

Letter From the Editors

William Armfield, Sr. married Lydia (Julian) Field, widow of Joseph Field after the death of his first wife, Jane/Jean Hamilton. No documentation has been found for the death of Jane/Jean. In this issue we will take a brief look at William's second family as well as share some additional thoughts on the Armfield history.

As we have said before, the "Sketch of the Armfield Family" as it appears in the *History of Guilford County, NC* by Sallie Stockard is a good framework for the beginning of family research. As it is a secondary resource, caution does need to be taken as to the accuracy of the data. Wherever possible we need to back up the facts contained in this history, as well as any other histories, with primary documentation and make note of what is proven and what is not. Joseph B. Armfield provided much of the information contained in this sketch. He was born 13 Oct 1785 and seven years old when his grandfather John Armfield died. To our knowledge, primary records proving the existence of a John Armfield have not been found. What has been found are records of an early ancestor named Isaac Armfield in NC which we will address later in this issue. *Connie & Joyce*

William & Lydia Armfield

After the death of his first wife, William married Lydia Julian Field Abt. 1783 in Guilford County, NC.

Lydia married first Joseph Field in 1760 in Rowan County, NC. Joseph was born Abt. 1738. The Stockard history says they had ten children together before Joseph died at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780. Quoting from the *Guilford Genealogist*, Vol. 20, No. 3, Spring 1993, # 61, the descendants of William and Jane Field, compiled by Sueanne Field; "Joseph married Lydia (Julian?), perhaps the daughter of Peter Julian... Her name, Lydia, confused the research of the Field family because Joseph's brother, William, also married a Lydia...The possibility that Lydia Field's maiden name was Julian came from an old book on Guilford Co. history..." (This is referring to the Armfield Sketch in Stockard's History which says that "William Armfield... married Mrs. Lydia Julian Fields, the widow of a Revolutionary soldier...") The Field history goes on to say; "There wasn't a will or an estate for Joseph in Guilford or the surrounding counties, or any other document that proved when he died. There also wasn't a document proving who his children were..."

According to Stockard's History, William and Lydia had two children of their own, one who died at a young age and Joseph B. A few family researchers indicate that they had a total of three children. One child born in 1784, one in 1786 in South Buffalo, Guilford, NC, and Joseph B. The only child we have seen records for is Joseph B. If there are documents to prove there were other children, we hope you will share them with us. Lydia died in 1819 in Jamestown, Guilford, NC and is buried in the Walnut Grove Primitive Baptist Cemetery a.k.a. Bull Run.

Joseph B. was born 13 Oct 1785; died 25 Dec 1880. Joseph married Eleanor (Nellie) Stephenson Abt. 1806. We have not found their marriage record. Nellie was the d/o John and Jane McClelland Stephenson. Nellie was born 22 Oct 1788; died 12 Dec 1874. Joseph B. and Nellie were buried in Walnut Grove Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, a.k.a., Bull Run. The obituary for Nellie, the "Greensboro Patriot", 16 Dec 1874, states she was the mother of ten children, seven still living. Joseph left no will or estate settlement. Their children were:

1. Lydia born 27 Sept 1807; died 06 Feb 1884; married John Bartley 10 Sep 1829 (Bd) in Guilford Co. Lydia divorced John Bartley for abuse in the fall of 1847. Lydia and her children were living with her parents in the 1850 census of Guilford County.
2. Julian born 19 April 1809; died 09 Jan 1875 in Peru, IN; buried in Mexico, IN. He married Hannah Rich Iddings 15 Apr 1830 (Bd) in Guilford Co. Hannah was born 17 Aug 1811; died 20 Dec 1907 in Hawthorne, KS at the home of her daughter. She is buried in Round Mound Cemetery.
3. Lavinia born 1811; died 1820.
4. Charlotte (Lottie) was born 15 Nov 1813; died 01 Sep 1898. She married John Gardner 09 Jan 1833 (Bd) in Guilford Co. John was born 08 Sep 1807; died 06 May 1885. They are buried in the Walnut Grove Cemetery.
5. Jessie born 24 April 1816; died 06 Jan 1839.
6. Ithamer born 1818; died 1906 and buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery. Ithamer married Martha (Pattie) Yates of Wake County. In the 1850 Guilford County, Federal Census, Ithamer is listed as William and a "gun stocker" by trade. Pattie was born 1821; died 1897.
7. Mary Ann (Polly) was born Abt. 1819. She married Samuel D. Burney 03 Dec 1857 (Bd) in Guilford County.
8. Patience was born 12 Apr 1821; died 12 July 1905. She married Jabez Stephens 25 March 1841 (Bd) in Guilford Co. Jabez was born 15 Aug 1816; died 4 Feb 1866. Both Patience and Jabez are buried in Walnut Grove Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, a.k.a. Bull Run.
9. Joseph S. born 10 Oct 1823; died 12 July 1887. He married first Eleanor Iddings 18 Jan 1845 (Bd) in Guilford (NC Marriage Collection, County Court Records, FHL, Salt Lake City, UT). A family bible record has that they married 23 Jan 1846. Eleanor was born 28 March 1820; died 08 June 1879 and was buried in Deep River Friends Cemetery. Joseph married his second wife Martha (Mattie) L. Hoover 23 Nov 1886 in Randolph Co., NC (NC State Archives). Following the death of Joseph, Mattie sued his estate for her dower portion of the estate. Apparently very shortly before his second marriage, Joseph gave all of his real estate to his children. The outcome of the lawsuit is unknown. Joseph has been found in census records for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. In 1880 he is listed as a widower, age 55, living in Jamestown, NC.
10. Eleanor born 27 Oct 1826; died 10 June 1910; buried at Sandy Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. She married 01 July 1847 (Bd) Guilford County to William D. Reece.
11. John J. born Abt. 1829; died 08 June 1865 at Point Lookout, MD as a prisoner of war. He is buried in the Confederate Cemetery, Point Lookout, MD. He was conscripted as a Confederate soldier and served as a Pvt. in Co. C, 30th NC Regt.

when he was captured by the Federalists. John was given the choice of taking the oath of allegiance or going to prison. He chose the later and died in prison. In the 1860 Guilford Co., Federal Census he is listed as a gunsmith. John J. married 27 Nov 1854 (Bd) Guilford Co. to Lydia B. Hill. Lydia born 30 Sep 1828; died 21 Feb 1887; buried in Deep River Friends Cemetery. Lydia did not remarry following the death of John. She is buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery, formerly Bull Run Cemetery. Abstracts of letters John J. wrote home during the Civil War can be found at the NC Archives. The Archives are located at 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC.

Armfield Musings

As with many families, certain names are used repeatedly resulting in confusion for us as we conduct our family research. Isaac is one of those names in our family. To help separate the generations of the father to the son to the grandson, etc., we will use roman numerals in brackets behind the name to indicate which generation we are writing about. Records show the Armfield Family was in NC by early 1752 and may have been there a year or two earlier. To date no primary records have been found that reflect any of their previous residences. The earliest documented Armfield male in NC is found in a land warrant issued to Isaac Armfield [1] issued 30 Nov 1753 for 640 acres on Russell's Creek for ten shillings sterling money in St. Lukes Parish, Rowan Co. In today's currency that amounts to around \$2.50. This Granville Land Grant was finalized 09 May 1757 and the grant can be found in the NC Archives. The 17 Oct 1758 Isaac [1] sold 320 acres of his land grant lying on the east side of Russell's Creek to Samuel Ozbun (Osborn). The next record we have of Isaac [1] is found in the early tax lists of Rowan County. These tax lists have been published many times over a period of years with some slight variances between the lists. The originals of the tax lists are in the NC Archives. The earliest of these lists, 1759, shows the following Armfields;

- Armfeild, Isaac - 1 poll
- Armfeild, Isaac - 1 poll
- Armfeild, William - 1 poll

The list of 1761 has the following Armfields;

- Isaac Armfield junior and Thomas Armfield - 2 polls
- William Armfield - 1 poll

The list of 1768 shows the following Armfields;

- William Armfield and Isaac Armfield - 2 polls
- Isaac Armfield and Thomas Armfield - 2 polls

The tax lists between 1768 and 1815 of Guilford County have been lost. From the surviving tax lists we can fairly establish part of the early Armfield family. Issac Sr. [1] and his sons William Sr., Isaac Jr., and Thomas.

Another Stockard named son was John Armfield. John Armfield was listed as a chain carrier (CC) on the land warrant of Isaac Sr. [1], surveyed on 23 April 1754. John Armfield is also listed as CC on land surveyed on 17 June 1754 for Ambrose Joshua Smith. According to an article on surveying units and terms, a chain carrier is an assistant to the surveyor, the CC moved the surveying chain from one location to another under the direction of the surveyor. This was a position of some responsibility, and the CC's took an oath as "sworn chain carriers" that they would do their job properly. Generally, a close family member or trusted friend was listed as a chain carrier. A young

boy had to be 16 years of age to be eligible. The chains were made of 100 links of heavy metal. No further records of this early John have been found.

Thomas Armfield is found in early tax lists, but, to date, not in any other NC records. The *New Brunswick Courier* in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada had a listing for Saturday 13 Aug 1814 of letters remaining in the St. Johns Post Office. A Thomas Armfield appeared in that list. Has anyone seen records regarding Thomas Armfield who went to New Brunswick, Canada?

An early Jacob Armfield not mentioned in Stockard's history is found in Orange County, NC records. Jacob Armfield is listed as a CC on land surveyed for Moses Short on 8 April 1754. In 1755 Herman Husband received a land warrant on Feb 26th for 640 acres including an improvement on or near the head of the Great Alamance that Hugh Foster took from Jacob Armfield. Entered 11 Dec 1754, surveyed 17 July 1758, returned ? May 1757. The deed was recorded 06 Nov 1757. The next record shows; "May Term 1761, Hugh Foster vs Jacob Armfield. Land grant from John Earl Granville to Jacob Armfield for 700 acres of land lying in Orange County on the mouth of Reedy Branch of Brush Creek, the waters of Deep River near Cox's Road, 21 Dec 1761." Nothing more is known of this Jacob. It would seem that he could have been a son of Isaac Sr. [1]. More research is needed in Orange County, NC for records of Jacob and why Hugh Foster was able to take land from him. What became of the 700 acre Granville Grant Jacob received 21 Dec 1761?

Only one daughter has been verified by records, though likely there were others. Ann Armfield born Abt. 1732; died unknown is found in early Quaker records. She was received on certificate (roc) at the Cane Creek Monthly Meeting (MM) 07 Mar 1752. Unfortunately her certificate does not show the name of the MM that issued the certificate. In 1752 Cane Creek was located in a part of Orange County, now Alamance County. Ann was married by 30 Nov 1754 in Rowan County when the New Garden MM reported her marriage in the minutes as a marriage out of unity (mou) to Joseph Thornbrough. Joseph was born 1727/28; died 25 June 1800 in Guilford County. Joseph was roc to New Garden MM 25 Sep 1756. The children as named in William Wade Hinshaw's, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* are:

1. Jane born 21 Oct 1754; died 17 Aug 1763.
2. Edward born 30 Mar 1757; married Keziah Wright 09 Jan 1803; d. 19 Dec 1839.
3. Joseph born 29 Feb 1759; married Rachel Brown 14 Feb 1782.
4. Ann born 22 Nov 1761; married Joseph Hoggatt 05 May 1784; d. 12 Oct 1832.
5. Mary born 13 Mar 1764; m. (1) William Hodgson; (2) Nathan Hiatt 11 Feb 1784; died 11 Aug 1842.
6. Margaret born 10 Jan 1767; married Stephen Hoggatt 03 Aug 1786.
7. Elizabeth born 01 Feb 1769; married Hur Hodgson 03 Dec 1788; d. 10 July 1794.
8. Isaac born 06 Oct 1773; married Rebecca Hodgson 04 Oct 1792.

Joseph Thornbrough left a will in Guilford County dated 27 Jan 1793 and probated Aug 1800. His will names his wife Ann to receive a mare, two cows, furniture, and maintenance during her widowhood. Son Joseph to receive 100 acres where he lives. Sons Edward and Isaac to receive the remainder of the land. Daughters Ann Hoggatt, Mary Hodgson, Margaret Hoggatt, and Elizabeth Hodgson each five shillings.

Exrs: Sons Edward and Joseph Thornburgh.
Wits: William Armfield, Esq., Joseph Thornburgh.

It is not known when Isaac Sr. [1] died, but apparently before March 1780. Evidence of this is found in a deed in the *Guilford County Deed Book Two*, page 115.01, March 1780. North Carolina. "To James Jackson, fifty shillings per hundred acres, four hundred acres on the water of South Buffalo, begin at Bennet Brandford's (lately Isaac Armfield's) corner white oak..." If Isaac Sr. [1] left a will or estate settlement it apparently has been lost as nothing has been found in the NC Archives. It may be any records pertaining to this Isaac were destroyed in the fire that caused the loss of the first ten years of Guilford County records. The name of Isaac Sr's wife remains unknown.

Submissions, Corrections and Additions

Mary Armfield & Jacob Brown, "Armfield Newsletter", Vol. 2, No. 3, March 2007 Regarding the family of Mary Armfield and Jacob Brown the references we used included the secondary sources; *Applications for Henry County (Ind.) Pioneer Certificates*, Vol. 1, 1-100, Henry County, IN Historical Society, New Castle, IN 1975, Gene Pool Individual Records, Provo, UT, on-line, and William Wade Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. 1, pg. 1044.

Joan Case sent the following information from her research. The letters correspond to the letters assigned these individuals in our last newsletter. Joan has more information on this family. You can contact her at bjcase10@comcast.net.

- A. Jane married Isaac Carter.
- B. Moses married (1) Hanna Carter (two children).
- E. Jacob Jr.
- F. Nancy Ann married (2) John Hopper 29 Dec 1806.
- G. Mary married James Mendenhall 29 May 1815.
- K. Margaret married (1) John Mendenhall 06 April 1815; (2) Shubal Denny.
- L. Jonathan A. married (2) Eliza".

We have seen Isaac spelled both ways in records (Issak/Isaac). Moses Brown married first Hannah Carter 28 Dec 1797 and had two children, Rachel and Isaac. His second wife was Elizabeth Hadley. Anne Brown married John Hopper 22 Dec 1806 in Surry Co., NC (*Marriages of Surry County, NC, 1779-1868*). Her name is also seen as Nancy Ann. Margaret married (2) Shubal Denny on 08 April 1830 in Preble, OH (*Ohio Marriages, 1803-1900*). Marriage records for Mary and Margaret Brown can be found in *Preble County, Ohio Marriage Records*, Vol. 1, 1808-1830 & Vol. 2, 1831-1840. In the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Vol. 1, 1044, the family of James and John Mendenhall appear. They are the sons of Marmaduke (b. 23 Nov 1754; d. 25 Feb 1797 in Wilkes Co., Georgia) and Alice Benson Mendenhall (b.23 Nov 1755; d. Nov 1797, Wilkes Co., Georgia. John's birth date given as 3 May 1790 and James birth date as 21 Dec [torn]. Joan has this year as 1792. Our source for Marmaduke comes from *The Guilford Genealogist*, Vol. 22, No. 2, Winter 1995, #68, "The Jamestown, N.C., Mendenhalls" by Mary A. Browning.

Mysteries & Challenges

John versus Isaac Armfield

After extensive research in NC no trace of an early John Armfield has been located in any of the surviving records. As shown above, our earliest documented NC male (1753) is Isaac Armfield with sons William, Isaac Jr., and Thomas and daughter Ann. It is likely there were more children in this family such as Jacob, but many of the early records have been lost. Due to records that are located in the NC Archives this Isaac Sr. [1] appears to be our earliest known NC ancestor who came to NC with sons William, Thomas, Isaac Jr. and Ann as well as other undocumented family members. Tax records do show that this Isaac Sr. [1] had sons of the same name as given to the John Armfield in the Stockard sketch. The Stockard sketch says that John Armfield was a school teacher. Some researchers wonder if this were so as we know his sons Isaac and William signed land records and wills with their mark rather than with a written signature.

Ann Armfield & Joseph Thornbrough

Does anyone know what monthly meeting may have issued a certificate for Ann Armfield d/o our original ancestor and wife of Joseph Thornbrough? Ann was received on certificate to Cane Creek MM (formerly in Orange Co., NC) from an unnamed MM in 1752. Was Ann the only one of her family that requested a certificate in NC? Ann was later dismissed from Cane Creek MM for marriage out of unity. Were the Armfields birthright Quakers and did not request certificates to become members of any MM in NC? No Quaker records have been found in PA.

Pennsylvania Armfields

We would like to hear from anyone who has done research in the Lancaster, Chester, Bucks, York County, PA area. Hopefully we can encourage some of you to spend time looking there. We have read many references to that area in our family histories and in the histories of collateral families such as the Hamiltons and Thornbroughs. Another area of interest is the Cecil County area of MD. There was a strip of land through PA and MD that both states claimed. They fought over it for many years which affected settlers getting clear deeds/titles to their land. Joyce had contact with a family researcher who had gone through Bucks County, PA deed books from 1682-1760 and she was not able to find any references to Armfields.

Armfield records we have found are;

- ▶ William Armfield Sr. receiving power of attorney 01 Aug 1768 from George Hodgson (Hodson) of Rowen County, NC to travel to York County.
- ▶ Philip Armfield listed in the 1733 tax list for Talbot County, MD.
- ▶ Armfield Cooper in PA , born Abt. 1768 and married Robert Morgan (Sept. 2006 issue, Armfield Newsletter).
- ▶ Armfield, Jos., Massachusetts Landsman brig "Adventure" commanded by Capt. James Morris, age 23 yrs; complexion dark; hair black; residence, Massachusetts. From *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors, Revolution War Records*; Ms: 1: 290. This is a descriptive list of officers and crew dated Sept 26, 1780.

North Carolina Armfields

James Armfield appears in the *Guilford County Deed Book One* by Wm. D. Bennett,

pg.209 - 18, January 1773. "Samuel Brown of Rowan to David Macy of Guilford, sixty five pounds, 240 acres, on both sides of South Buffaloe, begin at a stake on N. side of South Buffaloe, E 148 p. to a black jack, S 325 p. cross Buffaloe to a hicory, W 69 p. to a post oak, N 127 p. cross Buffaloe 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 and "signed by Samuel Brown. Witnesses were Enoch Macy, Isaac (+) Edwards, James (1) Armfield, proved Feb 1773 Term by Enoch Macy". (The + and 1 may be the marks of these two men.)

Family Reunion

The following notice of a family reunion was received from Peggy Armfield:
"Hello from the Otis Armfield 2007 reunion planning crew. This event will be held the weekend of August 3-5 and hosted by the Otis family. Gull Point State Park is the location for the main event which will include a meal on Saturday, August 4th. There will be plenty of time and space to visit at a very beautiful spot in the Lakes of Okoboji, IA. Events scheduled for Friday evening and Sunday morning will be held at Peggy's place in Spencer, IA." Peggy sent along a list of places to stay in Spencer and at the lake. If you would like this list or want to know more about the reunion, contact Peggy at parmfield@hotmail.com. Peggy provided the following link, www.vacationokoboji.com and stressed that reservations need to be made soon as this is a busy tourist area. Thank-you Peggy. We may add that Otis's line comes down through Isaac s/o Jacob s/o William Jr., s/o William Sr.

A Farewell - He Will Be Missed

Judy Hewlett wrote that her father Robert Eugene Armfield (1913-2007) passed away quietly in Edmonton, Alberta on the 25th of February at the age of 93.

Acknowledgments

Thank-you Dave Dowell for sending us information on Lydia. We would also like to thank Joan Case, Pat Crockett, and Gay Carroll for sharing their research with us. Hopefully, with all of us working together a more accurate and documented family history will be written. We want to thank all of you who have written and shared your thoughts, information, and records with us. Please keep corresponding with Joyce at gigi@seark.net and Connie at cstehjem@comcast.net.

Summary

We hope that we have piqued your interest in at least a couple of areas and that you will look into some of the people and places we have written about while doing your own personal research. In the next issue we will cover some odds and ends and start looking at the Isaac Armfield branches of the family. If you have something that you want to contribute for that issue, please send before July 15th. If you would like to comment on anything we have said, please let us know that too. As always, we are interested in any primary records that you may have seen or have that would add more information to our Armfield family history. If any of you have the technical expertise and interest in plotting out the land owned by our early ancestors as has been described in records, please let us know if you would like to help with a project like this.