

Letter from the Editors

Our plan was to return to a discussion of the females of the early Armfield men, in particular Isaac Jr. {2}. However, in reviewing what we have and what we know, we realized that we don't have much more than what has been covered in earlier newsletters and we have not discovered any new information to share with you. We really would like to hear from you about your ideas and suggestions as to what you would like to read about in future newsletters. If you would like a particular line discussed or have a family story to share as Lee Barber has done, please let us know. Fortunately, Lee Barber contributed an update to his family story on **Hance G. Armfield**, which is our featured article. Hance G. was first discussed in our Dec 2007 issue which looked at Isaac Armfield, Jr. [2], his children and grandchildren. *Joyce & Connie*

110 Year Mystery Revisited

by Lee Barber, April 2012

In the Sep 2011 edition of the Armfield Newsletter was my story "A 110+ Year Family Mystery Solved". The story is of my grandfather Paul Armfield, born 3 Aug 1894. He never really knew much about his father Hance G Armfield, born 17 July 1844. Somewhere around the age of 7 or 8 my grandfather no longer had a father. After the 1900 Jefferson Co.. Birmingham, AL census, Hance G. Armfield disappeared from my grandfather's life. With this loss went any knowledge of who his father was and all of the Armfield aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents he should have known, but never did. He carried the Armfield surname for the rest of his life never knowing the grand long history the Armfield name has.

As stated in the Sep 2011 Armfield Newsletter, my grandfather told of how his father Hance G. Armfield occasionally did contract work for the federal government, that work being the nature of a bounty hunter. According to my great grandmother Martha Victoria Pearson who was married to Hance, Hance G. was on one of those pursuits and was killed in action. Due to evidence that has come to my attention lately, this was probably a story used by Martha to comfort her son Paul and to cover up why Hance G. left his wife and son behind.

To fully understand what happened, I looked at the 1900 US Federal Census. In this census Martha Victoria "Mattie" Armfield was listed with her husband H. G. Armfield and their two sons, Paul age 5 and Clarence age 2. Martha "Mattie" and H. G. were recorded as having been married seven years which would put their marriage year at c. 1893. My grandfather's birth certificate states that he was born 3 Aug 1894. Clarence died 28 Nov 1900. His death is documented by his obituary in the Birmingham News and Martha's family Bible.

According to Martha's family Bible, there were two other children from a previous marriage/relationship. These two children were written in the family Bible as Addie Marthey Armfield and William Worthy Diffie. Addie and William were both assumed to be boys, my grandfather Paul Armfield's half-brothers. Due to recent documentation that has come to my attention, Addie Marthey Armfield, born 22 or 23 of April 1884, turns out to be female, Addie Martishey Armfield also know as "Tishia". Addie Marthey "Tishia" Armfield was living in Spartanburg, SC with her mother Hattie Armfield, Hance G. Armfield's first wife.

The other half-brother William Worthy Diffie born 5 July 1888 was Martha Victoria's son from a previous marriage/relationship. Martha Victoria was born in GA and lived in Tallapoosa, GA. Among my family photo's I found a picture of a child; on the front is written the name Will Diffie and on the back is the photographer's address, Tallaposa, GA. William was the half-brother my grandfather, who as a small child followed him to the train station and never saw him again. According to the 1900 Blount Co., AL census, William Diffie, age 11, was listed as living and a house servant. Unbeknownst to my grandfather, William "Will" Diffey until his death in 1944 and my grandfather lived within 40 miles of each other. Will Diffie's (now Diffy) death certificate gave Martha Pearson as his mother. He and his wife Leila/Lela married 9 Nov 1906 in Birmingham, Jefferson Co., AL and had seven children. Sources can be found at familysearch.org.

Hance G. Armfield was not dead as my grandfather thought. He was living in Spartanburg, SC with his first wife, Hattie Armfield and died in 1915. My grandfather Paul Armfield grew up thinking he had no living Armfield or Diffie relatives. It turns out that Addie Marthey "Tishia" Armfield, William Diffie and Hance G. his father, lived on for a number of years. How do I know this? Keeping the 1900 census in mind which recorded Martha and Hance G. were married in 1893 and had two children, Paul, 1894 and Clarence, 1898, the census reports for 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 seem to clarify what happened.

A complicating factor is that a Mattie in AL and a Hattie in SC were both claiming to be the wives of Hance G. and both claimed to be born in GA in the 1860's. One would think these two women were the same person, but they were not. The census records for AL and SC showed Mattie Armfield living in AL and Hattie Armfield living in SC. Based on these census reports, marriage and death certificates, this is what I believe happened. Clarence Armfield died 28 Nov 1900, the last year for Hance G. to be listed with his wife Martha Victoria. Either they mutually agreed to dissolve their marriage or he just up and left. The Spartanburg, SC census for 1900 recorded Hattie Armfield as a widow with a daughter "Tissie" age 17, which would make her birth year c.1884 which is the year Addie Marthey "Martishe/Tishia" was born. The 1910 census showed Hance G. living with Hattie and stated that they had been married 27 years. This would put their marriage year as c.1883, one year before Addie Marthey "Martishe/Tishia" was born In April 1884. In 1910 Hance G. acknowledged that he and Hattie had been married 27 years, yet during this 27 year time frame of marriage to Hattie (1883-1910), he was living in Alabama where he was married to Mattie from 1893 to c. 1900.

This is most interesting for in the 1900 census Hattie Armfield of SC stated she was a widow. This raises many uncomfortable questions and presents a new mystery

concerning Hance G. Why is Hattie of SC claiming to be a widow in 1900 and had been married to Hance G. 27 years by 1910? Had he left Hattie with a child who was Addie Marthy "Tishia" in the 1890's, gone to Alabama and married Martha "Mattie" in 1893? Why would Hattie claim to be a widow in 1900 and then Martha claim to be a widow after he left her after 1900? He left both women leaving them to claim they were widows. This was an era when divorce was frowned upon which may have influenced both of them to claim to be widows. Did he just up and leave Hattie of SC with a child and then do the same thing to Mattie of AL? Unless marriage and divorce documents are found, we will never know the answer to this.

Hattie of SC may have claimed to be a widow in 1900, but by 1910 she and Hance were claiming to be married for 27 years. Maybe Hance and Hattie mutually agreed to separate. Maybe she or a family member knew where he was. My basis for this idea is based on the idea that maybe Hance received word of the marriage of his oldest daughter Addie "Tishia" in SC and the upcoming birth of her twins.

Addie Martishey Armfield married William Raleigh Corn. Tishia Armfield Corn was born 23 April 1883 and died 23 May 1905. William Raleigh Corn was born 2 Jan 1882; died 16 Nov 1952. Interestingly Addie Martishey "Tishia" gave birth to twin boys, Lance and Hance (namesake) on 21 May 1905 and these twin boys died on 27 June 1905. This meant that Hance G's and Hattie's daughter Tishia gave birth to twin boys that died five weeks after they were born. Sadly Tishia died two days after child birth. Tishia and her twin sons were buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Spartanburg, SC. Documentation can be found at cornpatch.org/getperson and at findagrave.org.

Hance G Armfield died on 2 Oct 1915 in Spartanburg, SC and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery where his daughter and her twins were buried 10 years earlier. This is documented in his death certificate #20595 signed by his wife Hattie Armfield on 2 Oct 1915. He died of Lobular pneumonia. Hance had been gainfully employed as a butcher.

Returning to Martha "Mattie" in AL, Hance must have left Martha around 1901 or 1902. On 19 Jan 1903, Martha "Mattie" Pearson, Pearson being her maiden name, married George W. Bone in Jefferson Co., Birmingham, AL. Sources are Alabama Marriages 1867-1957 and familysearch.org. They lived the rest of their lives happily married until Martha died 22 May 1937 and George died a widower on 3 Dec 1939. Both were buried at Young's Chapel Methodist Church, Hoakes Bluff, Etowah Co., AL.

Thanks to the Armfield Newsletter, Ancestry.com and the internet, my 110+ year mystery has been mostly solved. I have gone from not knowing who the Armfields were to knowing that my grandfather's father, Hance G. Armfield was the son of Robert Armfield, who was the son of William Armfield (Sheriff Billy) who was the son on Isaac Armfield Jr. A family who came to America in the 1600's, where Quakers, witnessed the American Revolution and were important in the settlement of North Carolina.

I have further learned that Addie/Tishia Armfield, William Diffie and Hance G Armfield, who my grandfather assumed were not alive, had lived on for a number of years. This discovery came via an e-mail from Derita Swann, a distant cousin on the Martha Victoria

Pearson side of the family, who reads the Armfield Newsletter, has researched this line for forty years and passed this information on to me.

My quest to learn more about the Armfield family will continue. Acting as proxy for my grandfather Paul Armfield, I hope to go to Oakwood Cemetery in Spartanburg, SC and visit the grave sites of Hance G Armfield, his daughter Addie Martishey and her twin boys Hance and Lance. I further hope to meet descendants of William Diffie who live within 80 miles of my home. Hopefully this will bring everything full circle. LB

Hance G. Armfield

Hance G. Armfield was the son of Robert Armfield born about 1796 in Guilford Co., NC and Deborah Lovett born 9 May 1820 in Guilford Co. They married 1 Oct 1840 according to North Carolina Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868, record #01 017 and the North Carolina Marriage Collection, 1741-2004. Their bond date and marriage date were recorded as the same date and their bondsman was Job Worth. In our Dec 2007 newsletter we had written that this Robert had been married first to Thankful Bland. We now believe this to be incorrect and discussed it further in the Dec 2011 issue.

The family can be found in the 1850 US Census Southern Division, Guilford, NC with children recorded as Boston, Cynthia, Adeline and Hans G. Deborah was a widow in the 1870 US Census Deep River (Half), Guilford, NC with children Adaline, Green, William, Isabel and Martitia. She had personal estate value of \$125. In the 1900 US Census Jamestown, Guilford, NC Deborah was 80 yrs old and residing with her daughter Isabell and son-in-law William W Hayworth. After Deborah's death in 1901 she was buried in the Springfield Friends Meeting House Cemetery High Point, Guilford, NC. A picture of her headstone can be seen at www.findagrave.com.

Record Type: Gravestone Inscription

Name: Deborah Lovett Armfield Date: 3/1/1901 Source: Springfield Notes: b. May 9, 1820. d. Mar. 1, 1901.

In the 1850 census Robert was aged 54, a saddler. It would be reasonable to assume Robert was married before he married Deborah, but we have no proof of that. There were Robert Armfields recorded in the 1830 and 1840 census in Guilford County, but we don't have proof as to what family these Roberts belonged to. It is possible Robert was still living with his parents in 1830 as a census we believe could belong to William Armfield, Esquire was "Sheriff Billy" which showed a male in the home abt. 34 yrs of age which could be Robert if he was born in 1796. Deborah's parents are unknown.

Hance G. was named after his uncle Hance Green Armfield born 17 Feb 1800 in Guilford County, NC and died 2 Feb 1873 probably in Rankin County, MI. He was buried in the Fannin United Methodist Church Cemetery. A picture of the cemetery sign is posted at www.findagrave.com. Hance married Lucinda Gardner in 1831 and by 1850 they were living in Mississippi. Harmon B. Armfield appeared in the "Guilford County Bastardy Bonds and Papers, 1799, 1816-1834", abstracted by Mary A. Browning and placed in the "Guilford Genealogist", Vol. 16, #1. Bastardy bonds were a means of insuring that those responsible for a child's birth would be responsible for their support. The abstracted bonds can be found in the NC Archives catalogued as C.R.46.102.1. "Hance

G. Armfield, Father Betsey Knight, Mother 25 Nov 1825, Bond of 500 pounds, Bondsmen were Robert Armfield and Benjamin Starbuck."

Hance and Lucinda did not have children of their own. In his will, Hance left a portion of his estate to some of his nieces and nephews to be used for their education. The siblings mentioned along with his wife Lucinda were brothers: "William, Jacob B. referred to as his deceased brother, youngest brother Robert, Joseph, Isaac referred to as his deceased brother". Others mentioned were Isaac's daughter Fannie and their son G. Norwood, and Hance's sister Delilah Spain. Hance's will was approved and filed on 30 Jul 1875, when he was referred to as being deceased. Sources: "Rankin County, Mississippi Cemetery Records, 1824-1980", (976.259, R211r), Fannin Methodist Church entry; "Mississippi Index of Wills, 1800-1900", (976.2, W756) Armfield, Hance, Ran, 1-141, 1875.

Robert Armfield Addendum

Regarding our last two newsletters, we will review some thoughts we've had. On page 4, the last paragraph of Clara's estate read "And that the said Mrs. Elizabeth Martin & Mrs. Belle Gertrude McCormick be put in possession". Clara's mother in this paragraph was referred to as Mrs. Elizabeth Martin when she was called Elizabeth Allison earlier in the document. That is not a typo, rather, one of a couple of variances found in these records. When Joyce transcribed the papers, the date of one will was 1854, not the dates of 1851 and 1856. On page 2, next to the last paragraph "a copy of which is this day filed, be approved and registered and executes" sounds like the will or wills were put in the court records. It might be possible that these are still located at the courthouse. If the divorce papers of Robert and Elizabeth could be located they may prove that Robert G. and R. G. of TN were the same man.

We have no idea who the John and Jane Armfield were (1860 census). With the name of John, could he have been related to Robert G. or the John of TN? According to the census he was born c 1835 and we believe that was before Robert G. moved to NO and before he married Elizabeth. Could Robert have been married before and had a son? Was the black Sarah, age 40, the slave Clara owned? Who was the white Sarah, a housekeeper who owned real estate in the amount of \$4,000. We have more questions than answers and no evidence to prove any of these theories.

Contributions

Craig R. Scott, a leading historian, genealogist, author and the head of Heritage Books, who now lives in NC, gave a lecture on Quaker migration. Below is a compilation of some his talk. The source is The "SC-BUSHRIVERQUAKERS Digest", Vol 4, Issue 139 and was contributed by Rodney Williams who read it on a Rootsweb mailing list.

In the absence of a Quaker church on the frontier, Quakers often became Methodist, the faith least offensive to them. Quakers did not like managed churches, those who taxed from afar or those with outspoken ministers. They didn't believe headstones were appropriate and valued simplicity. They used fieldstones as grave markers. When tombstones began being inscribed, the Quakers chose the least showy. Quakers often married Germans, rather than Anglicans or Baptists who were more unlike them. They were familiar with the Germans in PA, although most Quakers were from the

British Isles. Writings of Quaker women can be very useful to genealogists as the information they contain may include the criminal and immoral acts of others which the men would tend not to write about.

The average number of moves made in one generation was one to two; one move usually upon marriage and one after the age of thirty. Most moves were to an adjacent area. When calamity beset a family, such as the death of a male spouse, the widow usually returned to her birth family taking with her, her younger children. This is where she may have met her future spouse.

Before the end of the Revolution, VA Quakers went South. After the Revolution, they moved to the north and west toward Ohio. Quakers generally were not first to settle in an area. Quakers settled where they had protection; not out in the wilderness and would move when war was imminent. Quakers with many slaves either had to release them or change their faith. It was not easy for wealthy Quakers to carry all of their belongings with them on the tiny paths called "highways" that led to new developments. Rural Quakers didn't think much of city dwelling Quakers; big city dwelling Quakers enjoyed big city luxuries and would not return to rural areas. They would sometimes return to big cities

Migration patterns were recorded by Quakers, i.e. when members visited other groups, for marriages, deaths, transgressions. Original records are useful since abstracts can omit major details. PA was the chief source of Quaker migration into VA and NC was their chief destination. Best route from Philadelphia to the NC back country was the Great Philadelphia Wagon Rd > west of the City Lancaster & York > over Potomac River at Noland's Ferry > Shenandoah Valley at Winchester > Staunton across the James River > Staunton River Gap to the Carolinas. Big cities from which Quakers migrated were Baltimore, Alexandria and Richmond. The largest city in VA during early migrations was Wheeling. Major cities involved in Quaker migration were Frederick, VA, and Frederick, MD. Major cuts through mountains were on the Potomac, Rappahannock, James and Roanoke Rivers. Fifty percent of the movement to the south and west before 1800 was to NC; others went to SC, GA, TN. Forty percent of Quaker migration to the south was by 1800. Most single men married within a year of moving.

By the Civil War, Quakers or those with mostly Quaker beliefs, were already in non-slave states, had freed their slaves, took the Union side or had left their faith. Quakers stayed with Quakers and former Quaker families even many generations after they had ceased being listed on meeting rolls. It may have been because of the shared sense of primary values, the comfort of old names and neighbors passed down with their oral history or the occasional intermarriages between allied families.

Rodney sent the following links for those researching their Quaker roots:
<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/other/Religion/SC-BUSHRIVERQUAKERS.html>

Another email group called Quaker Roots for those interested in all Quaker history, not just in the Bush River (Newberry, South Carolina) area can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~genepool/quaker-r.htm> and <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/quakerroots> There are several more Quaker related Rootsweb groups out there, which you can find by doing a search for 'quaker rootsweb group'. Rodney suggests subscribing in digest form, otherwise you may get overwhelmed by a flood of individual messages.

Genealogical Networking

John Bartlett/Bartley (© 1735-1807) of VA was recently verified as a patriot for furnishing supplies, Ancestor # A208435 by National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. His lineage connects with the Armfields when Margaret Ann Riley married Isaac "Ike" Armfield in 1835. John was the father of Elizabeth Bartley married to William Ballenger (a verified patriot) and the great grandfather of Margaret Ann Riley Armfield. He married Anne Settle.

Nan Abbott's 2nd great grandmother **Hannah Jane Armfield** born 18 Jan 1839 in Guilford Co., NC; died 8 Jan 1887 in Noblesville, Hamilton, IN; buried in the Fellowship Baptist Church Cemetery. Hannah's mother was Comfort Lovett born Jan 1813 in Guilford Co., NC; died 4 Aug 1913 in Charlottesville, Hancock, IN. Hannah's father was G. Norwood Armfield born c. 1807 in Guilford Co., died before the 1850 census. After her husband's death, Comfort and her children were considered indigent and were received help from the county. Comfort remarried to George Calvin Steele on 9 Feb 1857 and the couple later moved to IN. Hannah had three siblings: Irena born 1843, Susan born 1847 and Anna born 1848. In 1856 Hannah married Thomas Francis Hall and they had ten children: John Wesley, Mary E, Angeline F, Francis N, Albert S, Charles, Nellie, a baby who died, Jessie and Emma. genie158@msn.com

Southern California Genealogy Jamboree

The 43rd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held Friday, June 8, through Sunday, June 10, 2012, at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA. The theme for this year's Jamboree is Lights, Camera, ANCESTORS! Spotlight on Family History. The event celebrates the search for ancestors and the journey to uncover a family's history. The conference hotel is the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA. The negotiated conference rate is \$155 per night, with \$10 a night parking. Make your reservations before May 6th to get the special conference rate. The discounted room rate is in effect for June 5 through June 12th. To reserve your room, call 800-736-9712 and mention code GGGGGA or make your reservation online. We will provide room-mate matching services. jamboree@scgsgenealogy.com or Paula at phinkel@pacbell.net

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