

Letter From the Editors

Our first milestone has been reached with this newsletter. We have been in existence for one year and we still have a lot of ground to cover. Your comments have been very encouraging and continue to provide us with the incentive we need to keep writing. We hope to hear more from you regarding your research efforts, big or small, in future newsletters. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated and will add to what we have.

In this issue Joyce will continue with her look at The Armfield Sketch with a focus on William Armfield, Sr. and his family in hopes that we can clear up additional discrepancies in Sallie Stockard's Armfield Sketch. We will use the same format as the last newsletter with excerpts from Stockard's work first and Joyce's comments beneath.

As much as we dislike using circumstantial evidence as a source for a fact, it becomes necessary when primary sources are not available. We sincerely hope our readers will take this opportunity to share with all of us any primary sources/data they may have that we do not. As we will be referring to a number of wills, court records, and other documents, rather than attach these to the newsletter, we will cite the records and where they can be found, i.e., the NC Archives in Raleigh, NC or in our personal records which we will gladly share with you. Some of the collateral lines will have references taken from the book by Irene B. Webster, Guilford County North Carolina Will Abstracts, 1771-1841.

Connie & Joyce

A Time Line in progress for William Armfield, Sr.

Please submit to this Time Line by sending us entries in a similar format as the one below. We will add the data and include it in the next newsletter.

9 May 1757	Rowan Co., NC	Jos Carter, <u>Granville Land Grants</u> , S.S.L.G. III-D, Isaac Armfield, given as a Chain Carrier "for a tract of land admeasured unto Isaac Armfield."
1759	Rowan Co., NC	Wm. D. Kizziah, Register of Deeds, <u>A History of Rowan County</u> , Appendix A, p. 351.
1761	Rowan Co., NC	<u>Rowan County North Carolina Abstracts of Deeds 1755-1763</u> , Rowan Co Tax List 1761, p. 59.

1762	Rowan Co., NC	Jo White Linn, <u>Rowan County North Carolina Deed Abstracts</u> , Vol. II 1762-1772, 5:163, p. 14, 5:180, p. 16, 6:229, 230, p.67.
1762	Rowan Co., NC	Purchases land, Jack Perdue, "Eighteenth Century Guilford County Landowners", <u>Guilford Genealogist</u> , Vol. 12, (Fall 1984) No. 27.
8 Oct 1765	Rowan Co., NC	"Lease & release from Wm. Armfield to Thos. Wilson for 540 acres." Jo White Linn, <u>Abstracts of the Minutes of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions Rowan County, NC 1753-1762</u> , Book II:607-8, p. 47.
1768	Rowan Co.,NC	Thos. Donnell, "A List of Tithables For The Year 1768", <u>Rowan County Tax Lists</u> , 1760's, pg. 2683.
1776	North Carolina	<u>Military Collection, Troop Returns (1747-1859)</u> , Militia and Continental Returns, Box 1770-1778, NC Apr. 5 th , 1776, p. 2921, Tories in Jail, Wm. Armfield was listed as a prisoner in Hallifax Goal (jail).
1782	Guilford Co., NC	"Guilford (And Rockingham) County Tories, 1782", <u>Guilford Co., NC Court Minutes</u> , Nov. 1782, pgs. 49-50, as appeared in <u>NC Genealogy</u> , Summer 1967, p. 1870.
17 Aug ?	Salisbury Dist., NC	List of Certificates paid by Charles Bruce, Commissioner of Confiscation
1793	Guilford Co., NC	Warrant #1070, land survey for Wm.
7 Jun 1799	Guilford Co., NC	Grant number 1937 issued for acreage on the South Buffalo River (entered 14 Feb 1780), Book 101, p. 171.
28 Mar 1804	Guilford Co., NC	Irene B. Webster, <u>Will Abstracts 1771-1841</u> , Book A:11.
1812	Guilford Co., NC	Thornton W. Mitchell, <u>North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index, 1665-1900</u> , (Raleigh, NC 1987) Vol. I, A-J, recorded copy WB-A/10.

The Armfield Sketch

[1] *William, the oldest son of John...married Mary Hamilton...about 1745. They had seven sons: William (Little Billy), Robert, Nathan, Solomon, Jonathan, David and John, also three daughters... (p. 150) At the beginning of the Revolution, his father being very old...persuaded William to sell out and return to the old homestead...took care of his father until his death in 1792... (p. 151)*

[1a] William Armfield married Jean/Jane Hamilton. (Refer to Volume 1, Issue 4 Armfield newsletter, pg. 2, deed reference)

[1b] The will of William Armfield, Sr. wrote 28 March 1804 and probated in the May Term of 1812 in Guilford County, NC. William's children listed in the order as found in his will are: William, Mary Brown, Nathan, Solomon, Ann Field, David, and Joseph. At this point records don't reflect the eleven children mentioned in the Stockard piece. If that piece is true then they most likely predeceased their father.

A fifth son, Jonathan is a proven child through his will and estate settlement records. Jonathan wrote his will 24 January 1801 and it was probated in the February court of 1801. Jonathan names the following siblings: William, David, Nathan, Solomon, Joseph, Mary who has intermarried with Jacob Brown, and Nancy who has intermarried with William Fields.

William Armfield calls his daughter Ann Field while Jonathan refers to her as Nancy. Ann was often used as a nickname for Nancy up to the early 1800's.

[1c] In the Tax List of Thos. Donnell, Rowan Co., in 1768, an Isaac Armfield is shown living with Wm Armfield.

[2] *William Jr. (Little Billy), oldest son of William, the first, married Bettie Green of Jamestown. (p. 152)*

[2] William Jr. (Little Billy) born @1748/50 and died after 1833 and before 1840 in Guilford County, NC. William Jr. married Elizabeth Green 03 Apr 1772 (bond date or bd.) in Guilford County. William Jr. wrote a will 04 May 1832 and added a codicil 22 Jan 1833. No probate date was given.

[3] *One daughter married a Fields, another a Macy, and the third a Barnet. (p. 150)*

[3] Mary born 24 March 1759 and died 1827/28 in New Castle, Henry, IN. She married Jacob Brown, 01 Nov 1776 (bd.) Guilford Co., NC.

[4] *Nathan, third son of William the first, married Polly Dempsey ...Nathan represented Guilford in the State Senate for years ... The other (son)John, went to Tennessee and became a slave-trader, being a member of the firm of Armfield & Franklin. (p. 153)*

[4a] Nathan was born in 1762 and died 19 February 1839. He was buried in the Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church Cemetery. He married Jane Field @ 1791/92. A source for this marriage is found in the divorce petition of their daughter Elizabeth who married Moses Swaim in 1820. In 1844 Elizabeth came to Guilford County to seek a divorce from Moses, as well as claim her inheritance from the estate of her late parents. In her divorce petition she states her maternal grandfather was Jeremy (Jeremiah) Field and her grandmother was Mary (nee?) Field. The divorce was denied as she wasn't a resident of the state of NC. Shortly after Elizabeth married Moses in 1820 he took her to Maury County, TN where she was very unhappy and often left him during their marriage. Elizabeth was granted a divorce in TN. A descendant (the late Ruth Swaim Flowers) described Elizabeth as being very small in statue, very redheaded, stooped in her old age, and having the temperament of a redhead.

Elizabeth is buried between Holt's Corner and Caney Springs in an unmarked grave in TN.

[4b] Jane was born 1772 and died 20 May 1831. She is buried in the Pleasant Garden United Methodist Church Cemetery. Nathan died intestate, but there is an Estate Settlement surviving and probably generated when Elizabeth (Armfield) Swaim petitioned the Court for her share of her late father's estate. It names the children of Nathan and Jane (Field) Armfield as Elizabeth who married with Moses Swaim, Mary Hanna (married William Hanna/Hanner), and John Armfield. Elizabeth was able to get her share of the land or at least the value of her 1/3 share. Due to the laws governing married women at that time, Elizabeth couldn't collect her share personally. Again according to the late Ruth Swaim Flowers, Moses and their oldest son, Nathan Swaim went to Guilford County to get Elizabeth's share. They returned home to Maury County, TN empty handed as on the way home they bought some land for Nathan. The location of this land is not known.

[4c] The North Carolina Archives have no records that show Nathan ever represented Guilford in the Senate or House of Representatives. He was a Justice of the Peace in Guilford. In the book, Greensboro North Carolina The County Seat of Guilford, Ethel Stephens Arnett, (1955 and 1975), the only Armfield listed in the State Senators and Representatives from Guilford County 1777-1955 was a William Armfield, 1810, House of Representatives.

[4d] Son John is later known as "John the Slave Trader." There is quite a bit of information on this John on the internet.

[5] *Solomon, fourth son of William the first, married Thankful Cummings. (P.154)*

[5] Solomon was born in 1767 and died 10 December 1832 in Guilford County intestate. There is an Estate File for Solomon and his widow. Thankful petitioned the Court November Term 1843 stating she was entitled to her dower. Thankful received thirty-nine acres (more or less, the "Mansion" house and the out houses). Solomon married Thankful Cummings 28 March 1807 (bd.) in Stokes County, NC.

Thankful was born @1788 and died 30 November 1859. She was buried in the "old" 1st Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Greensboro, NC.

[6] *One daughter married a Fields ... (p.150)*

[6] Nancy/Ann born @1771 and died after 1815. A marriage bond found in Guilford County has the following, "Armfel, Mary An to William Feld 05 April 1791". This marriage bond appears to be in error due to the references we find in the wills of her father and brother Jonathan. A third reference that shows her connection to both the Armfield and Field families is found in the will of her husband, William Field. William's will dated 24 March 1815 and probated August 1815 names his wife as Nancy and lists the following children: Jane Hannah, Jeremiah, Jonathan and Nancy (Field). Executors are brother-in-law William Armfield, Nancy Field. Witnesses are Nathan Armfield and Jeremiah Field.

[7] *David, sixth son of William the first, married Betsy Trotter. (p 154)*

[7] David was born 1778/80 and died @ July 1845 in Guilford County, NC. He married Elizabeth Trotter @1797 in Guilford Co., NC. She was the d/o Josiah and Jane Trotter. Elizabeth was born 1763 in Maryland and died between 1850 - 1860. David died testate, will dated 26 November 1842 and probated August term 1845. There is also an Estate Settlement dated the third Monday of

February 1846 over the ownership of a “Negro boy” born after David wrote his will and a “Negro girl” David left to his daughter Elizabeth Millis. This child was not mentioned in the will and a suit followed to settle the issue of ownership. The court decided the child should be sold to the highest bidder which was \$50. The widow and six children each received \$2.86 2/4 and three grandchildren received 95 ½ as their portion from the sale.

[8] *Jonathan, fifth son of William the first, went to Indiana and died of cholera during the war of 1812. (p 154)*

[8a] Jonathan was born @1774 and died 24 January 1801. He married Elizabeth Dillon 17 October 1800 (bd.) in Guilford County, NC. As he predeceased his father and left no legitimate issue, he wasn't mentioned in his father's will. Jonathan left a will and a long Estate Settlement that stayed in the courts for a number of years before it was finally resolved in 1813. Jonathan's will of 1801 says, "... my well beloved wife Elizabeth Armfield one Negro girl named ...to be sold to the highest bidder ... give to my brother Solomon Armfield that tract I purchased of John McBride ...and my Just debts paid and the money put to interest seven years and the interest arriving there from During that time with one hundred pounds of the principle. I give a bequeath to Sarah Standley's son Jonathan Standly ... "

[8b] *Guilford Court Minutes*, Volume 3, page 98 has the following entry regarding name changes; Stanley-Armfield. The name of Jonathan Stanly "a natural born child" to be altered to that of Jonathan Armfield, February Term 1813. It was this Jonathan, s/o Jonathan and Sarah Stanley, grandson of William, Sr. and Jean/Jane Hamilton Armfield that was in IN before 1820. He was enumerated in the 1820 census of Washington Co., IN. *The History of Washington County, IN*, page 769 lists Jonathan as one of several people who died of Cholera on 01 January 1833. He was buried in the Crown Hill Cemetery.

[9] *John, seventh and last son of William Armfield by his first wife, married a Miss Avery and went to Tennessee. His oldest son, John, volunteered and went into the War of 1812. He fought in the Battle of New Orleans... (p 156)*

[9a]No record of a John that fits the above scenario has been found. The War College in PA has no record of this John. Apparently if there was a John, he predeceased his father as he wasn't mentioned in his will.

[9b] Two service records for Armfield's have been found for service in the War of 1812; Jacob, private with 2 Regt. (Cocke's) W. TN Militia and Isaac, sgt, 3 Regt. (Roulston's) W TN (Ancestry.com - War of 1812 Service Records).

[10] *William, the oldest son ... had seven sons ... also three daughters (10) ... & William Armfield had eleven children by his first wife ... (pgs 150 & 151)*

[10] We do not have information on the two/three of these children. If you do, we would love to share it with our readers.

[11] *William Armfield married a second time, Mrs. Lydia Fields...they had two more children after their marriage which made twenty-three in all. (P. 151/152)*

[11] There is no primary source to indicate when William Sr.'s first wife died. Jean/Jane was living 07 Oct 1765 when she signed a deed with her "mark". Most likely she was deceased by 07 Oct 1780 when the Battle of King's Mountain was fought. William married 2nd Lydia (Julian) Field, widow of Joseph Field who died at King's Mountain. It has been determined that Joseph was the first husband of

Lydia due to the fact Joseph was the only one of the four Field brothers who left no estate records. According to Stockard's History, William and Lydia had two children with one dying young. The source for much of the Armfield history has been attributed to Joseph B. the surviving child of William and Lydia. We do not have primary sources for the date of death of William or where he was buried, but this probably occurred shortly before his will was probated. In 1938 Mrs A.S. Tinsley and Myrtle H. Walters did a survey of the Walnut Grove Cemetery, formerly called Bull Run for the Historical Survey of North Carolina. Their records indicate Lydia was buried there. They recorded the following remarks; "Only inscription on stone "L.A. 1819"; married secondly William Armfield as his second wife. Mother of Joseph B. Armfield, Quakeress and initials and date permitted by the Church at the time of her death. Grave identified by descendant." Joseph B. and other Armfields are buried in this cemetery.

Readers Contributions and Thoughts

Gay C. is looking for information on the Great Wagon Road that led south from Philadelphia and went through Lancaster and York Counties down to NC. She feels the Armfields may have joined the migration somewhere along this route. Has anyone researched this historical event and have any ideas?

Gay also shared the following record from Land Records of York County, PA 1764-1771 by Mary Marshall Brewer, page 92; "1 Aug 1768. Power of Attorney. GEORGE HODGSON (HODSON) and RACHEL HODGSON (HODGEN) (HODSAN) of Roan Co, NC appoint my trusty and loving friend WILLIAM ARMFELD of same place, as he is to travel into York Co, our attn to ask, demand, sue for and recover all such sums of money, debts & goods belonging to us due of the estate of WILLIAM OLDAM our decd father by trustee guardianship of York Co by the authority of the orphans court... . Wit: THOS DONNELL, HENRY SIGFRET (SEGFRET), JOSEH BROWN. Ackn 30 Aug 1768 before MICHAEL SWOOPE esqr justice. SAML JOHNSTON recorder. (C:pg 485)
Gay also found a number of Hamiltons in York County. There was also a mention of an Andrew Hamilton in Bucks Co.

Maybe some of our readers would like to investigate some of these leads further and share any discoveries they may make!

Joyce A. found information on a Cooper Graveyard, Peach Bottom Twp, York County located just inside PA about 2 to 3 miles from the Mason-Dixon Line. Buried in the cemetery is a daughter of Thomas and Mary Morgan named Morgan, Armfield Cooper and Robert, husband of Armfield. Robert was from Hafford County, Md. Why was this daughter named Armfield?

Robert M.'s grandfather was William Martin Matthews. Wm. married Gertrude Armfield who was the daughter of Dr. Jesse M. Armfield and his wife Fannie. This family appears in the 1900 census record in Hickory, Oklahoma. In 1910 Jesse and Fannie were living in Oman, Arkansas. On an envelope Robert shared Jesse was noted as "Specialist on Cancers". Jesse, Fannie, and Gertrude are buried at the St. Paul Methodist Church Cemetery near Oman. If you are interested in this line you can e-mail Robert at robertdds@alaska.net

Editors Request

Your participation, involvement, and contributions are appreciated & essential!