

Letter From the Editors

Our first newsletter was published in September of 2005. Our goal was to provide a forum and resource for Armfield family researchers to refer to as they were searching for their family ancestors. With all the feedback we have received over the years we believe we have accomplished our goal and more. We have learned much about our Armfield ancestors and have made many connections. America's Senator Daniel Webster said; "Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world." Spoken by author and poet Maya Angelou: "We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to the ancestors' wisdom." These are just a couple of quotes that speak to our continuing quest to unravel our ancestral lineage. We appreciate all your comments and contributions and hope that you will continue this journey with us. *Connie & Joyce*

Hamilton Connection

For several years we have been puzzling over the Armfield - Hamilton connection and the more we look, the more confused we get. This family is as difficult to trace as is our Armfield family, however, we thought if we could discover our connection, it just might shed light on our early family. Much of what is found on-line is inaccurate and not proven by primary sources. Our hope is that we can pare this family down so we can identify two or three possible connections of a Hamilton family that may be connected to ours.

The Hamilton surname was used in Scotland in the first half of the 1300's. The Hamilton family was involved in the 1603 English setup of the Ulster Plantation and settled in Northern Ireland with English and Scottish settlers. The English spelling of the Hamilton surname was Hambleton and it is not uncommon to see both spellings used in early American documents. (John Hamilton, Ancestry Message Boards > Surnames> Hamilton, 2009) <http://www.clanhamilton.org>

This creates another question if our Hamiltons were from England and spelled their name Hambleton and not part of the Scotch-Irish immigrants. Just to throw in another interesting piece of information, there is a record of a John Hambleton in a 1753 tax list for West Nantmeal in Chester county, PA. In the History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, by J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, published in 1881, p186 it states that settlers of East and West Nantmeal were divided; "In 1740 the taxables were 83 in East and 123 in West Nantmeal. The first settlers were mostly Welsh, and principally confined to the eastern part of the township. The Scotch-Irish came up from the southwestern part of the county from 1730 to 1740, and peopled the western part."

According to The "Armfield Sketch" that appeared in Sallie W. Stockard's History of Guilford County, North Carolina William Armfield, Sr. married "Mary Hamilton" about 1745 probably in PA and they had seven sons and three daughters. In our research a document was found that was an indenture dated 07 Oct 1765 between William Armfield and Jane, his wife of Rowan County and Thomas Wilson for the sale of 541 acres on

Polecat Creek for 100 pounds that gives us the name of William's wife as Jane/Jean. In the body of the indenture she is referred to as Jane, but she signed with her mark as Jean Armfield. The indenture was delivered in the presence of Wm Hamilton and was recorded in the Courthouse at Salisbury in Rowan County.

The Hamilton surname for Jane/Jean Armfield comes from the History of Guilford County, NC and no proof has been found to substantiate this. What we do have is that: William's wife's name was Jane/Jean; William was in Rowan County, NC in 1759 when he appeared in a list of Taxable Persons; he married 2nd Lydia (Julian) Field sometime around 1783; Lydia was named in his will on 06 Mar 1804 in Guilford County, NC and in the probate dated May 1812. Mary the daughter of William and Jean/Jane was born in 1759 in NC according to Quaker records. David the son of William and Jean/Jane name a son Hamilton Armfield. The first name of Hamilton does appear in descendants of William. The Guilford County history also has that "William moved to the Worth Settlement, in southern Guilford, now Centre, about 1770. and together with his brother-in-law, Hamilton, opened a blacksmith and wagon shop". We don't know if "Hamilton" was his brother-in-law's first name or last name. If it was his surname, we should be able to pick up a trace of him living in that part of the county.

We have communicated with others doing research on the Hamiltons. One man, Lou Poole, has done an extensive amount of research on the Hamilton family. We wondered if his line may have crossed our line at one point and if he could help point us in the right direction to research. One of the Hamilton names we share and that were in North Carolina around the same time as the Armfields was Hance Hamilton. We did have Armfields with the given name Hance or Hans especially down the line of William Armfield "Sheriff Billy" (1762-1842). In response Lou wrote that if we were sure that our Jane/Jean Hamilton was born in PA ca. 1722 (which we aren't), she wouldn't be a descendant of his ancestor Hance Hamilton, the immigrant, since he arrived in PA in 1727 where he died in 1772 in York County. There were more than one Hance Hamiltons recorded in Chester County, PA that predated his Hance's arrival. As he knew those could not be of his Hance, he didn't pursue those lines further. "If you look far enough, you will find more Hance Hamiltons in records than you would ever have thought possible; they were not of the same family. In fact, a researcher who has gone to County Antrim in Northern Ireland (where most of the American Hamiltons came from) tells me that Hance was a pretty popular name there among the Hamilton clans". Lou's Hance Hamilton was son of Thomas and was a very prominent man in Guilford County along with a John Hamilton.

These Hamilton men can be found in various issues of "The Guilford Genealogist", Guilford County Genealogical Society's publication along with several Armfield men. In records of the Guilford County Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions it would appear that John, Hance, Thomas Hamilton would have at least known our William Armfield "Sheriff Billy" as all are involved in court activities.

Lou ran across several Hamilton families he could not identify and that he didn't include in his Hamilton files. One exception was a "Hans Hamilton" who was listed as a "single man" in the 1715 tax list of Middletown township of Chester County. He said this is almost certainly not his Hance Hamilton. Lou knows of two and possibly three brothers of his Hance Hamilton that apparently arrived in 1727: brothers John, James and George. Lou wrote that "George Hamilton was the first Hamilton in Guilford County and

that it just might be possible, given our Jane/Jean Hamilton's birth date, that she could be a sister of those brothers. The names Jean, Jane, Jenette, etc., were all interchangeable among the Scots-Irish. Lou's Hamiltons, and the family of George Hamilton that was already in Guilford County; from ca. 1755 were strict Presbyterians. Presbyterians and Quakers did not mix all that well, intermarriages between the two religions were pretty rare in those days".

In 2013 Connie communicated with Gordon Hamilton, at that time the Hamilton DNA Project Coordinator. He provided the following information. There is listed in the Hamilton DNA study a George Hamilton born in Ireland about 1700-1722 who immigrated to PA, and married a second wife Frances Brown in Lancaster, PA in 1750. He was said to have moved to Guilford Co, NC about 1755 with the Nottingham Presbyterian migration. He died in 1796 and is buried in the Buffalo Presbyterian Church Graveyard in Greensboro, NC. He did name a son Hance and the name Hance has been used within that family line. In the 1790 Federal Census there is George, Hance, Thomas, & John Hamilton listed in Guilford, NC. A George Hamilton showed up in Guilford County, NC, very early: "George Hamilton secured a grant for 640 acres in 1756 on the North Buffalo, what is now known as the John C. Cannon place. His wife was Frances, and their children were George, Thomas, John, James, Robert, Hance, William, Joanna, and perhaps others. George, Jr., married Jane, daughter of James Denny, Sr., and moved to Tennessee after the War; Thomas married, and lived at the home place and reared a family of nine children; John held several offices in the county; James and Robert moved to Tennessee after the War; Hance held office in the county; William married Mary and died in 1785, leaving no heirs but willed land in Tennessee to his nieces; Joanna was the first wife of Thomas Grier." He wondered if our Jane Hamilton could be connected to him. The problem is that Hamilton is a rather common name.

There is a record in The Guilford County Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for Aug 1781 that mentions the administration of the "Estate of George Hamilton Decd being granted to (Frances) Hamilton widow & Relict of said George and entered to bond with John Hamilton in the sum of 20,000 pounds for the faithful discharge of her duty. . . .".

Again we have to be careful as there is at least another George that is in Lou Poole's tree and a son of his Hance Hamilton (who died in 1772 in York County, PA). He has his George dying in 1781 in Guilford County and married to a Mary Unknown (Tate/Archer).

If any of our readers would like more information on the research done by Lou Poole, he sent the following information for you. He has placed all my genealogical research in the Dallas Public Library at: <http://catalog.dallaslibrary.org/polaris> Just place "Poole, James Louis" in the search field, and search on "Author," and his listing will come up first. The Hamilton information is in Book 2. You can also read Mr. Poole's entry "Hamiltons of Guilford County, NC, and Middle TN" and the conversation at <http://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/hamilton/12226>

Research Considerations

Some interesting reads can be found by Googling Nottingham Presbyterian settlement One in particular is the work of Wendy Lynn Adams; "THE NOTTINGHAM SETTLEMENT, NORTH CAROLINA BACKCOUNTRY COMMUNITY", Nov 2009. www.rkeithscott.com/.../Nottingham%20Colony/Nottingham%20Colony

This link is to "The Nottingham Lots and the Early Quaker Families", a presentation by Robert Warwick Day, Ph.D, Sep 2001.

http://www.churchman.org/Nottingham_hist.htm

We do know that Isaac Armfield and family were in North Carolina by 1754 when we find an Abstract of a Land Grant for land measured for Isaac Armfield with chain carriers John and William Armfield, possibly his sons. In "The History of Guilford County" it was written that the family settled on South Buffalo about 1/4 mile SW of Pomona or Salem Junction, a short distance from present day railroad track and a little over three miles to Greensboro. In 1757 Isaac Armfield owned some land situated in an area that was part of Polecat Creek and Center MM. A 07 May 1757 Abstract of Land Grant for Isaac Armfield of 640 acres in Rowan County, Parish of St. Lukes. In 1758 Isaac sold 320 acres lying on the east side of Russells Creek in Rowan County to Samuel Ozbun and 320 acres lying on both sides of Russells Creek to Joseph Ozbun. In 1761 we find a land description for George Hodgen land that bordered William and Isaac's property. A Rowan County Deed Abstract, 27 Aug 1762 shows Granville tract to William Armfield 541 acres on both side of Polecat Creek. In October 1765 William and wife Jane/Jean sell 541 acres to Thomas Wilson.

Rowan County was created from Anson County in 1753. The county seat is located in Salisbury. The county courthouse records were destroyed due to Civil War action in 1865. Records were destroyed by Federal troops. The Guilford County Courthouse had destruction due to fires in 1781 & 1872. <http://www.raogk.org/northcarolina-genealogy>

From the work by Seth Hinshaw he wrote about the land transactions in Rowan / Orange / Guilford / Randolph Counties of NC in QUAKER-ROOTS-L@rootsweb.com in Nov 2004 message board. "Polecat Creek today sits in Randolph County. It is a tributary of Deep River and flows south from Greensboro, west of Pleasant Garden and east of Centre Meeting House, and flows into the Deep River east of Randleman. One of the major tributaries of Polecat Creek is Little Polecat Creek which flows south of Climax, near Providence Meeting House and into Polecat Creek. He said that "while tracing deeds along the border of Guilford and Randolph Counties to keep in mind is that at one time Guilford County claimed that the line had not been run correctly and paid for a new survey. As a result, the line was moved further north, giving Randolph County more land." He also wrote that researchers remember "in these deeds is that the original line separating Orange and Rowan Counties may be drawn. The southern terminus of the boundary is the point where Moore and Montgomery Counties touch the southern border of Randolph County. The Orange / Rowan line ran due north from this point. This would place Providence very close to the line. In practice, many of the earliest settlers did not know which county they lived in and sometimes filed their deeds in the wrong place. Hillsborough was more accessible than Salisbury, so some researchers believe that a few 1750s settlers along the line filed deeds in Hillsborough for this reason."

Regarding Russells Creek in Rowan County, the exact location is unknown, There are John Russell's in early Rowan County tax lists. Does the description of Isaac's land sold on Russell's Creek refer to property owned by a Russell? St. Lukes Parish, Rowan County arose out of the division of Anson County and establishment of Rowan County and St. Lukes Parish in 1753.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncrowan/rowanhis.txt>

What Hamilton families were living in Rowan county around that same time as our Armfields? Using the Ancestry data base North Carolina, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1790-1890, the following **Hamiltons** are listed in Rowan County: Archibald Hamilton, 1755, 1759, 1760; George Hamilton, 1755, 1760, 1759; Malcom Hamilton, 1755, 1759, 1760; Thomas Hamilton, 1755, 1759, 1760.

Rowan County, "NC Tax List, List of taxable property", anno 1778 (ancestry.com) Luke Hamilton, Capt. Caldwell's District; James Hamilton, Capt. Caldwell's District Hance Hamilton, Capt. Caldwell's District. Other early Hamiltons include: Horatio Hamilton, born 1756; died 1840 Forsyth County, NC; Noble Hamilton, born 1761; died 1837, Rutherford County, NC; Sally Hamilton, born 1748; died 1845 Rutherford County, NC; John Hamilton, Sr. born 1745; died 1815 Carteret County, NC; Mary Hamilton Armfield born 1722; died 1780 Guilford County, NC.

"North Carolina Taxpayers 1701- 1786" by Clarence Ratcliff; Hamiltons Archibald, New Hanover County, 1741; Archibald, Rowan County, 1759; George, Rowan County, 1759; Malcolm, Rowan County, 1759; Morrison, Randolph County, 1779; Moses, Randolph County, 1779; Ninian, Randolph County, 1779; Thomas, Randolph County, 1779; Thomas, Rowan County, 1759; Wm, Randolph County, 1779.

Guilford County estate records for: **Hamilton, John**, 1819: In John's will he names a daughter Ann McNairy (Samuel) and a daughter Sarah Davis. The names of his three sons were not given, but names of several grandchildren were. **Hamilton, Robert S**, 1808; wrote his will on 10 Mar 1807 and mentions sons Hance and John and wife Mary/Polly. He also adds his beloved uncle "General" John Hamilton. This was just an honorific title.

There are Hamilton's & Hambleton's around every corner. Is there a connection between our Armfield's & Hamilton's and if so who, where and when? Maybe we even have more than one connection. We just don't know. In 2013 Gordon Hamilton of the Hamilton DNA Project wrote that he didn't have any suggestions for a maternal DNA group that would be useful to us in obtaining any information about our Hamilton ancestors. All of their conclusions in the Hamilton DNA project are based on Y-DNA results for males from an all Hamilton male lineage. The following link is to a discussion of the " Hamilton Surname DNA Results And Discussion, Prepared by Gordon Hamilton, Project Coordinator. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/g/a/gah4/HamDNA/Results.html>

Documenting the American South - A Resource

Many interesting documents can be viewed at the website "Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Documenting the American South". Below are snippets of what can be found there. <http://docsouth.unc.edu> Documenting the American South (DocSouth) is a digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. Currently DocSouth includes sixteen thematic collections of books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral history interviews, and songs. Below are just some of the things you can read on this site.

William Armfield, William Armfield, Jr., Isaac Armfield, Jr. and others signed a petition in 1771 to pardon Ninian Beall Hamilton from his involvement in Regulator movement.

Petition from William Armfield et al. concerning the pardon of Ninian Hamilton, Armfield, William; Et Al., 1771, Volume 09, Page 39.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr09-0025#p9-39>

William, William Armfield Jun, Isaac Armfield Jun and others also signed a petition concerning the pardon of Matthew Hamilton from involvement with the Regulators. Petition from William Armfield et al. concerning the pardon of Matthew Hamilton, Armfield, William; Et Al., Volume 09, Pages 84-85, From MS Records in Office of Secretary of State.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr09-0061#p9-84>

Ninian and Matthew Hamilton were granted a pardon on 03 Oct 1768. Minutes of the North Carolina Governor's Council, North Carolina.Council, October 01, 1768, Volume 07, Pages 850-851, From MS Records in Office of Secretary of State, Council Journals.

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr07-0349#p7-851>

In the website Documenting the American South, several Hamiltons and a few Hambletons can be found. You can review them all at

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/indices/H>

In 1777 a John and Archibald Hamilton sailed on a Scotch Transport to Jamaica. Article from the North-Carolina Gazette concerning the departure of loyalists, no author, October 31, 1777, Vol 11, Page 790, North Carolina Gazette

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr11-0724#p11-790>

We really need more people researching the NC Hamilton's and having "boots on the ground" checking the archives in Raleigh would be wonderful.

Contributions

Our last newsletter, p 6, had a query from Phyllis Zegers from Rosebud, OR who was looking for a family descendant to claim the cremains of **James Albert Armfield** (1867-1941) who had died at the Oregon State Hospital. Carol Armfield McCann wrote in October 2015 to say she had received the cremains and medical records of James in September. Carol's father Franklin was a brother of James and after our piece in the newsletter, she made the contact. She said they process these requests in batches and she missed the earlier deadline. "Patience really is a virtue". Carol sent a Synopsis of his medical history from the Oregon State Hospital as they wrote it.

James Albert Armfield, Coos, November 25, 1938

Age 71. Married. Born in California. In Oregon 38 years. Roustabout. Not homicidal or suicidal. General arterio-sclerosis,-cerebral. "Not slept for 2 weeks".

Memory poor. Delusions changeable. Hallucinations and illusions,--sight and Hearing. Restless and noisy. Urinary retention past 3 weeks,--retention catheter. No Syphillis

Mrs. James A. Armfield, Myrtle Point, Oregon

December 13, 1938. Patient's mental condition seems fair. Unable to pass urine And is catheterized twice daily at present. Clean and quiet otherwise. Feeble. Transferred to Ward 1.

Every month there is a record of his condition which does not change until July 6, 1941 when James Albert died. An autopsy was performed and about 10 items were listed. The first item was "Spontaneous rupture of urinary bladder with localized peritonitis." His kidneys were also a contributor. James Albert was cremated 2 days later. Evidentially his wife didn't have the means to claim his cremains. These were finally claimed this year 2015 through Honoring the Past-List of Unclaimed Cremains. My thanks to Phyllis Zegers who contacted me as she is working with this program

Just for additional information, this hospital is the setting for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". Had I known all of this when teaching school and teaching this book, there could have been more insight into the story.

We know James Albert was the son of Tyrus Alexander Armfield (1845-1926) and Sarah Margaret Beckett (1848-1912). He married Bertha Luella Post 03 May 1902 in Curry County, OR. They resided in Coos County, OR. James Albert was declared insane on the 23 day of Nov 1938. He was described as 5' 6" and weighed about 145 pounds. On 24 Nov 1938, James was admitted to the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, OR. He died there on 06 Jul 1941 and was buried there until family claimed his ashes in 2015. Bertha was born 27 Apr 1881 in Curry County, OR and died 14 Nov 1958 in Coos County and buried in the Norway Cemetery in Norway, Coos, OR. Papers Carol received from the hospital mentioned that James and Bertha had three children who died at birth or shortly after birth. His occupation in census records was farming. If you would like to contact Carol, you can write her at ciam98685@gmail.com

We heard from Yvonne Strong who is researching **Lydia Armfield (1807-1884) and John Bartley (c1805-1863) and Rachael Field (c 1783-)** who married **John Bartley (d 1829)**. She has gathered court records and land records that have provided new information for her. It appears that Lydia was considered a widow of John Bartley and it does not appear like they were divorced. She has documents where Lydia is called "widow" and she is allotted a years support for her and her family in 1864. She will be submitting her research on these lines for our next newsletter.

In Memory

Henry Armfield sent that his cousin **Lucy Armfield Bleau** had died at the age of 69 on 13 Jun 2015 in Naples, FL. Arrangements were made by the Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services - Ft Myers Chapel. Lucy Reynolds Armfield was the daughter of Wyatt Albion Armfield, Sr (1910-1993) and Lucy Reynolds Follin (1913-1978). She was born on 16 Nov 1945 in North Carolina. She married Donald Edward Bleau and we are aware of two children, Christopher and Donald.

COMMENTS

The **Smithsonian** magazine, Nov 2015 issue has an article many will find interesting and for some of us, touch us deeply; "Slavery's Trail of Tears" about the slave trade and the firm of Franklin & Armfield.

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