

Letter From The Editors

In this newsletter we will provide you with transcripts of legal documents concerning **Nathan Armfield, son of William Sr.** and two for his daughter, **Elizabeth Armfield Swaim**. As we have several documents relating specifically to Elizabeth and Moses Swaim, we will highlight those in our next issue. These will include transcripts of her petition and the response from her husband Moses. In those papers Nathan, Jeremy and Mary Field were also mentioned.

Joyce & Connie

Nathan Armfield (1762-1839) son of William Armfield, Sr. and Jane/Jean Hamilton

In The History of Guilford County, NC by Sallie Stockard on page 99 of the re-published edition it was written that Nathan "represented Guilford in the State Senate for years". The last time Joyce visited the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh, NC, she asked about Nathan and whether they had any records of his time in the Senate. The Archivist said that Nathan never served in the North Carolina Senate or House of Representatives. We believe another error in the Guilford County History relates to Nathan's marriage to Polly Dempsey. No record of this marriage has ever been found. Nathan married Jane Field, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Field. Our sources include; Pleasant Garden Methodist Church Cemetery Records, "The Guilford Genealogist", V. 2, Winter 1987, N. 36, p. 68;

ARMFIELD, Nathan [no birth information] d. 19 Feb 1839, 77 yrs
ARMFIELD, Jane W/O Nathan d. 20 May 1831, 59 yrs

Similar data can be found in "Guilford County Cemeteries", Volume II, Eastern Section, edited by Mary A. Browning. A Field Family sketch by Sueanne Field identified Nathan as a son-in-law; "Jane Field (1771-1831) married Nathan Armfield in 1810". Nathan's estate settlement records included Mary Field as an heir. Mary Field was his mother-in-law.

Nathan was a Justice of the Peace in Guilford County as early as 1809 as he was listed as a justice in the first court held at the new courthouse in Aug 1809. *Guilford Genealogist*, Vol 28, #3, Summer 2001. Following are a few of the records that can be found supporting Nathan's role as a Justice of the Peace. Nathan officiated at the wedding of Shannon Wiley (1791-1867) and Nancy Millis in 1819; "They were married in the home of James Millis with Nathan Armfield officiating." Nathan Armfield witnessed and proved the sale of land by William Armfield, Sheriff Billy, to "Sylvanas Gardner" in the Guilford County Court, August Term, 1823. In "*Guilford County, NC - Marriages, 1826-1829*", *The Patriot*, Greensboro, NC an entry was found dated 20 Jun 1829; "In this county, on the same day, by Nathan Armfield, Esq., Mr. Marmaduke Thompson to Miss Ruhama Cude, second daughter of Timothy Cude, all of this county." This also

appears in the *Guilford Genealogist*, Vol 19, #1, Fall 1991. Nathan was listed as Just Of Court 2-25-1817 in an issue of the "Guilford Genealogist".

From the book Guilford County North Carolina Will Abstracts 1771-1841", by Irene B. Webster is found the following entry showing that Nathan was the son-in-law of Jeremiah Field. B:0496

"JEREMIAH FIELD, Senr. - 19 Dec 1818 - Prb May 1821
 Wife - plantation during widowhood, negro Dinah, horse, furniture
 Sons JOSEPH, BENJAMIN & JOHN - each \$5
 Eldest daus: RUTH, JANE & MARY - each \$50
 Youngest daus: ELIZABETH, RACHEL & TABITHA - each \$1
 Son JEREMIAH'S widow POLLY FIELDS - all demands against her & 50 cents and her son ELOTT - \$20 for schooling
 Son WILLIAM'S widow NANCY FIELDS - 50 cents
 My ch: RUTH, JOSEPH, BENJAMIN, MARY, JANE, ELIZABETH, TABITHA, RACHEL & JOHN - residue of estate; if JOHN does not return within 12 years, his part to be divided between the rest
 Exrs: Son-in-law NATHAN ARMFIELD, Samuel Hempbell, Senr.
 Wits: William Dicky, Robert Ryann"

Settlement of the Estate of N Armfield, Deceased

In obedience to an order of the County Court of Guilford at May Term 1841 appointing us commissioners to audit & Settle the acts of William Hanna administrator of N. Armfield decd we proceeded on this 14th day of August 1841 to discharge our duty as such and submit it the following report as the result of our examination.

William Hanna admin of N. Armfield.

<i>To amt. Of Notes & Cash on hand</i>	<i>\$626.62</i>
<i>Int. On Same for 12 mos</i>	<i>37.59</i>
<i>Amt. Of Sales as per Clerks Certificate</i>	<i>1658.54</i>
<i>Int received on Winburn & Weatherly note</i>	<i>35.70</i>
<i>Amt of estate</i>	<i>\$2358.54</i>

<i>By amt due to estate of Mary Field</i>	<i>\$37.17</i>
<i>“ D[ue] Kenetts act</i>	<i>25.55</i>
<i>“ Saml Hemphills do</i>	<i>5.30</i>
<i>“ F Fentress act</i>	<i>15.69</i>
<i>Clerks fee</i>	<i>3.65</i>
<i>“ N Armfields note to S Siley</i>	<i>25.00</i>
<i>“ J & R Sloans act</i>	<i>23.84</i>
<i>“ Sheriff Doaks taxes 1838, 1839</i>	<i>2.56</i>
<i>“ Ralph Gorrrells receipt</i>	<i>8.</i>
<i>amt. Vouchers</i>	<i>\$146.76</i>

<i>“ Commissions @ per ct. on Receipts</i>	<i>117.92</i>
<i>“ Do on expenditures</i>	<i>7.30</i>
	<i>\$271.98</i>

Amt in hands of administrator

\$2086.56

*J B Mebane
Peter Adams*

These next two documents were petitions of Moses and Elizabeth (Armfield) Swaim versus William Ingle over land owned by Elizabeth's father Nathan.

Petition to Divide Land

*State of North Carolina
Guilford County*

*Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Nov. Term, 1846*

To the worshipful the Justices of the Court aforesaid:

*The petition of Moses Swaim
and wife Elisabeth,*

Petition to divide land.

vs

William Ingle.

Your petitioners, Moses Swaim and wife Elizabeth, shew unto your worship, that Nathan Armfield some years since died in our County of Guilford, Intestate, seized and possessed of certain lands and among them, one tract of Eighty acres more or less, on the waters of Polecat, in Guilford County, adjoining the lands of Walter A. Winborne, James Sloan, Fisher Taylor, and others, that his heirs at law are your petitioner Elizabeth who hath intermarried with your petitioner Moses Swaim, Mary Hanna, widow of William Hanna, deceased and John Armfield and, that your petitioners Elizabeth Swaim, as such heir of Nathan Armfield, is the owner in fee simple one-third of said land.

Your petitioners further shew, that the other heirs at law, to wit, Polly Hanna and John Armfield have transferred their interest in said lands and, that by means of a transfer and conveyance, immediately or immediately, the defendant William Ingle hath become the owner of the other two thirds.

Your petitioners further shew, that the said Ingle and your petitioners have had for some time the joint possession of said lands, said Ingle by his tenant William McFarland and your petitioners by their tenant John Stephens. They further shew that the said defendant, altho often requested, hath failed to unite with them in a friendly division of said lands, which they clearly have a right to have done, so as to give them one third, and the defendant the other two thirds and which remains to be done.

Your petitioners therefore pray your worship to cause a copy of this petition and a Subpoena to be served on the defendant, requiring him to be and appear before your worship at the next Term of Guilford Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held for the County of Guilford at the Cour House in Greensboro on the third Monday in November next, then and there on his corporal oath to answer all and singular the several statements and charges in this petition Contained, as fully and distinctly as if the same were here again repeated, and he thereto specially interrogated by way of interrogatory and that he specially set forth his deeds how he claims - thro whom - and whether or not from the said Polly Hanna and John Armfield, if not through them how, and that your worships will order and decree a partition of said lands to be made by

Commissioners as by law and prescribed in Such instances and cases and to grant unto your petitioners all such other and further relief and process, as the nature of their case may require, as in duty they will ever most respectfully pray.

John A Gilmore

Sol. For Petitioners Writ of Partition

*State of North Carolina
Guilford County*

*Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions
Nov. Term, 1846*

To the Sheriff of Guilford County Greetings:

*Moses Swaim and wife Elisabeth,
vs
William Ingle*

Petition to divide land.

This case coming on to be heard on the petition, the decrees and orders in this case heretofore made, and the argument of Counsel it is declared by the Court, that the Petitioners and Dft Wm Ingle an tenants in common in the lands described in the petition to wit 80 Acres more or less on the waters of Ple Cat in Guilford County adjoining the Lands of W.A. Winborne, Jas Sloan, F.B. Taylor & others.

You are therefore commanded to Summon Fisher B. Taylor, Saml V. Barker, Joe Newman, Henry Yates & Frederick Smith, Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to meet view & value the lands & after being duly sworn, on their oath to proceed to divide said Lands agreeable to quantity & quality, between the Petitioners & Defendants so as to allot one third part in valuation to Petitioners, & two thirds to Deft. In one body. Cause suitable surveys and Plates to be made, & Report their divisions in writing under their hands & seals to the next Term of this Court.

Witness John M. Logan Clk of our said Court the third Monday of May 1847. Issues the 11th June 1847

*John M. Logan CCC
By R.M. McCulloch DC*

Queries & Family Lines

Richard Yehle is interested in Pernia and Legia Armfield daughters of Charles Paris and Mary (Lang) Armfield. Pernia (1894-1965) married Daniel Bourke in 1913 and they divorced. She then married Richard Mathews about 1920. Pernia died in San Joaquin County, CA. Legia (1900-1936) died in Stockton, San Joaquin, CA. If anyone has information on these families, please contact him at yehlegenealogy@yahoo.com

Does anyone have information on any Armfields who lived in Georgia especially in Talbot County? If you do, please send the information to Connie.

Comments & Contributions

Karen Armfield wrote that her son Stephan attends the University of California Davis which is located next to a very old, small town called Woodland. It is about half an hour from Sacramento. While searching for a store he came upon a street called Armfield Avenue. It is a short street in an old part of town. It appears to have been houses that were once a neighborhood and has since changed to a business district. After doing a little bit of searching, they discovered that there used to be an almond orchard, called Armfield Ranch which was sold to Blue Diamond Almonds in Sacramento. The ranch no longer exists. In further research Karen found information on Elmer William Armfield, son of Amanda and Jackson H. Armfield who married Ruby LaBrie. Ruby's father Napoleon Bonapart LaBrie owned and ran the almond ranch. She is looking for property tax and business records to see if Ruby and E. W. Armfield inherited the ranch from her father. Elmer was born 9 Dec 1878 in CA; died 8 Mar 1961 in Monterey, CA; and married Ruby M. LaBrie, born 27 May 1878 in CA; died 17 Dec 1947 in Yolo, CA. Elmer married a second time to Florence Wythel Saunders (1904-2005). They were married in Reno, Nevada on 31 March 1949. She has found no children with either wife. E. W. practiced law in Woodland. Questions to be answered are, how did the Armfield name become attached to the ranch and how did Armfield Avenue come to be?

Karen also sent this interesting link. It appears to use information from The History of Guilford County, but with different dates for the arrival of the Armfields in North Carolina. <http://www.lynnandrobin.com/documents/historyofsedgefield.pdf>

Paula Hinkle sent this interesting bit of information. She had been on the hunt for a copy of Wendell Holmes Stephenson's, Isaac Franklin, Slave Trader and Planter of the Old South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1938. Isaac Franklin was John Armfield's partner. Alibris Book Fetch notified her that a copy was available for a cool \$1000. Paula, however, was able to obtain the book through interlibrary loan at no cost!

Joan Case sent two resource sites to check out; Family Search added over 15 million new indexed records to its record search pilot from the 1850 and 1870 U.S. Censuses. The records are linked to the digital images of the originals. The new records can be searched for free at FamilySearch.org (click search records, then record search pilot). There is a lot more there. Another site is: <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>



J. WYATT ARMFIELD,
HIGH POINT, N.C.

Joyce and I want to clarify who we believe is pictured in the HISTORY OF GUILFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, by Sallie W. Stockard, rpt. 1902, pg. 75. We don't believe the picture (J. Wyatt Armfield, High Point, NC) in Stockard's Armfield Sketch was of Wyatt Jackson Armfield son of Joseph C. Joseph C's son died in 1843, at the very earliest stages in the evolution of photography. We believe the picture is of Wyatt Jackson son of Richard Beeson and Anna (Chipman) Armfield. He was a well known banker in the Guilford area. Wyatt J. was named for his uncle, who was the brother of Richard Beeson. This Wyatt J. was born 25 Nov 1843 and died 12 Oct 1933. There are a number of

pictures of him that can be compared to the photo in Stockard's history to verify this. We do not know why his name was written as J. Wyatt rather than Wyatt J. Armfield.

Donna Railsback Braly did the research for her grandson to join Children of the American Revolution on William Armfield, Sr. and it was accepted. She thought this information might be helpful for others interested in pursuing this. ndbraly@pacbell.net

Pat Crockett sent pictures of the gravesites of William C and Melvina Armfield. They are buried in the Carmel Cemetery, Hamilton County, Indiana. A picture of their headstones can be found at Find A Grave. Does anyone have any information on this couple?

DNA Update

We have two more Armfield males participating in the Armfield DNA project! Thank you. The more Armfield males we have submitting samples, the more informative the data will be. The closest match we have so far with our first participant's paternal 33-marker DNA sample is with someone nine generations back. We have not yet been able to find their common ancestor. Their haplogroup was recently changed and probably will continue to change as more data is gleaned from their and others test results. Their ancient ancestry prediction has been refined from the haplogroup R1b, the Artisans to haplogroup D, the Archipelagists.

Summary

Our next issue will highlight Elizabeth Armfield Swaim and Moses Swaim. We will also be addressing the topic of DNA testing.

One of our readers, Rodney Williams, is well versed in DNA and is working on an overview of the subject for our newsletter readers. For those of you who may be considering testing, Rodney suggests that the 46-marker test is generally worth the extra money given the potential for additional information it could give you. Of course that depends on whether the other testers with whom you are comparing your DNA have also tested at the 46-marker level. That being said, a 33-marker test is almost as good, so if the cost difference is meaningful to the tester, 33 markers is fine to start with. You can always upgrade later if your match with another person looks promising, but you need more markers to confirm it. The 46-marker test helps you weed those false matches out from the start (or matches that may not be as close as they appear on the 33-marker test). He did the 46-marker test with Ancestry.com, but as more testers are added to the databases (especially more Williams and Armfields), he indicated that he might upgrade to the 67-marker test.

Through Ancestry.com the 33 Y marker DNA test cost is currently \$79. You do not have to be a member to order your test through them. Our first Armfield male participant was not a member and he was given his own private access to his results.

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