

THE GOFF FAMILY

The Goff family came originally from Ireland and arrived in the Colonies in the around 1770, and settled in New Jersey. After the Revolutionary War, the family moved to Hamilton County, Ohio near Cincinnati.

Sarah Lydia Goff, daughter of John Goff, who was a widow living in Franklin County, Indiana, met and married Philip Tenley Jones in 1862. Philip and Lydia were the great-great-grandparents of my wife on her mother's side of the family. I will begin this family history with William Goff, a native of Northern Ireland.

WILLIAM GOFF

William Goff was born and raised in Ireland. At this time, I do not know where, but I suspect he was from Ulster. Likewise, I can only guess that he was born about 1755. He came to America as a young man probably about 1770. He followed the trade of a shipwright or ship carpenter upon arriving in the Colonies. During the Revolution, he continued this trade in the Continental Navy building war ships for his adopted country.

Sometime in the mid 1770s, he married Prudence Passenger. During the Revolution, while William was in the Navy, Prudence operated a grist mill and performed a valuable service to her country as well.

After the war, the family remained in New Jersey and raised a family. In 1804, they decided to travel westwards in search of new lands on which their family could expand. They came by boat down the Ohio and settled near Cincinnati in Hamilton County, Ohio. William became a farmer and lived out his life on the farm.

At this time, I have no information on when either William or Susan died, but it was on the farm in Ohio.

They had six children that reached maturity:

JOHN GOFF who will be covered in the next section.

WILLIAM GOFF

LYDIA GOFF who married a Crippin.

HANNAH GOFF who married J. Applegate.

SARAH GOFF who married a Bateman.

A DAUGHTER GOFF who married a Garrison.

JOHN GOFF

John Goff was born in New Jersey in 1794 and traveled to Ohio as a young man of ten years of age.

The following comes from a HISTORY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, INDIANA:

John Goff was ten years old when the move was made to Ohio and he grew to manhood in that state. When a young man he came to this state (Indiana) and settled for a time in Rush County, where he erected a small distillery and sold whiskey to the Indians who were still in that section. He married in this state and located on the land which his father had entered from the government in Bath township. It was still a virgin state and he erected a small cabin in a little clearing and commenced the gigantic task of redeeming the land for farming purposes from the grasp of the forest. He raised flax and from his own sheep gathered the wool which his industrious wife spun into linen and wool threads and then wove into material for clothing for her family. We of today can little appreciate the labors of the early and persevering pioneers of this section who had to depend on the work of their own hands for everything that was needed in the home.

John Goff was an ardent Democrat at a time too when that party was not in such high favor. At one time he cast the only vote for that party in Bath Township and in 1824 when General Jackson was that party's presidential candidate, he cast one of the three votes for him in this township. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and did much to advance the interests of that religious society in the early days of this section.

John Goff married Lucy Johnson in Laurel, Franklin County, Indiana about 1819.

Lucy was born in Kentucky shortly after 1800. Her parents were Edward and Margaret (Dunn) Johnson. Edward was born in Kentucky and Margaret was born in Pennsylvania. The Johnson family came from Kentucky to Indiana in 1805. They first settled in Dearborn County, but in 1807 they moved to Franklin County and settled where the present town of Laurel, Indiana is located. The Johnsons remained on this farm all the remainders of their lives.

The children of Edward and Margaret Johnson were: JOHN, EDWARD, DEMIRE, LEMUEL, WILLIAM, PHOEBE and LUCY who married John Goff.

John Goff remained a farmer on his land until his death.

John and Lucy Goff had the following twelve children:

PRUDENCE, PHOEBE, JOHN J., WILLIAM, EDWARD, WESLEY, LUCY A., MARGARET, SARAH, JAMES B., ADELIN and LYDIA who first married H. Bourne and after his death married Philip Tenley Jones. Lydia and Philip Tenley Jones lives were covered in the Jones Family History section of this work.