

### Letter From the Editors

Joyce and I have been busy since our last newsletter, but have not uncovered any more leads on our early Armfield family. We are working with Gay Carroll and Doris Reiner on collateral lines in the hopes of uncovering them. Any of you are welcome to join our endeavor and hope you do. Drop us a line and we can give you a project to work on.

We have been corresponding with Buzz Armfield about doing some pieces on the Civil War and the Armfield family. He volunteered to write about one of his family's Civil War ancestors. We are pretty sure you will find it interesting. Nancy Hartley contributed the story of Will Armfield, a pioneer pastor. Thank you Buzz and Nancy!

If you have stories you would like to share with us about your Civil War era ancestors, please submit them and we will run them in a future newsletter.

*Joyce & Connie*

### Which Armfield Are You?

By Buzz Armfield

The March 1930 edition (Volume 38, Number 3) of Confederate Veteran (the official publication of the Sons of Confederate Veterans), on pages 95-96 states the following with regard to my great grandfather **Wyatt Jackson Armfield** (1843-1933) and the final days of the Civil War in central North Carolina:

*According to the statement of Mr. W. J. Armfield (who is still living and possessed of a most remarkable memory), he was a young man living near High Point all during the War between the States, working in a woolen factory at Jamestown when Stoneman's raiders came through this part of North Carolina, destroying bridges, burning buildings, and even trying to destroy railroads. They passed through High Point on their way from Salisbury to Greensboro and burned a gun factory located on what is now West Green Street which was owned by Seborn Perry and Manlief Jarrell. Hundreds of bales of cotton were piled along the railroad track near what is now site of the freight depot. Not a bale was left—all burned. Doubtless much other damage would have been done had not Stoneman's men learned that General Stephen D. Lee was nearby on the north and General Robert F. Hoke was on the south of High Point. The raiders made a hurried get-a-way, but stopped at Jamestown long enough to burn the woolen mills and a gun shop.*

*A few weeks prior to the surrender, President Jefferson Davis started south on horseback, but sent Mrs. Davis and the children down on the train. Mrs. Davis made a short stay in High Point, stopping at the Barbee Hotel. She traveled under the protection of Col. Burton Harrison, Aide to President Davis. Mr. Armfield related that the Davis children were given much attention by some of the Confederate soldiers encamped nearby, who took great pride in giving the children rides on their horses, while taking pains to lead the horses for them.*

*Mrs. Davis soon went on to Charlotte and later passed on south. President Davis rode into Greensboro, but, it was not thought safe for him to remain overnight there, so he rode on a few miles east of Greensboro and spent the night with Mr. John Hiatt, going on to Jamestown and High Point the following day. While at the Hiatt home, President Davis's horse was taken sick, and, being too sick to be used the next day, Mr. Hiatt furnished him a horse so he might proceed on his journey south. After a short stop in Jamestown, at the home of Dr. Shubal Coffin, where President Davis picked up his Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Trenholm, who, with his wife, baby and nurse, had spent the night there, the whole party rode on to High Point and made a short stop. From High Point they rode to Charlotte. After holding a cabinet meeting in Charlotte, which proved to be his last, President Davis and his party proceeded south, only to be captured later.*

Proof of the statements concerning the stops of President Davis was given me by Mrs. George Gregory (Mary Roxanna Coffin), daughter of Dr. Shubal Coffin, and by Mr. Wyatt J. Armfield.

I will take this as fact, particularly since some biographies make the claim that Wyatt Jackson was enlisted in the Confederate Quartermaster during his stint at the woolen mill in Jamestown, N.C. (also known as the Mendenhall and McRae Mill). That the publication quoting him is predicated upon honoring those who served the Confederacy, and does not make mention of any service on his part. I feel it safe to say he was just an employee and not a part of the Confederate military. And, while there were Armfield's who did serve in the Confederate Army, my branch of the family somehow managed to avoid fighting, and has continued to do so to the present day. We aren't warriors, we're business people, and while I don't agree with the Sallie Walker Stockard history of the origins of the family, her description of Wyatt Jackson is accurate in this regard. My branch of the family has never left central North Carolina, and has prospered since the cessation of hostilities in 1865.

My own interest in the family has led me to peruse telephone directories whenever I have traveled across the United States. One of the first things I do after checking in is to go to my room, grab the phone book, and look under the letter "A". Often I do find an Armfield, and I will attempt a telephone call to see if I can glean any family history, or make a connection back to where I live. I became particularly interested in chatting with Armfield's from the western states, hoping to learn if any were among the wagon trains that crossed the plains and settled the frontier. One peculiar thing that would often crop up in a conversation with an unknown Armfield was the question "Which Armfield are you?". This has happened to me more than once, and there is possibly a good reason for it, but let me expand more on this.

The late Jack Perdue was a neighbor of mine here in Jamestown, and had a ardent love of local history. As a member of the F.C. Frazier Camp of the Son's of Confederate Veterans, he tried in vain to get me to join. He researched my lineage and found that I was in good stead with a couple of cousins twice removed (but not through Wyatt Jackson, further proof that he was not a "reb") who served in Confederate infantry units. Jack was a living encyclopedia of obscure genealogical lore, and I was fortunate enough to have him share this one strange tale with me. According to him, at the end of the Civil War, there were two distinct sets of Armfield's living in the Jamestown area. This distinction was based

on economics, and one must remember that my part of the world had been destroyed by numerous Union military campaigns, therefore hard times were the norm. One set of Armfield's survived the war without any major financial hardship, but the other was not so fortunate. Jack Perdue told me that the "have nots" approached the "haves" for assistance, and were turned away. This led to a migration of Armfield's out of the Jamestown area and across the country. I cannot prove this, and Jack passed away several years ago before I was able to pin down anything that could have given hard proof to this story and yet. . .

People with the Armfield surname in Montana have posed this question to me. I've heard it from a man in Oregon. So, which Armfield are we? I feel safe to say that mine were the ones that didn't extend a helping hand to their kinsmen, and while this was regrettable, it does pose an interesting topic as to how the family might have been spread across the country and away from North Carolina. Did selfishness, or whatever, cause a family schism? Has anyone got a perspective on this? I've met Armfield's from Colorado who have no idea as to where they came from. Could this be due to animosity? I feel this is a path that needs to be taken, perhaps we can see how, and why we became who we are today. *Buzz Armfield*

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Working on his story for the newsletter and while doing some research Henry recalled that Joyce and I had sent him over to Oakwood Cemetery in High Point a few winters back where he saw this mausoleum. "Little did I know, but Wyatt Jackson Armfield, my great grandfather is buried inside." Wyatt Jackson was the son of Richard Beeson Armfield (1809-1887) and Annie Chipman (1811-1895) and married Jennie "Jane" Britt (1850-1915) on 22 Dec 1868 in TN.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9927565>

For a picture of Wyatt Jackson Armfield and a biography go to

<http://ncpedia.org/biography/armfield-wyatt-jackson>

### **Wayside Hospital**

The Guilford Genealogist the Quarterly Journal of the Guilford County Genealogical Society has been running a series on the Wayside Hospital Registry in High Point, NC. The High Point Library Heritage Research Center has three volumes classified as a register of the Confederate Wayside Hospital which was housed in the Barbee Hotel during the Civil War. GCGS, P. O. Box 4713, Greensboro, NC 27404-4713 or

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncgcs>

<p>Comment: Joyce and Connie's branch of the Armfield family left Guilford County before the Civil War. Several Armfield families migrated to Indiana and Missouri. Would those of you who descend from lines that went west consider sending your family's story to us?</p>
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**Will Armfield - Pioneer Pastor**  
**By Will Armfield's daughter Constance L. Fisher**  
Part 1

*A shadowy figure sitting a white horse pushed his way through the December storm in the mountains of Eastern Oregon. The year was 1898, and the crude country road was barely passable. Suddenly, out of the white swirl loomed another figure coming toward the white horse. The first rider recognized the Reverend M. H. Marvin, a Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church, on his way to hold a Quarterly Conference in the next town. "Hello, Brother Will!" shouted Marvin. "What are you doing out here on a night like this? You must be fifteen miles from home!"*

*"I've got a spell to go yet, Brother. A boy on a farm forty miles down the road had an accident and they've sent for a preacher." He was gone as he said the last words. The Reverend William E. Armfield had a six-point charge in this sparsely settled area of canyons and timberlands. It did not matter that the distant family were not members of his church. The boy needed him. He must meet that need.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*Will Armfield was my grandfather. I had been looking through some old pictures and clippings. Now I had my father, Walter Armfield and his brother, Weldon, seated across the room with the tape recorder started. They were the two oldest sons of Will and both in their eighties, but their memories were sharp and clear about this remarkable man who was their father.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*William E. Armfield was born on a farm near Greensboro, North Carolina on July 21, 1865, the last year of the Civil War. His people came originally from Quaker stock. John Armfield came from the north of England to Philadelphia in 1718. The family migrated soon after to North Carolina and established there the family home.*

*The majority of the Armfields drifted away from the old church, yet they still exhibited many Quaker traits, such as honesty, thrift, and simplicity. As a young man, Will was brought up in the Methodist Church South; however, he often attended Quaker meetings. Life was not easy in the South during reconstruction days for young men seeking employment, so, at the age of 21, in the year 1886, Will and his brother Frank packed their belongings and headed west. They homesteaded in Whitman County near Colfax, Washington, raising wheat and livestock. In 1889 he returned to Winston Salem and married Ella Shore, bringing her back to the farm in eastern Washington. It was here that their first son, Walter, was born. In due time the patent was secured on the land, but Will was faced with a new crisis. His brother Julius contracted tuberculosis and Will mortgaged the farm to bring his brother to Washington. Julius died in spite of all they could do and the farm was lost in the panic of 1892. The family moved to Diamond where Will worked as a hired hand to take care of Ella, Walter, and the new baby, Weldon. From there, they moved to Rockford, Washington where Will worked on a little farm and raised some stock. Here, he was active in the church, doing some preaching and leading choral groups. During this time, he*

*became unable to ignore further a persistent voice which would not be still. For years, he had felt that he had a call to the ministry, but tried in every way possible to dismiss the thought, even to establishing a new life in the west. But now he felt, more strongly than ever, that God had spoken through the events of the last few years. He could no longer postpone his answer to that voice. After a course of study and an examination by the Conference :Board, he was given a six-point charge in the most primitive part of southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. He, Ella, and the boys (By now there was a third son, Julius, nicknamed "Duke") moved to Anatone, Washington. This first assignment became a crucial testing period for the neophyte pastor and his young family. On good days he traveled by horse and buggy, crossing into Oregon over the Grande Ronde River by ferry. In the wintertime, he rode horseback, leaving his horse on the Washington side and pulling himself across the ice-filled river by means of a pulley, then walking the 10 or fifteen miles to his next charge. His various congregations saw their minister every two weeks. He covered three points each week, meeting in schoolhouses, singing and praying and preaching his Master into the hearts and lives of these simple, unsophisticated westerners.*

Note: Reverend William Edward Armfield was born in 1865 and died in Spokane, WA on 26 Nov 1925. He was the son of William Nelson Armfield (1825-1902) and Nancy L Moore (1834-aft 1900). He married Emma Marie "Ella" Shore on 12 Dec 1889 in Forsyth County, NC. The above story was graciously contributed by Nancy Hartley, great granddaughter of Will and Emma Armfield. The rest of the story will be in our next newsletter.

### **The Founding of Jamestown**

In the Guilford Genealogist, Vol X, No 3, Spring 1983, Number 21 is an article about Jamestown entitled "OLD JAMESTOWN AGAIN" by Mary Mendenhall Hobbs. The second paragraph discusses the founding of Jamestown as related to the author by Delphina E. Mendenhall, Abel Gardner, Minerva T. and Judith J. Mendenhall and by Mary Mendenhall's father, Dr. Nereus Mendenhall. This was written as a response to an article that appeared in The Greensboro Daily News on 28 Feb 1915 written by Mrs. Tilden a member of the Woman's Club of Greensboro. Mary Mendenhall referred to a book in her possession entitled "History and Pedigrees of the Mendenhall Family" by William Mendenhall of Bath, England and his son Edward of Cincinnati, OH. James Mendenhall, son of Aaron, went to NC from Chester county, PA around 1759. He settled on land on Deep River as the result of a land grant given him in 1765 by Lord Carteret, Earl of Granville and where he erected a dwelling and mills. George C. Mendenhall, grandson of James said in 1848 that he still resided at the house and mills built in 1765. James Mendenhall eventually turned this property over to his son George. George later moved his family to Georgia where he died.

Taken directly from the article:

*"Now for the tradition of the founding of Jamestown. When James built this house the public highway ran by his place, and George had kept a kind of inn or tavern; but some enterprising tavern keeper in the locality of our present High Point so influenced the people who were surveying the stage road that the road left George too far to the right to attract travelers. Understanding the scheme, but undaunted, he either owned or purchased land directly on the road and built an inn, laid off lots, which were mostly deeded to his own children (I have seen this old plot of the town) and named it Jamestown for his father. I never heard the story of the potter James until I read it in the above mentioned article.*

*Now I quote from the book of Mendenhall genealogy and from a letter therein written by my grandfather, Richard Mendenhall, to the aforementioned Edward: "It was my father (George) named this village after his father (James). I helped put up the first cabin. It contains now 150 inhabitants, three stores, etc." This is dated October 20, 1849. Also the following from his brother, George C. Mendenhall, who was very careful in the matter of records: "Jamestown was founded by my father, whose name was George, who named the village after his father, James." April 18, 1850.*

*The Mendenhall family came not from Nantucket as Mrs. Tilden states, but from Wiltshire, England, with William Penn and settled in Chester County, Pennsylvania. One of the ancestors on the maternal side was a daughter of Thomas Pearson who was surveyor to William Penn, and I mention the fact because this same chronicle says that two of my grandfather's brothers--Nathan and William who was also a physician--laid off the town of Greensboro. William was the grandfather of William E. Coffin, a well known citizen of the present city. There have been surveyors in almost every generation.*

*The following quotation from Fiske's "The Dutch and Quaker Colonies in America," confirms our own records as to Thomas Pearson. Vol. II, page 156. I will only quote the special passage: "Thence he went on to Upland where there had been for sometime a settlement. Turning to his friend and shipmate, Thomas Pearson, he said, 'Providence has brought us here safe. Thou hast been the companion of my perils. What wilt thou that I should call this place?' 'Call it Chester,' replied Pearson who had come from that most quaint and beautiful city of old England." Fiske adds, "This Pearson was the grandfather of Benjamin West, the painter. One of his daughters married Thomas West, another Aaron Mendenhall mentioned heretofore as the father of James. The portrait of Thomas Pearson appears beside Penn in the painting by West of the treaty with the Indians."*

*The Gardners came from Nantucket and they are the maternal line of the Jamestown Mendenhalls. There are interesting traditions connected with their advent about the same time the Mendenhalls arrived.*

*As to the queer old house in Jamestown in which my grandfather Richard and his wife reared their family. Mrs. Tilden is certainly mistaken. My grandparents were married in 1812 and went immediately to this house; and for several years before--18 if my memory is right--Richard Mendenhall had lived there in a part of it, having other parts for a leather shop or store or packing house. He, in a manner which would have rejoiced Superintendent Joyner's heart, taught a free night school for several years before his marriage in the front room. Later other parts were added, and from one portion a severe storm blew the second story and roof, which were replaced by a wooden half story. . ."*

*Guilford College, March 15*

[Other than "March 15" no year is shown on this old clipping, but appearing in a matter of days after the first article, we assume the year was 1915 and the paper, The Greensboro Daily News. Both clippings are in a scrapbook made by the late Albert Lyndon Vickrey, my grandfather. This was the beginning of

published duels about "Old" Jamestown between Martha Robbins Tilden and Mary Mendenhall Hobbs. RFT] **Note:** This article will be continued in our next newsletter.

### **Family Lines & Queries**

We heard from **Barry Armfield** in August. He is researching the Armfield Family from NC to MO where he lives. His grandfather was Jonathan "Jack" Armfield, son of Allen who left NC to be with his future wife, Elizabeth Foard. Barry found a map where William Armfield and Nathan Mendenhall made a map of Charlotte, NC. He is attempting to verify a story that Nathan founded Jamestown which was named after his father, James.

Barry shared the following history of the Missouri Armfield's beginning with Allen Armfield who left NC after meeting Elizabeth Foard, who was on her way west in a wagon train. He wrote; "According to my father, who recalls the story from his father, Jack, stole his father's best horse and caught up with the wagon train to be with Elizabeth because his father Hamilton was not in favor of the relationship. Jack and Elizabeth were married by the wagon master and homesteaded a farm in Texas County, Mo, at the time known as the Ozark Township. The farm is still in the family. Allen Armfield was in the Civil War and I have a copy of his discharge papers along with an old rifle he was able to sneak out when honorably discharged at the end of the war.

All the information I have found indicates our ancestors were Quakers and did not believe in slavery or the war and were "conscripted" in the CSA, 38th Regiment from Jamestown. Allen Armfield had a brother, John Armfield, who was a very successful slave trader. Supposedly the first to make \$1,000,000 by trading slaves. Allen also had a brother, Robert Armfield, who was a Lieutenant Col. in the CSA, 30th Regiment." You can write Barry at [bj406@att.net](mailto:bj406@att.net)

**R. T. Pickens** sent a hello. He had just run across vol. 3, no. 1 (Sep 2007) of the Armfield Family Newsletter on the internet. He wrote; "I am a grandson of Blanche Armfield Pickens, daughter of Wyatt Jackson Armfield and wife of Rupert T. Pickens, Sr. whose anecdote about her father's witnessing Jefferson Davis and entourage as they fled south through Jamestown, NC, is quoted on pp. 7-8. (The Armfield farm was nearby in the Deep River community of Guilford County, NC.). I would love to see more such newsletters relating to the Armfield family. Could you please tell me how I may obtain copies of the whole series? Thanks very much! --R.T. Pickens, III, Lexington Co. P.S. My elder son is named for John Armfield, the ancestor who first came to America."

**Kim Davis** is a new reader and descends from Mary Armfield and Jacob Brown through their daughter Rachel Brown (William Adams) to Jacob Adams (Rachel Wiles) to Lydia Ellen Adams (John White Livingston) and so forth who ended up in Cass County, Nebraska. [kzt123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kzt123@sbcglobal.net)

### **Gone But Not Forgotten**

**Claudia Sue Goodwin** was born 22 Aug 1945 in Marion, IN and died in her home on 9 Sep 2013. She was the daughter of Claud and Inez Armfield. Claudia was survived by sons Steve and Frank Lloyd of Marion, daughters Connie and Rachel, brothers Ron, Bill and Bob. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband William Goodwin and sons

James & Johnny Lloyd and one sister. Claudia Goodwin was buried on 13 Sep 2014 at the Riverside Cemetery in Gas City, IN.

<http://www.nswcares.com/obituary/Claudia-Sue-Goodwin/Fairmount-IN/1242861>

*Submitted by Betty Reynolds, Marion Public Library, Marion, IN.*

**Robert Follin Armfield** of Winston-Salem, NC died 8 Apr 2013 at the age of 77 at the Forsyth Medical Center. Robert was born 29 Sep 1935 to Wyatt A. Armfield, Sr. And Lucy Reynolds. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother Edward M. Bob is survived by his brother Wyatt A. Armfield, Jr., his sister Lucy; his wife and two children and two stepsons. Robert was buried on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Apr in the Salem Cemetery in Winston-Salem, NC. [Http://www.salemfh.com/obituaries/2003](http://www.salemfh.com/obituaries/2003)

*Submitted by Henry "Buzz" Armfield.*

### **Odds & Ends**

An interesting link to the Civil War Traveler newsletter, "Everything you need to plan your Civil War Trips.. <http://www.civilwartraveler.com>

Another link to check out is <http://randymajors.com>

"New and simple online tool uses Google Maps to show historical county boundaries."

From Beverly Wagner; The State of Missouri has posted its death certificates from 1910-1961 online at no charge. <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates>

The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization for Union veterans that was established shortly after the Civil War to preserve the memory of the war dead and protect the rights of the survivors. At its peak in 1900, the GAR had 592 posts in Indiana and more than 400,000 members nationwide. By the time its final convention was gaveled into session in August 1949, the GAR's membership had dwindled to 16 elderly men, only six of whom were hardy enough to make the trip to Indianapolis. Joseph Clovese was one of these six "Grand Old Men" who came to the city in 1949 to close a chapter in American history.

The site with pictures can be found at:

<http://historicindianapolis.com/aindianapolis-collected-the-last-of-the-civil-war-soldiers/>

This is a great database for anyone researching Civil War ancestry. If you are not sure of the origins of your ancestor, there is a good chance that you can find his place of birth as well as place of enlistment in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Grave Registration Project. To search the database at no charge, go to

<http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/search.php?action=search> From Eastman's On-Line Genealogy Newsletter [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy)

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