

Letter From the Editors

Joyce wrote to Irene Wainwright, Archivist, Louisiana Division/City Archives, New Orleans Public Library prior to our last newsletter in an attempt to gather more information on Robert and Elizabeth. In November she received the following response; *"Joyce, I'm sorry to take so long to respond. Your request was (unexpectedly) complicated.*

1. Divorce of Elizabeth and Robert G. Armfield. We found a reference to it in Orleans Parish Third District Court (docket #867), but I'm sorry to tell you that the suit record is missing. In other words, it was not among the records transferred to us by the Court. Some records were simply missing at that time.

2. Wills of Elizabeth Armfield, 1851 and 1856. We were able to locate her succession. The succession was originally filed in Orleans Parish Second District Court (docket #15085) and transferred to Civil District Court under docket #8383. The succession indicates that she wrote two olograph wills, but they were not recorded in the "Will Books." The will book of 1859 (the date when the succession was opened) says next to her name "not recorded."

So this is a mystery. Our guess, perhaps, is that although she wrote several wills, none was actually probated. Why, I don't know . . . Irene"

In this issue we will conclude our discussion of Robert Armfield of New Orleans with transcribed legal documents of **Clara Armfield**, second wife of Robert Armfield. These documents include transcriptions of the succession, petition and judgement as related to Clara as the widow. We hope the research of this line will continue.

Connie & Joyce

2nd District Court for the Parish of Orleans. Image copy. Transcribed by Joyce Agerton, 2011.

CLARA E. ARMFIELD
33964

*2nd District Court for the
Parish of Orleans
Succession of Clara E. Armfield
Widow of R.G. Armfield*

*Petition etc.
Filed July 30, 1870*

[Signature] de[puty] Clerk

To the Honorable the Judge of the Second District Court for the parish of Orleans

The petition of Mrs. Belle Gertrude McCormick born Smith wife of Andrew McCormick of the City of New Orleans herein duly answered and attested by her said husband.

Respectfully Represents that her Sister Mrs. Clara E. Armfield born Smith Widow of Robert G. Armfield departed this life on this day on the 22 day of July 1870 leaving some property within the Jurisdiction of this Court the value of which cu[?] exceed [?] Eight thousand dollars.

That by the last will and Testament made in the nuncupative form by public act before Auboson[?] Abat[?] a Notary public on the 19 day of May 1854 the deceased did give & bequeath to Robert G. Armfield her husband a Sum of five hundred dollars, appoint him her Executor and give & bequeath the balance of her property to your petitioners who she constitutes her natural legatees.

Petitioner now avows that the said Robert G. Armfield died before the testate - viz on the 9th July 1866.

Petitioner further avows that the deceased at her death left her mother and no other ascendants - that she left no descendants and on the Collateral line your petitioner is the only relative of the deceased.

That the mother of the deceased Mrs. Elizabeth Allison Widow by 1st marriage of Edward Smith & by 2nd marriage of Z. Martin is forced heir of the deceased and as such is entitled to one third of her Estate --

That your petitioner as the late Sister of the deceased & universal legatee under her will is entitled to the other two thirds of her Estate.

Now petitioner prays the last will and testament of the deceased, a copy of which is this day filed, be approved and registered and executes, and the annexed affidavits considered petitioner further prays that her mother & mother of the deceased Mrs. Elizabeth Allison Widow by 1st marriage of Edward Smith & by 2nd marriage of Z. Martin now residing in the State of Nebraska be recognized as the forced heir herein of her deceased daughter the said Clara E. Armfield widow of R.G. Armfield and as such is entitled One undivided third of the Successor of the Said deceased.

And thus your petitioner be recognized as the universal legatee of the said deceased and as such entitled to the disposable portion of her Succession i.e. Two undivided third thereof and that Said heirs & legatees be put into possession of all the property left in the deceased in the proportions above set forth.

And petitioner further prays for general & equitable relief.

And no in thereby bound etc

A. J.[?] Willis dep clerk

Mrs. Belle Gertrude McCormick Sworn Says thus all the facts & allegations contained in her foregoing petition are true & correct.

Belle G. McCormick [signed]

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 30th July 1870

W.J. Borfall[?] De[puty] Clk

R.J. Bean & R S Nugent being duly sworn say that Mrs. Clara E. Armfield widow of Robert G. Armfield, departed this life in this city, on the 22 July 1870.

That Robert G. Armfield her husband - departed this life in this City, on the 9th day of July 1866--

That the aforesaid Mrs. Clara E. Armfield, at her death - left no descendants and left for her Sole heirs at law her mother Mrs.

Elizabeth Allison Widow by 1st marriage of Edward Smith & by 2nd marriage of Z Martin and her Sister Mrs. Belle Gertrude Smith wife of Andrew McCormick.

R J Bean

B S Nugent

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 30 day of July 1870

W. J.? Boyer dpt Clk [faint]

JUDGMENT

Second District Court for the Parish of Orleans

Succession of Mrs. Clara E. Armfield widow of R.G. Armfield

[No?]

The Court Considering the petition herein filed by Mrs. Belle Gertrude McCormick, the witness addressed the law applicable to the law, and being Satisfied that all the facts & allegations contained in the Said petition are true & correct and - the petition is entitled to the relief therein prayed for---

It is Ordered that the last will and Testament of the late Mrs. Clara E. Armfield widow of Robert G. Armfield be approved, registered & executed.

That the Mother of the deceased one Mrs. Elizabeth Allison widow by first marriage of Edward Smith & by 2nd marriage of Z. Martin be recognized as the forced heir of the deceased and as Such entitled to one undivided share of her Succession.

Then Mrs. Belle Gertrude McCormick be recognized as the Sole Sister and universal legatee of the deceased and as Such entitled to the disposable portion of her Succession.

And that the Said Mrs. Elizabeth Martin & Mrs. Belle Gertrude McCormick be put in possession of all the property left by Said deceased, in the proportions of one third to the first and two thirds to the Second.

Judgment rendered & Signed July 30 1870

—[?] ———[?]

—[?]

NEW ORLEANS CENSUS

Following are a few people we ran across while researching in New Orleans. In the 1860 New Orleans Ward 3, Orleans, Louisiana census record John Armfield age 25, a mason, born in LA and Jane Armfield age 20, born in LA appear in household # 2966. They are living in the home of Wm Newcomb, his wife Mary and daughters Ann and Mary and several other unrelated people.

Sarah Armfield, age 40, New Orleans census (3 Aug), Ward 3, born abt 1830 in KY, black female (domestic servant), family #1550, HH of Eliezer Carl. Could this have been the slave Clara owned?

Sarah Armfield, age 40, New Orleans census (7 July), Ward 3, born abt 1830 in Ohio, white female, housekeeper, \$4000 (real estate), family #1056, living with Robert Bein, age 40, from MD. Could Mr. Bein's surname have been Bean?

Gone But Not Forgotten Anita Louise Strickland Acosta 1935 - 2011

Joyce and I are saddened to report that a woman we have both known for a number of years and who we have worked with on Armfield family research has died. Anita was born to Cantello Hewitt Strickland and Lilly Amanda Thornton on 25 Apr 1935 in Aberdeen, Grays Harbor, Washington. She was the great granddaughter of Florence "Flora" Armfield (1869 - 1914) and Franklin Pierce Williams (1870 - 1942). Florence was the daughter of Isaac "Ike" Armfield (1814 - 1886) and his second wife Elizabeth Hannah Piatt (1828 - 1914). Isaac came down the line from William Armfield Sr through his son William Armfield Jr or Little Billy. We will miss working with her.

www.ridgecrestca.com/obituaries/x1466797528/Anita-Louise-Strickland-Acosta
Ridgecrest, Calif. — 1935-2011

Anita Louise Strickland-Acosta passed away on Dec. 8, 2011 in Ridgecrest. She was 76.

Anita was born on April 25, 1935 in Aberdeen, Wash. She actively served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1954. She worked as a U.S. postal carrier until her retirement in 1996.

Anita's love of life was raising and showing horses, She was a member of the Paint, Pinto, and Quarter Horse Association and 4-H leader. Her passions were art and genealogy. She attended Cerro Coso Community College and majored in Art. She loved travel, and she was a pillar of her family. She attended Calvary Chapel in Ridgecrest.

She is preceded in death by her daughter Toni Lynn Hannah, her parents Cantello H. Strickland, Lilly Amanda Thorton.

She is survived by her daughters Cheryl A. Chavez of Klamath Falls, Ore. and Peggy M. Stein-Colburn of Ridgecrest, ten grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren (three are due in 2012).

Come celebrate her life and share your stories at a memorial service on Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Chapel in Ridgecrest.

FAMILY LINES & QUERIES

Nancy Hartley Josephsen, granddaughter of Ruth Mae Armfield wrote that she descends from Robert Armfield (1790-1862) and Margaret "Peggy" Bland. Her grandmother was Ruth Armfield. Her great grandfather the Reverend William E. Armfield (1865-1925) the son of William Nelson Armfield (1825 - 1902) and Nancy L. Moore was a preacher on horseback and settled in Spokane, WA. He had 10 children with Emma "Ella" Shore. One of their daughters was Ruth Mae Armfield born 1899; died 1994, her grandmother. Ruth married Walter Theodore Josephsen in 1921. They had a son Elmer Ward Josephsen (1922 - 2004) who fought in The Battle Of the Bulge during WWII and was wounded twice. He was one of 27 survivors out of a company of 529 men. "Thank you for all you are doing for me and my huge extended family that I did not even know existed!" 2nancyhartley@gmail.com

In "Sketch of the Armfield Family" in Sallie W. Stockard's History of Guilford County, North Carolina, published in 1902, Nancy's surname was given as Moon, however in marriage records, her name was recorded as Moore.

Harley R Lusher is researching his ancestors on his grandmother's side. He descends from Moses Brown (1779) and Elizabeth Hadley to Jacob Armfield Brown (1809-1875) to Jacob Moses Brown (1853 - 1936) to Leora Brown. Moses died 15 Dec 1843 and Elizabeth died 9 Sep 1846 and both were buried in Mitchell Cemetery, Harrison County, Missouri. If you can assist Harley with his research, please contact him at harleyray255@hotmail.com

Art Armfield is a descendant of Wyatt Albion Armfield, Sr. (1910 - 1993) and Lucy Reynolds Follin (1913 - 1978) of NC. His grandmother, Lucy was one of his favorite people in the world. She died at a relatively young age and he was at her side when she passed. His grandfather Wyatt Albion Sr. had several nicknames one of which was "Nab". As Art recalls "Big Daddy" was his favorite nickname although he and his children called him "Papa". Art wrote that Wyatt was a "stubborn old mule" and remembers one incident when he and his sister Adelaide were arguing at the dedication

of Grace Court in Winston-Salem, a site devoted to their grandmother. Wyatt said something to Adelaide (affectionately called "Aun-tee") which eventually resulted in Adalaide saying to her father; "Nab you are so stubborn you'd go out in the woods and argue with an old pine tree". armfield@centurytel.net

COMMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

We recently learned that one of our long time readers and a family researcher was recently honored by DAR for achieving 50 years of membership in the organization.

Kellerman honored by DAR, October 2011

"On Oct. 6, the members of the Four Winds Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of Garnett honored chapter member Juanita Kellerman for 50 years of service and membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). She was presented with a framed NSDAR 50 Year Membership Certificate, a DAR pin, and a life membership in NSDAR Fifty Year Club.

Juanita's Revolutionary War ancestor was James Holmes, who served both in Virginia and Kentucky, her grandmother's great-grandmother was Nancy Tyler Holmes, who was also President Harry Truman's great-grandmother. She traces her ancestry back to President Grant and President Tyler.

Four Winds Chapter is proud of Juanita for her work in the chapter and honored to have her as a member."

Pat Crockett in response to our feature on Robert Armfield of New Orleans wrote: *"I just got the latest Newsletter and I am very interested in the Robert from New Orleans. This Robert is the brother of my great-great grandfather, Isaac Armfield who married Sarah Gustavus. You did a newsletter on Isaac and his wife Sarah who sued Isaac for a couple of slaves some time ago. I only knew this Robert as R. G. and did not make the connection that you have. I believe it is true, because their father, John Armfield (who married Margaret Dunlap) was in New Orleans and fought in the War of 1812 at the Battle of New Orleans. He returned to Sumner County after the war. Isaac (my grandfather) also fought in the War around New Orleans and this is where he first met Sarah Gustavus. Both men returned to Tennessee after the war, but Isaac returned to New Orleans and married Sarah Gustavus. They made their home in Copiah County, MS (not too far from New Orleans). Robert would have been too young to fight in the war, but it is quite possible that he went to Mississippi to visit his brother and on to New Orleans. I am very interested in any other information that you may have on these brothers. Thanks again for the fine job that you and Connie do with the Newsletter. Pat Crockett"*

Thank you for the feedback Pat. We haven't heard very much about our theory on who Robert of New Orleans was, but also feel we are on the right track. If you discover any more about him, please let us know. Please contact Pat if you have any helpful information for her. She may be reached at crockett1942@gmail.com

CONNECTIONS

Back in June of 2011 we heard from Patricia Hartley who was researching her great uncle's tree, William Franklin Armfield Jr., (Sept 2011 issue). Patricia wrote; *"Uncle Frank is the widower of my husband's great aunt, so there is no blood connection with me, but I couldn't resist helping Uncle Frank when I heard today that he had such limited knowledge of his family . . . I'll tell Uncle Frank about your newsletter . . . this will tickle him to death! His wife, Shirley "Marguerite" Armfield, passed away last year after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Uncle Frank is a Korean War veteran and was career military, so he and Aunt Marguerite traveled the world - they lived in Japan for several years. She was a teacher at one time. Aunt Marguerite's sister is my husband's maternal grandmother and we see Uncle Frank every Sunday at church and for our family lunch afterward . . . his mother died when he was very young and he was raised by his grandmother Eldorado Marivail Reeves Hickman, then, according to his memory, by his aunt Irma"*.

In following up on Frank, Patricia says that he is busy looking over all of our past newsletters! She printed all of them out for him before Christmas. He's still very active and doesn't like to stay home much, but he's working his way through them. For Christmas Patricia created and framed a family tree for him showing his last four generations and "he was tickled!" She hopes to keep up the research and perhaps make contact with more folks who have photos, etc. that she can share with him. *"Thank you so much for asking about Uncle Frank. And keep up the wonderful work you do on the Armfield newsletter. It's truly a treasure to receive . . . and I'm not even family!"* To contact Patricia you can write her at pbhartley@aol.com

CORRECTION

One of our subscribers brought to our attention that a few of our newsletters were incorrectly numbered; Dec 2011 should be Vol. 7, #2, Sept 2011 should be Vol. 7, #1, the June 2011 issue should be Vol. 6, #4 and Mar 2011 should be Vol. 6, #3. We believe the rest are correct. We appreciate our readers taking the time to write us when they notice errors like this. Corrected versions are available on our website, www.armfieldnewsletter.com

We want to thank all of our readers for their continued contributions, research and support. If you would like to submit a query, a family story, or family announcement, please do so. These stories bring to life the people of our vast family, present and past. We also encourage you to send us your ideas for future issues. We continue to look for members to join the Armfield Family DNA Tree project at ancestry.com and [FamilyTreeDNA](http://FamilyTreeDNA.com). Please consider joining.

Copies of all Armfield Newsletters are available at www.armfieldnewsletter.com

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