Frederick Cooper Stiles

(1815/1816–aft. 1843)

of

Surry County, Virginia, Tennessee, & Union County, Arkansas,

Daughter of John Stiles Sr. & Rebecca Cooper,

Husband of Nancy Stiles

by Timothy Dean Hudson

Frederick Cooper Stiles was born about 1815 or 1816 in Surry County, Virginia [1]. Multiple pieces of circumstantial evidence indicate that he is the eldest known child of John Stiles Jr. and Rebecca Cooper [2].

In 1830, Frederick C. Stiles is probably the older male aged 15–20 in the household of John Stiles Jr. in Franklin County, Tennessee, while in 1840, he is likely the young adult male aged 20–30 in Jack's household in Union County Arkansas [3].

In 1841, Jack's brother, Leroy Stiles, had not yet arrived in Arkansas. That year, Frederick paid Union County taxes along with John Stiles Sr. and John N. Stiles [4]. Frederick also paid taxes in 1842 and 1843. He was assessed taxes in 1841 and 1842 under the name *"Frederick Stiles,"* but in 1843, under the name *"F. C. Stiles"* [5].

On 1 March 1843, Baptist minister John Scarborough performed the marriage ceremony of Frederick C. Stiles to Nancy Stiles in Jackson Township. Elder Scarborough had married Jane E. Stiles to James Boatright the previous fall. Nancy Stiles was born about 1827, making her at least a dozen years younger than her husband [6]. Nancy is believed to have been Frederick's first cousin, the daughter of Leroy Stiles and Mary Gibson. There is no record of any other Stiles family in Union County, Arkansas during this period, and Leroy is documented as having joined his brother in Union County in late 1841 or early 1842 [7].

The 1843 Union County tax list is the last known record of Frederick C. Stiles. It is unclear if he and Nancy died or moved away, but if they migrated elsewhere after 1843, no trace of either has been located. He should not be confused with his namesake cousin and nephew of Nancy Stiles. Born on 28 March 1840 in Missouri, this younger Frederick C. Stiles was the son of Nancy's older half-brother, Henry P. Stiles. The Henry P. Stiles family settled in Franklin County, Arkansas by 1850, with Henry's father and Jack Stiles' brother, Leroy, joining his son there in 1860 [8].

There is slight evidence that may be an indication Frederick C. Stiles died in late 1843 or early 1844. In 1841, he was assessed only one while poll tax, but in 1842, he paid taxes on one horse or mare aged three years or older valued at $25. In 1843, after his marriage, he paid taxes on the horse or mare, again valued at $25, and two cattle aged three years or older valued at $45.

Frederick C. Stiles is not found on the 1844 or any later Union County tax records. Interestingly, the 1844 tax record shows an increase in the livestock on which Jack Stiles paid taxes. In 1842 and 1843, Jack only paid taxes on one horse or mare valued at $40, but in 1844, he paid taxes on two horses or mares valued at $40. Similarly, while in 1843 Jack only paid taxes on one cow valued at $15, in 1844, he paid taxes on four cattle valued at $45 [9].

The increase between 1842/1843 and 1844 in Jack's livestock would be explained if the livestock that Frederick C. Stiles owned in 1843 were combined with Jack's in 1844, perhaps the result of Frederick's death in late 1843 or early 1844. This is merely an observation and does not point to any conclusive evidence regarding what became of Frederick C. Stiles or his wife, Nancy.

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Notes

1. Union County AR Deed Record A (1830–1845), p. 232 (Frederick Stiles to Nancy Stiles, 1 March 1843). Baptist preacher John Scarborough performed the ceremony, and in his return to the Union County Court, he wrote, *"I Do hereby Certify that I did Solemnize the Holy Rights of Matrimony between Frederick Stiles 27 years and Nancy Stiles 16 years they being of Lawfull* [sic] *age…"* If Frederick Stiles was twenty-seven years of age on 1 March 1843, his birth occurred in 1815 or 1816.
2. Various pieces of circumstantial evidence identify Frederick as the eldest son of Jack and Becca Stiles, including:
   a. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: *"John Stiles Senr;"* #26: John Stiles. The younger man's household includes a male aged 15–20, matching the age of Frederick C. Stiles.
   b. 1840 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, p. 222, line #7: Dennis Myres; #8: *"Ja^{s}. Dunbar;"* #9: *"John Styles Senr;"* line #10: *"John Styles Jr."* After arriving in Arkansas, the use of *"Sr."* and *"Jr."* switched, for Jack Stiles' second son, John N. Stiles, had now become an adult. The 1840 household of Jack Stiles, listed by the enumerator as *"John Styles Senr,"* included a male aged 20–30, matching Frederick's age.
   c. 1841–1843 Union County AR Tax Lists. References are listed above and below and show Frederick C. Stiles living in Union County with John Stiles Jr. and John N. Stiles prior to the arrival of Leroy.
   d. Union County AR Deed Record A (1830–1845), p. 215 (James Boatright to Jane Stiles, 16 October 1842); p. 232 (Frederick Stiles to Nancy Stiles, 1 March 1843). These marriage records show that Baptist minister John Scarborough married both Jane and Frederick Stiles in Jackson Township within six months of each other.
   e. Documentation given above show that Rebecca Cooper Stiles was the daughter of Frederick Cooper, making it natural that she would name one of her elder sons after her father, *"Frederick Cooper Stiles."* No document specifically lists his middle name, but it seems virtually certain that *"Cooper"* was his middle name.
3. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: *"John Stiles Senr;"* #26: John Stiles. 1840 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, p. 222, line #7: Dennis Myres; #8: *"Ja^{s}. Dunbar;"* #9: *"John Styles Senr;"* line #10: *"John Styles Jr."*
4. 1841 Union County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8339821, Images #766–767, #23: *"Stiles Frederic;"* #24: *"Stiles Jno. Sen;"* #25: *"Stiles Jno Jr."*
5. 1842–1843 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339821, 1842: Images #818–819, #13: *"Stiles Leroy;"* #14: *"Stiles John Senr.;"* #15: *"Stiles Frederick;"* 1843: Image #856, #22: *"Stiles F. C.;"* #23: *"Stiles Leroy;"* #24: *"Stiles Jno. Senr."*
6. Union County AR Deed Record A (1830–1845), p. 232 (Frederick Stiles to Nancy Stiles, 1 March 1843).
7. 1842 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339821, Images #818–819, #13: *"Stiles Leroy;"* #14: *"Stiles John Senr.;"* #15: *"Stiles Frederick."* Leroy Stiles is not listed on the 1841 Union County tax list.
8. Moffett Cemetery (Franklin County, AR), tombstone of *"F. C. Stiles"* (28 Mar 1840–24 Jan 1907). 1850 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Middle Township, p. 131b, Dwelling #390, line #28: Henry Stiles (age: 35; Farmer; born: *"NC"*); #29: Malinda Stiles (age: 33; born: *"Tenn"*); #33: Fredrick Stiles (age: 9; born: *"Mo"*). 1860 Franklin County AR Federal Census, Six Mile Township, p. 406/166, Dwelling #1179, line #19: Henry Stiles (age: 46; Farmer; born: *"N. Carolina"*); #20: Malinda Stiles (age: 44; born: *"Tennessee"*); #21: Frederick Stiles (age: 20; Farmer; born: *"Missouri"*); Dwelling #1180, line #33: *"Le Roy Stiles"* (age: 72; Farmer; born: *"Virginia"*); #34: Mary Stiles (age: 52; born: *"Tennessee"*).
9. 1841–1844 Union County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8339821:
   1841: Images #766–767, #23: *"Stiles Frederic;"* #24: *"Stiles Jno. Sen;"* #25: *"Stiles Jno Jr."*
   1842: Images #818–819, #13: *"Stiles Leroy;"* #14: *"Stiles John Senr.;"* #15: *"Stiles Frederick."*
   1843: Image #856, #22: *"Stiles F. C.;"* #23: *"Stiles Leroy;"* #24: *"Stiles Jno. Senr."*
   1844: Image 881, #3: *"Stiles John;"* #4: *"Stiles Leroy."*

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