

A Letter from the Editors

We want to thank you for your continuing letters of encouragement and support. We realize that it can be confusing keeping track of all of the Armfield lines as so many of the names are repeated in families and generations. Marilyn Jennings shared that she finds it helpful to diagram the families as we write about them in the newsletters.

In this newsletter, we are returning to **William Armfield, Sr.** and his family. Included in this issue is the transcript of his will and estate settlement as well as that of his son, **William Jr.** In upcoming newsletters, we will be sharing transcripts of other legal documents that we have for some of the children. These documents can be found at the North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, NC. If you have any source records that you would like to share with others, please forward on to Joyce or Connie. We do try to use primary sources for the information we use in the newsletter, however, that is not always possible and we may cite a secondary source. This is done in the hopes that something may pique your curiosity or interest you to look for more source records to prove or disprove an event. *Joyce & Connie*

William Armfield Sr.

We do not have any primary sources for William's birth date or place. In The History of Guilford County by Sallie Stockard, p. 97 of the revised edition, it says that he was born in Pennsylvania in 1720. Early census records do not provide us with anything definitive either. The 1790 Guilford County census has William with three males 16 years and older, two males less than 16 and three females. The 1800 Salisbury Township, Guilford County census recorded William Sen with one male 10-16, one male 16-25, and one male 45 or older. There was one female in the household also 45 and older. If our William was born in 1720, he would have been eighty years old in 1800. This entry could have been his family from his second marriage to Lydia with their two sons. We have not clearly identified William Sr. in the 1810 census records and it is possible he and Lydia were living in another household.

The source for the many references to William's birth in Bucks County, PA is unknown. We do know that the late Grace Lowe, a 3rd great, grand niece of the original John/Isaac Armfield filed entries on the early Armfield family with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. What we do not know is what she used as sources for her information. William's Individual Genealogical Record, dated 18 Jul 1991, gives his birth as 1720 in Bucks, PA. Even though we believe Grace Lowe's sources were primarily secondary, we want to acknowledge the contributions that she made to our family history. Grace was active with her research in the days before computers and the filmed county records that are now available to us. Every year Grace would leave the harsh Idaho winters to spend a couple of weeks in Salt Lake City at the LDS Library pouring over their books. Grace generously shared her knowledge of the family and her legacy lives on for future generations.

Regarding William's death we know he wrote his will 28 Mar 1804. From Guilford County, North Carolina Will Abstracts 1771-1841 by Irene B. Webster, Book A:11; "William Armfield, Sr. - 28 Mar 1804 - Prob. May 1812. Wife LYDIA - Son WM., dau. MARY

BROWN - Sons NATHAN, SOLOMAN, dau. ANN FIELD, Son, DAVID - Son JOSEPH. Exrs. Lydia, son SOLOMON. Wit. Wm. & JOSEPH ARMFIELD." This gives us a range, however, no primary source has been found to give us the exact date of death for William. As his will was probated May Term 1812, he most likely died after March 1812 and before May of 1812. Joyce believes that according to law, wills were to be probated the first Term of Court following a death.

The date of William's marriage is also from the revised Guilford County, NC History, p. 97, which has that he married Mary Hamilton in Pennsylvania about 1745. Again not a primary source for this marriage or for her name. As you know, we have a copy of the Indenture written on the "seventh Day of October 1765 between William Armfield & Jane his wife of the County of Rowan, NC . . . and Thomas Wilson" 541 acres on Polecat Creek for 100 pds. Rowan County North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Vol. II, 1762-1772 by Jo White Linn, #6:229,230. William and his wife (Jean Armfield) signed the indenture with their marks. Both of the names Jane and Jean appear in the document, not Mary. We do not know the source for William's wife's name given as Mary. An Individual Record dated 18 Jul 1991 with the Church of Jesus Christ of LDS is the only record except for the Stockard history that we have seen for Mary Hamilton's marriage of 1745 in Bucks, PA to William. Both of these sources are secondary. If anyone is fortunate enough to visit the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, or has easy access to a library or LDS History Center, it would be wonderful if you would look up these entries and note what the sources were that were used.

*Will of William Armfield
Guilford County, North Carolina
will book A:file 011*

Dated March 6, 1804

Probated May 4, 1812

Whereas I Wm Armfield, Senr of the County of Guilford and State of North Carolina well knowing the uncertainty of life and certainty of death I being of sound mind and memory do think proper to leave this following written last will and testament principally and first of all I recommend my Soul to God Almighty and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as regarding what worldly substance I am possessed of it is my will to dispose of in the following order.

First I leave to my beloved wife Lidia Armfield all my estate real and personal while she remains my widow.

I give and bequeath to my beloved son Wm Armfield ten pounds¹

I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Brown my son Nathan Armfield my son Solomon Armfield my daughter Ann Field and my son David Armfield twenty shillings² each to be paid out of my estate in one year after the death or marriage of my wife.

I give and bequeath to my beloved son Joseph Armfield all the rest of my estate both real and

¹Ten (10) pounds in 1812 would be equivalent to \$609.71 in 2007. Go to this web site for an explanation of this calculation. <http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/numimage/currency%20conversion.htm>

²Twenty (20) shillings in 1812 would be approximately \$60.97 in 2007.

personal at the death or marriage of my wife to him and heirs forever.

Lastly I will and appoint my loving wife Lidia Armfield and my beloved son Solomon Armfield my whole and sole Executrix and Executor of this my last will and testament ratifying and allowing whatsoever they lawfully do or cause to be done.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this Sixth of March 1804.

His
William X Armfield
Mark
Her
Lidia L Armfield
Mark

Signed Sealed and acknowledged to be his last Will and Testament in presence of us

William Armfield Joseph Armfield

State of North Carolina
Guilford County } May Four 1812

The execution of the written will was proven in open court by oath of William Armfield one of the subscribing witnesses thereto and on motion ordered to be recorded.

Then came in Liddia Armfield widow and Solomon Armfield Executors appointed in said will and qualified as such

Test: John Hamilton (initials)
Joseph Davis (initials)

William Armfield, Jr. (Little Billy)

William Jr. may have been born around 1748/50, although we have no proof. He wrote his will in 1832 and added a codicil on 22 Jan 1833. William Jr. probably died some time during 1833. As we do not have a probate date, it is difficult to pin down the precise date of his death.

WILLIAM ARMFIELD - WILL - 1832 - [m. Elizabeth Green]

In the name of god Amen. I William Armfield of the County of Guilford and state of North Carolina, am some what advanced in years and considering the uncertenty of life and the certenty of death and being of Sound mind and memory do think proper to leve the folowing lines as my last will and testament principley and first I recommend my soul to god and my body to the earth to be Buried in a Decent mannor and takeing my worley substance in concederation it is my will to dispose of it in the folowing mannor. it is my will that all my just debts and funeral Expences should be discharged in a reasonable time. I gave unto my wife Elisabeth Armfield all my house hold and kitchen furniture not to sel nor dispose of any of it during her life. this she is to have the free use and benefit of it and at her death she is to dispose of it as she may think proper and she is to have the use and privilage of my dwelling house and a suficient and plentifull seport of my plantation and one horse beast and one milk cow all during her life time or widow hood and at her death all my stock is to go to my son

Robert Armfield together with the horse Beast and cow that my wife may leave. I gave and bequeath unto my Daughters nameley Jane Armfield, Rachel Macy, Mary Macy, Sary Hyett and Elisabeth Unthank two Dollars each. I gave and bequeath unto my son Jacob Armfield two Dollars also. I gave and bequeath unto my son William Armfield ten Dollars. I gave and bequeath unto my sone Robert Armfield all the land I am in posession of and all my farming tules Becides. I also gave and bequeath unto my sone Robert Armfield all of the Ballance of my property of every Description for his own use and Benefit to have and to hold as his owne forever. I do also gave and bequeath unto my sone Isaac Armfield fifty five Dollars to Bee Devided amongst his children is as folowes. it is my will that his sone Joab Armfield is to have fifty Dollars of it and the other five Dollars to be equally Deveded Between his sone Robert Armfield and his three Daughters nameley Matildia Edwards, Virtueous Edwards and Elener Daugherty, all to be paid out of my estate. I do also gave and Bequeath unto my grandson William Nelson Armfield forty five Dollars to Bee paid out of my estate. I hereby nomminate and appoint my sone Robert Armfield and David Edwards my hole and sole Executers for this my Last will and testament Discharging and Revokeing all other wills By mee here before made Ratefying and confirming this and this alone to be my will and testament allowing whatsoever my Executers may lawfully Doe or cause to Be done in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and afixed my seal the fourth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty two

Wm. Armfield (Seal)

*John Hiatt Amos Bain
J.M. Morehead Jurant
January 22nd 1833*

I William Armfield being still of Sound mind do make this codicil to the forgoing Will. I hereby revoke the bequeaths in the said Will to my son Isaac Armfield & to his children Robert, Joab, Matilda, Virterous & Eleanor: and instead thereof my grandson Joab having fifty Dollars from my son Robert, I there for give him nothing & I give to Isaac my sons other children Robert, Matilda, Eleaner & Virtuous one Dollar each.

Wm Armfield (Seal)

*J.M. Morehead - Jurat
Amis Bain*

QUERIES & FAMILY LINES

A researcher of David Hourey Armfield and his wife Bessie Delilah Cox is working on the Idaho Armfield family ties in a private "United Family Heritage" book and would like to hear from anyone researching along the same lines. The Armfield line starts with Bessie Delilah Cox married to David Hourey Armfield and then to Bessie's brother Alpha Burton Cox and his daughter Beatrice Marie (Cox) Brotzman. Following is an excerpt on David Hourey from the book, History of Idaho, by James Henry Hawley, p. 434. David was the son of Paris and Sarah Ann Townsend Hoteling Armfield. Paris was son of Jacob and Anne/Anna Armfield who left North Carolina and migrated to Indiana.

"David H. ARMFIELD a prominent ranchman living near McDermott Station, Ada County, was born Sept 15, 1875 in Missouri, his parents being Paris and Sarah (Townsend) Armfield. The father deceased, but the mother is still living and is a resident of Nampa, Idaho. David H. Armfield came to Idaho in 1902. He has been highly successful as a ranchman, and is widely recognized as one of the esteemed and

substantial citizens of the community.

On February 1, 1904, Mr. Armfield was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Cox who was born in Boise, Oct. 1 1881. She is the daughter of Harmon and Sarah (Simpson) Cox who are old settlers of Boise and reside at Nineteenth and Brumback Streets. Mrs. Armfield was reared in Boise and has spent her entire life in her native state, having been out of the state but once, and that recently when she crossed over the border line into Oregon, where she remained only an hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Armfield are parents of five children, namely: Sarah Delila, who was born April 19, 1908, Willie R. whom birth occurred February 9, 1907, David Wayne, born September 24, 1912; Jasper Roy, born February 12, 1914, and Frank Albert, whose natal day was June 10, 1919.

In politics, Mr. Armfield maintains an independent course, voting for the man, rather than supporting any particular party. Fraternally he is a master mason. He is a man of much ability and is held in high regard by those with whom he has been associated."

Contact brotzmom@att.net for more information.

Pat Crockett wrote regarding the children and grandchildren of Isaac and Sarah Armfield that appeared in our last newsletter. We listed two possible children of John Gustavus and Ann Armfield (no primary sources): William A. born abt. 1845 and Isaac T. born 1849 with both dying in 1849. She did not have these children listed with the family. She had found information on William, but has not tied him to John. Her niece may have found a picture of William's grave. The children she does have are: Sarah E. born 1849, Vellumnio Sallie born 1851, Isaac Shelby born 1855, Rhoda born 1857, Mary E. born 1860, Louisa born 1866, and Eveline born 1868 (she was deaf). Does anyone have any information on William A. and Isaac T.? Pat posted many of the graves of Isaac Shelby and his children on the "find-a-grave" site. She can supply you with a list of the cemeteries. Isaac Shelby was her grandfather. He lived with her Aunt Ruth (Armfield) Huff for several years before he died. crockett18@earthlink.net

Comments & Contributions

Marilyn & Ron Jennings sent pictures they took on a visit to the Wyreka Cemetery in the ghost town of Wyreka, York Township, Putnam, Missouri in October of 2005. One picture is of Paris Armfield's monument which has the inscription "Died Aug. 17, 1878 Aged 58 Y. 10M. 12D." Another monument picture is of Albert son of Paris and Sarah (Townsend) that reads "Albert Died Sep. 21, 1890 Aged 17 Y. 1M. 21D." They also sent the obituary for Jasper Roy Armfield (1914 - 1998) who died at the age of 84. He was living in Ammon, Idaho. Jasper was the son of David and Bessie (Cox) Armfield. Thank you Ron and Marilyn. We appreciate receiving your research finds. rrmjennings@aol.com

Rebecca Armfield Smith had been trying to find information to join the Daughters of the Confederacy and now through the help of the newsletter, she has what she needs. She said it's so nice to meet other family members.

Researchers often think of original records as being primary or secondary source records. Primary sources are those records that were created at the time of an event by someone associated with that event and who had first hand knowledge of the facts. An example of this type of information would be the death certificate that is completed at the time of a death by the attending physician. Within primary source information, secondary information may be found. This information was recorded after an event and usually by someone not directly involved with the event. Using the death certificate example, the person's birth date, birth place, and parents could be considered secondary information as

these events occurred prior to the death and were probably reported by someone not directly involved with the birth, etc. Therefore, original records may contain both primary and secondary source information. The "Armfield Sketch" in The History of Guilford County, NC by Sallie Stockard would be considered a secondary source of information as it was written down from an oral history several years after the events by someone not directly involved with those events. This history is a wonderful resource to use to direct us in our research efforts, but care needs to be taken not to cite information from it as a primary source record.

If you haven't checked out the government site for missing money, you may want to. Several Armfields are listed there and we have known people who have collected money. <http://www.missingmoney.com>

"Guilford County Map and Map Supplement" by Fred Hughes, an early map of Guilford County, NC, can be ordered from the Guilford County Genealogical Society - Publications, PO Box 49104, Greensboro, NC 27419 - 1104. The cost is \$10.00. The map positions landowners, mills, schools, churches, roads, etc. prior to 1800 and explores historical matters. The map is 23X35. The soft cover book is 137+ pages.

A Thank-you to Mary Willis for sending us a transcribed copy of William Sr.'s will.

Corrections

In the June 2007 issue on page 3, we had Lydia B. Hill Armfield buried in two different cemeteries: Deep River and Walnut Grove. According to our records, Lydia was buried in the Deep River Friends Cemetery. In the December 2007 issue on page 3 we had Elizabeth d/o Hannah and Hezekiah Johnston born in 1838. Using census records, Elizabeth was born between 1820 - 1825.

DNA

An Armfield DNA group has been started at Ancestry.com and we have one male member. A relative has graciously volunteered to be the first Armfield male to contribute his paternal lineage results to get the project off the ground. An initial review of his results tells us that he belongs to the paternal haplogroup R1b, The Artisans. This group may have been responsible for the first cave paintings, and probably lived in present day England, France, Spain or Portugal (ancestry.com). Hopefully our membership in the Armfield DNA project will increase so we can get comparisons and a better overall picture of the family. Ancestry is currently offering 40% off of its test kits through the end of December. If you would like more information, contact Connie, group administrator, at ancestry. Family Tree DNA is also offering a holiday sale on it's test through December 2008.

Family Information

One of our readers, Danny McHargue, has been battling a lymphoma for the past two years at home and at the Wake Forest Baptist University Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. We send him our positive thoughts and prayers to offer our support in his battle with cancer. Danny's cousin Mary Ruth sends that the family is all hoping and praying for a good outcome with the new drug he is now using.

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