

### Letter from the Editors

There are certain events in our lives that emphasize how rapidly time goes by. The production of this newsletter is one of those events. For some of our readers the time between newsletters seems long, but for us it is as though we just get one done and then it's off to start another. It is a labor we enjoy and will continue as long as we can and as long as we have interested readers.

In our last issue, we began looking at what we know about the Armfield females starting with Ann Armfield daughter of Isaac, Sr. As we do not know anything about any of his other daughters, we are moving on to the daughters of William Armfield, Sr. beginning with his oldest daughter **Mary Armfield** (1759-1827) who married **Jacob Brown** son of Thomas Brown and Margaret Moon. Several of our readers are researching the Armfield - Brown lines and have made many contributions for the newsletter. Thank-you all. We will cite as much of your work as we have room for in this issue.

*Joyce & Connie*

### Mary Armfield & Jacob Brown

Some information on Mary & Jacob appeared in our March 2007 issue. Mary Armfield was born about 1759. According to the Early NC Census Records of 1755 and 1759, her father William was residing in Rowan County, NC in 1755. That would seem to suggest that Mary was born in NC rather than PA. She married Jacob Brown in 1776 in NC, bond date was 1 Nov 1776. Jacob and Mary had twelve children all born in North Carolina: Jane, Moses, Thomas, William, Jacob, Jr., Nancy Anne, Mary/Polly, Rachel, Solomon, Isaac, Margaret, and Jonathan.. In 1805 the Brown family were received on certificate at Fairfield MM in Highland County, OH. About 1822 they were in Henry County, Indiana. Mary died 3 Dec 1827 in New Castle, Henry, IN of consumption and was buried in the Flat Rock Friends Cemetery located east of New Castle on Brown Road. Jacob was also buried at Flat Rock Friends Cemetery after his death 9 Jun 1831. Jacob's headstone reads "Jacob Brown, Continental Line, Rev War, Jan 14, 1755, Jun 9, 1831, Husband of Mary Armfield".

Ethel M. Taylor has been researching the Armfield and Brown families for several years. Last September she sent Joyce several articles including the following Brown Sketch, "Record of John A. Brown" written in 1894 by John A. Brown, son of Solomon and Lydia (Adams) Brown and grandson of Jacob and Mary (Armfield) Brown. She had received a copy a number of years ago. The original manuscript in John A. Brown's handwriting was last known to be in the possession of Herbert Brown of Gallatin, MO. It gives us a wonderful snapshot of what life was like for Mary Armfield Brown.

## RECORD OF JOHN A. BROWN

On the 12th of October, 1894, a few of our friends and relatives met at the cottage house in Jameson, Daviess County, Mo. to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of my father's birth. I drew up a short sketch of the early history and traditions of the family at that time. Several of the descendants requested a more full account to be written.

I now proceed to narrate some of the early events connected with our family as I learned from conversations I have heard between my father and grandfather.

According to their understanding of the family tradition, they were of Anglo-Saxon origin, living in England in the days when men were persecuted for righteousness sake. They were denied political and religious liberty in that country. So in order to enjoy those blessings they left the land of their nativity and the graves of their father to settle in a howling wilderness, filled with savage men and beasts, undergoing all the hardships of a new country.

Our ancestors were Quakers and they were obnoxious to the ruling powers of England at that time (1680). William Penn, a leading spirit at that time, gained the goodwill of Charles and got a grant of land in the new world, that took his name as the colony of Pennsylvania. Our forefathers came with him and settled in that colony at the date given above\*.

There were three brothers left there in the first half of the 18th century and settled on the eastern coast of North Carolina.\*\* My great grandfather, Thomas Brown, and Margaret [Moon], his wife, then emigrated to the old North State. though colony at that time.

There my grandfather was born in 1755. His older brother also named Thomas, at an early date moved to the Northwest part of the colony, when it was infested with hostile Indians. The early settlers had to build a blockhouse to protect themselves from the Indians.

The hoe at that time was the main implement used in raising corn. The men would go out in companies to hoe their corn, taking their guns with them to protect themselves from the Indians. One of those occasions it was drizzling rain, so they put their guns in a large hollow tree about the middle of the field, to keep their powder dry. They were ambushed by the Indians, who fired on them from the brush, but luckily hit none of them.

They dropped their guns, leaped over the fence tomahawks in hand, made swift pursuit, our boys made for the hollow tree, Thomas Brown, my father's uncle, was said to be very swift on foot. He got to the tree first, shot three of the redskins before they could get out of their reach.

It was common at that time for the men to wear their hair long, and plat it and let it hang down their backs. In the race to the hollow tree, when my great uncle got to the Indians, one of the Indians was so close to one of the whites that he was reaching to catch him by his long platted hair, but the crack of the deadly rifle stopped him in his mad career and saved the white man. The Indians, finding that the whites had their guns, fled.

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\*No proof has been found of the Browns coming with William Penn however the Moon Ancestors were in Pennsylvania by the 7<sup>th</sup> of 8<sup>th</sup> mo. 1682

\*\*The Brohms lived in the Piedmont area of North Carolina, not on the eastern coast.

Thomas Brown was a regular Daniel Boone of a man, used to all the hardships of frontier life. He soon after took the small pox and died. His youngest brother was named Moses. He went to the new settlement on the Yadkin River, to take care of his brother's family. He did not seem to understand Indian tactics as well as his brother, for they came around the field and hollowed like a crow. He, not suspecting anything, went out with his gun to kill the crow and was waylaid and shot. They ran in to scalp him but a negro man and two bull dogs came to the rescue and chased them off.

Soon after this event the Indians became so troublesome that the people from the lower part of the state went up to guard the settlers to the older settlement. My grandfather, Jacob Brown, went up to help move his sister-in-law and children back to the older settlements. The families were living in a blockhouse. Their stock was running on the range. The young men were sent out for the horses, grandfather with them. When they returned, each one riding and leading a horse down the lane leading to the blockhouse, They were fired upon by the Indians who were concealed in the corn on each side of the lane.

They immediately faced about and retreated as fast as their horses could carry them, letting go the horses they were leading. They continued their flight until they considered themselves out of danger, then held a council of war. They did not know the force of the Indians, nor the fate of the people at the blockhouse. It was decided to make a circuitous route and strike the road leading from the settlement, which they immediately did.

When they got to the road they saw that the people of the blockhouse had just passed, as the sand was still dropping in the wagon tracks. It was a great relief to them to find that they had made their escape. They were not molested again until they came to the Yadkin River.

They had formed a company that went up to guard them back. It was formed into the van and rear guard. The wagons and women and children formed the center between the two guards. Just as the vanguard had crossed the Yadkin, the Indians fired on them and ran in with whoops and yells common to savages, to the center of the procession occupied by the women and children. The rear guard rushed up to their protection where they had a hand to hand fight for some minutes. They could not use their guns on account of the women and children. There was one big stalwart Indian that seemed to be a leader came in contact with an equally large stout white man. The white man could clinch with him and throw him to the ground. but he was nearly in a nude state, with his body greased, and when he would let go with one hand to get his knife to dispatch him, the Indian would get up. While this was going on, he had just throwed the Indian down, when another Indian ran up and ran a spear in the white man's back, from the effects of which he died that night. Just at that moment a white man punched that Indian in the side with his rifle and fired. The Indian jumped up high in the air and fell dead on the spot. No wonder they sought every opportunity to kill and drive them from the country.

Such was the situation of affairs at that time. About this time the vanguard recrossed the river and the Indians fled. They were not molested anymore on their journey to the settlement. The next event that I will note took place sometime after this. Grandfather had moved up to the new settlement and was married to Mary Armfield. They had a cabin and a small field cleared in the woods. The settlers would go out to their cabins or fields in the daytime and return to the blockhouse at night for protection against the Indians who still infested the country. This seemed to be their hunting ground and they came back in small squads for the sake of the game. No wonder they were terribly enraged to find the white

man appropriating it to their own use. Grandfather and mother went out to their farm to labor as usual in daytime and returned to the blockhouse at night. Grandfather proposed to his wife to stay at the cabin that night, not thinking she would do so. But she told him she would stay if he would, it would not do for him to back out then, so they agreed to stay. They both regretted it before morning. For soon after dark the dogs barked, indicating that there was someone prowling around, whom they could easily imagine were Indians. So they went up in the loft with gun in hand, intending to see out as clear as possible. He opened places in the roof to shoot through, while she cut bullet patching and measured out charges of powder on her apron, spread on the floor so as to facilitate the firing. Thus they spent the night, watching and waiting, but no Indians came, they very agreeably disappointed. But it was the last night they stayed out of the blockhouse during the Indian troubles.

Hostilities became general. The Indians raised in large numbers to exterminate the whites or drive them from what they believed to be their hunting ground. The whites from the older settlements came up in large numbers to be there for protection. They rallied their forces and went into a general engagement. The Indians, contrary to their general custom, formed their line of battle and marched boldly up to the engagement. I heard grandfather tell of the battle, as he was engaged in it.

He said he saw one large painted Indian with feathers in his hair. He did not march in a straight line, but skipped from side to side. He took him to be the chief. He said when he had orders to fire, he aimed right at him and that was the last he ever saw of him. After a few rounds, the Indians fled, carrying off their dead and wounded. This closed his Indian fighting. He never had any love for them as long as he lived. When ever they were mentioned he would lose his temper. He had no good word for them. The murder of his brother and the many atrocities that they committed on the frontier in his younger days embittered his whole life against them. Such is life.

The foregoing events took place about the commencement of the Revolutionary War. Grandfather was a Quaker and their religion required them to oppose war; still he fought the Indians, but refused to volunteer to fight the British. They drafted him and took him into the regular service. He was under General Green when he fell back from South Carolina to Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. That was in an adjoining county to where he lived (which was Surry). Grandmother, hearing that Green was retreated north, in company with another lady who had a husband in the army, prepared such clothing and provisions as their limited means would permit and started on horse back to meet their husbands. When they came to the Yadkin river, it was up. They did not know whether it was fordable or not. Grandmother rode in to see. As soon as she was fairly in her horse was swimming and commenced plunging and threw her into the river. She held onto the bridle reins, the horse swimming around her. The other woman screamed with all her might. Two men travelling on the road, hearing the screams at the river, came up as fast as their horses would carry them.

One of them threw off his outer clothing and plunged into the river to rescue the woman in the river, his companion begged him not to go in, telling him she would drown him if he did. He gave no heed but followed the promptings of humanity, swam to where she was, still gripping the bridle reins with a death grip. He tried to get the reins out of her hands but could not, so had to cut them and let the horse swim out, while he swam to shore with her in an unconscious state. He thus saved her life but she lost the clothing and provisions she was taking to her husband.

This took place a few days before the battle of Guilford Courthouse between the British commanded by Lord Cornwallis on one side and the Continental Soldiers commanded by Generals Green and Morgan. Grandfather and mother were both there at the time, one as a soldier, the other on a visit.

My grandfather had two brothers that moved in an early day and settled in the state of Mississippi near Natchez, of whom I know nothing, their wives whose given name was Lusutta. He had one brother that moved to the State of Georgia, whose descendants live there to this day. One who was appointed provisional Governor at the close of the Rebellion, was afterwards U.S. Senator a number of times. His name was Joseph, but generally went by the name of Joe Brown.\*

There was another brother named Samuel who settled in Preble County, Ohio, in the neighborhood where I was born. I have seen two of his sons and one of his daughters there, Samuel and Thomas. Their sister married a man by the name of Robert Thompson. I have been to his house. Grandfather lived and raised a large family, seven sons and five daughters. Their names are as follows; Hannah,\*\* who married a man named Carter. She did not live long. Moses, Thomas, Ann, who married John Hopris, Jacob, Polly, married James Mendenhall, Rachel married Wm. Adams, father of Wm. and Joel. Wm. who died before he was grown, Solomon, Isaac, Margaret who married John Mendenhall, brother to James, Jonathan, the youngest.

Father was born on the 12th day of October, 1794. Was married to Lydia Adams on New Years day, 1813. They must have left there in 1814 and settled in Preble County, Ohio, some of the family came before, some afterwards. The most of my uncles and aunts raised large families, whose descendants number many thousands and are scattered from Ohio to the Pacific Ocean.

My father lived ten years in Ohio, had five children born there, (I was fourth). The oldest, Matilda, was born in Carolina. They sold out and settled in Henry County, Indiana. Lived there ten years and died on the 9th of June, 1834, of milk sickness. His father and mother broke up housekeeping in 1826 in Ohio and moved out and lived with us until their deaths, hers in 1827 or 8, and he in 31 or 32, she of consumption in her 69th year. He in his 77th from the kick of a horse. They were buried at the Quaker cemetery on Flat Rock, my father by their side.

My father settled in Henry County, Indiana, in November 1824, in the green woods. He had gone before and built a round log cabin with clapboard roof, held on by weight poles, and puncheon floor. It was four miles west of us to the nearest settlement. The land was all vacant and continued so for ten or twelve years. The woods were filled with wolves, wild cats, deer, racoons, and wild hogs. The land was covered with heavy forest trees, consisting of beech, sugar tree, walnut, hickory nut, hackberry, white and red elm, white burr, red and pin oak, poplar, black, gray and blue ash, linn and buckeye. It took labor to make a farm at that time. It generally wore a man out to do so.

My father and mother had ten children born unto them, three girls and seven boys. The oldest, Matilda, in North Carolina on the 16th of Jan. 1814, the next a boy, born dead, Lewis on the 3rd of April, 1817, Polly, in 1819, Jacob, an infant son in 24, who died of croop

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\**This has not been proven.*

\*\**The oldest daughter's name was Jane/Jean. She married Isaac Carter.*

when three weeks old. He was the first person buried at the old Flat Rock grave yard. Rachel on the 14th of Feb. 28, J. Read in Aug. 30, B. Franklin in Jan. 32.

In conclusion I will say that on the 8th of Sept. 1841, I left home and came to Missouri, first to Andrew County, the same fall to Daviess County on the 18th of November. I wrote to my Mother and the rest of the family that winter to sell out and move here, which they did the following season. I went back to assist in moving. The balance of our history you have learned from conversations that you have heard me have with you and others. Mother lived until the 3rd of April, 1861.

To my children.

John A. Brown

#### COPY OF AFFIDAVIT

I, Pearl Cole Swisher, do hereby declare, that the typewritten copy of "Record left by John A. Brown" herein, enclosed is an exact copy of the unpublished record left by him, written with his own hand.

(signed ) Pearl Cole Swisher

Subscribed in my presence, and sworn to before me, by the said Pearl Cole Swisher, this 8th day of March, 1934.

(signed) Ruby Brown  
Notary Public in and for  
Page Co. Iowa

(seal)

My Commission Expires July 4th , 1936.

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

The 42nd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held Friday through Sunday, June 10-12, 2011. The conference will be held at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. 2010 was a record-setting year in terms of attendance, with over 1700 attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers filling the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport. They anticipate that their attendance numbers will grow slightly and they look forward to welcoming everyone to Burbank!

You'll find a highlight of the weekend at <http://scgsgenealogy.com/2011jam-home.htm> where you can also get details on registration, speakers, schedule, hotel reservations, etc. You can also write [SCGSJamboree@gmail.com](mailto:SCGSJamboree@gmail.com) with your questions. Paula Hinkle, Jamboree Co-Chair, Publicity also wants you all to know that the Southern CA Genealogical Society that an interactive smartphone application has been developed for Jamboree 2011. The app is available for iPhone, Android, BlackBerry and any other smartphone that has web-enabled browser capability. For more information, contact Paula at 818-415-5952 or write her at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91504.

## Comments & Contributions

For a little light-hearted fun, in March we heard from William Allen “Willie” Armfield, a descendant of William Armfield, Sr. His line comes down through William’s son Solomon (1767-1832) - Calvin C. - Joseph William - Leo Kirk - Lora A. and then Lora Armfield, Jr.

Willie has composed a song about William Armfield entitled “Quaker Bill” about the Battle of Guilford Courthouse which can be found on You Tube. He wants our readers to know that as a folk singer he took poetic license with the old family legend. It is not meant to be a historical piece and he hopes no one will be offended. Willie wrote; “Historians write only the truth, at least that’s the way it should be. Folk singers on the other hand, know that reality is just a word and what might have happened is often times more interesting than what really did.” You can search for it under willieallenmusic or quaker bill.

Doris Reiner wrote us after reading the piece in our March newsletter about early Armfield women which she thought was very interesting. She has submitted a few corrections. Thomas Cooper wasn't born in Manchester, England. He was born in Peach Bottom Twp., York County, PA. His father John Cooper was born in Kendal, England. Mary Abercrombie's parents were James Abercrombie and Rebecca Colgan. They were married in St. James Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA, Feb. 14, 1764. Mary was born in Scotland, but Doris feels they probably lived in Lancaster County, which was close to where the Cooper's lived. After all her years of researching, Doris has not found anything out about the origin of the Armfield Cooper name. She strongly feels that the Coopers may have been good friends with the Armfields and that they named their first daughter after the Armfield family, however, no relationship has been found. What a mystery!

Joyce and I would like to expand on the various Armfield connections including the Cooper family in future newsletters. If you would like to contribute to that topic, please write us.

Kay Sarris wrote us a while back about a book she had read, [A Breath of Snow and Ashes](#) by Diana Gabaldon. She wrote that the story was like reading about our family’s history. References are made to all of the happenings and the groups that we write about.

## Family Lines & Queries

Lynne & Richard B. Armfield are working on their Armfield family line which comes down through Isaac Armfield Jr. (Abt 1726 - 1784), son of Isaac Sr. - Joseph C Armfield - Richard Beeson - Wyatt Jackson - Walter Frank to the Richard Beesons. If you would like more information, or share what you have, contact Lynne at [tinywabbit@roadrunner.com](mailto:tinywabbit@roadrunner.com)

Linda Ferguson has been researching the Armfield family as well as her own lines for a number of years. She sent her thank-you for getting the newsletter out to other researchers. Her husband’s connection is through Sara Hunt who married George Ferguson. Sara/Sarah was the granddaughter of Adella Armfield (1847 - 1936) who married John Calvin Kirkman. Adella was the daughter of Ithamer Armfield who was the son of Joseph B. Armfield (1785 - 1880). Sara's father, John C. Kirkman, was the son of Ann Eliza (Jane) Armfield (1825 - 1907) married to Andrew Kirkman. Ann’s father was Solomon Armfield. As you know, Joseph B. and Solomon were half-brothers, sharing

William Armfield as their father; each with a different mother. To connect up with Linda, write [cior@aol.com](mailto:cior@aol.com)

### **DNA Projects**

Fredric Z. Saunders is the administrator of the SHORT DNA Project. He wrote us that in regard to Thankful Bland (Abt 1806 - 1875) who married Robert Armfield, son of William (Sheriff Billy) Armfield in 1827, she having previously had a bastardy bond with Jonathan Short, Jr., it appears that the child (Jonathan Milton Short) was biologically an ARMFIELD, not a SHORT. Go to <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/short/results> to view this project and go to S-72. Make sure to look at the Patriarch's and Discussion pages.

Following is Fredric's discussion of the Short - Armfield DNA results:

"For the Jonathan Milton Short descendant (S-72), there are seven descendants from various lines of the SHORT family of Guilford County that all match each other. When S-72 did not match, the first thing I did was go to ysearch to see if there were any matches, and found the only match was with Armfield (Paula's listing).

There are no other listings on the FTDNA Armfield website except hers. S-72 differs only on markers 570 and CDYa, which are two of the fastest mutating markers. So fast, that some projects ignore differences on 570 and CDY a and b when determining if people are related. There is no doubt that S-72 shares a common direct line male ancestor with Paula, so biologically he is an Armfield.

Jonathan Milton Short was born 4 Dec 1825 in Guilford County. At the next court session in Feb 1826 Thankful Bland charged Jonathan SHORT, Jr. (born about 1806) as being the father of a child she had. At the same time they obtained a marriage bond, but may have never actually married, as there is no divorce for them. A year later in 1827 she married Robert Armfield. When Robert divorced her, part of his deposition was that she had an affair with Jonathan Short for a couple years after they were married (in addition to the present one with Gorrell Forbis).

Since S-72 is a biological Armfield, she was having affairs with both Jonathan Short, Jr. and an Armfield before she married, and when she became pregnant, she charged Jonathan as being the father, perhaps because he promised to marry her. When they obtained the bond, but perhaps didn't marry, then she married Robert Armfield and continued her affair with Jonathan Short, Jr. After he died, she later started her affair with Gorrell Forbis, with whom she ran off to KY and Ohio, and later married him in 1856.

Rick Saunders, Apr 2011"