**The Weir-Caskey Connection[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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### Turner Weir, son of Joseph Weir, remarried in Saline County on 3 May 1885, giving the names of his parents as “Joseph Ware” and “L. Caska” (Mar. Register A-1, p. 98).[[2]](#footnote-2) In the 19th century the capital “L” sometimes resembled the capital “B,” especially in German writing, or the capital “F.” However, both of those capital letters occur on page 98 and do not resemble the capital “L.” The single initial of the mother’s given name is essentially the same as the initial letter in given name of Turner’s new bride, Lucinda O. Dean, a given name that clearly begins with “L.” Unless Turner was mistaken about his mother’s name, her given name did begin with “L.”

### Turner Weir was born on 14 February 1817, according to his tombstone in the Lebanon Church Cemetery in Saline County. His father Joseph resided in Wilson County, Tennessee during that time-period. On 15 January 1817, just one month before Turner’s birth, Joseph Wier, as he signed his name, served as bondsman for the marriage of Joseph Caskey to Catherine “Caty” Scoby in Wilson County.[[3]](#footnote-3) Although no record of the Joseph Weir-L. Caska marriage has been found, the marriage would have occurred after 18 April 1812. Jean Weir consented to the sale of land by her husband, Joseph, in Chester District, South Carolina on 18 October 1811 (Deed Bk. R, pp. 219-220). The land had been left to Joseph by his father, John. Turner’s older sister, Alzada “Zady” (Weir) Anderson was born on 18 April 1812, according to her tombstone in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Saline County.[[4]](#footnote-4) There was not enough time for Jean to die after 18 October 1811, for Joseph to remarry, and Zady to have been born to a later wife. The marriage to L. Caska would have taken place after 18 April 1812 and by 1816 in time for Turner’s birth in early 1817.

### Joseph Weir’s household in Wilson County in 1820 consisted of one male over 45, one 10 to (under) 16 (Robert), three under 10 (Joseph, Turner, and one unidentified), one female 10 to 16 (Elizabeth, who married Logan Lynch in 1825) and one under 10 (Zady, who married Albert A. Anderson in 1833) (p. 405). It is not plausible that a woman no older than 15 in 1820 would have given birth to a child over 3 years earlier, providing evidence the L. (Casca) Weir was deceased by that census. Joseph posted bond in Wilson County to marry again on 14 February 1821. Lydia Allen was his bride and would become his widow when he died in Gallatin County about 1844. Lydia Allen headed a household in Wilson County on the 1820 census (p. 403). On the same page Robert Casky is listed with one male over 45, one 10 to 16, two under 10, one female 10 to 16, and one over 45. Also on the 1820 Wilson County census is the household of Joseph Caskey, with one male 26 to 45 and two females under 10 (p. 408).

### The Caskey family, like the Weir family, resided in what became the Chester District, South Carolina prior to appearing in Wilson County, Tennessee. The reorganization of South Carolina civil jurisdictions makes determining locations a challenge. Craven County was an original county and was extended inland about 1733. What is now Chester County became a part of the Camden judicial district in 1769. In 1785 seven counties, including Chester, were established within the Camden District. The Pinkney District was established in 1791 and included Chester County. In 1800 counties in five districts where abolished and the counties within them became districts. Chester was one of those counties. Both deeds and Revolutionary records establish that John Caskey and his wife Esther resided in what became Chester District.

### John Caskey owned land in Camden District in 1774. The plat of a 250-acre tract on Rocky Creek in Craven County for Robert Jameson dated 6 June 1774 shows that John Caskey owned adjacent land. Rocky Creek was in what became Chester County, and John Weir also owned land on that creek. John Caskey of Camden District purchased land in Craven County from Thomas Stroud on 18 April 1780. The deed was recorded in Chester District on 8 June 1814 (Deed Q, 274-277), over 3 years later. John and Esther Caskey of Camden District sold land on a branch of Rocky Creek in Craven County on a branch of Rocky Creek to James Meek (Chester Deed D, pp. 228-232). The deed was dated 12 August 1782 but not recorded until 1793. John Weir owned land on Rocky Creek which he held at the time he signed his will in Chester District on 12 May 1801 (Bk. C, pp. 154-156).

### On 18 July 1783 Col. Edward Lacey certified Caskey’s service in his regiment under Capt. [Samuel] Adams (Audited Account #1127, John Caskey). Caskey was credited with 15 days as a horseman, 40 days as a footman, 42 days as a footman, and providing oats and wheat for Col. Henry Hampton’s Regiment of Light Dragoons in 1781.[[5]](#footnote-5) John Caskey signed his name in a firm, clear hand. Col. Lacey recruited men on Rocky Creek prior to the Battle of Fishdam Ford. There is no evidence that John Caskey served in that tour of duty, which John Weir did. However, Lacey’s activity on Rocky Creek is a further geographic connection between the Weir and Caskey families.

### John Caskey “of Craven County otherwise Chester in Camdin District” signed his will in on 19 September 1785 and it was proved 16 August 1786 (Kershaw Bk. A-1, p. 356-357).[[6]](#footnote-6) He made bequests to his wife Ester that included 100 acres of land on which he lived, his daughter Izebell (surname not given), his daughter Marey Caskey a slave “Keat,” remaining land to be divided among his four sons (not named), and the remainder of the estate was to be divided among his six children. Izebell was to receive the land left to his wife upon her remarriage or death. There is no evidence that either daughter had a middle name, much less a middle name beginning with “L.” Although the four sons were not named in the will, several land records establish their identity. For example, Joseph Caskey of Chester District sold his undivided interest in his father’s land to Robert and Thomas Caskey on 11 December 1811 (Deed Bk. P, pp. 136-137). He identified his father as John Caskey, said that land was to be divided among Robert, Thomas, John, and Joseph Caskey, stated that his brother John died in his minority, and added that John’s share of the land going to his brothers.

### Robert and Joseph Caskey sold their land in Chester District about the time that Joseph Weir sold his land and moved to Wilson County. Robert Caskey sold his land in Chester District, South Carolina in 1812 (Deed P, 297; Deed Q, 279-280; Deed T, 157-158). Joseph Caskey sold land in his land in Chester District in 1811 and 1814 (Deed P, 136-137; Deed T, 158-159). Joseph Weir sold his land in Chester District in 1811 with the consent of wife Jean (Deed R, 219-220).

### L. Casca was undoubtedly a Caskey.

### The Weir and Caskey families were proximate to one another both in Chester District, South Carolina and Wilson County, Tennessee.

### Joseph Weir and Joseph Caskey knew one another well enough for the former to serve as a bondsman for the latter’s marriage.

### The only Caskey families found heading households or selling land in Chester District through 1820 were John Caskey (Sr.) and his sons Robert, Thomas, and Joseph.

### The only Caskey families found in Wilson County through 1820 were headed by Robert, Robert’s son John, and Joseph Caskey.

### Which of the men could have been L. Caskey’s father?

### L. Caskey in all likelihood was born by 1800 in order to marry between 1812 and 1816. Three of the four sons of John Caskey apparently had no daughters born before 1800. John Caskey (Jr.) died before reaching his majority. His share of his father’s the land devolved to his brothers rather than sons and/or daughters. Census records show that Thomas Caskey and his family remained in Chester County. Thomas Caskey died on 19 October 1840 in his 57th year, according to his tombstone in Hopewell Reformed Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Chester County. He would have been in his 13th year in 1800. He does not appear on the 1800 census, when he would have been about 17. The 1810 Chester Dist. census lists two females under 10 in his household. The distribution of Thomas’ estate on 9 February 1844 did not include anyone with the surname “Weir” (Probate Files Box 75 Pkg 1190). It is unlikely that Joseph Caskey was the father of L. Caskey. Joseph H. and Catherine Caskey are listed on the 1850 Wright County, Missouri census (p. 234 right). Joseph was 65 and born in South Carolina. He is not found on either the 1800 or 1810 census. There is no indication of a marriage before he wed Catherine Scoby in 1817.

### Robert Kasky headed a household in Chester Dist., South Carolina in 1800 (p. 93). The household included one male 26 to 45, one 16 to 26, two under 10, one female 10 to 26, and one under 10.[[7]](#footnote-7) In 1810 both Thos and Robt Caskey are listed in the Chester District Census (p. 511). Robert had one male 26 to 44, two 10 to 16, one under 10, one female 26 to 45, and two under 10. Thomas had one male 26 to 45, one under 10, one female 26 to 45, and two under 10. In 1820 Robert Caskey was listed on the Wilson County, Tennessee census (p. 403). Both he and the eldest female were over 45, born by 1775. With a presumed daughter born before 1800, he could have been the father of Joseph Weir’s (second) wife.

1. This paper complements my earlier paper, “Ancestry of the Weir Family of Saline and Franklin Counties, Illinois,” on the specific matter of the second marriage of Joseph Weir, who moved to what was then Gallatin County, Illinois in the 1820s. See ***Saga***, Vol. , pp. . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. There are numerous variations in the spelling of both “Weir” and “Caskey.” The spelling in the document cited will often be followed in this paper. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The return on the license shows the marriage was solemnized on the following day. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Zady was the first wife of Albert Alvis Anderson. They married in Gallatin County, Illinois on 17 September 1833. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The account also includes a claim for loss of a gray horse at Sumpter’s Defeat (Fishing Creek) on 18 August 1780, but this appears to be the claim of a second man in the same account. Claims of more than one man of the same name are often found in a South Carolina Audited Account. This claim was not signed by John Caskey of Lacey’s Regiment, Lacey did not certify it, and it was not included in the reimbursement of the claims made by John Caskey of what became Chester Dist. A second John Caskey who resided in Lancaster Dist. and moved to Maury County, Tennessee. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Kershaw assumed custody of early will books after it was created. The early wills included some or all of what became Chester District. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The male 16 to 26 could have been one of Robert’s brothers, Joseph or Thomas, neither of whom is listed as the head of a household in Chester District in 1800. The children under 10 were born well after the death of John Caskey (Sr.) and are presumably the children of Robert. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)