

Mariah Creek Christian Church Cemetery, Oaktown, Knox Co., IN

This Cemetery includes the oldest Piety ancestors of Zadoc to be buried in Indiana. It is located about 35 miles southeast of Prairie Creek. From Prairie Creek, take IN St. Rd. 246 (159th Drive) east about 6 miles and turn south (right) onto US 41. After 29 miles (on the northeast corner of Oaktown), turn east (left) onto Freelandville Road. Go 2.3 miles on Freelandville Road and turn south (right) on County Road 400 E (Risley Road). After another 2.3 miles on 400 E, turn east (right) on E. Oaktown Road. After about ½ mile, Oaktown Road curves southeast. About 1 mile after the curve, turn west (right) on E. Pepmeier Road. The entrance to the Mariah (Maria) Creek Christian Church is on the north (right) side of the road, and the Cemetery is behind the church building.

Thomas Piety – Latitude 38.8298 and Longitude -87.373567

Mary F. (Duncan) Piety – Latitude 38.829833 and Longitude -87.375767

Thomas and Mary are connected to Zadoc, as follows:

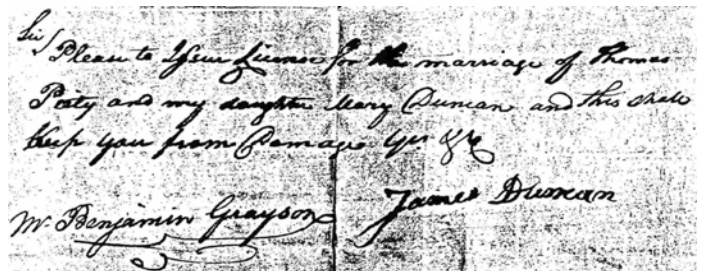
Thomas Piety and **Mary F. (Duncan) Piety** - GrGrGrandparents
James Duncan Piety and Eleanor (Harned) Piety - GrGrandparents
Thomas Piety and Emily (Thomas) Piety - Grandparents
John D. Early Piety and Mary Phedora (Trueblood) Piety - Parents
Zadoc John Piety

Thomas Piety was son of British Captain Austin Piety and Sarah Polk. There is conflicting information regarding his birth. Possible dates 1763 (plaque under tombstone in honor of Revolutionary War service) and Dec 1770 (tombstone). Thomas' listing in the 1830 Census for Knox Co IN included one free male in the household between 50 and 60 years old, which lends most credence to the 1770 tombstone birth year. James Polke wrote in A Historical and Biographical Sketch of a Pioneer Life 1884, "Austin Piety with his command was ordered to Kaskaskia, on the Mississippi River in 1770 by the British Authorities. He descended down the Ohio River with his wife and troops under his command, as far as the falls of the Ohio River (Louisville) and there made a short stay in order to lay in a supply of buffalo and other meat; thence down the river to its mouth (now Cairo IL) and from thence up to their destination, the 'American Bottom' on the east side of the Mississippi River opposite St. Louis (Ft. Kaskaskia is down river, south of St. Louis), and during their stay, Thomas Piety was born in 1770. The party returned to Ft. Pitt and during the Revolutionary War Austin Piety returned to England and from thence never returned, leaving his wife, Sarah Polk Piety, and four children in America."

Mary "Polly" Duncan was born 25 Nov 1774 in Maryland to James Duncan, who moved his family in her youth to Nelson Co. KY.

The marriage bond for Thomas Piety and Mary Duncan, signed by Thomas Piety, was dated 26 Jul 1792. Because Mary was not yet 18 years old in the Summer of 1792, her father James Duncan's

permission was required for the marriage license to be issued. They were married 07 Aug 1792 at the Nelson Co. KY home of James Duncan, Mary's father, by Joshua Carman. Mary described Joshua Carman as "a creditable Baptist preacher."



The image shows a handwritten document, likely a marriage bond, with cursive script. The text reads: "I do hereby give my consent for the marriage of Thomas Piety and my daughter Mary Duncan and this shall keep you from coming together." The document is signed by "Mr. Benjamin Grayson" and "James Duncan".

Know all men by these presents that we Thomas Piety and George Kingman held and freely bound ourselves and our heirs and assigns of the one part to the other and our heirs and assigns of the other part to our bondsmen with affiance for which payment shall be made truly to be made and done to his heirs and assigns his executor and administrators jointly and severally finally by their presents sealed with our seals and dated this 20th day of July 1792

Whereas there is an annuity yearly to be allowed to the late Thomas Piety and Mary his daughter of the one part the said annuity is such that if he be or she be dead or disabled to receive the said annuity the same to be paid to the said Mary his daughter and the said Thomas Piety

Matthew Taylor
Geo. Kingman

Thomas Piety made application for military pension on January 1, 1834 in Knox Co. IN. He was eligible for the pension under Act of Congress dated April 25, 1808, but was unaware of the pension until the District's Congressional Representative John Ewing notified him in 1833. He was wounded during his military service at St. Clair's defeat in the November 1791 Indian War. For his service, he received a pension of \$4 per month, beginning January 1834. He only collected his monthly \$4 a little over one year, as he died on 17 May 1835. Thomas' pension application stated, "during the Revolutionary war and long after peace had been concluded with England, he served as a volunteer and a drafted militia man in different expeditions against the Indians. Served in that from Fort Pitt, now Pittsburg Pennsylvania, afterward from Kentucky, that he cannot precisely state his age is now apparently seventy years, he well knows by events in his memory that he has a distinct recollection of his various services as a

volunteer, and as a drafted militia man under Col. J. Hardin, Col. Wilkinson and Col. Scott at different times from Kentucky against hostile Indians in the North West Territory. That he served in Capt Presley Gray's Company of Drafted men collected near the falls of Ohio then attached to Virginia and with said Company under the command of Col Oltham joined the Army of Gen. St. Clair near Fort Hamilton, that in the engaging with the Indians near Fort Recovery called St. Clair's defeat, he the said Piety while in the line of his duty was severely wounded by a musket or rifle shot and disabled in the thigh and hip joint as stated in the accompanying Certificate of two physicians and the affidavits of the Ensign of the Company Thomas Spencer and John Parker a Surgeon of the same which are hereunto annexed that he served for the time he was drafted until wounded as aforesaid that his mode of life since leaving the service has been that of a farmer. That he resided in the State of Kentucky in the County of Breckenridge, that for the last nineteen years he has resided in the County of Knox in the state of Indiana where he now resides at the taking of this testimony." John Parker, one of the supporting witnesses for Thomas Piety's pension application, stated "he well remembered seeing said Piety laying or sitting wounded during the engagement and while yet on the battle ground that he and said Parker being himself wounded in the same battle was afterward in the same bed with said Piety and that they frequently examined the wounds of each other." Another witness, Thomas Spencer, affirmed his acquaintance "with the said Thomas Piety since the year 1777 at which period they both resided in the vicinity of Fort Pitt now Pittsburg Pennsylvania, that the said Spencer removed to Jefferson County Kentucky in the year 1780 and said Piety also removed to the neighborhood of the State of Ohio in said County of State a few years afterwards, where their former acquaintance and intimacy was renewed, that a draft of Militia was made in said County in the year 1790 for men to go on an expedition against hostile Indians up the Wabash River under Major Hamtramck in which expedition said Piety served as a Sergeant in Capt. McHall's company, and he said Spencer served as a private in said Company. The expedition returned to the Falls after burning the Indian town near the mouth of the Vermillion and the Militia was there discharged. That he the said Spencer served in different expeditions sent from Kentucky in 1790 and 1791 and then under the command of Col J Hardin, Col. Wilkinson, and Col Scott always had the said Thomas Piety along with them. That he the said Spencer was in 1791 elected an Ensign in Capt. Presley Gray's company of drafted men which under General St. Clair's army with said Thomas Piety serving as a private and the company was attached to the command of Colonel Oldham in joining the main army near Fort Hamilton Ohio. That said Piety and this Deponent again became mates until the defeat of our Army near Fort Recovery known as St. Clair's Defeat in which our company suffered greatly. That said Thomas Piety was severely wounded in the thigh or groin, and when all were retreating in confusion he the said Spencer discovered said Piety to be utterly unable to travel, and a horseman being at hand, he said Spencer laid hold of the bridle and placed said Piety behind the rider in which manner the

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wounded man was brought off the field and conveyed to Fort Washington from whence said Spencer and Piety proceeded by water to the Falls of Ohio.”

On 12 Aug 1844, Mary also made a declaration in court as part of her application for widow's pension payments for Thomas' service. Mary believed she qualified for the widow's pension under the provisions of Pension Acts of Congress in 1838, 1843, and 1844. Her application was denied, possibly because the 1791 Indian War referenced in her application did not qualify as "Revolutionary War" service under those Acts.



Entrance to Cemetery – Thomas and Mary Piety are at the top of the small mound just right of center in the picture.



Mary (Duncan) Piety and Thomas Piety, Sr. - Latitude 38.8298 Longitude -87.3758

