

### Note From The Editors

The June issue contains the last will and testament of David Armfield (1760 - 1845), son of William Armfield Sr. and Jean/Jane Hamilton. David's will was written 26 Nov 1842 and probated in Guilford County, August Term, 1845. Also included are transcribed documents regarding David's estate and the Guilford County Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions entries following his death in 1845. We are also very happy to have our contributing author Rodney Williams back with another interesting discussion about autosomal DNA and a new Family Tree DNA test. We hope you find this to be another interesting issue.

*Connie & Joyce*

### DAVID ARMFIELD Last Will and Testament

North Carolina, Guilford County. Guilford County Estate Records. Image copy. Transcribed by Joyce Agerton, 2009.

*In the name of God Amen. This the twenty six Day of November one thousand Eight hundred and forty two. I David Armfield of the County of Guilford and state of north Carolina. Being in Heath of body and of sound mind and Memory Do make this my last will and testament at the same time revoking all former wills made by me Declaring this to be my last will and testament.*

*In the first place I gave and bequeath to my beloved wife Elisabeth armfield all the household and kitchen furniture an choice of my horses, three head of Cattle to have choice of all my Cattle, all my hogs, also all the blacks that I owne During her lifetime and to have a good Maintaince of my land During her lifetime. Secondly I gave and bequeath to my son Emsley armfield all the Land that am seid and posses of. I also gave to my son Emsley armfield my Negro man Dick by paying to my three grand children Jane widos and Elizabeth widos one hundred Dollars each. To David widos one hundred and fifty Dollars.. I also gave to my son hambleton armfield my Negro buoy george I gave to my son Abner armfield my negro buoy sandy. I gave to my Dauter Elisabeth Millis one negro girl named Alsa to her and to the heirs of her body. I gave to my three sons Solomon, Jonathan and nedom three negros named beck, Jesse and saraugh. Solomon to have choice of the three, the other to be equally Divided between Jonathan and nedom if there should be any increase of beck for my wife to Dispose of them as she may see proper also for my wife to have and hold all the above named negros During her lifetime and my son Emsley to pay the money above will to my three grand Children at the Death of his mother. All my house hold property to*

be Equally Divided at the Death of my wife between my two granddaughters, Jane and Elisabeth widows and my Daughter Elisabeth millis.

I also gave to my son Emsley my black smith tools. Lastly I do hear by Constitute and appoint my wife and Emsley armfield my lawful Executor to all intents and purposes to Execut this my last will and testament according to the true intent of the same and evry part and Claus. Where off hear by I the said David armfield do hear unto set my hand and seal the day and date above written.

Sined in the presence of

David armfield (seal)

Shannon Wiley Jur

Abel Gardner Jur

[different handwriting but same document]

State of North Carolina

Guilford County

August

Term 1845

The Executors of the for going Last Will and Testament of David Armfield was proven in open Court by the oath of Shannon Wiley & Abel Gardner the Subscribing Witnesses thereto Ordered by the Court that it be Received. When and where came Emsley Armfield one of the Executors therein appears [illegible] And was duly qualified as Such, the other Executor Elizabeth Armfield renouncing her right of Executorship.

Test

John M. Logan

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State of North Carolina

Guilford County

To the Sheriff of Guilford County Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to Summon Jonathan Armfield if to be found in your County, leaving all matters and things aside, personally to be and appear before the Justices of our County Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions to be held at the Courthouse in the Town of Greensboro on the third Monday of May next, then and there to pleas answer or demur to the Petitioners Petition in a certain matter of controvsey pending, wherin Elizabeth Armfield, Emsly Armfield, Hamilton Armfield & James N. Millis & wife Elizabeth Petitioners are Plaintiffs, and Solomon Armfield, Jonathan Armfield & Needom Armfield, Abner Armfield, Jane Widows, David Widows & Elizabeth Widows are Defts. And this you shall in no wise omit, under the penalty prescribed by law.

Witness John H. Logan Clerk of our said Court at office the third Monday of Febr'y. A.D. 1846. Issued the 20th day of April 1846.

John H. Logan CCC  
By R.N McCulloch D.C.

North Carolina  
Guilford County

Court of Pleas and quarter Sessions  
Feby. Term 1846

To the worshipfull the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for the County aforesaid.

The Petition of Elisabeth Armfield, Emsley Armfield, Hamilton Armfield, Needom Armfield and James N. Millis & wife Elisabeth Against Solomon Armfield, Jonathan Armfield, Abner Armfield, Jane Widows, David Widos & Elisabeth Widows.

Humbly Complaining shewth unto your worships your petitioners aforesaid that David Armfield late of the County of Guilford departed this life in the year 1845 after, having made a last will and testament duely executed to pass both real and personal estate which was duly admitted to probate by the Court of pleas and quarter sessions for said County - That said will was executed some considerable time before the death of said testator and was intended to pass all the estate which he then owned & possessed - Your Petitioners shew unto your worship, that among other diveses and bequeathed to your petitioner Elisabeth Millis a Negro girl who was at that time and for some time before in the possession of your petitioners J.N. Millis and his wife the said Elisabeth - that between the execution of said will and the death of said testator the said Negro girl whose name is Alce was delivered of a male child, which has been named Isaac & who was born at the house of your petitioner the aforesaid Millis.

Your petitioners show unto your worship that they have been advised that said boy Isaac does not pass under the will of the said David, but that he died intestate as to said Negro boy Isaac and that your petitioners and the defendants are entitled to have said Negro divided among them as the next of kin of the said David Armfield as tenants in common.

Your petitioners show unto your worship that as partition of said slave can be made among the next of kin as must be obvious to your worship on account of the large Number of said tenants and they therefore pray your worship for a share of this worshipfull court directing said slave to be sold by the clerk of this Court and for the money arising from said sale to be divided among your petitioners and the defendants, according to the provisions of an act of assembly in such cases made and from de[ci]de- and they pray for all other and further relief and for all other and further orders and decrees as the nature of their case may from time to time require.

They further show that your petitioner Elisabeth is the widow of the said David Armfield and that your petitioners Elisabeth Millis, Emsley & Hamilton and the defendants Solomon, Jonathan, Needham and abner are children of the said testater and the defendants Jane, David & Elisabeth

Widows are children of a deceased daughter, named Mary who married and died in the life time of her father.

Your petitioners James N. Millis further sheweth unto your worship that he has purchased for a valuable consideration the respective interest of your petitioners Elisabeth, Emsley, Needham & Hamilton and of which he is ready to prove to the satisfaction of this worshipfull court when called upon to do so - and he prays for an order that the share of the said Elisabeth, Emsley, Needham & Hamilton may be paid over to him when said sale is made and the money arising therefrom collected.

Your petitioners pray that a copy (torn) petition and a subpoena issue against each of the defendants commanding them to appear at the next term of this worshipfull court to be held for the county of Guilford at the courthouse in the town of Greensboro on the 3rd Monday of May next then and there to plead, answer or demur to this petition and then and there stand to abide and perform the judgement order and decree of the court. [two words illegible]

Torn your petitioner as in duty bound will ever have etc.

Ralph Gorrell atto  
for petitioners

Guilford to wit }

North Carolina  
Court of pleas & quarter sessions  
May Term 1846

James N. Millis & wife & others  
Solomon Armfield & others

In this case judgt. Pro confesso is entered against the defendants and the case coming on to be upon the petition and the suggesteory of Counsel it is ordered adjudged & decried by the Court that the Negro mentioned in the petition be sold to the highest bidder on a credit of twelve months, by the Clerk of this Court after giving thirty days notice at the time and place of sale.

That the Clerk make said sale at the house of J.N. Millis - take bond & good surety for the purchase money & report to next term.

Amount of Note for Sale of Negro child	\$50.00
Amount of Bill of Costs etc.	<u>24.20</u>
	\$25.80

The above Amount to be Divided into nine Equal parts according to Decree of the Court	<u>9/\$25.80</u>
	\$2.86 2/4

paid to wit Elizabeth Armfield                      2.86 2/4

paid Solomon Armfield	2.86 2/4	
paid Jonathan Armfield	2.86 2/4	
paid Hamilton Armfield	2.86 2/4	
paid Needham Armfield	2.86 2/4	
paid Abner Armfield	2.86 2/4	
paid Emsley Armfield	2.86 2/4	
paid J.N. Millis & his wife	2.86 2/4	
paid Jane Widows	.95 1/2 }	paid
paid David Widows	.95 1/2 }	
paid Elisabeth Widows	<u>.95 1/2 }</u>	[illegible] Widows
	\$25.78	

State of North Carolina  
 Guilford County

To the Sheriff Rockingham County Greetings:

You are hereby commanded to summon David Widows, if to be found in your County leaving all matters and things aside, personally to be and appear before the Justices of our County Court of common Pleas and quarter Sessions to be held at the Court house in the Town of Greensborrough on the 3rd Monday of May 1846, then and there to pleas answer or demur to the petitioners petition in a certain matter of controversy pending wherein Elizabeth Armfield, Emsley Armfield, Hamilton Armfield, James N. Millis & wife Elizabeth are Plaintiffs, and Solomon Armfield, Jonathan Armfield, Needham Armfield, Abner Armfield, Jane Widows, David Widows, and Elisabeth Widows are defendants, and this you shall in no wise omit under penalty prescribed by law.

Witness John H. Logan Clerk of our said Court at office, the third Monday of Feby. 1846. Issued the 18th day of April 1846.

John H. Logan CCC  
 By R.N. McCulloch DC

**Autosomal DNA Testing  
 by Rodney Williams, June 2010**

In the Dec 2009 issue of the Armfield Family Newsletter, yDNA testing was discussed, which was arguably the most useful test for genealogists available at the time. But recent advances in DNA testing have made another type of DNA test become more promising for the genealogist: the Autosomal DNA test.

As you may recall from our first discussion, yDNA is taken from the y-chromosome, the sex chromosome that only males carry that is passed from father to son unchanged except for infrequent, but predictable over-time mutations. If you took high school biology, you may remember that humans have a total of 23 chromosome pairs, with the y-chromosome being half of just one pair; the sex-chromosome pair consisting of X and Y chromosomes in males

and two X chromosomes in females. What of the other 22 pairs? How are they passed from parent to offspring and what can we learn about our family history from this larger part of our genetic makeup?

These non-sex chromosomes are known as 'autosomes' and each chromosome can be further divided into individual genes (sections of DNA that code for the production of specific proteins), plus other genetic material that serves various functions, some as yet unknown. One way to think about this is: DNA as 'letters' and genes as 'words'; chromosomes as 'books' and the entire human genome as a 'library' made up of the 22 autosomal chromosome pairs; the 2 sex chromosomes; and the mitochondrial DNA that doesn't exist in sperm (which means it is always inherited from the mother). On a genetic level, your genome is a unique, expansive library covering a single topic; YOU. The genealogical equivalent would be a room full of books and documents fully describing your individual genealogy and every branch of your family tree going back to the earliest available records. Wouldn't that be a nice room in which to spend some time, or maybe you already have a room like this?

Daydreaming aside, each of us has two copies of each chromosome, one inherited from each parent. Since each of our parents also has two copies of each chromosome (for a total of four that we have the potential to inherit), we randomly inherit one of those copies from each parent to form each of our chromosome pairs. From there, the interaction of our two copies determines which traits are actually expressed in us. This can happen, depending on the specific gene, via several processes: **Simple Dominance** for instance, free-hanging earlobes are a dominant trait, so the only way to have earlobes that are attached to your head all the way down is to have two copies of the recessive form of the gene controlling that trait. A more complex process like **Codominance**. An example of this process would be if you have both a Type A blood gene and a Type B blood gene, then your blood type is 'AB'. **Incomplete Dominance**, traits where the offspring will display a version somewhere in between the two inherited copies of the gene, like hair texture. Just to complicate matters further, some traits are influenced by multiple genes (height, eye color, skin color), and some genes influence multiple traits simultaneously (phenylketonuria, sickle cell anemia). Genes can also interact with environment in incredibly complex ways (look up 'Epigenetics' on the internet and you just might reconsider your entire lifestyle)!

One more concept we need to cover before getting back to how this all relates to genealogy, is that of mutations. As complex as the above-described genetic reproduction process is, you can probably imagine that it can not possibly explain the amount of genetic variation we see in the human species. If genes are faithfully copied and inherited from parents in pairs that interact in predictable ways, and if there are at most a few possible combinations for any given trait, eventually the forces of sexual and natural selection would produce a pretty homogenous collection of individuals. In one regard, this is exactly what has happened (99.9% of the human genome is identical across all individuals). Our genetic diversity is therefore a result of variations in the other 0.1%, mostly the result of random but predictable mutations ('random but predictable' in the same way that we don't know for certain how a flipped coin will land on any given flip, but we can say with certainty that the more times we flip a coin the closer the ratio of heads to tails will come to 50:50), and also of genetic isolation of groups within the species at various points in our history. As we discussed with yDNA, these mutations are 'errors' that occur when genetic material is copied from the parent before being passed on to the child. They occur at a rate that is sufficiently infrequent and predictable for each section

of DNA, such that comparing the DNA of two individuals will yield a pretty good prediction of how closely they are related to each other. The more test results you have for individual people, the more valuable and accurate these predictions.

The recent advances in DNA testing' mentioned in the first paragraph have not had anything to do with most of what I've talked about so far. This is all old news to the scientific community (well, epigenetics is a fairly recent discovery). The real advance that has led to new tests for genealogists has to do with getting samples from enough individuals to create a diverse database of DNA results. It is only in this way can you determine which parts of the genome to compare (the 0.1%), how fast they mutate, which mutations are associated with which ethnic groups, and other minutia that become critical in this kind of work. At long last, we are there.

Several companies are now offering autosomal DNA tests, including Family Tree DNA, 23andMe, and deCODEme. Family Tree DNA's test is called 'Family Finder'. Family Tree DNA already has a very large database of yDNA testers, a large portion of them genealogists who might actually know what you are talking about when you start going on about your 5th great grandfather and who his parents were (note that a new DNA sample has to be submitted by users who have already tested their yDNA, but FTDNA has sweetened the deal for their new 'Family Finder' test by offering them significant discounts). 23AndMe, on the other hand, has a smaller and more diverse population of testers (meaning a higher chance you'll be matched with someone who doesn't really care about genealogy or doesn't have much experience with it), but 23andMe test results come with a staggering collection of fun facts revealed by your DNA, like what percentage of your DNA is European/Asian/African/Native American, what genetic diseases you have a higher probability of getting, what color your eyes are (I suspect you already know that, but it's fun to have someone who has never seen you tell you just based on your DNA), what medicines you are likely to be allergic to, and the list goes on (and is growing every day as science advances). With the exception of the ethnicity percentages, these facts probably won't help you with your genealogy, but the science is so cool I couldn't resist. After a long debate with myself, in the end I went with the 23andMe test (but I know of at least one ARMFIELD descendant who took the Family Tree DNA test). Even in the case of ethnic percentages, it's only likely to be helpful if it produces surprising results, or if it confirms or denies an unproven family oral tradition (you know, the 'Native American Princess' story). The real genealogical advantage of these tests is that they can tell you who in the database is related to you, pretty accurately within the past 5 or 6 generations, and less accurately the farther back you go. And all of these test will tell you that relative to their respective databases of testers.

The big advantage of the autosomal test, compared to the yDNA test, is that it looks at all branches of your family tree (not just your direct paternal line). It also can be done by anyone, male or female. In terms of relative disadvantages, because autosomal DNA is inherited equally and somewhat randomly from both parents, without additional information you won't be able to tell which of the many branches of your family tree contains a common ancestor with another tester (with the yDNA test, you only have to focus on the direct paternal line of each tester to find the common ancestor). With the autosomal test, there's also no parallel to the elegant correspondence between the way yDNA is passed down and our society's passing down of surnames. But I've never met a genealogist who would turn down the chance to get a piece of new evidence about his or her family history, no matter how small. And this one can actually be kind of big.

So, is the sledgehammer that might knock down that brick wall you've been chipping at for years (or at least a sharper chisel) hiding in *your* never-visited library?

*Rodney Williams*

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Rodney is repeating his free-stay offer at the Strawberry Creek Inn Bed & Breakfast to anyone who gets tested. The offer applies for either yDNA or Autosomal tests with any company. Contact him at [innkeeper@strawberrycreekinn.com](mailto:innkeeper@strawberrycreekinn.com)

Rodney, thank-you for your contributions to this newsletter and your generous B & B offer.

### **The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree**

The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held June 11-13 in Burbank, California. It's a three-day conference packed with over 120 class sessions, banquets, breakfasts, networking and fun. We have internationally renowned speakers and an exhibit floor with about 70 commercial organizations and societies. Registration for this event is still open. If you're interested, contact Paula Hinkle at [phinkel@pacbell.net](mailto:phinkel@pacbell.net). You can read all about the Jamboree at [www.scsgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com) – click on the Jamboree link. A few Armfield cousins have already registered!

### **Comments & Contributions**

Diane Knight, Kokomo, Indiana, wrote, *"I am very impressed with the newsletter. The last issue was on my line that I documented for my DAR papers. I finish my term as DAR's Chapter Regent. Three of my grandchildren are CAR and State Officers. I submitted my father's and son's SAR papers this week. Please ask your readers, how many DAR and SAR are in your group of readers? Thanks you for all that you do!"*

### **DAR**

Following up on Diane's excellent suggestion, are there any DAR or SAR members who would be willing to assist someone working on their application to the Daughters, Sons or Children of the Revolution? If so, let us know who you are and what line(s) you would help with and we will publish in this newsletter in order for people to make connections. Mary Ruth Andrews also asked if we have any Revolutionary War participants in the Armfield clan? She has submitted DAR papers on her Templeton line and plans on pursuing other lines in the future. She did not find any "Armfield" in the DAR list of participants and wondered if anyone knows of any?

### **Gone But Not Forgotten**

Pam Schrock wrote that they have lost another loving person from their family. Her aunt Elsie passed away. She was married to Henry Armfield the son of Moses Arthur Armfield. Rebecca Armfield Smith has placed her information on findagrave; <http://www.findagrave.com>

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