

Letter From the Editors

A second milestone in the Armfield Family Newsletter is reached with this edition. Our first newsletter went out September 2005 to a readership of 64 people. We are now sending the newsletter to 97 people. Included in this number are copies sent to the Friends Historical Collection, Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, IN, and the Madison County Regional Library in Anderson, IN. We have received many positive comments over the past two years. Your feedback is very encouraging and greatly appreciated. We plan to produce the newsletter for another year, however, as Joyce and I work our way through the materials we have collected over the years, we will increasingly need your involvement and contributions in order to continue on. We hope that not only will you join us in our research efforts and share your discoveries, but also that you will share your family trees and histories with us so that we may incorporate them into the newsletter. As Diane Knight, a recent addition to our readership wrote in her salutation,

In Armfield History,

Joyce & Connie

Isaac Armfield, Jr. [2]

In our last issue we wrote about Isaac Sr. [1] and some of the children we had found records for. Remember this Isaac Sr. [1] correlates with John Armfield of "The Armfield Sketch" in Sallie W. Stockard's, History of Guilford County, North Carolina published in 1902, rpt. Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1983. We will be referring to this republished book when citing page numbers. Continuing with the children, we turn our attention to Isaac Jr. [2] and his family.

From the "Armfield Sketch", pp. 103-104, "Isaac, fourth son of the original John Armfield, married a Miss Brown, and lived on a farm near his father's place on South Buffalo. He fought with the North Carolina militia at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Although he had six sons, there are very few of his descendants bearing the name now living in Guilford County. These were his sons: John, William, Robert, Joseph C., Isaac and Jacob. His daughters were Ann and Betsy..."

From our records, Isaac Jr.[2] was born ca. 1737/1740; died after 20 December 1784 when he wrote his will. No probate date was shown in court records. It is only a guess, but he probably died soon after making his will, as he isn't listed in the 1790 Guilford County Census. In his will Isaac "gives to his beloved wife Elizabeth Armfield the plantation whereon I now live and all my personal estate... and to his two eldest sons William Armfield and John Armfield my tract of land whereon I now live containing two hundred acres to be equally divided between them at the death or marriage of my widow..." Deed records of Guilford County do not show when or how Isaac came to own the 200 acres of land mentioned in his will that he bequeathed to his two oldest sons. Isaac gives "to his daughter Sarah Armfield the first colt that shall be folded from my stock." Sarah may have been near the age of William and John as she is mentioned

separately from the younger children as well as later included with them. The younger children named in Isaac's will were Isaac (denoted as Isaac [3]), Ann, Joseph, Jacob, and Elizabeth.

Isaac appointed "his Beloved son William and loving Brother William my whole and sole Executors of this my last will & Testament..." The will was signed "Twentieth Day of the Twelfth month in the year of one thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty four". Witnesses were Enoch Macy, William Armfield and Nathan Armfield. Isaac like his brother William signed his will with his mark as they did on all known documents. (NC Archives, Raleigh, Guilford Co. Will Abstracts, WB A:03) We have a photocopy of this will that we can send you upon your request.

Stockard's history also included a son Robert, "Robert, third son of Isaac...died young." If Isaac had a son named Robert he apparently did die young, as he wasn't mentioned in Isaac Jr.'s will. Isaac's daughter Sarah was not mentioned in the "Armfield Sketch".

In the "Armfield Sketch" Isaac married a Miss Brown. Nothing we have seen in court records seems to support this statement. What has been found in early court records shows a possible close relationship between the early Armfield's and the Jackson family. James Jackson of Guilford Co. left a will dated 24 March 1785; probated May 1789. Witnesses were Wm. Armfield, John Armfield, Nathan Armfield. The executors of James Jackson's will were Wm Armfield son of Isaac Armfield & Joseph Thornburg. Isaac Jr. [2] had a grandson named Wyatt Jackson, s/o Joseph C. Armfield. Neither the names of Wyatt or Jackson are traditional Armfield given names, but were handed down through the descendants of Isaac Jr.'s line for several generations. The will of James Jackson is located in the NC Archives as well as is a copy of Joseph C. Armfield's Family Bible. Joyce has the original family bible belonging to Joseph C. Is it possible that Isaac [2] married twice? The three oldest children, William, John & Sarah belonging to a first wife, a Miss Brown and the five youngest children; Isaac [3], Ann, Joseph C., Jacob, and Elizabeth children from a second marriage, possibly to an Elizabeth Jackson?

From Guilford County, NC, Court Minutes, November 1782, pp. 49-50, following the Revolutionary War, Isaac Armfield Jr. and his brother William Armfield Sr. among several others were summoned to Court. "It appearing to the Court that the following persons were called to appear & shew cause why their Estates should not be confiscated..." Apparently William Sr. and Isaac Jr. satisfied the court of their loyalty to the government, as there is no evidence that either brother had their land confiscated even though both were listed as Tories. To date no records have been located that list Isaac Jr. as taking an active part with the Tories either before or during the Revolutionary War as did his brother, William, Sr. The General Assembly of North Carolina passed a bill December 1787 allowing for claims of loss during the Revolutionary War. A claim was made as follows, "The Exors of Isc. Armfield for horse impressed in Contl. Service...50 pounds", *NC Revolutionary Army Accounts, Secretary of State Treasurer's and Comptrollers Papers*, Vol. V-VI, Part IV, Vol. VI, Book 21 by Weynette Parks Haun. We can send you a copy of the claim upon your request.

It is not known when Elizabeth Armfield wife of Isaac Jr. [2] died, but it may have been after 1800 and before 1810. The 1800 Guilford County census shows two Elizabeth Armfield's as heading a household with the following living in the respective households; Page 668

1 M (-10) 1 F (16-26)

2 M (16-26) 1 F (26-45)

1 M (45+) 1 F (45+)

This Elizabeth possibly was the widow of Isaac Jr. [2], and had some of her older children living in the household with her.

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No males 1 F (45+)

Possibly this Elizabeth was the widow of Jonathan Armfield s/o William Sr.

By the 1810 census of Guilford no one by the name of Elizabeth is found as the head of a household.

Children of Isaac Armfield, Jr. [2]

[1] *"William...familiarily known as "Sheriff Billy", was a well-known figure in his day and time. He was County Treasurer and Sheriff of Guilford for a number of years, being Sheriff at the time the courthouse was moved from Martinsville to Greensboro. He married Hannah Greene and lived near Pomona. They had a large family..."* (Stockard, History of Guilford Co., p. 104)

[1] William (Sheriff Billy) was born 1762; died 11 February 1842. He married Hannah Green about 1786. Hannah was born about 1764; died before 1850. Both are buried at Muir's Chapel Cemetery. The stones are old and no inscriptions remain. William (Sheriff Billy) was also known as William Armfield Esquire, an honorary title from his years of public service. William Esq. was appointed a Trustee in Guilford County 21 May 1800. On 20 August 1800 he was appointed a justice for one year. William was also elected sheriff for a number of years, serving a great part of his adult life in public service for Guilford County. In 1810 he was elected by a majority of votes (45) to represent the County of Guilford in the House of Commons. His obituary is located in the "Greensboro Patriot", Issue 15, Feb 1842. The Patriot says, "Near this place, on Friday the 11th inst., William Armfield Esq. in the 81st year of his age, who lived for the most part of his time a true patriot & devoted a great part of his life to public service. For the last 10 or 12 years he professed to know his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ; & after being an affectionate husband & father for upwards of fifty years has gone to sleep in the arms of death, with full & strong faith in the holy religion of his Savior."

[2] *John, the oldest, moved to Shelby County, Tennessee, about 1810..."* (Stockard, History of Guilford Co., p. 104)

[2] John born bet. 1760 - 1764; died 1833 in Sumner County, TN. John married in Guilford County an unknown Dunlap, d/o of John & Elizabeth Dunlap. John Dunlap left a will in Guilford County dated 27 January 1794; probated August 1805. He names a son John, daughter Margaret Dunlap, a son Robert, and a granddaughter Mary Armfield. John Armfield, Daniel Gillaspie (son of Col. John Gillaspie) and Margaret Dunlap were executors of his will (Irene B. Webster, Guilford Co., NC Will Abstracts, 1771-1841,

1979, rpt. Southern Historical Press, 1983). William Danner found this information in Special Collections, Reese Library, Augusta State University, Augusta, GA. Other information he shared on this line was that John and his wife migrated from NC to Shelby Co., TN ca. 1810 and then on to Sumner Co., TN by 1820. John had at least six children one of which he descends from. The 1790 US Census of Guilford County, NC has a John Armfield listed with 1 M (16+), 2 M (under 16), 1 F. John Armfield is listed in the Index to the 1820 Census of TN, compiled by Elizabeth Petty Bentley, 1981, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. , roll #137.

[3] Sarah born about 1769. No records other than the mention of her in her father's will have been found.

[4] *"Isaac Jr., fifth son of Isaac the first, lived near the present Vandalia..."* (Stockard, History of Guilford Co., p. 106)

[4] Isaac [3] born about 1772; died 22 January 1845; married Jane Armfield, d/o William (Little Billy) and Elizabeth Green, 17 November 1798 (Bd) in Guilford County. Jane was born about 1773; died after January 1841. Following the death of his father and after he came of age, Isaac [3] used the title of Senior following his name in court records. This made him the second Isaac Sr., but the third Isaac in the direct line of Isaac's. This was a rather common practice years ago. Isaac Sr. [3] wrote his will dated 12 January 1841; probated February Term 1845. The amount of his estate was \$104.85, but expenditures were paid out at \$114.10, showing a net loss of \$9.25.

[5] Ann born about 1774; died unknown. Ann married 04 Sept 1797 (Bd) Guilford County to John Green (NC Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868. Record # 01 175. Bond # 000055796. Bondsman: Isaac Armfield. Witness: Jno Hamilton, Ancestry.com). Little is known about John and Ann Green and Joyce and I have been trying to locate records for them. We have found nothing definitive. *The Guilford County Genealogist*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Spring 1978, has an entry concerning a Joseph Green Estate, 1851. "Joseph Green died in Guilford County, North Carolina in 1851 leaving neither wife nor children. He owned a tract of land 'on the waters of Moon's Creek of Reedy Fork, adjoining the lands of Cyrus Stanley, Cyrus Britton, and Jonathan Gardner, about 95 acres.' From the time of his death until 1855 his estate was not settled. All of his family had moved 'west', and even up to the division of proceeds of the sale of the property, all were not located..." Barnaby Newby of Hamilton County, IN wrote the court on 14 March 1853 regarding the heirs of Joseph Green. He refers to John Green of Mahaska County, Iowa as the "only brother living along with their two living sisters Sarah Green Farmer, Elizabeth Green Brewer. It appears they had a deceased sister Hannah Green Wilkerson King and a deceased brother Jacob Green whose daughter Rachel was the wife of Barnaby Newby. We found this John Green living with Curtis King (Hannah's second husband) and his second wife Matilda in the 1850 census of District 13, Wapello, Iowa. It shows his as 90 years of age and born in NC. He is no longer with this family in the 1860 census records. This may or may not be our John Green.

From records of Miriam Stephenson "John Dunlap and Elizabeth his wife to Ann Green her heirs during the Feb. Court 1806 in Guilford Co., NC." It was signed Wm., Isaac,

Jacob, and Betsy Armfield. We are not sure what this is. Was John Green deceased, was it a land transaction of some sort, or had John deserted the family? More research is certainly needed on this family.

[6] *Joseph C., was the fourth of the six sons of Isaac...Joseph was born January 3, 1776, therefore a subject of George III. He married Elizabeth Beeson. In 1795, he bought a farm on Deep River, near the present town of High Point, where some of his descendants still reside. Joseph C. held positions of trust in the county and in his church. He was coroner for years and deacon of the old Baptist Church at Jamestown.*" (Stockard, History of Guilford Co., pp. 104-105)

[6] Joseph C. born 03 January 1776; died 04 May 1853; buried in Deep River Friends Cemetery. Joseph married Elizabeth Beeson, d/o Richard & Mary Beeson, on 16 Nov 1800 in Guilford County. Elizabeth was born 14 Nov 1778; died 06 April 1849 and was buried with her husband in Deep River Friends Cemetery. Joseph C. was first appointed Coroner of Guilford County and served the county yearly until February 1832. The amount of bond money posted each year to insure that he "shall well and truly perform the duties of Coroner" varied from \$200 in 1832 to \$4,000 in later years. Various community citizens posted his yearly bond with Nathan Armfield being the most frequent name listed. Joseph C. left no will or estate settlement record, but there is an inventory in the North Carolina Archives, dated November Term 1853. It states Joseph C. sold some of his stock and crops in "his lifetime" and proceeds were applied to his debts and expenses. In the final settlement forty-four dollars and twenty-four cents was the balance of Joseph C's estate when all debts and expenses were paid.

[7] *"Jacob son of Isaac...never married."* (Stockard, History of Guilford Co., NC, p. 107)

[7] Jacob was born about 1778; died 06 January 1813 during the War of 1812. The 1800 Guilford County census lists a Jacob born 1774 with a wife of the same age as well as another female, age 45+. This Jacob seems to fit as being the son of Isaac Jr. [2] and Elizabeth. No marriage bond has been found for them. Jacob is not listed in the 1810 census and it is assumed he had moved to TN. In Tennesseans In the War of 1812, by Byron Sistler, Nashville, TN, B. Sistler & Assoc., p.54, 1992; Jacob Armsfield is listed as a private in the 2 Reg't under Colonel John Cocke and Captain Joseph Price, W. Tennessee Militia, d.1-6-1813. In his will, Jacob names his wife Elizabeth and a son and daughter. The children's names are not given. Elizabeth Armfield and Jacob, adm. bond and Jacob Armfield's inventory. Jacob's inventory (Will Book B, July term 1815) listed; Two head of horses, four head of cattle, some hogs, one shotgun, one man's saddle, one shovel plough, two pair drawing chains, one weeding hoe, one ax, one flax wheel, one ten gallon pot. Elisabeth signed her name with her mark (X). Sources for Jacob's will are: Tennessee Wills and Administrations, 1779-1861 by Byron Sistler, p. 10; Armfield, Jacob 1815 Record Book B, p. 280, Montgomery Co.; Montgomery Co., TN County Clerk Records, Vol B, p. 34, 1810-1818.

Elizabeth Armsfield can be found in the 1820 US Census in Montgomery Co., TN with 1 male 10-16, 1 female 16-26, and 2 females 45+ with one person engaged in farming.

[8] Elizabeth was born Abt. 1781. She married George Payne 07 December 1809 (Bd) Guilford County, (NC Marriage Bonds, 1741-1868, Ancestry.com). Apparently soon after their marriage they left Guilford County as they aren't found in Guilford County records. According to the on-line family tree of Patrick Barrett they settled in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Elizabeth died bet. 1840 -1850 and George died abt. 1860. A George Payn (Payne) was found in the 1850 census living in Wilkes, NC at the age of 70 with Narcissa Payn, age 24 and Amanda Payn, 22, William Church, five yrs. and another Payn, age 34. This George was living near an Alford B. Payne age 35 and his family. The on-line tree of Patrick Barrett gives a son on George and Elizabeth as Alford Burton Payne born ca. 1815.

QUERIES & FAMILY LINES

Jim Acree is trying to discover where he got his middle name of Armfield. His ggggrandfather John R. Acree moved to Tennessee from Bertie County, NC in 1803. He has not found any other Acrees with the Armfield name. Jimacree@bellsouth.net

Susan Wilkins writes that Jane Armfield (1813-1882), married Wilson Hendricks/Hendrix in 1833, one of twelve children of James Hendricks and Sarah Kirkman. Polly/Mary Hendricks (1811-1881) was the fourth child of James and Sarah Hendricks. She was listed in her father's will. She married Isaac Armfield [4] in 1834 in Guilford Co. Their children were; Marcus, Monroe, Frank, Martin, Annie, Jennie, Albert Loton, Elizabeth/Virginia, and Nancy. The Hendrick/Hendrix family lived in MD, NC, and McNairy County, TN. MURPHDOG@BELLSOUTH.NET

Diane Knight sends her line; William Armfield Sr.², Solomon³, Calvin⁴, Joseph⁵, Lawrence⁶, Russell⁷, Dale⁸. Hope you have a great reunion this fall! We would like to hear about it. phlipside@netzero.net

Carl Weatherly's paternal grandmother was Laura Armfield. Carl's line is down from John J. who married Lydia B. Hill 8 June 1865 (Bd) in Guilford Co. He was the son of Joseph B. Armfield and Nellie Stephenson. John J. died in Point Lookout, MD in the Confederate prison camp. cweatherly1@triad.rr.com

Elinor Topham (Elmer Armfield ⁶, Paris⁵, Jacob⁴, William Jr³, William Sr²) describes her grandfather Elmer as being a wonderful person who was respected and loved by those who knew him. She is looking for photos of any in this line. elinort@msn.com

Beverly Wagner's line is from William Armfield Sr. to Mary Armfield to Solomon Brown, to John Adam Brown to Mary Ellen Brown on down to her. She thanks us for getting this newsletter started. bwagner@wyoming.com

Mary Ruth Andrews appreciates what we are doing for the Armfield Family researchers. She appreciates the documented information and has learned a little more about her ggggrandparents. She traces her family from William Armfield¹ (Sheriff Billy), William Cameron², William Joseph³, Otto Franklin Armfield⁴ her grandfather. rudikazudi@aol.com

Aimee Green's great grandfather was John Armfield Green born ca. 1845 in South Carolina. He later moved to Alabama and resided in Covington County. His Civil War Pension shows him b. 24 Aug 1845; d. 24 June 1909 in Dozier, Covington, AL. He was to have been born in Langston County, SC, but Aimee can find no existence of Langston County. John m. Celie/Cely Ella Moody. Bazejumper@aol.com.

Diane Austin Armfield descends from Joseph B. Her fourth great grandfather was Ithamar (Thomas Ithamar) the gunsmith. austinrd@juno.com

Pam Schrock descends from Moses Arthur Armfield and Mary Ann Guice of LA. pamfs@sbcglobal.net

CONTRIBUTIONS

Mark Troemner sent the following story his wife's grandfather told him and their children in his declining years; "Old, infirm and mostly blind, the stories of his ancestry lived vibrant and real as the day his grandmother and grandfather had related them to him. His grandmother (Elizabeth Jane Armfield Lambert a daughter of Joab Armfield, s/o Isaac Armfield, s/o William Armfield Jr.) had told him how she had walked barefoot as a little girl from North Carolina to Indiana in the 1830's, passing through the Cumberland Gap, "in the footsteps of Daniel Boone himself". He writes that "he loves our newsletters and the information they convey" and promises to keep us in mind as he conducts his research. Thank-you Mark. We look forward to your research finds.

Jo Ann G. Post-Pendley sent a synopsis of an article from *The Guilford Genealogist*, Vol, 34, No. 1, Spring, 2007, Issue No. 116, p. 53 on the Guilford County Confederate Soldiers, compiled by J. Timothy Cole and Arthur Erickson. The source for this information comes from *North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: a Roster*, Raleigh, NC: Division of Archives and History, 1966-2003, Vol. 1-15.

Armfield, Albert	Pvt.	Infy	Co. G, 38 th Reg. NCT	[s/o Ithamer]
Armfield, Boston	Pvt.	Infy	Co. C, 45 th Reg. NCT	[s/o Robert]
Armfield, D.A.	Pvt.	Cvlry	Co. F, 19 th Reg. NCT 2 nd Reg. NC Cvlry	[David s/o Hamilton]
Armfield, Joseph C.	Pvt.	Infy	Co. C, 45 th Reg. NCT	[s/o Isaac & Martha (Harvey) (Lovett)]
Armfield, Martin H.	Cpl.	Infy	2 nd Co. A, Reg. NCT	[s/o Isaac]
Armfield, Robert F.	1 st Lt.	Infy	Co. B, 38 th Reg. NCT	[s/o Robert]

In "Civil War Memories in Guilford County", p. 37, *The Guilford Genealogist*, Vol. 8, No. 2, Winter 1981, No. 13, was an account of W. J. Armfield s/o Joseph C. submitted by Bradley R. Foley. In October 1921, Wyatt Jackson, 78 years old told this story which his daughter, Blanche Armfield Pickens recorded. "I saw the cavalcade (of President Davis and a number of his cabinet officers) as it passed through Jamestown, N.C. about 10 o'clock the following morning, which was Sunday, and it was a very impressive sight, for the horses were fine and well-groomed, the ambulances looked new and shining, and formed a strong contrast to the poor, half-starved horses and equipment of the Confederate soldiers, to which we were accustomed. A few days afterward he and party were captured near Washington, GA. and Mr. Davis was afterward imprisoned for some

time at Fort Monroe, VA.” She also thanks us for a great newsletter. Thank-you Jo Ann for your contributions.

Paula Hinkel sends the following link for the Southern California Genealogical Society of which she is president; www.scgsgenealogy.com. They are putting together a new data base called the Virtual Surname Wall. Anyone can provide surnames, migration patterns or locations, and dates for up to ten surnames. It is meant to be a safe bridge between their older members who have many years worth of research at home and online researchers who may have more updated information. She said to feel free to add your names to the Wall. Paula thanks us for “another outstanding newsletter” and tells us she enjoys receiving them. Thank-you too Paula and keep in touch with us.

phinkel@pacbell.net

Stephen A. Carter sent pictures of Tyrus Armfield. He finds the dominant features of the Armfields interesting. The only two Armfield relatives he has known were his grandfather’s two older sisters, and both who he described as extremely intelligent, practical, considerate, gentle, and “very funny.” Both were spinsters and active in their church, one being a missionary in Brazil for several years. About 16 years ago he met a Paul Armfield from Canada who was in this country as a protestant missionary. He does not know which Armfield family Paul was related to. He would like to hear from others about what they consider to be the dominant features of Armfields. carter@hticn.com.

FEEDBACK

We want to thank all of you who take the time to let us know how we are doing. It is important to us and we encourage you to continue. If you see something that needs clarification or correction let us know that too. Many of the comments we have heard refer to the professional job we are doing, thanking us for keeping up with the writing of the newsletter, acknowledging the work that goes into putting the newsletter together, and appreciation for the Armfield search and study. If we have left anyone out that wanted their family line printed in the newsletter, please inform us again. We know that a few of you have linked up with others researching the same lines. That is wonderful. Now remember to share your discoveries with us!

We would like to hear about this summer’s Armfield reunions. We hope they were all successful. In the future when planning a reunion, please let us know well in advance. We would like to get it into the newsletter in plenty of time for people to be able to work it into their plans.

We hope that some of you may want to research some of the people we have written about in this newsletter to see if we can learn more about them. Joyce and I sure would like the help!

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