

### Letter From the Editors

In this newsletter we will begin examining the extended family of **Issac Armfield, Jr. [2]** son of the original Armfield beginning with **William “Sheriff Billy”**. Upon completion of Isaac Jr.’s branch of the family, Joyce and I would like to receive suggestions from you regarding future issues. We want to know what would be helpful in furthering your personal family research as well as research of the Armfield family in general. Are there particular lines you would like to see covered and/or subjects you would like to see discussed? If you are interested, we can extend the lines of William Armfield, Sr. and his brother Isaac, Jr. [2] and also include early wills and estate settlement records as found in the North Carolina Archives. As always, we would like to see any primary source records you may have and are willing to share with other family researchers as well as any research discoveries you have made. Joyce & Connie

### Children and Grandchildren of Isaac Armfield, Jr. [2]

1. **William Armfield (Sheriff Billy)** was born 1762 in Guilford County, NC, and died there 11 Feb 1842, Greensboro Patriot (Greensboro, Guilford County, NC), 15 Feb 1842, Issue 15. He married Hannah Green about 1786. A marriage record has not been located. According to one descendant, William lived near Pomona between High Point and Greensboro. Their twelve children were: Isaac, Betsy, Delilah, Sarah (Sallie), Robert, Jane, Hannah, Hance G. (possibly Green; sometimes recorded as H. G.), Joseph William, William Cameron, John D., and Jacob B.
  - A. Isaac was born about 1787 and died May 1855 leaving an estate settlement. He married (1) Hannah Hoskins 08 Jan 1807 (Bd.) in Orange County, NC. Their children were G. Norwood, and Fanny. G. Norwood married Comfort Lovett 30 June 1836 in Guilford County. Isaac married (2) Martha (Harvey) Lovett 16 Aug 1836 (Bd.) in Guilford County, NC. Martha was born bet. 1794 and 1801. From the marriage records of Thompson and Hartgrove, Martha Harvey married (1) Aron Lovet 04 July 1818 with Isaac Hiatt, as witness and J. Hanner, C.C.C. The children of Isaac and Martha were Joseph C. and Emily C. This family is enumerated in the 1850 Guilford County Federal Census. Isaac, age 63, a cabinetmaker, and Martha, age 56, are living with their children Joseph C., age 9, Tabitha Lovett, age 26, Isabella Lovett, age 22, Melinda Lovett, age 18, Emily C. Lovett, age 13, and Young Pace, age 15, cabinetmaker. In the 1860 Guilford County Federal Census, Martha Armfield, age 59, is living with Litha Lovet, age 30, Emily Armfield, age 22, James C. Armfield, age 18, Emsily Harvey, age 14, and Sarah C. Osborn, age 3. There appears to be transcription errors in these census records. In 1850 we believe Emily C. Armfield was incorrectly recorded as Emily Lovett. We base this on her age and her subsequent entry in the 1860 Federal Census as Emily Armfield. In The Guilford County Bastardy Bonds and Papers 1799, 1816-1829, is recorded “Father Robert C. Ozment, Mother Emily C. Armfield, 19 Aug 1857, \$500.00 bd, Walter Ozment. In 1860, a Sarah C. Osborn, age 3, was enumerated with the family. Sarah may have been the

- baseborn daughter of Emily and Robert Ozment. We also think that James C. was meant to be transcribed as Joseph C.
- B. Betsy was born about 1788 and died unmarried. She was buried with her parents in Muir's Chapel Cemetery, Guilford County, NC. Her stone is weathered and the inscription is no longer legible.
  - C. Delilah was born about 1790 and died after 1870. She and her husband were living with their son William in Morehead Township as enumerated in the 1870 Guilford County Federal Census. According to the will of her brother Hance G. Armfield filed 30 July 1875 in Rankin County, TN, Delilah had married (1) William Stephenson and they had children. This marriage record has not yet been found and the names of the children are unknown to us. Apparently the marriage was short lived as she then married (2) Green Spain 20 Nov 1821 (Bd.) in Guilford County. Green was born about 1793 in Virginia. Their children were Amanda born about 1822 who married Thomas Snipes 19 Dec 1842 (Bd.) in Guilford County and William F. born about 1828 who married Malinda Lovitt 22 Dec 1853. Amanda and her husband Thomas Snipes were living near her parents in 1850 while her brother William, age 22, was still living with his parents.
  - D. Sarah (Sallie) was born about 1792 and died unknown. According to Ruth Thompson and Louise Hartgrove, Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data, Guilford County, North Carolina 1771-1840, (Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1981), V.1, Sarah Armfield married Thomas Berton 01 June 1829 (Bd.) in Guilford County. Their bondsman was Robert Armfield and witness was A. E. Hanner. Other sources have his name as Thomas Becton and in the "Armfield sketch" it is spelled Burton. In the 1850 Guilford County Federal Census, Thomas Burton, age 68, a farmer is living with Sarah, age 48, Joseph C., age 18, and Laura J., age 13. If this is our family, it would put Sarah's birth year about 1802. J. C. Burton, 28, born abt. 1832 was living with the Bridges family in the 1860 Guilford County Federal Census in. Was this their son?
  - E. Robert was born about 1796 and died unknown. He appears to have been alive in 1858 at the time of the writing of his brother Hance's will. He is not referred to in the will as being deceased as were some of his other brothers. Robert's brother Joseph was named to administer his portion of the estate. Robert married (1) Thankful Bland 27 Sept 1827 (Bd.) in Guilford County. They appear to have had a stormy relationship and they experienced separations. Robert placed the following notice in the Greensboro Patriot, 17 March 1830;

#### CAUTION

*"Whereas my wife Thankful (or more properly speaking Thankless) manifests no disposition to act the part of an obedient companion, but continues to run me in debt beyond my ability to pay, this is therefore to inform all whom it may concern that I have resolved to be hen-pecked no longer, and that I am determined to pay no more debts of her contracting. Now reap the benefits of your doing!  
Guilford, March 07, 1830 Robert Armfield."*

This particular separation lasted a few months. They eventually reconciled and resumed their marriage. Between 1832 and 1834 Robert and Thankful had two children. What happened to these children and their sex is unknown. In the

spring of 1835 while away driving a stagecoach, Robert learned that Thankful was having an affair with Gorrell Forbis. In December 1835 Robert filed for a divorce. It was granted in 1837, Guilford County, NC, April Court Term. Robert married (2) Deborah Lovit (Lovett) 01 Oct 1840 (Bd.) in Guilford County. Their children were: Boston, Cynthia, Adeline, Hance Green, William, Isabel, Martitia.

(1) Boston born about 1841. On 22 Feb 1862 and again on 09 Apr 1862, Boston, age 21, enlisted in the Confederate Army while a resident and farmer in Guilford County, NC as a Private in Co. C, 45<sup>th</sup> NC Infantry. Boston deserted 12 November 1864 in Newtown, VA. (Historical Data Systems, comp.. American Civil War Soldiers (database on-line), Provo, UT, USA.) Nothing more is known of Boston.

(2) Cynthia was born about 1843.

(3) Adeline was born about 1847.

(4) Hance G. according to "The Bible Record of the Armfield Family" as copied by B. L. Barber, Jr. of Birmingham, AL while a student at Woodlawn High School in 1961, was born 17 July 1844. He was recorded as ten months old in the 1850 Guilford County Federal Census. Hance married Martha Victoria Pearson born 15 July 1863 in Alabama. They were the parents of three children: Addie Marthey born 22 Apr 1884, Paul Ramsey born 3 Aug 1894, and Clarence Hanson born 2 July 1898 and died after the 1900 census. Hance's name is sometimes recorded as Hans G.

(5) William was born about 1852. Nothing more is known of him.

(6) Isabel was born 1854 and died 31 December 1938. She married William W. Hayworth 16 October 1879.

(7) Martitia was born about 1857.

In 1870 Deborah is still living in her home with her younger children. By 1900 Deborah, age 80 is living with her daughter Isabel Hayworth and her family. Isabel and William had seven children: Rosa M, Tishey, Telora, Robert D., William F. Bessie T., and Debbie M.

F. Jane was born abt.1805 and died after the 1870 Rockingham County, NC, Federal Census. Jane married Robert C. Coe 02 Oct 1834 (Bd.) in Guilford County. Robert was born about 1804. The family was enumerated in the 1870 census. Robert was a carriage maker by trade. They had one known child, Elizabeth, born abt. 1836.

G. Hannah was born 1794 and died 12 July 1869. Hannah married Hezekiah Johnston 17 October 1818 (Bd.) in Guilford County. Hezekiah was born 17 May 1799 and died 22 August 1855. Hezekiah and Hannah can be found in the 1850 Southern Division, Guilford County, NC, Federal Census. Both are buried in Deep River Friends Cemetery. They had two children: John Harper who married Martitia Jackson 25 December 1855 and Elizabeth born 1838 and died 1901. Elizabeth married Lindsay Haworth. Lindsay was born abt. 1818 and died 1896. Lindsay and Elizabeth are both buried in the Mill Creek Cemetery in Indiana.

H. Hance Green was born 17 February 1800 in Guilford County and died 02 February 1875 in Rankin County, MS. He was buried in the Fannin United Methodist Church Cemetery, Rankin County, MS. In The Guilford County Bastardy Bonds and Papers 1799, 1816-1829, (Guilford Genealogist, V. 16, No. 1), Hance B. Armfield was named as the father of Betsy Knight's baseborn son,

25 Nov 1825, bd. Robt. Armfield and Benj. Starbuck. We believe Hance B. was a transcription error and should have read Hance G. (These records can be found at the North Carolina Archives, C. R. 46, 102.1). The 1840 Tyrell County, NC, Federal Census show a male age 10-15 living in the household with Hance. This may be the son he fathered with Betsy Knight. No further records have been found regarding his son. Hance G. married Lucinda C. Gardner 02 June 1831 (Bd.) in Guilford County. In 1850 H. G. Armfield and Lucinda C. are living in Attala County, MS. In 1860 H. G. and L. C. are residing in Rankin County, MS. Hance and Lucinda had no children. Hance's will, dated 16 January 1858, was probated 18 November 1875. In his will he leaves a portion of his estate to some of his nieces and nephews to be used for their education. The siblings mentioned in his will along with his wife Lucinda C. are brothers: William, Jacob B. referred to as his deceased, youngest brother Robert, Joseph, Isaac referred to as his deceased brother along with Isaac's daughter Fannie and his son G. Norwood, and Hance's sister Delilah Spain. Proof of his will was dated and filed 30 July 1875 when Hance was referred to as being deceased.

- I. Joseph William was born 06 May 1800 in Guilford County and died 04 May 1892 in Forsyth County, NC. Joseph is buried in the Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery in Kernersville, Forsyth County. Note the birth years for both Hance G. and Joseph William are recorded as 1800. According to pictures we have of their tombstones, the year 1800 does appear on both. We believe it is highly unlikely that they were born in the same year and about three months apart, but we haven't been able to determine which one may be in error. Joseph W. married (1) Martha S. Coe 24 September 1834 (Bd.) in Guilford County. Martha was born 05 January 1813 and died 26 September 1844. She was buried in the Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church Cemetery, Greensboro, NC. Their children were Tabitha C. who married Eli Kelly and William W. who married Mary L. Titus and moved to Pennsylvania.

Joseph William married (2) Amanda P. Lindsey who was born 1820 and died Apr. 1884 in Forsyth County. Joseph W. and Amanda married about 1851. A marriage record has not been located. Amanda was buried with Joseph W. in Forsyth County. Their children were Joseph Lindsey and Ada E.

(1) Joseph Lindsay was born 20 January 1852; died August 1939. He is buried in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, AR. Joseph Lindsay married Mary Cady 01 July 1886 in Pastoria, Jefferson County, AR. He led a colorful life; first by being a Circuit Rider with the Methodist Church and later, as the Mayor of Bearden, Arkansas for several years. It was while they lived in Bearden that they had five children. All of these children died young. After Joseph moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas he operated a locksmith and gun shop.

(2) Ada E. born about 1858; married Julian S. King 26 October 1875 in Kernersville, NC.

- J. William Cameron was born 21 April 1807 and died 04 March 1876 in Tradesville, Lancaster County, SC where he was a practicing physician. He married Elizabeth Jane Funderburk 29 July 1849 in Lancaster County, SC. Elizabeth J. was born 08 August 1823. They were the parents of four children:

- (1) Virgil C. was born 18 April 1850.
  - (2) Romulus was born 03 December 1851; died 23 November 1925 in Marshville, Union County, NC. He married Sarah Katherine Marsh. Romulus was a physician like his father. They were the parents of nine children: William J. (Will), Connie L., Anne L., Elizabeth J., Meed "Kemp", Hattie B., Flossie, Stewart, and an infant who died young.
  - (3) William Joseph was born 18 May 1853; died in 1916. He married Mollie Lee Snipes 16 August 1891 in Tradesville, Lancaster County, SC. Mollie Lee was born 29 August 1869 and died 25 March 1934. They were the parents of five children: Roy L., Ira B., Otto F., Leland & Wade Cameron.
  - (4) Hannah Isadora was born 11 June 1861.
- K. John D. was born about 1808; died 13 May 1833 unmarried. He was buried in Muir's Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Guilford County. Muir's Cemetery is located at 314 Muir's Chapel Road in the NW section of Greensboro. The cemetery lies directly across from the church.
- L. Jacob was born about 1811; died after 1880. This family can be found in the 1850 Southern Division, Guilford, NC, Federal Census. In 1880, Jacob is living in the home of his daughter, Fannie Whittemore. He married Louisa Benton (1815-1890, USGen Web Archives) 28 January 1837 (Bd.) in Caswell County, NC. Louisa Benton Armfield is to be buried in the Lynn-Benton-Soyers-Lee Cemetery, Crowder Homeplace Road, Ruffin, Rockingham, NC. Their children were:
- (1) Mary J. born abt. 1839; married P.R. Wright in Rockingham County, NC.
  - (2) Sarah married Alfred G. Stanley in Rockingham County, NC.
  - (3) Deborah Frances (Fannie) born abt. 1841; married J. M. Wittemore.
  - (4) Lucinda born abt. 1847.

## **CORRECTIONS**

We apologize for our error in the last issue. In our listing of those we send the newsletter to we incorrectly had listed the Madison County Regional Library in Anderson, IN. It should have read the Madison County Historical Society in Anderson. The public library is the Anderson Public Library which we do not send to. Thank you Phyllis for alerting us. She is chair of the Genealogy Committee of the Madison County Historical Society.

## **QUERIES & FAMILY LINES**

\*Diane Armfield Austin writes that she is looking for information on the Hamilton Armfield living with Abner and Hannah Armfield during the 1850 Southern Division, Guilford County, NC, Federal Census. He was 24, born in NC, and a carpenter. In the 1860 Randolph County, NC, Federal Census, Hamilton, age 33, a carpenter is married to Louisa and has three children. If anyone has information or sources on who his parents may have been, write Diane at [austinrd@juno.com](mailto:austinrd@juno.com).

We do not believe he was the son of Abner. In Joyce's records she has a Hamilton born about 1827 whose father may have been Solomon. Solomon fathered a child out of wedlock with Lydia Sullivan ("Bastardy Bonds of Guilford County"). Hamilton married Martha Louisa Gray 26 Dec 1851 in Randolph County, NC. They were the parents of

four children. A “bastardy bond” is money put up by the father or a family member to ensure the child was taken care of so it would not become a ward or responsibility of the county. Solomon may have been the son of David and Elizabeth (Trotter) Armfield. This assumption is based on the “Bastardy Bonds and Papers” entry dated 21 Aug 1823 with bondsmen being David Armfield and Henry Jinkens. Solomon didn’t marry until 12 Mar 1834.

\*Dawn Nielsen is researching a Hamilton Armfield and his wife Jemima Linville. She specifically is trying to link them with the brothers Jackson Hunter Armfield and Tyrus Armfield who were born in Missouri and moved to California at a young age. Please contact her if you can help with this line. Dawn is at [dawnchf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dawnchf@sbcglobal.net).

We were able to put her in touch with Stephen Carter in Japan. He has done research on this line and shared the following. Stephen has seen a copy of Tyrus’s death certificate. He died in Fresno County, CA on 11 Jan 1926. His name on the death certificate was written as Tyras. Stephen has also seen it spelled Tirus and Tiras. According to the death certificate, Tyras was born 29 Oct 1854 in MO. His parents were Hamilton Armfield and Jemima Linville. Tyras had been a resident of California for 70 years at the time of his death. Stephen descends from Tyras’s son William Alexander.

\*Maria Armstrong Cuney wrote that she went to her first Armfield family reunion in August and met a relative who gave her a copy of our newsletter. She descends from Lela Pearl Armfield who married Richard Orlando Barker. She is interested in the lines of William Sr. to Solomon to Calvin to Joseph. Maria has seen several spellings of Calvin Comings Armfield’s first wife, Penninah Albertson. While at the reunion she went to the Lamb Cemetery and saw Penninah’s tombstone with the spelling of her first name as shown. Penninah’s maiden name is seen spelled many different ways from Alberson, Albertson to Albirtireson. According to Diane Armfield Austin it should be Albirtireson. Write Maria at [javagirl57@verizon.net](mailto:javagirl57@verizon.net).

\*Kathryn Smith is looking for information on a Monsfield Armfield born abt. 1880 in Missouri. He lived in Webb Ward 5, Jasper, MO in 1910. She is also looking for a Dona or Dora Armfield born abt. 1907, d/o Monsfield and Katie L. Manning. [Jandkretirement@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jandkretirement@sbcglobal.net).

## **CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMENTS**

\*Marriage bonds signified by “Bd.” refers to the date of it’s issue which is not necessarily the date of the marriage. Some marriages were performed the same day as the issuance of the bond, but it could also occur several days or weeks later. Use bond dates as an approximate date of marriage unless indicated otherwise

\*Gay Carroll contributed the following for our research on Hance G. Armfield. From Rankin County, Mississippi Cemetery Records 1824-1980, (976.259, R211r), Fannin Methodist Cemetery is the entry, “Armfield, H.G. 17 Feb 1800-2 Feb 1873”. Based on Hance’s will, we believe the 1873 is a transcription error. From Mississippi Index of Wills 1800-1900, (976.2, W756) Armfield, Hance, Ran, I-141, 1875. Thank you Gay. We appreciate your efforts and time to research and then to share your findings with us.

\*Tom Forehand, Jr. is publishing his second book, Robert E. Lee's Softer Side. He also gave a presentation of his book in October entitled Robert E. Lee's Lighter Side: The Marble Man's Sense of Humor at the Southern Books Festival of Books in Nashville. The book can be found online at [www.pelicanpub.com](http://www.pelicanpub.com). If you would like more information, you can write Tom at [taftj@juno.com](mailto:taftj@juno.com).

\*Pamela Scott wrote that after doing genealogical research for almost thirty years she has witnessed way too many people who appear to choose their ancestors and then twist the documentation to fit them, or those who take secondary sources as fact. She appreciates our attempts to find and cite primary documentation and our realistic approach to circumstantial evidence in the absence of primary sources. Thank-you for recognizing our efforts Pamela. We do try to provide primary source records as much as we can. We look forward to your contributions.

\*Several readers sent comments about our newsletters: Susan Wilkes is finding our newsletters helpful in piecing her family together and she is enjoying reading them. Betty Armfield Johnson likes the research we are doing on the Armfield Family and thanks us for our efforts, energy, and information. Marlene Armfield sends kudos for a great newsletter and says she has learned a lot from it. Juanita Kellerman sends her sincere thanks for sending her our last issue. She does not have the time to do much research, but is filing everything for future reference.

\*Paula Hinkel, President of the Southern California Genealogical Society, contributed the following information for those who may be interested in pursuing DNA testing.

The subject of "genetic genealogy" or DNA testing for genealogical purposes, has been getting a lot of buzz. From segments on 60 Minutes to features in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times, the media has picked up on this new tool for tracing ancestors. The objectives of DNA testing include:

- To resolve those brick walls you have run into by determining if two people are descended from a common ancestor.
- To validate existing research.
- To identify others who are related.
- To establish "benchmarks" for our oldest ancestors against which others will be able to test relationships.
- To perhaps provide a means for determining where (location) you should research next.
- To provide our disprove theories regarding family history or ancestry.

There are basically two types of tests. The Y chromosomal (Y-DNA) test for males and the mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) test for males and females. The former traces the male lineage and can be taken only by males. The latter tests the female lineage and can be taken by both. DNA testing is in it's infancy and the likelihood of finding a cousin will increase as more individuals are tested and the pool of results grows. That said, there are frequent successes and discoveries. A friend's brother was tested and they were shocked to learn that their French-Canadian family had Jewish roots. Another

researcher proved his family's connection to a Mayflower ancestor. Holocaust reunion miracles have been created through use of DNA.

When choosing a company to do your test, keep in mind that this is a new tool. Several organizations offer testing services. Ancestry.com has now entered the field of DNA testing and Family Tree DNA has over 165,000 records [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com). As one company's results are not shared with other companies, you stand a better chance of matching if you are tested by one of the larger organizations. DNA tests start at about \$99 and increase in price as the number of markers, or the level of precision, increases. If you are interested in being tested, you are invited to take advantage of the discount offered by The Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Tree DNA. Just go to the SCGS website [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com) scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Family Tree DNA icon.

There are many resources online to learn more about the use of DNA in genealogy. One of the best is at [www.Rootstelevision.com](http://www.Rootstelevision.com). Enter DNA in the search box to watch several video reports on use of the technique. Other online resources include several books on the topic. Paula recommends Megan Smolenyak's book, Trace Your Roots with DNA. Use of DNA testing could help us break through the early Armfield generations. With enough participation, we could have an Armfield surname project! [phinkel@pacbell.net](mailto:phinkel@pacbell.net)

Thank you Paula for contributing this information on DNA testing. I have recently participated in the National Geographic Genographic Project by having my mitochondrial DNA (passed from mother to offspring tracing the female line of descent) tested and have contributed my results to the anonymous Global Database. It would really be beneficial and interesting if some of our male Armfield relatives would participate in Y-chromosomal DNA (passed from father to son) testing to help us travel back in time as to where our ancestors came from. CS

## **DISCOVERIES**

In the June 2007 Armfield Newsletter, p. 6, we mentioned a Jos. Armfield of Massachusetts a Landsman on the brig "Adventure" in 1780. In doing some research on Joseph we found a little more information. The American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI), V. 4, p. 414, online at My Family or ancestry.com there is an entry for Joseph Armfield, born 1750 in Massachusetts, "landsman, soldiers and sailors of the Rev. War. Comp. By secy. Of the commonwealth, Ms. Boston. 1896-1908. (17v.):1:290." A Landman (rank) or landsman in the US Navy was a military rank given to naval recruits. This Adventure was a Sloop-of-War (Brig/Sloop) commanded by James Morris 19 Sept 1780 (First Commissioned) and captured by the British in 1782. More information can be found online at [www.awiatsea.com](http://www.awiatsea.com).

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