole, deeded him land in Lunenburg Co., VA. After his father's death, his mother, Susannah, was remarried to William Gamblin and they moved, with Lewis, from Virginia, to Chatham Co., NC., Lewis later lived in Union Co., SC (where he married Elizabeth Bates), and in Greenville, Co., SC. In the 1790 and 1800 US Censuses in Greenville County, the family of William Gamblin, his step-father, was in close proximity.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION: Lewis served in Colonel Brandon's South Carolina Militia Regiment after the fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. Their most famous battle was The Battle of the Cowpens, 17 Jan 1781: Col. Andrew Pickens led a force of militia units under the command of Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan and his Continentals at The Battle of Cowpens. Four militia battalions formed the first line and central core of the militia formation. The Fair Forest Regiment of Col. Thomas Brandon, along with Hayes' Little River Regiment, Thomas' Spartanburg Regiment, and Roebuck's Spartanburg Battalion met the initial onslaught of the British under the hated Banastre Tarleton.

According to eyewitness accounts, Brandon's Fair Forest soldiers were the first ones to fire on the advancing British, and the only ones who had sufficient time to reload and to take a second shot. They then, according to plan, made a quick retreat behind Morgan's Continentals, drawing the British into their range. The militia regiments then reformed and rejoined the fight. Many accounts exist of Fair Forest soldiers wounded in hand-to-hand fighting. Local tradition says that Thomas Brandon set the example for his men by killing three British dragoons with his sword.

The defeat of the British at Cowpens finally drove Cornwallis and his army out of the Carolinas.

The movie, "The Patriot" with Mel Gibson is a fictionalized version of that battle.

In 1786, Lewis received "6 Pounds, 17S/1D1/2 Sterling For Duty Done In Brandon's Regiment After The Fall Of Charleston And Anderson's Return.A.A.8351;X3181."

Tradition has it that, in 1803, Lewis Wells, Thomas Taylor, the three Pyle brothers, Lewis McElvain and maybe others came to Illinois to assess the land and the Indian situation. They returned to Christian County, Kentucky because of Indian hostility. In 1812, some of the group moved into Illinois with their families, settling first near a fort about four miles east of Carbondale, on Crab Orchard Creek, then, later in Perry Co. The 1812 date which is sometimes cited may be a little early for Wells. In

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1817, Lewis and Elizabeth sold 514 acres of land in Christian County, Kentucky, part of which they had purchased from Abner Pyle in 1812. This might indicate that the Pyles moved first, and the Wells family followed a few years later.

Lewis and Elizabeth were the parents of Lewis Jr., Thomas Bates, Susan, Elijah, Martha Ann (Williams), Sarah (Pyle), Kiziah (McElvain), Mary (Pyle), Elizabeth Bates (Winters), Joseph and Giles.