

Letter From the Editors

In this issue we will add more information on a few of the children of William, Sr. and Jane/Jean Armfield starting with their oldest son William, Jr. We ask that you inform us of any discrepancies from what you have found while researching these branches of the family. Any additions you would like to add to our records would also be appreciated. The numbers and letters associated with the families below continue from the last newsletter to provide some sort of consistency between them.

Joyce & Connie

[1] William Jr. (Little Billy) and Elizabeth Green

H. Robert and Margaret (Bland) Armfield

- (1) William Nelson may have married a Nancy Moore rather than a Nancy Moon (as written in Stockard's History). Joyce has a deed that shows that a William Moore sold 143 acres to Robert Armfield, Jr., 14 Nov 1818. The land was on the waters of Cabbins Creek in Rowan Co., NC. He paid \$150.

A NC marriage record for William N. Armfield and Nancy Moore with a marriage date of 10 Nov 1853 in Guilford Co., NC. (Sources are county court records located at Greensboro, NC or The Family History Library.)

Their children were; John Franklin born Abt. 1854 married Rosa Homes, Julius L. born abt. 1858 married Leanne Reich, William E born Abt. 1866 married Ella Shore, Mary May born abt. 1862 (may have never married), Alice Lee born abt. 1868 married C.F. Perry, Sarah born abt. 1871 married Eugene Vaughn.

- (2) Dr. John T. married Mary Campbell. John, age 33 and Mary, age 25 appear to be living in Monroe, Alabama in 1860 with their children; Claude, age 3 and Mary, age 1. (Source: 1860 US Federal Census records.)
- (3) Robert Franklin (1829 -1898) was a Representative from NC and a biographical sketch appears in an on-line database at Ancestry.com, *Encyclopedia of American Biography*, Provo, Utah. Original of this can be found in a work done by Thomas William Herringshaw; *Herringshaw's Encyclopedia of American Biography of the Nineteenth Century*, Chicago, IL, American Publishers Association, 1902. Robert was also a Lt. Colonel in the 38th N.C. Confederate Army. A photo of Robert exists on-line at Ancestry.com.

A Robert, age 71, is living with R.F. Armfield (noted as R. M. Armfield in the 1860 census records for Yadkin, NC.) We currently believe this to be his father.

- (4) Alexander married Ann C. Hutchinson. In the 1880 census for McMillan, Marion, SC an Alexander age 42 is living with Ann C. age 39 and three of their children along with Ann's parents, Joseph and Mary Hutchinson. The family can also be found in the 1900 and 1910 census for McMillan, Florence, SC.
- (5) Elizabeth Ann and Mary Mariah appear with Robert in the 1850 census in the Southern Division, Guilford, NC with siblings Alexander and Morehead.

Their mother Margaret died in 1846. Elizabeth was listed as Betsy Ann and Mariah as Maria. Elizabeth's husband Joshua Harper Cummings may have gone by the names Harper Cummings and J. Harper Cummings. Mariah was living with them in 1860 in Guilford County (census records) and married Thomas Hoskins in 1862. Mary M. and Thomas F. Hoskins are buried in the cemetery in Toledo, Kansas. Thomas died 20 Mar 1883 and Mary died 20 Apr 1884. Sources are KS Gen Web, Internet Genealogical Society, Chase County Funeral Index 1863-2006 and the "Eddie-Manley Genealogy". This genealogy has Thomas F. Hoskins born 13 Feb 1817 in NC; died 20 May 1883 in Cottonwood Falls, Chase, KS. He married first Anna Macy 02 Feb 1846 in Guilford Co., NC and second Mary Maria Armfield 21 June 1862 in Guilford Co., NC, d/o Robert and Margaret (Bland) Armfield. Both marriage bonds can be found in Guilford County marriage bond records.

In 1870 US Federal Census records, Mary Hoskins, 33, is living in Morehead, Guilford, NC with Thomas, 53 with their children.

(6) Morehead is shown with the family in the 1850 census at the age of 8. We lose him after that and would like to track him down. He may have gone by several names. We have found Armfield names of M.M., Manley, Manlove, Manliff. We do not know if any of them are Morehead. In the 1870 census for Wilkesboro, Wilkes, NC we found a M.M. Armfield age 28 and born in NC living with Rebecca age 22 born in Georgia and one son age 1 born in GA. We found a Rebecca with her parents Daniel and Nancy McGregor in Montgomery, GA in 1860 at the age of 14. She is not with the family in the 1870 census. If you have any ideas or information, please share with us.

[2] Mary Armfield and Jacob Brown

- A. Jane born 10 Nov 1777; married Isaak Carter 04 Dec 1797.
- B. Moses born 20 Sep 1779; married Elizabeth Hadley 04 May 1806; died 15 Dec 1843.
- C. Thomas born 4 Dec 1781; married Mary Hutchens 09 Sep 1802.
- D. William born 6 March 1783; died 20 April 1791.
- E. Jacob born 25 June 1785; married Abigail Hadley 16 Oct 1814; died 23 Nov 1861.
- F. Ann born 8 Sept 1788.
- G. Mary born 2 Feb 1790; married James Mendenhall 29 May 1815; died 05 Dec 1853.
- H. Rachel born 23 Aug 1792; married William Adams 07 Feb 1811; died 07 Apr 1863.
- I. Solomon born 12 Oct 1794; married Lydia Adams 01 Jan 1813; died 09 Jun 1834.
- J. Isaac born 9 Mar 1797; married #1 Mary Mendenhall 26 Dec 1815; married #2 Sarah Johnson in 1873; died 30 Jun 1877.
- K. Margaret born 21 Feb 1799; married James Mendenhall 07 Oct 1815.
- L. Jonathan born 9 Apr 1801; married Nancy Crago 05 Dec 1822.

Information on the Brown family has come from several sources including various family researchers and the book entitled *Applications for Henry County, Indiana Pioneer Certificates*, Vol. 1, pgs 1-100, by Mr. R. T. Mayhill, Henry County Historical Society, 1975. If you would like to add or have corrections to the above, please send to either Joyce or me.

[3] Nathan and Jane (Field) Armfield

- A. John born 1797; died 20 Sept 1871 in Beersheba Springs, Grundy Co., TN. John married Martha Franklin 16 Nov 1834 in Orange Co., VA. Martha was D/O John and Elizabeth Franklin of Sumner Co., TN. Martha was born 04 May 1815 in Sumner Co., TN; died 10 May 1904 in Bell Air, MD at the home of her niece, Mrs. G. L. Van Bibber. She is buried in Gallatin Cemetery, Sumner Co., TN along with other family members. According to a story, John ran away from home as a boy following a quarrel with his father and he vowed not to return until “he was worth more than the old man”.

John Armfield is probably the most notable of any of our early ancestors. He was well known as a slave trader being a partner in the Franklin & Armfield slave trading business with slave quarters in Alexandria, VA and New Orleans, LA. John and Martha maintained a home in Sumner county on the Gallatin Highway which they named “Springhaven”. It is now listed in the National Historical Registry. In 1854 John purchased a tract of 1,000 acres for \$3,750 from Buck White at Beersheba Springs, TN which became the start of a summer resort in Grundy County, TN. John was well known for his philanthropic deeds. Among them was a large donation of money to the University of the South at Seewanee, TN. One of John’s last accomplishments in public service was to assist in the location of the Swiss colony at Gruetil, TN. Throughout the Civil War John lived among the mountaineers by whom he was respected and much loved. Martha was not happy living in the mountains during the Civil War so for her comfort she prepared for winter by “demanding” and getting a privy with a fireplace. Martha was remembered in later life as a person of executive ability, an iron will, and a terrible temper which she did not always bother to control. People were to have marveled at John’s patience with her tantrums. John did not smoke, drink, or swear. John and Martha never had children of their own, but did raise several nieces and nephews. John left a will in Grundy County, TN. Apparently Martha had to deal with numerous lawsuits after his death. A great deal of published material can be found relating to John.

The above excerpts were taken from several sources including “John Armfield, Slave-trader” by Isabel Howell. It can be found in The Tennessee Historical Quarterly, vol. II, March-December 1943, volume III, March 1944, and June 1944. Also from the *Confederate Veteran, Beersheba Springs in War Times*, vol IX, by B.L. Ridley. “The Confederate Veteran” includes pictures of both John and Martha. The most personal glimpses of John and Martha are to be found in “The Beersheba Diary” by L. Virginia French, part I, Summer and Fall, 1863, edited by Herschel Gower and published by the East Tennessee Historical Society in two segments, Part I, vol. 52/53 and Part II, Winter and Spring, 1864. The TN Encyclopedia of History and Culture can be accessed on-line and has a bio of John Armfield.

B. Unknown child

- C. Elizabeth born Abt. 1800; died 1882. She was buried in an unmarked grave between Holt’s Corner and Caney Springs, TN. Elizabeth was described by her granddaughter Ruth Swaim Flowers as being “small in statue, very redheaded with a temper to match and very stooped in old age.” According to family records/lore, Elizabeth’s brother John during the Civil War would send a wagon full of food and supplies to Elizabeth’s family a couple of times a year. In 1820 Elizabeth married Moses Swaim, his 2nd marriage. The story goes on to say that Elizabeth and Moses eloped as her father was against the marriage. No marriage record has been located. The year of their marriage was stated in Elizabeth’s divorce petition located in the NC Archives. Shortly after their

marriage they moved to Maury County, TN. Elizabeth didn't appear to be happy living in Maury and left Moses a number of times to return to Guilford County. During the January 1844 court term, Guilford County, Elizabeth petitioned the court for a divorce from Moses. Elizabeth charged Moses as being a drunkard, spendthrift and for mistreatment. Moses countered by stating Elizabeth indulged in illicit commerce with lewd women. It was believed that Elizabeth learned of the death of her parents while back in NC seeking a divorce from Moses. A great deal of the divorce petition related to her 1/3 share of her parents and grandparents estate.. Elizabeth wasn't granted a divorce in NC at the time as she wasn't a resident of the state. In May 1854 Elizabeth was in court in Maury Co., TN. She petitioned the court that she was "unwilling to further prosecute her suit against defendant Nathan A. Swaim and prays to dismiss her bill as to him". The suit against Nathan A. Swaim was dismissed. This suit lends credence to the account of the late Ruth Swaim Flowers that Moses and Nathan went to NC to collect Elizabeth's portion of her inheritance of about \$1600 due her from the estate. They returned home to Maury County empty handed as on the way home they stopped and bought some land for Nathan. It was at this same hearing Elizabeth was granted a divorce from Moses ending their 34 year marriage.

The children of Moses and Elizabeth; Nathan A., Charity, Moses Mortimer married Laura Amanda Gardner, Robert (died of consumption), John (killed at the Battle of Shiloh), William (killed in an accident), James married Martha Braden, Mary married Bill Wilson, Martha never married; died before 1910.

- D. Mary (Polly) born Abt. 1799; died after 1872. Mary married Col. William Hanna before 1827. No marriage record had been found. Col. Hanna was named administrator of the estate of Nathan Armfield, but he died before the estate could be settled. Following Col. Hanna's death his widow, Mary (Polly) and the children moved to TN where her brother John was made guardian of the children. The children of Mary and Col. Hanna were; Alexander, Albert C., and Rebecca Jane. In July 1849, John Armfield (their uncle) gave the above mentioned children of Mary (Polly) Hanna "for love and affection a parcel of land in Sumner Co., TN containing 360 acres more or less. Included in the deed was a gift of five slaves, a wagon, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and farming utensils of every kind".

[4] Solomon and Thankful (Cummings) Armfield

- A. Allen H. born Abt. 1808.
- B. Malinda born Abt. 1810; married 29 Nov 1827 (Bd) to Allen Short, Guilford Co.
- C. Elvira born Abt. 1812; died 22 June 1855; buried in "Old" First Presbyterian Church Cemetery.
- D. William Addison born Abt. 1815; died Abt. 11 May 1879 in IN. He married Elizabeth Petty 12 Jan 1837 (Bd) in Guilford Co.
- E. Calvin C. born 14 Feb 1821; died 29 May 1910 in Howard Co., IN. He married Penninah Albertson Nov 1846 (Bd) in Guilford Co.
- F. Ann Eliza Jane born 01 Aug 1823; died 07 August 1907; buried in Moriah United Methodist Church Cemetery. She married Andrew McGee Kirkman 01 Feb 1844 (Bd) in Guilford Co.

[5] Nancy/Ann and William Field

William Field wrote his will 24 Mar 1815; probated Aug 1815. Executors were his brother-in-law William Armfield and Nancy Field. Witnesses were Nathan Armfield

and Jeremiah Field. His wife Nancy/Ann survived him along with the following children;

- A. Jane Hannah
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Jonathon
- D. Nancy

[6] David and Elizabeth Trotter

- A. Mary (Polly) born Abt. 1799; may have died before her father as not mentioned in his will. She married 02 Mar 1815 (Bd), Guilford County to Isaac Widdows. Their children were; Jane, Elizabeth, David.
- B. Solomon born 15 Nov 1800; died 31 March 1852; buried in the Armfield- Millis Cemetery (a.k.a. Piney Grove) in Guilford County. Solomon had a baseborn child with Lydia Sullivan before 21 Aug 1823. He married Dianah Shelly 12 March 1834 (Bd) in Guilford County. Dianah was born 04 Dec 1817; died 12 May 1880 of consumption and was buried in Piney Grove Cemetery.
- C. Jonathan born Abt. 1805; died 28 Sept 1855; buried in Unity Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Woodleaf, NC. He married Sarah Jane Brown of Rowan County, NC 03 June 1842 (Bd). Sarah Jane was born 04 June 1810; died 18 Nov 1877; buried in Unity Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Rowan County. Their children were; Louisa A., Henry B., N. Madison/Madison L., Ann C. born 13 Sep 1848; died 13 Jan 1856, Luther J. born Abt. 1852; may have died young, Alfred Moses born 27 Mar 1853; died 22 July 1854. Jonathan left estate papers found in the November Term, Guilford County Court, 1855. Sarah petitioned the court for her 1/3 dower part of his 400 acres of land.

[7] Jonathan and Elizabeth Dillon

- A. Jonathan (Stanley) Armfield was born 08 April 1794; died of cholera 01 July 1833 in Washington County, IN. He was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Washington County, IN. Jonathan and family moved to Washington County before 1820 as they are found in the census records. Their children were; Bartlett Yancey married Elizabeth Hamilton, Hamilton Alexander married Jemima Linville, John R. married Elizabeth Buskirk, Mary married Tiras A. Banta, Rachel C. married Zachariah S. Coffin.

Reader Contributions

Beverly W. sent her line. She is descended from William Armfield to Mary Armfield to Solomon Brown to John Adam Brown to Mary Ellen Brown on down to herself. For more information contact Beverly at bwagner@wyoming.com

Judy H. sent the following narrative on her family. Her father Robert Eugene Armfield (William Jr., Robert, William Nelson, John Franklin, Robert Gray (1883-1938) was born in Spokane, Washington in 1913. When he was four he and his mother left Spokane to live with his maternal grandparents. In 1918 his mother divorced his father because of his infidelity. Robert Eugene was never allowed any contact with his father or his paternal relatives. He had no recollection of his father. Robert's mother struggled to support the two of them and they resided in Portland, San Francisco and Nyssa, Oregon. His mother did remarry, but her husband was a ne'er-do-well and an alcoholic. He deserted the family after a few years. In 1927, Robert's mother left her son with a family in Nyssa while she went to Calgary, Alberta, Canada to find work. She had an aunt living there who ran a high class boarding house. Robert E. finished grade nine

and went to join his mother in 1928. He did not return to school but worked at various jobs until he was old enough to go to work for the Royal Bank of Canada. Robert subsequently became a Canadian citizen, married her mother in 1940, served in the Air Force during WWII and later set up an accounting practice. Robert's father died in 1938 in Seattle, Washington. To contact Judy you can write her at hewlettj@shaw.ca

Linda W. is researching the Bland, Stanley, and Short families. If you have any information on these families you can help her, write her at wellslc@charter.net

Jo Ann P. sent a description she had found of the Armfield-Millis Cemetery in NC. The Armfield-Millis Cemetery (Piney Grove) lies 50 yards north of West Vandalia Road in Greensboro, 1.2 miles west of Pinecroft Road, and 0.4 miles east of Groomstown Road (No. 1129), just west of a small grocery store. The cemetery has been fenced and the arch over the entrance reads "Col. James N. Millis and Wife Betsy Armfield Millis." There are many sunken unmarked graves, numerous native headstones and legible stones were recorded in 1973.

A reference is the small book, "Family Burying Grounds and Abandoned Church Cemeteries in Guilford Co., NC and Immediate Environs" , by O. Norris and Rebecca H. Smith.

Armfield, Solomon, born 15 Nov 1800; died 31 Mar 1852 (51Y 4M 16D).

Dianah, born 4 Dec 1817; died 12 May 1880 (62Y 5M 8D).

Infant s/o Solomon and Dianah, October 1837.

Betty J. d/o Solomon and Dianah, born 7 Dec 1840; died 17 Feb 1843 (2Y 2M 10D).

John Alston, born 03 Sep 1843; died 11 Jan 1907.

Roxana Patterson w/o John A., born 04 Jan 1856; died 26 Feb 1884 (28Y 1M 22D).

Mattie S. d/o John A. and Roxana, born 26 Feb 1884; died 29 June 1884 (4Y 3M).

Hamilton, born 18 Dec 1806; died 11 Aug 1862 (55Y 7M 23D).

Thankful w/o Hamilton, born 27 Sep 1812; died 13 Feb 1892.

Emsley F. s/o Hamilton and Thankful, born 11 Apr 1849; died 15 Sep 1853 (4Y 6M 27 D).

Jonathan, born 15 July 1841; died 11 May 1869 (27 Y 9M 26 D).

Neadom S., born 22 June 1833; died 27 April 1909 (75 Y 10 M 5 D).

Upcoming Event

GenFest 2007, Friday and Saturday June 8th and 9th, Marion Public Library, Marion, Indiana. <http://www.marion.lib.in.us/genfest/genfest07.html> If you need more information, just click on the above link. It is basically a free research time for people to gather and do genealogy research. A local funeral home will be willing to check their records for people and vendors and organizations will be at the library to showcase their research materials.

According to our contact Rhonda Stoffer, "GenFest is the happening to attend if you are doing genealogy research or are interested in learning. Marion has a rich collection of resources available to genealogists. Those researchers interested in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Howard, Huntington, Jay, Madison, Miami, Randolph, Tipton, Wabash, Wells counties, or any Hoosier county will have all these resources available with plenty of help on hand."

Donna R. B. sends her line of William Sr. to Jacob and Mary (Armfield) Brown to Moses and Elizabeth (Hadley) Brown to Hadley and Anna (Dowell) Brown and on down to her. If you would like to communicate with Donna, write her at ndbraly@pacbell.net.

A Puzzle to Solve

We recently heard from a new contact for our Armfield family who is researching the line of Robert s/o William (Sheriff Billy) and Hannah Green. We currently believe that he married 1) Thankful Bland and 2) Deborah Lovett. She is wondering if the two girls we have as daughters for Robert and Margaret (Peggy) Bland, Elizabeth Ann and Mary Mariah, were in fact daughters of Robert and Thankful. Due to the marital difficulties of Robert and Thankful and subsequent divorce, the girls may have gone to live with Robert and Margaret after their parents separation or divorce. We presently have nothing to indicate the sex of Robert and Thankful's two children mentioned in the divorce papers of 1836 or where they might have gone. According to divorce papers, Thankful and Robert had no children the first two years of their marriage of 27 Sep 1827. Thankful had an affair with Jonathan Short and she and Robert separated for a "few months". Robert and Thankful lived together again for three years at which time they had two children. In the spring of 1835, Thankful took up with a Gorrell Forbis and the marriage between her and Robert was subsequently dissolved in 1836. Robert petitioned the Superior Court of Law, Guilford Co., NC, Spring Term 1836. This document also states that Thankful admitted to another party that she had a relationship with Gorrell for 18 months previous to the fall of 1835. If the above is true Robert and Thankful's two children were born sometime between September 1829 and the spring of 1835 when the affair was discovered by her husband Robert. However, Gorrell and Thankful appear to have known each other in 1833. According to records Joyce has, Elizabeth was born abt. 1833 and Mary Mariah born 05 Jan 1836. In the 1850 census for Guilford County we find a Betsy Ann age 16 (born abt. 1834) and a Maria age 15 (born abt. 1835) living with Robert Armfield and two of his sons. In the 1870 census for Guilford County a Harper Cummings age 30 is living with Bettie Cummings, age 27 (born abt. 1833) and Mariah Armfield, age 24 (born abt. 1836). Their names were actually spelled Bittie and Moriah on the census form. No documents have been found regarding the names or sex of Robert and Thankful's two children or where they may have gone after the divorce.

If anyone has any ideas or information on these families, please write us. It is an interesting research project and we would like your help!

New Orleans Armfields

Whether connected to the above or not, Robert Armfields (as well as other Armfields) have been found in New Orleans, LA between 1840 -1866. Did any of the NC Robert Armfields migrate to New Orleans? Would others like to take a look at this and let us know what they find?

Odd's & Ends

We will begin putting in some Armfields that we have little knowledge of. If you see someone you know about, forward us the information. We'll include it in a future newsletter. If you have an Armfield that you're unsure about, let us know that too.

Summary

Information on William Armfield Sr. and Lydia Field (wife #2) will appear in the next issue.

We hope that you are continuing to find the newsletter interesting and helpful. Your continued comments, ideas, and contributions are appreciated.