

Letter From the Editors

It seems as though so little research has been done on the early Armfield women. In Sally Stockard's History of Guilford County, North Carolina, Armfield Sketch, she wrote that our original ancestor, whom we believe is Isaac Armfield, Sr. had three married daughters that remained in Pennsylvania. We can only guess as to the number of daughters he might have had and where they went. The late Grace Lowe of Logan, Utah submitted an Entry Form with the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints many years ago and gave birth years for three unnamed daughters; 1730, 1732 and 1737. Only one woman that we're aware of, **Ann Armfield**, born about 1732, seems likely to have been a daughter of Isaac, Sr. She was in the right place at the right time to fit into this family. If anyone has any information on any of Isaac's daughters or any of the early Armfield daughters and wives, we would appreciate hearing from you.

What a grand achievement it would be if we could finally break through the Armfield barrier and link up our North Carolina ancestors with our early immigrant family and our Pennsylvania and Virginia families. It is mystifying, with all of the people who have been and are researching the Armfield family, why further progress hasn't been made on their history before North Carolina. Our early ancestors were certainly an elusive group or we have been looking in the wrong places. *Joyce & Connie*

Ann Armfield & Joseph Thornbrough

Ann was received on certificate (roc) at the Cane Creek Monthly Meeting on 7 Mar 1752, as listed in the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*¹, page 372. We have been unable to find the name of the monthly meeting that issued this certificate. In 1752 Cane Creek would have been in Orange County, NC. Ann was married by 30 Nov 1754 in Rowan County as the New Garden MM recorded her marriage to Joseph Thornbrough as condemned out of unity (mou) on that date. The circumstances of this condemnation are unknown. Joseph was a birthright Quaker by having been born into a Quaker family. Joseph was later received to New Garden MM on 25 Sep 1756. A record of their marriage has not been found in any Quaker or civil documents. Their eight children are listed in New Garden Monthly Meeting, in the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, page 519. Many of these children married within the Quaker faith.

We do not have much more documentation on Ann. While there is no primary source records to prove Ann was the daughter of Isaac, Sr., it is taken more or less for granted due to circumstantial evidence. Several researchers have used the name Nancy Ann, but again no source for this name has been found. Ann was often used as a nickname for Nancy. Ann was born about 1732 possibly in Concord Township, Lancaster County, PA. Concord Township in Lancaster County is now located in Delaware County, PA. Some researchers

¹ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN QUAKER GENEALOGY, Volume I, William Wade Hinshaw, Published By Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969

have written that Ann went back to Pennsylvania to marry Joseph, but even though that's certainly possible, that would have been a very difficult journey at that time for a young woman. It would seem more likely Ann came to North Carolina as a single woman and married Joseph in North Carolina.

There is an entry in U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900, Yates Publishing. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc. that gives Ann's place of birth as Pennsylvania in 1732 and Joseph's place of birth as Pennsylvania in 1728. Joseph Thornborough was the son of Edward & Jean Thornborough.

According to the *Handy Book for Genealogists*, Everton Publishing Company, Logan, Utah, Chester County, PA was formed in 1682 as one of the original counties. Lancaster County was formed from Chester County in 1729. Isaac Armfield, Sr. appears in Concord Township records. In 1789 that part of Lancaster County became a part of Delaware County, PA.

Isaac Armfield first appears in U. S. records in 1726 in a tax list for Chester County, PA. In 1729 Isaac was owed and paid 1 lb 5 shillings from the Nathaniel Newlin Estate, Concord Township, PA. In 1738 Isaac received seven shillings from the Henry Gest's estate in Concord Township, Pennsylvania. If Ann was born in 1732 then we can assume she was born in or around Concord Township, PA. There was a large influx of settlers to North Carolina in 1749. In November of 1753, Isaac Sr. had been issued a Granville Land Grant for 640 acres in Russell's Creek, St. Lukes Parish, Rowan County, NC. If Ann came with her family to North Carolina and was received on certificate at Cane Creek MM then we can also assume her family was in NC by 1752.

Ann was alive in January of 1793 as she was mentioned in Joseph's will and in Aug of 1800 when Joseph's will was probated. She would have been about sixty-eight years old in 1800. A record of her death or where she may have been buried has not been found. Joseph died 25 Jun 1800 in Guilford County and according to family histories was buried at the New Garden MM Burial Grounds. The original copy of his will is in the North Carolina Archives.

Written in Joseph's will, "Wife Ann to receive mare, 2 cows, furniture and Maintenance during widowhood. Son Joseph -100 acres where he lives. Sons Edward & Isaac remainder of land. Daughters Ann Hoggatt, Mary Hodgson, Margaret Hoggatt, & Elizabeth Hodgson - each five shillings. Exrs. sons Edward & Joseph Thornburgh. Wits: William Armfield, Esqr. Joseph Thornburgh." Source: "Guilford County, North Carolina Will Abstracts 1771-1841" by Irene B. Webster.

Ann and Joseph Thornbrough were the parents of eight children as listed in Hinshaws Quaker abstracts:

1. Jane b. 21 Oct 1754; d. 17 Aug 1763 Rowan County, NC
2. Edward b. 30 Mar 1757; d. 19 Dec 1839 Randolph County, NC; m. #1 Phebe Summer abt 1779 #2 Keziah Wright 09 Jan 1803
3. Joseph b. 29 Feb 1759; d. 13 May 1842 Rush County, IN; m. Rachel Brown 14 Feb 1782
4. Ann b. 22 Nov 1761; d. 12 Oct 1832 Clinton County, OH; m. Joseph Hoggatt 05 May 1784

5. Mary b. 13 Mar 1764; d. 11 Aug 1842 Washington County, IN; m. #1 Nathan Hiatt 11 Mar 1784 #2 William Hodgson 21 Dec 1790
6. Margaret b. 10 Jan 1767; d. 23 Sep 1843 Henry County, IA; m. Stephen Hoggatt 03 Mar 1786
7. Elizabeth b. 1 Feb 1769; d. 17 Oct 1794 Guilford County, NC; m. Hur Hodgson 03 Dec 1788
8. Isaac b. 6 Oct 1773; d. 28 Jun 1862 Randolph County, IN; m. #1 Rebecca Hodgson 04 Oct 1792 #2 Mary Ann Ring

Information on this family comes from Joseph & Ann Armfield Thornbrough <http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com>, 2007, as well as Yates Publishing. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004, and various family histories. Various spellings include: Thornbury, Thornburgh, Thornburg, Thornberry. The family was Irish and the name was pronounced Thorn-bree.

Other Children of Isaac Sr.

Following are other Armfield males who were in the book by Sallie W. Stockard, *The History of Guilford County, North Carolina*, published in 1902 (Re-published by The Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1983), or they were found in other early records, including North Carolina records and local histories. Some were said to be sons of Isaac, Sr., aka John, and others were not mentioned at all in the Armfield Sketch. We have found no definitive proof of their relationship to our family thus far.

1) Thomas

Beginning in 1760 Thomas Armfield is found in early Rowan County tax lists. If he was born around 1728 in PA then he would have been in his thirties during this time. The List of Tithables taken by Thomas Stilwell, Constable 1761, Rowan County, recorded Isaac Armfield, Jr. and Thomas Armfield in the same household. The Rowan County Tax List of 1768 taken by Capt. Thomas Donnell lists Thomas Armfield living with Isaac Armfield, Junr. No other known records in NC have come to light regarding this Thomas Armfield.

The *History of Guilford County, NC* by Sallie Stockard, p. 107 (in the republished history) has the following accounting; Thomas was the fifth and youngest son of John Armfield. He was unmarried and was referred to as "The Bachelor". He was a strong loyalist during the Revolution which may have made it unpleasant for him among his family. He returned to Pennsylvania soon after the close of the war and died there.

Thomas may have fled to Canada. This thought is based on a record that was found; "Lost in Canada", vol. 15, #1, February 1989. *The New Brunswick Courier*, Saint John, New Brunswick, Saturday 13 August 1814, V. 4, #170, p. 4, col. 4, Saint John Post Office 6 Jul 1814, "List of letters remaining in this office which if not called for will be sent as dead letters to the General Post Office. viz: ARMFIELD, THOMAS." Many of the most active Tories fled the country and went to Canada to keep from being punished after the Revolutionary War ended. We're left to wonder, are these two men the same person?

2) Jacob

Jacob Armfield born about 1730 in PA was first mentioned in a record dated 8 Apr 1754 which lists him as a chain carrier for the survey of land for Moses Short, The Granville District of North Carolina 1748 - 1763, Abstracts of Land Grants, v 3, by Margaret Hoffman, #4596. On 11 Dec 1754 a warrant entered by Herman Husband for 640 acres which included an improvement on or near the head of the Great Alamance that Hugh Foster took from Jacob Armfield. He would have been about the age of 24.

"Orange County, NC Abstracts of the Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of: Sept .1752-Aug. 1766", by Ruth Herndon Shields. The citation is as follows; 56-249 Hugh Foster & Gilbert Strean vs Jacob Armfield & Michael Waldrop Petition. Hugh Foster vs Jacob Armfield for 700 acres of land lying in Orange County on the mouth of the Reedy Branch of Brush Creek, the waters of Dep [sic] River near Cox's Road, 21 Dec 1761, taken from the Minutes of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Court of May 1761. Jacob was not mentioned in Stockard's History of North Carolina and additional records have not been located to explain this court proceeding.

3) James

"Guilford County Deed Book One" edited by Wm. D. Bennett, p. 209, 18 Jan 1773; Samuel Brown of Rowan to David Macy of Guilford, sixty five pounds, 240 acres, on both sides of South Buffalo, begin at a stake on N. side of South Buffalo, E 148 p. to a black jack, S 325 p. cross Buffalo to a hicory, W 69 p. to a post oak, N 127 p. cross Buffalo to 3 black jacks, W 88 p. to an ash, N 193 p. to first station, part of a tract from Granville to Brown 1759, recorded in Rowan; signed Samuel Brown; Wit: Enoch Macy, Isaac (+) Edwards, JAMES (I) ARMFIELD, proved feb. 1773 Term by Enoch Macy. The 1800 NC Federal Census for Guilford Co., p. 635, recorded James Armfield household with 1 M (16-26) and 1 F (16-26). James was not mentioned in Stockard's History of North Carolina.

4) John

According to Stockard's *Armfield Sketch*, John the second son of the original Armfield was to have married in PA and brought his wife to NC where he settled southeast of his father on the South Buffalo near present day Vandalia. She recorded that he had a small family and they all went west, possibly to TN, (p. 103 in the republished history). If this John married before he moved from PA to NC with his father and brothers then why didn't he appear on any Lancaster County, PA tax lists with his father? Perhaps his brother William would have been old enough to have also been listed, but none of the sons of Isaac Sr. (a.k.a. John) have been found on any of the PA tax lists. Below is a discussion of records we have found relating to various John Armfields. We really have no substantial proof of who any of them are or how they fit into the early Armfield family. We will present them in chronological order as it can get confusing keeping the men and data straight.

A John Armfield was listed as a chain carrier (CC) on the Granville Land Warrant for Isaac Armfield, Sr., surveyed on 23 Apr 1754 as was William Armfield. In a warranty dated 30 Nov 1753 John was also listed as a CC on land surveyed on 17 Jun 1754 and again on 7 Nov 1755 for Ambrose Joshua Smith. A chain carrier was an assistant to the surveyor and the carrier moved the surveying chain from one location to another under the surveyor's direction. This was a position of responsibility and often CC's would take an oath that they would do their job properly. Generally, a close family member or trusted friend was given

this responsibility. As the chains were made of heavy metal, the CC had to be at least 16 years of age to be eligible. If this John was the son of Isaac and was born around 1727, he would have certainly been old enough to do the job. We currently believe this John was the son of Isaac, Sr. as none of Isaac's [1] grandsons would have been old enough to qualify as a chain carrier. A couple of interesting links to check out on chains/chain carriers are <http://www.history.org/history/teaching/enewsletter/volume3/december04/primsources.cfm> and <http://donchesnut.com/genealogy/pages/surveyr.htm>

A John Armfield appears in several Randolph County records. THE GENEALOGICAL JOURNAL, Asheboro, North Carolina, Volume XXXIV, No.2, 2010, Summer; *abstracts of the Randolph County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Minutes, June Term 1788*, by Larry W. Cates; "The Administration of the Estate of John Armfield granted Jonathan Armfield. Gives security David Lewis & William York in the sum of L 50.0.0. Letters issued 12/6 paid."

THE GENEALOGICAL JOURNAL, Asheboro, North Carolina, Volume XXXIV, NO.3, 2010, Fall; *abstracts of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions Minutes September 1788* by Larry W. Cates; "The Inventory of the Estate of John Armfield was returned by the administrator."

A check of the estate files and record in both the North Carolina Archives and the Clerk of the Superior Court of Randolph County, NC were unable to shed additional light on this John. The question arises, who was John Armfield of Randolph County? Joyce wrote to one local person and he had no loose records of estates and said many early records have been lost. The NC Archives say they don't have anything. Randolph County was formed in 1779 from Guilford County. Was he the John born about 1757 and son of William Armfield, Sr.? No substantiating records for this John Armfield marrying a Miss Avery with a possible son John as written in Stockard's history has ever been found. We don't really know that any of the John Armfield's married a Miss Avery. Most of the Averys seem to have been in Burke or Chowan County, NC. As far as we can tell there was one John Avery listed in the 1768 Early Tax List, Rowan County, NC, but we have nothing on him or his family. William's son John was not mentioned in William's will of 1804 which may indicate he had died before his father. We currently believe John of Randolph County was more closely related to William Sr. than to Isaac Jr. due to Jonathan being named the administrator of his estate; however, if William's youngest son Jonathan born about 1774 was named administrator of his brother's estate he would have been about 14 years old in 1788. This could lead us to consider that the birth of Jonathan Armfield son of William, Sr. was earlier than 1774.

References that would support an earlier birth for Jonathan are as follows: The Guilford Genealogist, Vol 35, No. 2, Issue 121, p. 5 entry for the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions Minutes of Guilford County, NC, 1788-1796; Vol 2, p 5, Jonathan Armfield served on Jury, August Term 1788. The Guilford Genealogist, p 10, Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions... "Ordered that Jonathan Armfield be Appointed Collector in Mr. Lindsays District. (William Armfield Security) for the year 1788." At that same Court Session of Aug 1788 Jonathan & William Armfield were on Jury. In order to serve on a jury, Jonathan would have to have been of age to do so.

The will of James Jackson written 24 Mar 1785 and probated May 1789 named the Exrs. William Armfield (son of Isaac Armfield), Joseph Thornburg with Witnesses William Armfield,

John Armfield, Nathan Armfield. Was this the John who died in 1788 after the will was written and before the will was probated? The John son of William Sr. and brother to Nathan?

The 1790 Guilford County census recorded a John Armfield residence with two free white males under the age of sixteen and one free white male over sixteen with one white female. In looking at the 1790 & 1800 census records a John Armfield was listed in both census records. In 1790 in Guilford County John appeared to be living close to William's family. In 1800 Salisbury Township, Guilford County the John Armfield household was listed with one free white male (fwm) under 10, one fwm 10 to 15, one fwm 26 to 44, three fwf under 10, one fwf 10 to 15 and one fwf 45 and over, for a total of eight in the household. In 1820 census for Gallatin Township, Sumner County, TN is the John Armfield family with one fwm 10 thru 15, one fwm 26 thru 44, one fwm 45 and over, one fwf 10 thru 15, three fwf 16 thru 25. These records are most likely of John the son of Isaac Jr [2]. When his father died in 1784, he and brother William were of age. He was probably the one that went west with a small family and in 1816 was residing in Sumner County, TN. John was born about 1764 and appears on the Record of Taxable Property in Sumner County for the year 1819 and died there in 1833 not in North Carolina in 1788. We have not found a record for this John Armfield in the 1810 census.

In addition, we are wondering if the two following records are of children of the Randolph County John Armfield? " Volume I, Abstracts of Marriage Bonds and Additional Data, Guilford County, North Carolina 1771-1840" compiled by Ruth F. Thompson and Louise J. Hartgrove: Nancy Armfield married Henry Canady 02 Apr 1791 (bond date) with Nathan Armfield as bondsman and John Hamilton witness; 1800 NC Federal Census, Guilford Co., p. 635, James Armfield 1 M (16-26) 1 F (16-26).

5) Philip

"Citizens of the Eastern Shore of Maryland 1659-1750" by F. Edward Wright; Mill Hundred, A list of Taxables in Talbot County, 1733: Arthur Rigby, Philip Armfield, John Newman, negroes Trummel and Daphny for a total of five taxables in the household.

6) Joseph

"Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors Vol. 1" - "Armfield, Jos., Massachusetts. Landsman, brig "Adventure", commanded by Capt. James Morris; descriptive list of officers and crew, dated Sept 26, 1780; age 23 yrs; complexion, dark; hair black; residence, Massachusetts (the term 'Landsman' was a military rank given to naval recruits).

Additional Persons of Interest

We have information on an interesting woman, Armfield Cooper, and her family that we haven't been able to connect with our Armfield family, much less with Isaac Sr. The closest connection of the two families would be geographical as they were living in close proximity of each other and the use of the Armfield name.

This early Armfield Cooper (1768-1811) was born in Peach Bottom, York, PA and married Robert Morgan in 1789. She died in MD. Her father was Thomas Cooper (1731-1798) and Mary Abercrombie. Thomas was born in Manchester, England and died in Peach Bottom.

Mary Abercrombie (1736-1822) wife of Thomas Cooper. Her parents were James Colgan Deabercrombie from Scotland. He was born in 1706 and died in 1782 in South Carolina. Her mother was Katherine Thomson (1786-1822).

Armfield Cooper Morgan and Robert Morgan named a daughter Armfield Cooper Morgan (1794-1874) who married Benjamin West Ward (1780-1856) in 1815. She was born in MD and died in New Lisbon, Columbia, Ohio. They named a daughter Armfield Morgan Ward (1824-1906) She was born in MD and died in PA.

The Armfield name did appear important enough for it to be carried down through the generations. What was the connection? We don't know where or how the Armfield name came into play in this family. Did Thomas Cooper marry first to an Armfield? We have more questions than answers, but it is another intriguing puzzle.

There seems to be some indications that the Armfield's could have had some ties to Lancaster County, PA as well as Delaware County. Delaware County, PA was formed in 1789 from Chester County PA where we have found records of an Isaac Armfield.

Comments & Contributions

In our March 2009 issue Karen & Eric Armfield had sent information on **Elmer William Armfield** (1878-1961) of Woodland, CA. To follow-up this year Karen wrote that there is not much of a family trail with him as he had no children. Elmer was a very prominent man in Woodland. He was an attorney and opened the first car dealership in town. He married into the LaBrie family who were almond farmers. He and his in-laws invested in the almond orchards. They were important people in town and had a lot of financial prosperity and political influence. They lived in one of the nicest Victorian homes. Elmer's law office was on the main street in Woodland. After his retirement, he moved to Carmel, CA. There is a housing development named Armfield Orchards where the old orchards were once located. The town of Woodland is very small compared to Sacramento. Eric Armfield's job territory includes the Ford car dealership that still remains and they recognize the Armfield name and inquired if Eric was related. There is a Kenneth Armfield that has a metal shop in Woodland and there is an Armfield family in Elk Grove. The Veterans Cemetery has an Armfield buried there. Karen plans on visiting Elmer's grave and the grave at the Veterans Cemetery. Thanks Karen & Eric and keep sending us information on your finds.

Brandon Payne recently contacted us through our Armfield Family website (<http://www.armfieldfamilynews.com/>) He recently discovered that he descends from Ithamar and Martha "Pattie" Armfield's daughter, Elizabeth. He went looking for the Bull Run/Walnut Grove Primitive Baptist cemetery. After a lot of hunting and research he finally found it, but unfortunately reported that it is in very bad condition. The only Armfield headstones that he could see were **Ithamar and Pattie Armfield (together on one stone) and Jesse Armfield**. Jesse's stone says; "To the memory of Jesse Armfield Born April 24 1816 Died" (he couldn't make the rest out). Brandon suggested to plug the coordinates into Google or Bing maps and pull up the location. The coordinates of the location 36.021811,-79.897495. (I googled this through Google Maps and it was quite interesting to see it's location from above) Brandon took pictures of the headstones which he thoughtfully sent on to us. He described the cemetery as walking out into the woods and taking a picture of some trees; "You can't

tell it's a cemetery unless you trip over one of the broken headstones. You can see that the cemetery had a subdivision built all around it." He talked to a few people in the neighborhood as he was trying to locate the cemetery and all but one had no idea that there was a cemetery 50 yards from their house. Thank you Brandon for taking the time to contact us and to share your research. Wouldn't it be a great project for a local historical society or group to try to salvage and preserve this spot. bpayne69@triad.rr.com

New FTDNA Family Finder DNA Test by Jim Bartlett

A number of people have asked me more about this new DNA test from Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), so I thought I would provide some more information. Up until now, we were limited to two DNA tests; The Y-DNA test followed the all-male (SURNAME) line; the mtDNA test followed the all-female line. You then looked for someone who matched your DNA results and then compared paper trails, trying to find the common ancestor. At 6 generations back from you, the Y-DNA and the mtDNA went back to only 2 of your ancestors. These DNA tests could not tell you anything about your other 62 ancestors, 6 generations back. The FTDNA Family Finder test looks at the DNA you inherited from all 64 of your ancestors (6 generations) back and tells you if you match any descendant (of any of those 64 ancestors) who has taken the same Family Finder test. So draw the picture. Note yourself, your 2 parents back 1 generation, your 4 grandparents back 2 generations, etc. to 64 gggg-grandparents back 6 generations. Now if you could list all of the descendants of each of these 64 ggg-grandparents, down to your generation, most of these would be your fifth cousins - probably tens of thousands of them. Any two of these descendants should show up as a match with the new Family Finder test. This is a new test, which costs \$289 - a little pricy, but instead of 12-67 markers in a Y-DNA test, it measures thousands of places throughout your whole DNA in order to get a good sampling of the DNA you inherited from those 64 ancestors.

This is truly a new breakthrough for DNA testing. I have signed up; how about you? Please email me directly jim4bartletts@verizon.net with any questions. If any of your ancestors link with BARTLETTs, you can join the BARTLETT-DNA Project that I manage.

Thank-You

Joyce and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the newsletter over the years. We enjoy hearing from you and look forward to your continued involvement. Happy hunting and may you make some big discoveries to share. Also another big thank-you to Bruce Stenhjem for his expertise and hours providing us with his technical support and his unbiased critiques and comments.

Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world.

- Daniel Webster

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