

We are headed back to Virginia and the early appearance of the Armfields found in records there. Of particular interest to us is **Daniel Armfield** born about 1715, a “Mulatto” servant of **Robert Stubblefield**. This was some 58 years after **William Armfield/Armfeild** was first recorded in a record of very early VA immigrants. William was one of 44 people **Gervase Dodson** transported into Virginia for which Gervase received 5200 acres of land in Westmoreland Co., VA, 16 Sep 1657 (Patent Book No. 4, p 373). We wonder if there is any connection between these four men and why Daniel took the surname of Armfield. More on William is found in our 2005 editions of the newsletter. It is entirely possible William Armfield, Gervase Dodson and the Stubblefield family knew of each other and somehow connect with Daniel’s line either directly or indirectly. It is certainly worth exploring as we continue to try to unlock the Armfield family’s early history; to better understand the time period they were living in and if they hold a key to our early Pennsylvania Armfield family.

Gervase/Gervaise Dodson (c 1621-1661)

According to the History of the Early Dodson and Dotson Families in America, the families were found in England, Wales and Ireland before arriving in this country in the 1600’s. Many set down roots in Pennsylvania, Maryland or Virginia. A few early Dodsons also came as indentured servants to America. Gervase Dodson arrived in Northumberland County, VA around 1650. According to the family history Gervase was lashed for being a Quaker on 26 Jun 1660 in Northumberland Co. Gervase’s will date was 6 Jun 1661 in Northumberland Co., VA.

Ed. Note: The source of the Dodson/Dotson biographical information comes from <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wvpioneers/dodsondotsonhistory.html>

“Gervase Dodson arrived in Northumberland County, Virginia in 1650. In 1653 he became the county surveyor, which allowed him to acquire *“thousands of acres in Lancaster, Northumberland, and Westmoreland Counties. During Dodson’s residence in Wicomico Parish, a small group of Quaker dissenters met for worship, ‘contrary to law.’ In June of 1660, Dodson and several other dissenters were publicly whipped, each receiving twenty lashes. Later that year Dodson entered a document into the records that asked for a pardon from King Charles II. . . From the record requesting the pardon, we learn that Gervase Dodson had ‘beene a soldier several yeares in Ireland & England for the King & Parliament, till the death of the late King Charles the First, when I left all & came into this Country. . .’* From the Northumberland County, Record Book, 1658-66, p. 49 in Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society, v. 22, 1985, p. 45. ‘One cannot determine from this . . . document whether he actually became and remained a Quaker after the whipping. He died a few months later, leaving his Wicomico land to his wife, Isabel.’ From the Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society, v. 32, 1995, p. 101. From 1650 to 1658 there are several land warrants granting thousands of acres to Gervase/Gervase/Jarvis Dodson in Northumberland County, Virginia. There are records of a wife Isabell and records that he had a daughter, Alice, who married a Henry Corbin/Corbyn, but there is no indication that he had any sons to carry on his name.”

Gervase's widow was said to have married Andrew Pettegrew. There is a marriage record for "*Gervase & Salisbury, Isabella (wid.); bef. Jan 1660/61; bride was born c. 1625-1627; she was the wid. of (1) Thos. Salisbury; she mar. (3) Andrew Perrigrew and (4) Capt. Geo. Barrett.*" Ancestry.com, Virginia Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, p. 110.

In the Virginia Colonial Abstracts, 1652-1655 by Beverley Fleet, Northumberland County, Gervase Dodson's name appears several times. On 26 Feb 1653/54 he was referred to as an agent assigned to Mr. Morris. Of particular interest in this resource is the entry of an "**Ann ffeild**" who was transported into the colony by John Hall who received 400 acres on 10 Nov 1652/53. In Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 1, p. 386 is the oath Surveyor Gervase Dodson took on 28 Nov 1652. "*The oath of Surveyor Administered to Gervase Dodson' Mr Dodsons oath - Surveyor 'You shall sweare well and truly to searve the Commonwealth of England und'r the Governem't of this Collony as a Surveyor And according to the best of your ability and conscience to measure and lay out Land rightly and justly truly and indifferently for those by whome you shall be imployed in it or whom it sall concerne Soe help - - God etc Ger Dodson Novem 28, 1652 Jurate W Claiborne Trer 21 July 1653 This oath was Recorded'.*" On page 28, Mr. Dodson had a patent signed for 1600 acres due for the transportation of 32 people into the colony, dated 1 Feb 1660/61. In an entry for 2 Aug 1655 Gervase was 34 years of age which would put his birth about 1621. Gervase also partnered with Colonel John Trussell and they were given 1000 acres for the transportation of twenty people, recorded 29 Nov 1658. He had some dealings with the Chickacoan Indians and their chief/King Machywax in 1655. Northumberland County was an original county and was first mentioned in statutes in 1644/45 (Northumberland Co., VA Record Book #14). Virginia Colonial Abstracts by Beverley Fleet, The Original 34 Volumes Reprinted in 3, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. Baltimore, 1988 can be read on-line at ancestry.com. According to the preface of Beverley Fleet's work, the dates for the counties we are looking at are: Northumberland 1642, Lancaster 1651 and Westmoreland 1653.

Robert Stubblefield (c 1702-1775)

The early Stubblefield family are as difficult to research as is the Armfield family. The following biographical information comes from the Stubblefield Family Genealogy Website, Early Stubblefields in America; <http://stubblefields.tripod.com/newsite/id1.html> This researcher cited two early records he had found for Stubblefield in Virginia. Symon Stubblefield born 1629 in England and died 1688 in Virginia. On 23 Apr 1688, "*Symon was granted 288 acres in Gloucester County, Virginia, for transporting four persons into the colony.*" In 1656 George Stubblefield was awarded "*36,000 acres in Halifax County from the King of England and 17,000 acres were given to him in the same year from Lord Halifax.*" Both of these men were present in the same time frame as William Armfield and Gervase Dodson. An interesting side note is that the Stubblefield line picks up the name Wyatt (1744-1824) in a following generation as did the Armfield family in the line down from Isaac Armfield (2); Wyatt Jackson Armfield (1815-1843).

In June of 2006 Gay Carroll, a long time Armfield researcher, wrote to Joyce Agerton her thoughts about the Stubblefield - Armfield family connection. She was intrigued by the Armfield slaves. She wrote that William Armfield who received land in 1663 in Gloucester Co., VA and the Stubblefield family were in the same general area. Robert Stubblefield and wife Ann received land in King & Queen county (1651), formerly Gloucester, in 1728.

Robert later appeared in Spotsylvania (1721) and Orange (1734) Counties (formerly part of Gloucester Co.). One possibility she entertained was that if an Armfield married a Stubblefield the slaves could have been part of a dowry or an inheritance. Another thought was that Stubblefield simply bought them from Armfield. Some of the Stubblefields she has found in Virginia are: Symon, Robert, Edward, Thomas, George. Some of these men later moved to North Carolina or to Sumner County, TN. Following are some records that refer to the early Stubblefield family in Virginia.

“Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia”, descriptions of land patents, section C, p. 15; In a 1719 land record Simon Stubblefield was referred to as deceased. Symon Stubblefield, Jun’r appeared in an April 23, 1688 record. This is also the source of the following record for Armefield; “*On Mr. Pate’s swamp adjoining John Green’s corner, Mr. Peter Knight, Thomas Curles. Sold to Mr. John Pate who assigned to Armefield*”, Book 5, p. 153, 1663, 400 acres, Nov 24.

"Virginia Tithables from Burned Record Counties" by Robert F. Woodson & Isabel B. Woodson.

Name	County	Year	Tithables	Acres
<i>Stubblefield, Simon</i>	<i>Gloucester</i>	<i>1770</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>350</i>
<i>Stubblefield, Simon</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>1771</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>350</i>
<i>Stubblefield, Thomas</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>1771</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>----</i>

"English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records" by Louis des Cognets, Jr.
Ware Parish

Simon Stubblefield 200 Acres

“A True Account of the Lands in King & Queen County as it was Taken” by Rob't Bird Sherriff in the year 1704

Stubblefield Geo: in Gloucester 400 Acres

Wyat, Ric'd in Gloucester 50 Acres

From "Ancestry .com - Family Data Collection - Births

Source: Edmund West, comp, Family Data Collection - Births [database online]

Stubblefield, George

Stubblefield, Simon

1675

Gloucester, VA

“Virginia County Records IX”

Index to Land Grants Gloucester County (continued from Vol. VII.), Book VII.

637 Symon Stubblefield, Jr. 1688

Comment, 188 acres [database on line]

Daniel Armfield (c 1715 - ?)

Harry Armfield, Jr. has been researching this line for several years, referred us to http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Archer_Avery.htm authored by Paul Heinegg, Free African Americans of North Carolina and Virginia (Genealogical Publishing, 2005). The following is taken from that work.

1. Daniel¹ Armfield, born say 1715, was the "Mullatto" servant of Robert Stubblefield on 21 February 1738 when his master brought him before the Essex County court for absenting himself from his service for one year and fifteen days [Orders 1736-8, 217]. He was in York County by 20 June 1743 when he sued Ambrose Jackson for debt. The parties reached agreement before the case came to trial. And he sued Edward Fuller for trespass, assault and battery on 17 February 1745/6. The court found in Daniel's favor and awarded him 40 shillings damages after hearing testimony from Joseph Lark who travelled twenty-one miles to testify and Pearson Picket who travelled twenty-five miles [W&I 19:197, 417, 423, 439]. He, a "free negro," and his wife Elizabeth registered the birth of their son Matthew in Bruton Parish, James City County, in 1746 [Bruton Parish Register, 6]. On 19 January 1746/7 the court presented him for not listing his wife as a tithable [W&I 19:486]. Peter Gillett's suit against him was dismissed in York County court on 22 September 1747 because both parties were in agreement. On 15 August 1748 he sued the executors of John Crawley for debt, but the case was dismissed at his expense. Peter Gillett was an evidence against him. On 20 February he brought a second suit against Crawley's executors for a debt due by account, and the court ruled against him again. He sued Peter Gillett for trespass, assault and battery on 10 September 1760, and the court ordered Peter to pay him 6 pence. Daniel's witnesses were Thomas Blassingame, William Lyon, and David Bartley. He sued William Lyon, Jr., for trespass, assault and battery on 19 December 1763 and was awarded 40 shillings. On 17 December 1764 the court presented him for not listing his daughters Betty and Martha as tithables [Judgments & Orders 1746-52, 39, 123, 158-9, 177, 187; 1759-63, 184, 222, 321; 1763-5, 126, 171, 362]. Daniel and Elizabeth were the parents of:

I. Martha, born say 1740, sued by Anne Gwinn and her "next friend" Jane Savy (Savoy) in York County for trespass, assault and battery on 16 May 1763. She was found not guilty [Judgments & Orders 1763-5, 14, 37]. She was called "a free mulatto" when the birth of her bastard child William Allways was recorded in Bruton Parish in 1765. She and Israel Allways (Alvis), "free Mulattas," were married by 13 March 1767 when their daughter Elizabeth Allways was born [Bruton Parish Register, 29, 31].

ii. Elizabeth, born say 1742.

iii. Matthew¹, born 26 February 1746.

iv. ?Mary, taxable in the upper district of York County on a free tithable, a horse and 4 cattle in 1783 [PPTL, 1782-1841, frame 72].

2. Elizabeth Armfield, born say 1742, was sued for trespass, assault and battery in York County by Anne Gwinn and her "next friend" Jane Savy (Savoy) on 16 May 1763. She was found guilty and ordered to pay 20 shillings [Judgments & Orders 1763-5, 14, 37]. She was called "a free mulatto" when she registered the birth of her son James in Bruton Parish in 1766. She was taxable on her property in York County from 1782 to 1803: on 13 cattle in 1782, on from one to two slaves from 1792 to 1797, on two free tithables in 1802, called Betty Lyons in 1790, 1791 and 1793 [PPTL, 1782-41, frames 69, 72, 106, 138, 147, 163, 173, 180, 193, 199, 209, 218, 227, 274, 284]. She was head of a York County household of 7 "other free" in 1810 [VA:870]. Her children were:

I. ?Milly, born say 1760, a "Poor orphan" ordered bound out by the churchwardens of Bruton Parish on 19 May 1760 [Judgments & Orders 1759-63, 143].

ii. James, born 16 March 1766, "Bastard son of Elizabeth Armfield," called James Lyons

when he was taxable in York County in 1788 [PPTL, 1782-1841, frame 141].

iii. Daniel (2), born 15 February 1768, baptized 3 April [Bruton Parish Register, 27, 32, 35], called Daniel Lyons when he was taxable in York County from 1788 to 1814, taxable on a slave from 1795 onwards [PPTL, 1782-1841, frames 141, 152, 163, 211, 221, 230, 238, 245, 256, 266, 277, 287, 297, 307, 328, 391, 408].

iv. ?Matthew (2), born about 1779.

v. ?Warren, born say 1781, taxable in York County in 1803 and 1805 [PPTL, 1782-1841, 284, 304].

vi. John **Lyons**, born 22 January 1783, baptized 26 March 1783, son of Betty Armfield.

vii. ?William **Lyons**, born about 1787, registered in York County on 16 December 1822: *a bright Mulatto about 35 years of age...has short hair...born free*. When William renewed his registration nine years later on 28 September 1831, the clerk added the notation: *since the above has become bald, wears whiskers, grey Beard & much the appearance of an Indian* [Free Negro Register, 1798-1831, no. 194].

viii. ?Nancy **Lyons**, head of a Richmond City household of 1 "other free" in 1810 [VA:340].

3. Matthew (2) Armfield, born about 1779, was taxable on his own tithe in 1803 and taxable on a slave and a horse in 1805 [PPTL 1782-1841, frames 284, 304, 325, 362, 384, 402]. He registered as a "free Negro" in York County on 16 December 1822: *about 43 years old 5 feet 7-1/4 Inches high* [York County Register, no.189]. His wife Nancy Armfield born about 1787, registered on 19 September 1831: *wife of Matt a person of light complexion about 43 or 44 years of age, 5 feet 1-1/2 inches high black eyes long thin face, high cheek bones*. He was head of a York County household of 5 "other free" in 1810 [VA:870]. He was the father of Betsy, born about 1808, registered in York County on 19 September 1831: *daughter of Matt, light complexion, 23 years of age, four feet 9 inches high, full face, black eyes, fine long black hair...Dutch made & pouting lips* [York County Free Negroes Register, 1831-50, nos. 283-4].” He was the father of

I. Betsy, born about 1808, registered in York County on 19 September 1831: *daughter of Matt, light complexion, 23 years of age, four feet 9 inches high, full face, black eyes, fine long black hair...Dutch made & pouting lips* [York County Free Negroes Register, 1831-50, nos. 283-4].

Following are more early records we have found of interest contributed by Gay Carroll and transcribed by Joyce Agerton. The film numbers are those used at the Mormon Family History Center.

DEEDS & BONDS # 7-8 1763-1777, Film # 0034422 YORK COUNTY, VA

The Indenture made 19 December 1767 Between Alexander Tinnie of York Co. of the one part and Jerman Barker, William Prentis, Robert Prentis, Frederick Bryan and William Tubell of the County of James City. [Alexander Tinnie owed Jerman Barker, William Prentis, Robert Prentis, Frederick Bryan and William

Tubell debts.] Alexander Tinnie placed his tract of land called Portabella lying and being in Queen's Creek in the Parish of Bruton containing 300 acres more or less which said tract of land was mortgaged by the said Alexander to John Chiswell and Bernard Moore for securing the pursuant of an annuity due from the said Alexander to John Senloh? deceased and was afterwards mortgaged by the said Alexander to William Prentis Moorehead deceased and is now subject and liable to a Decree of the Court of York County obtained against him the fifteenth Day of June Court proved by the Executors of the said William Prentis deceased and the Reversion and Reversions Remainders and Remainders thereof with all Forever Profits.

Alexander Tinnie was given until the nineteenth of December one thousand sixety eight to pay off his creditors. Daniel Armfield was one of 57 with debts against Alexander Tinnie in the amount of 17/7&1/2. Also Capt Wyatt (Gloster) 25.14.11

Film # 1064759

"A List of Taxable property in York County for the year 1809"
 Matthew Armfield-----White Tythes
 Warren Armfield-----White Tythes

Name White Tythes Black Tythes Bet. 12 & 16 Horses & Mules-Chair Wheels-Tax

Matthew	1	2	1	2	2	\$2.30
Warren	1					

Film # 1064759

"Free Negroes register 1831-1850 York County", No. 283
 Nancy Armfield wife of Matt a person of light complexion about 43 or 44 years of age 5 feet 1&1/2 inches high black eyes long thin face high cheek bones very bad set of teeth many of which are badly decayed (& out?) long fine hair has a scar on the left wrist occasioned by a burn, a scar on the first joint of the right knuckle and the 4th finger nail of the right hand has been injured no other visable scars on head or hands. Born free she was registered in the presence of York County Court the 19th day of Sept 1831 who certified the fore going to be truly and Correctly made. [Nancy Armfield was D/O Godfrey Roberts]

No 284

Betsy Armfield daughter of Matt a girl of light complexion about 23 years of age, four feet 9 inches high full face black eyes fine long black hair has a scar on the left side of her face another on the left [rest of record too dark to read]

No 509

Nancy Armfield a black woman about ____ years old five feet high has a wart on the left hand has a scar on the upper lip & one on the forehead & Regd [Registered] in person York Co. at 21 May 1849 who cert. the above to be true.

No 473

Ben? Armfield a Boy of tawny Complexion 5 feet one? inch & 1/4 high about 22 years old has average small mole? on the right side of his face (illegible) life with a scar over his right temple no other worthy for this. Registered in presence of YKC [York County Clerk] this 16 Feby 1846 who testified the foregoing to be truly made.

No: 474

Godfreze Armfield a twin to the above tawny Complexion 5 feet 2 Inches & 1/4 high, has a burnt place on forehead has no other scars worthy of mention. Registered in the presence of York County the 16th Feby 1846 who testified forgoing to be truly made.

No 497

Barrett Armfield a free man 5 feet 4 & 3/4 inches high has a scar under his throat & one scar on the left hand. Registered in the presence of York Co. Clk 18th Sept 1848 to be Certified the forgoing & be truly & oneself made.

No: 362

Mary Armfield is a bright mulatto about twenty years of age five feet and one quarter in inch high long straight hair pouting lips large teeth full eyes and a small scar on the right side of her neck n o other marks or Scars on head face or hands worthy of notice She was born free & Registered the 17th day of March 1834.

No: 392

Warren Armfield a tawny Coloured person about the age of Twenty Two years five feet inches high has one scar near his mouth one over his left eye and one on the left foot dark Eye bushy hair no other Scars about his head face or hands worthy of notice.

"Judgment & Orders 1759-1763 York County Va" Film # 0034431, pg 222

Daniel Armfield

agst

Robert Booth Armistead Deft

In Trespass of Assault and Battery

pg 95

The petition of Robert Crawley against Daniel Armfield certified ___? by the death of Robt.

pg 305

Daniel Armfield

vs

Peter Gillett Deft

In Trespass Assault and Battery

This day came the Parties by their Attornies and thereupon came also a Jury to wit Thomas Roberts, Joseph Valentine, John Shields, Joseph Montford, Edward Baptist, William Moss Jun., Franklin? Peterson?, Charles Mannis?, Thomas

Phillips Jun., Gordon? Jiggins, Robert Jones? and John Judgstaff who being Elected and sworn the truth to speak upon this June joined upon their oath do say that the Deft is guilty in manner and form as the Ptf hath by occasion thereof to six pence. Therefore It is considered that the Ptf's recover against the Deft his damages aforesaid in form aforesaid accessed them the said Deft. in yearly installments?. Ordered that Daniel Armfield pay unto Thomas Blassingame fifty pounds of Tobacco for two days Attendance as a witness for him against Peter Gillett William Lyon the same.

pg 143 [1760]

Ordered that the Church Wardens of Bruton Parish bind out Milly Armfield a Poor Orphan according to Law.

"Va Rev. War - Land Grant Claims 1783-1850" (Rejected) by William Lindsay Hopkins

Roberts, Godfrey - Soldier - Army

Ansalom Bailey in Richmond, VA on 21 Sep 1833 states that he knew Godfrey Roberts, late of York Co., VA who enlisted in the Infantry under Col. Diggs and later enlisted under Thomas Meriwether. At his death, Godfrey Roberts left 3 daughters viz Nancy Roberts, Lucy Roberts and Jane Roberts and a son John Roberts. On 1 May 1834 John Roberts and his sisters of York Co., VA claim land in the name of their father, Godfrey Roberts, decd. They sign as John Roberts, Nancy Armfield, Lucy Roberts and Jane Cassaday.

Summary

When Joyce was first starting her genealogical research, she found a reference to an Armfield in a book about VA in the general references section of her public library. Not knowing the significance of the reference, she did not make a copy or keep a citation of it. She does remember that he was apparently a Quaker and was one of the first to call for the freeing of slaves. There is bound to be a connection between all of the men featured in this newsletter supported by the clues we have found. With Gloucester being a burned county, we might never find the answer. To add to our theory, could Isaac Sr. [1] be a descendant of the William Armfield of Gloucester? He did name his eldest son William and William is a very common Armfield name. We thank Gay Carroll for her many years of research, knowledge and continued interest. We appreciate her sharing her work with us.

Query

Marsha Toler needs some assistance proving for NSDAR the line of her Hiram Armfield (1802-1864) through his daughter Eliza (© 1833-?) who married Thomas Moore in Madison County, IN sometime after the 1850 census. If you can provide her with any information that would prove Eliza was the daughter of Hiram who married Thomas Moore she would be very appreciative. mtoler754@aol.com

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