

# Thomas Stagg

Alternate spellings: Steegh, Stage, Steg or Stegge.

Ancestor #P-334300 #ACN-64589

Born 16 October 1731 in Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey

Died April 11, 1814 on his son James' farm at Fruithill, Forestville, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio 45230.

## Private in the New Jersey Militia and Patriotic Service

Thomas Stagg served under Captains Daniel Baldwin and Isaac Morrison in Colonel Ogden's Regiment of the New Jersey Militia. He also furnished food and supplies from his farm in Franklin, Bergen County, New Jersey. A family account from "The Genealogy of Elijah Stagg and Rebecca Martin" says that Thomas Stagg earned a medal for his Revolutionary service. After his death, the medal was given to his grandson Thomas and later melted down into a teaspoon by Thomas' wife.

## The Migration to Ohio

For most of his life following the Revolution, it appears Thomas continued to operate his farm in Franklin, Bergen County, New Jersey. In 1812, Thomas and his wife Hester (Hetty) (1733-1816) sold their farm in New Jersey and made their long journey to Forestville, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. They accompanied their four children: Paul (Powles) an unmarried Revolutionary War Veteran, John, a widower of Sarah Tourneur Stagg, Elizabeth Stagg Sharp the wife of Morris Sharp, a Revolutionary War Veteran (as recorded by Clovis H. Brakebill 1993 – P287815) and the youngest son, James Stagg husband of Harriet Ackerman Stagg. Many of Thomas' grandchildren and their spouses also made the trip - Including the two daughters of Elizabeth Stagg Sharp and Morris Sharp: Mary Sharp Hopper, the wife of Aaron Hopper and her sister Elizabeth Sharp Hopper, the wife of Aaron's brother Abraham Hopper. The large extended family of the Staggs, Sharps (also known as Sharpenstein) and the Hoppers travelled together as one large group in covered wagons the entire distance from New Jersey to Ohio.

Morris Sharp the husband of Thomas Stagg's daughter Elizabeth purchased 1000 acres that was a Military Land Warrant No. 1386 assigned to Major

Joseph Eggleston. It was located on the waters of Clough Creek (Survey No. 609, Hamilton County Survey Book 11 p193). The full survey of 1000 acres of was conveyed to Morris Sharpenstein (Sharp) for \$4000. (Hamilton County Deed Book L, p 391) This land was immediately divided between Morris Sharp, James Stagg, Aaron Hopper and Abraham Hopper into their four family farms. The four families seem to have brought fruit trees with them from their native New Jersey. This fruit crop became the major crop of the four farms and is why the area became to be known as Fruithill. When later generations of the Hopper family spread to the east down what is now Beechmont Avenue, it also accounts for the area known as Cherry Grove.

Thomas Stagg was buried in the Old James Stagg Burial Ground that was located on the James Stagg farm. The cemetery is almost completely lost, but several stones including Thomas' can still be found in the woods at the rear of the lot at 1495 Tallberry Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230. The original James Stagg farm was sold and developed into the current subdivision in 1960 by Towne Properties.

The recorded transcription of Thomas Stagg's tombstone is: "Thos. Stagg, died April 11, 1814, aged 83 years, *Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord.*" Only the name of "Thos. Stagg" is still visible in 2015.

The recorded transcription from Hester Stagg's tombstone is: "Hester, wife of Thomas Stagg, died July 9, 1816, age 83 years. They that fear the Lord, believe in him and your reward shall not fail", In smaller letters: "But when she smiles, the desert blooms: new life is born among the tombs." Hester's tombstone is recorded as having been used by a later owner of the old James Stagg farmhouse as a doorstep. Its location is unknown in 2015.

#### GPS Coordinates of Old Stagg Burial Ground

Format	Latitude	Longitude
(h ddd.ddddd° )	N 39.07859°	W 84.36311°
(h ddd° mm.mmm')	N 39° 4.716'	W 84° 21.786'
(h dd° mm' ss.s")	N 39° 4' 42.9"	W 84° 21' 47.2"

