A Riddle – Who were those 18th Century Holloman Ancestors?

By Glenn N. Holliman

She was born Betty Jean Holloman in Johnson County, Illinois, as was her brother Jack, a Viet Nam veteran. Jack has taken a DNA test, and yes, he and Betty are descended from Christopher Hollyman (1618-1691), the Virginia founder of most persons in America who spell their name similar to this native of Bedfordshire, England.

Betty’s parents Otis (1912-1990) and Freda Sharp Holloman (1914-1991), also of Johnson County, Illinois, a southern country not far from the Ohio River bordering Kentucky. Her grandparents were Charles (1884-1965) and Bertha Ashford Holloman.

Going further back in time were Edward (1858-1929), Jesse (1832-1922) and James Holloman (1800 ca – 1850), some living in Pope County and others Johnson County. And there lies the mystery. James shows up in the 1820 Johnston County census, but nowhere earlier. He did marry Larenda Davis in 1829, a native of Washington County, Ohio.

Betty does not know among Christopher Hollyman’s four male children from whom who she descends, nor the names and locations of her 18th century ancestors! To her the 1700s are mystery, a blank in her family tree.

Most likely her 4rd and 5th great grandparents traveled from Virginia to Kentucky and then across the river to Illinois, roughly the same route as President Abraham Lincoln’s ancestors. His grandfather, from Pennsylvania, crossed with one of Daniel Boone’s parties into Kentucky where Lincoln was born. Perhaps Betty’s ancestor moved to North Carolina (as did many other Hollomans from Virginia) and by the 1770s and 80s was on the move through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky?

Does anyone reading this have any suggestions or advice to solve this puzzle? Betty, an ardent genealogist, would welcome information.