

ARTHUR BOBBITT 1776 - 1856  
 Son of Stephen and Celah Bobbitt

Arthur Bobbitt was the second son of Stephen and Celah (Harris) Bobbitt. He was born in 1776 in what was at that time Bute County, and is today Warren County, North Carolina.

The census records of 1800 of Warren County show that Arthur was living at home at the age of 24. His older brother, Harris Bobbitt was married in 1801 and was establishing a home of his own. Arthur was manager of his father's plantation until he married Mary Smelly of Warren County on January 4, 1809. His uncle, Joel Harris was the bondsman for the marriage. The first record of Arthur Bobbitt was in the census of 1810 of Warren County. He and his family were listed as:

Arthur Bobbitt:  
 1 male 26 - 45 (1765-1784) 1 female under 10 (1800-1810)  
 1 female 16 - 26 (1784-1794)  
 2 slaves

The daughter was Mariah Frances Bobbitt, born on November 2, 1809. Mariah Frances Bobbitt married Abner Jones in Jackson, Tennessee on February 4, 1830. Mariah died on April 19, 1877 in Marshall County, Mississippi.

When the war of 1812 began, Arthur Bobbitt enlisted as a private in Atkinson's 5th Regiment of the North Carolina Militia. He was soon promoted to the rank of a Lieutenant. We are not certain when he was discharged from service, but his second child and first son was born in 1810 in Warren County. The 1820 census of Warren County listed the family as:

Arthur Bobbitt:  
 2 males under 10 (1810-1820) 3 females under 10 (1810-1820)  
 1 male 26 - 45 (1775-1794) 1 female 26 - 45 (1775-1794)

The two sons listed in this record were Arthur Junior born in 1810 and James Arthur born in 1815. The family was living on the plantation of Stephen Bobbitt Senior. There were no land transactions recorded for Arthur Bobbitt before 1824.

On January 1, 1824, Stephen Bobbitt sold to his son, Arthur 88 acres of land. The deed is recorded in DB 25, page 45 in Warren County.

*"Stephen Bobbitt to Arthur Bobbitt, both of Warren County, for 100 pounds of Virginia money, for 88 acres of land on Bens Creek, adjoining Sterling Johnson, up the Piney Branch to Bobbitt's line.*  
 Witnesses: John Bobbitt, Jr. William Shearin. Proved by:  
 Arthur Bobbitt, Junior. in Feb. 1827.

*"Proved in February Court of 1827 by Arthur Bobbitt Jr."*

This is the first last and only record of Arthur Bobbitt Junior. We know that he had to be 17 years of age to be old enough to prove this legal transaction, and he could not have been born before 1810. The land was sold later to Sterling Johnson.

Stephen Bobbitt Senior died in 1824, and in his will which was probated on August 23, 1824 he mentions his son Arthur.

*"I give to my son, Arthur Bobbitt, one tract of land, I had from Edwin Harris, also two negroes named Lucy and Diner, one feather bed and furniture, one mare, and one calf, all of which is now in his possession."*

The division of the negroes in the estate of Stephen Bobbitt was made on December 1, 1824. The sale of the property of the estate for division among the heirs was sold on December 17, 1824. The list of items sold came to eight pages in the records and is one of the longest list recorded in Warren County.

Several of Arthur Bobbitt's cousins had migrated to Tennessee and apparently were satisfied to make their homes in the new territory. Sometime during the fall of 1827 Arthur Bobbitt and his family moved to Madison County, Tennessee. Arthur had a first cousin by the name of James Bobbitt who lived in South Carolina. He was a son of William Bobbitt, brother of Stephen Bobbitt. We believe that James Bobbitt and his family first moved to Madison County and that Arthur joined him there in 1827. James later moved to Gibson County, but Arthur remained in Madison County for the balance of his life.

For some reason, Arthur was not recorded in any census taken in 1830. We know that in 1828 he was living in Tennessee as his son and last child was Willis Smelly Bobbitt born in 1828 in Tennessee. Sometime between 1828 and 1840, Mary (Smelly) Bobbitt died. The family of Arthur was listed in the 1840 census of Madison County, Tennessee as:

Arthur Bobbitt:

1 male 10 - 15	(1825-1830)	1 female 15 - 20	(1820-1825)
1 male 15 - 20	(1825-1830)		
1 male 20 - 30	(1810-1820)		
1 male 60 - 70	(1770-1780)		

The three sons are at home and they are James Arthur born in 1815, John Richard born in 1825, and Willis Smelly born in 1828. Arthur Bobbitt Junior died sometime between 1827 and 1840. The daughter listed here is Mary Martha Bobbitt, all the other daughters were married and away from home. Mary was born in 1821.

John Richard Bobbitt was born on January 5, 1825 in the state of Alabama. We believe that at one time after the war of 1812 and for a very short period that John Richard was born while his father, Arthur Bobbitt was visiting a sister and her family in Alabama. He apparently lived there for a period of time before returning to North Carolina. In the records, John has given his birth place as North Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee. We see the possibility of Alabama but it is most likely that he was born in North Carolina. John's first wife was named Tomesia R. Bobbitt. His second wife was Sarah Ann Jackson who had previously married S. A. Lackie. John was a Lieutenant in Company F of the 14th Tennessee Cavalry of the CSA. See separate chapter for the details on the life of John Bobbitt.

Willis Smelly Bobbitt was born on March 10, 1828 in Madison County, Tennessee. Willis married Harriet Paradise Alvis. Willis Bobbitt lived near Holly Springs, Mississippi and died there on November 10, 1912. Their son was John Douglas Bobbitt who was born in 1866. He married Emily Green Waley. John Douglas died in 1929. The second son was James Bobbitt who never married.

We have not been able to identify Mary Martha Bobbitt or to determine if her name was Mary Bobbitt or Martha Bobbitt. We believe she may have married a William L. Bobbitt of Madison County, Tennessee.

Emily Paradise Jones, daughter of Mariah (Bobbitt) Jones was born on March 30, 1843 in Bethlehem, Mississippi. She died at Oxford, Mississippi on May 28, 1932. Emily married Robert Greer Morgan on July 15, 1859. Among their twelve children was Donna Lee Morgan who was born on March 7, 1880.. Donna Lee Morgan married Alexander Brown McLure on June 24, 1908. Alexander B. McLure was born on September 28, 1884 at Glenville, Arkansas and died at Ruston, Louisiana on May 15, 1913. Joseph Richard McLure was a son of Alexander and Dona McLure.

From the research of J. Richard McLure we know that the homestead of Arthur Bobbitt was sold by court order, because Arthur Bobbitt died without a will. Jordon B. Boon purchased the land and home on January 7, 1857.