

### Letter From the Editors

Many Armfield family researchers have used 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), in which "The Sketch of the Armfield Family" appears in chapter 12, pp. 96-107, as a starting point in their research. They often have included it as part of their family's history. It has been an invaluable resource, however, it may not always be as accurate as we would like for it to be. Ruth F. Thompson of the Guilford County Genealogical Society wrote in 1983 that "the family information contained herein was derived mostly from family records and traditions with little research from public records. It was not the intention when republishing to correct Stockard's work, but to republish it as she wrote it." She goes on to say, "we commend her for her interest and the "arduous task" of gathering the facts, writing, and publishing this valuable, early county history." We too are thankful for her work as anyone who is writing a family history knows, it is not a small task and it is always a work in progress.

In this issue we will highlight some of the discrepancies we have found. An eventual goal is to correct and add what we can through documented sources. We hope our readers will become involved in this endeavor. We are looking forward to receiving your insights, opinions, and source citations for any research results that would help to build on the Armfield Sketch and to make for a well documented Armfield Family History.

*Connie & Joyce*

### The Armfield Sketch

The following piece was submitted by Joyce. It discusses some of the inconsistencies she has identified and observations she has made between what appears in the Stockard history and records she has seen to date. The top statement will be what is found in the Stockard work and the bottom statement is Joyce's comments.

*[1] John Armfield...was born in the north of England...(and) was a strict Quaker and a school teacher by profession. (p. 96)*

[1] No records have been seen for our John Armfield in England. There is a lack of Quaker records to indicate John was a "strict Quaker". There are no records to indicate he was a school teacher. Sons William Sr. and Isaac signed all known records with their "mark". If John was a school teacher wouldn't they be able to write?

*[2] ...came with a colony of Quaker immigrants to Philadelphia in 1718. Afterward he moved to Bucks County, Pennsylvania. (p. 96)*

[2] No Armfield names have been found in early immigrant records of arrivals to Pennsylvania.

[3] *...bought a farm...* (p. 96)

[3] No land records have been found in Pennsylvania for the Armfield name.

[4] *About 1760 John and his oldest son, William...came to North Carolina on an exploring expedition.* (P. 96)

[4] The Armfield family was in NC before 1760. Ann Armfield was received on certificate to the Cane Creek MM 07 March 1752. Isaac Armfield received a Granville Land Grant for 640 acres, dated 09 May 1757. The warrant for this land was dated 30 Nov 1753, and this 640 acres was surveyed 23 Apr 1754, located on Russell Creek. Isaac's land was adjacent to William Armfield.

[5] *William, the oldest son of John... married Mary Hamilton...* (p. 97)

[5] A deed dated 07 Oct 1765 when William sold 541 acres of land on Polecat Creek shows his wife's name as Jean/Jane Armfield. In the body of the document William's wife is referred to as Jean, but where she signs with her mark she is Jane Armfield. This deed was recorded in the Courthouse at Salisbury in Rowan County. Likely she was Jane Hamilton before marriage, but no documentation has been found to prove that. Since Hamilton became an often used given name in the descendants of William, circumstantial evidence points in this direction.

[6] *William was a strict Quaker and took no active part in the War until shortly before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.* (p. 98)

[6] From "Tories in Jail, 1776" out of "Military Collection, (Box) 1770-1778, Troop Returns (1747-1859), Militia and Continental Returns, April 5, 1776"; "A General Return of Prisoners in Halifax Goal (jail) for Carrying Arms in support of the Regal authority in this Province under the Command of General Donald MackDonald." William Armfield is among the list of men in Goal. He was captured at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge 27 Feb 1776. This source is located at the NC Archives, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

[7] *These facts were obtained chiefly from G. Will Armfield, who wrote them down about twenty-five years ago at the dictation of his grandfather, Joseph B., and...*

[7] The original John Armfield died in 1792 and Joseph B. was born about 1785. He would have known his grandfather, but at the age of 7 or less, it is difficult to imagine how he could remember a detailed family history. At that time it was common for families to sit together and tell their stories while their children sat around them and listened. This was probably how the family history was developed.

### **Additional Information From Joyce**

In Algie L. Newlin's book, Battle of New Garden, published in 1977, p. 30, a story is related of William (not mentioned by name in this account, but is in other stories), joining the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. William didn't join the New Market Quaker MM until May 1781 and the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was the 15 Mar 1781. William was dismissed from New Market MM 31 Dec 1785.

In "Guilford County, NC Court Minutes, Nov. 1782, pgs 49-50, Guilford County, Tories, 1782", William Armfield, Sr. and Isaac Armfield, Jr. are among the men listed. "Ordered that they appear at next Court & shew cause if any they can why their estate

should not be Confiscated.” Originals of this source located at NC Archives. No records have been located to indicate they lost their land.

In “The Colonial & State Records of North Carolina” Vol. 9, pgs 84-87, a number of Guilford County residents petitioned His Excellency Josiah Martin Esquire, Governor on behalf of Matthew Hamilton and on behalf of James Hunter for his wife and five small children regarding their activities during the Revolutionary War. Among the Guilford County men to sign both petitions were, William Armfield, William Armfield, Jun. and Isaac Armfield, Jun.

In “Colonial Records of North Carolina”, Vol. 10, 1775-1776, pg. 599, William Armfield appears along with William Field, Jeremiah Field, Robert Field and Joseph Field as taking up arms.

*“That William Field regardless of the Solemn Assurances by him given to observe a strict neutrality did actually take up Arms and lead forth to War as Colonel a division of Men for the purpose aforesaid. That he is a Freeholder and lives in Guilford County.*

*That Jeremiah Field did actually take up Arms and go forth to War for the purpose aforesaid.*

*That Robert Field did actually take up Arms and lead forth to War as Captain of a Company sixty men for the purpose aforesaid. That he is a Freeholder and lives in Guilford County.*

*That Joseph Field did actually take up Arms and go forth to War as Lieutenant to Robert Fields for the purpose aforesaid. That he is a Freeholder and lives in Guilford County.*

*That William Armfield did actually take up Arms and go forth to War for the purpose aforesaid. That he lives on the Lords Land in Guilford County.”*

Joyce relates that there were a number of marriages between the Armfield and Field families.”During the Revolutionary War among the leaders of the local Tories none had more local influence then the four Field brothers. The fifth brother John, did not participate in the Tory movement as he had a crippled hand.”

### **Other Contributors**

Mary W. sent us a copy of a Revolutionary Pay Voucher for William Armfield. The information is recorded in the NC State Archives and titled “Revolutionary Army Accounts”, (Volume XI, Page 60, Folio 2). William was paid 11 pounds, 14 shillings in principle and 3 pounds, 10 shillings in interest. A punch hole appears through the date of the payment so all that can be made out is August 30<sup>th</sup>. It has been included in this newsletter (page 5). She also sent a copy of William’s will which we will include in a future newsletter. Thank you Mary.

Mark T. wrote that he “always considered Sallie Stockard’s telling of the Armfield families...as the relating of an oral history conveyed to her by a descendant who still resided in Guilford County at the time of her compilation. Her lack of information on most of the lines of the families who had moved on show she was working with a limited amount of real written facts...” He does, however, admire the degree of accuracy that she was able to maintain under these circumstances. Mark also feels that if more of the New Garden MM notes from the latter 1700’s had survived, more mention would have been made of the Armfield family.

Mark feels it is safe to conclude that the Armfields had been Quakers. His interest is in tracking the families who intermarried with the Armfields in hopes of learning more about our early family. Mark is also interested in the connection between the early PA Armfields and the Nantucket Quakers and their migration patterns. We look forward to

hearing more from Mark on his research efforts. Thank you Mark.

### Queries & Other Tidbits

- Thomas A. Forehand, a newsletter reader and researcher, is the author of Robert E. Lee's Lighter Side The Marble Man's Sense of Humor, Pelican Publishing company, which can be ordered on line. Tom can be contacted for information about his work at [taftj@juno.com](mailto:taftj@juno.com)

- From Jo Ann P., she is researching an Armfield female born 31 Mar 1907 at 2227 Hamilton, certificate # 14068, Spokane, WA. One of her Armfields married a Martin and died in that area. [Virgo919@juno.com](mailto:Virgo919@juno.com)

- Mark T. is interested in looking at the Nancy or Ann or Nancy Ann Armfield who married a Thornburg/Thornborough. If you would like to communicate with him, write [Troemner@pressenter.com](mailto:Troemner@pressenter.com)

- Judy H. is also looking at a Spokane, WA Armfield family. Her father is Robert Eugene Armfield born in Spokane and the son of Robert Gray Armfield who was s/o John Franklin Armfield. She is also interested in the connection between the Franklin & Armfield Slave office and the Armfield family. You can write her at [hewlettj@shaw.ca](mailto:hewlettj@shaw.ca)

- Has anyone information on Ann Armfield Settle who may have been born in 1821 possibly in VA and who married George Bair (Bear) of Ohio about 1850?

Martin G. is researching a Green and an Armfield family. His grandfather was James M. Armfield born in 1869 in Tennessee and died 1942 in Oklahoma s/o William Harmon Armfield. The Green he is looking for is Luther Martin Green who was born 20 Sept 1862 in Sedalia, Missouri. [Caragr@yaho.com](mailto:Caragr@yaho.com)

- Bill M. is working on the Isaac Armfield, Jr. line. His great, great-grandmother was Violet Armfield d/o John Armfield and unknown Dunlap. If you can help him, he is at [Macdann@hotmail.com](mailto:Macdann@hotmail.com)

Let us know if you would like your family branch to appear here so that others may contact you. If you do not want your information to appear in the newsletter, please inform us. Thank-you all for writing and sharing with us.

### Summary

We have again tried to cover a lot of ground in a small amount of space. We hope that it has aroused your curiosity and that you will join us in working out this wonderful family history. We have just tapped into what we can accomplish together. Please continue to share your thoughts, materials, documents and resources with us. A thank you to all that have sent letters and copies of family documents. If there is something you would like to see the newsletter address, just let one of us know. As we work our way through the early family, we will be sharing your information and stories. We hope that you will continue to look in Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is a crucial piece of family history that we are missing in this giant puzzle we call the Armfield Family.

**Remember that documentation is essential in order to have a quality family history.** If you have documentation which supports or would contribute to the Armfield history, please share it with us.

# State of North Carolina

Department of Cultural Resources

Division of Archives and History



This verifies that the following information is recorded in a manuscript volume in the custody of the State Archives titled "Revolutionary Army Accounts" (Volume XI , Page 60 , Folio 2 ):

Heading: Missing

Subheading: A List of Certificates paid by Charl.<sup>s</sup> Bruce Com.<sup>r</sup> Sals<sup>y</sup> Dis.<sup>t</sup>

By whom paid: Charles Bruce Commissioner of Confiscation Salsbury  
Dist.<sup>r</sup>

Bundle number: 6

Number on the back of certificate: 2240

To whom issued: William Armfield

Amount of principal: 11 pounds, 14 shillings

Amount of Interest: 3 pounds, 10 shillings

Other information: None

Raleigh, North Carolina

March 4, 1996

*James R. Lankford, Jr.*  
Chief, Archives and Records Section

