

*Fender*

Subj: **Re: Fender Family**  
Date: 3/24/02 8:00:33 AM Eastern Standard Time  
From: TexUTMan  
To: Wjhiatt

In a message dated 03/23/2002 8:01:46 PM Eastern Standard Time, Wjhiatt writes:

<< maybe I'll keep all these Fender researchers straight one of these days. I just saw the newspaper article and thought I'd ask. >>

No problem.....I think there are so many researchers because the advent of online genealogy research opened up a whole new approach to finding one's roots. That "interest" many of us had/have got much easier. Seems one person in every family unit has an interest in his/her roots and when we think about how many families there are going back to the 1700's, that's an Army of researchers.

We Fender's.....started off with 4 of us.....organized a group and then went on a quest to find our brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts, grandparents and hunting dogs. We've done pretty well in the past few years. We've brought together kinfolk from 3 names: Finter, Fenter and Fender. Out of that group, considering 1 per family unit, we've got over 150 members to the Fender-Blender's.

I had/have a profound interest because I was born in Oklahoma and living in Texas when I came to Radford, VA in 1986.....had lived here before.

When I learned about my roots being in Virginia (Finter) and North Carolina (Christian Fender), I was shocked.....to be living 90 miles in either direction from where my ancestors came from.....and all those years thought I was only from Oklahoma and Texas.

I have much more research to do in NC and VA but right now am sort of burned out on it. Happens about this time every year. But my next project is to go to NC and try and find who John Fender married and if their divorce was final or they got back together and moved to IN.

Cya L8r,

*Richard*

Subj: **Re: Fender Family**  
Date: 3/23/02 7:41:01 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: TexUTMan  
To: Wjhiatt

In a message dated 03/23/2002 4:07:06 PM Eastern Standard Time, Wjhiatt writes:

<< have you been in touch with Carolyn Spence of Trinity, NC (spencetop@aol.com) regarding Christian Fender? She is a SCGA member and mentioned in a local newspaper article about the family in June 2001. Linda Thompson (I think from Ohio now, but did live in Kentucky) is also quoted. I couldn't remember the names of the people you said were working on the book. Wilma Hiatt >>

Hi, Wilma.

Carolyn and I are in contact at least once/week. She, Len Chapel and I were the instrumental partners in getting the Christian Fender crusade underway. She's taken the lead on it and coordinating the efforts on our Fender Family Book. Debby Fender-Young, Hickory, is very involved, too. Shelia Carlisle, Morganton, is in charge of the Christian Fender Photo Site (online).

Did I tell you Nina and I share same great great way back there somewhere grandparents? Her line goes the LONG way; mine the FENDER way.

*Richard*

105 Kela Dr.  
Morganton N.C. 28655  
Nov. 16 1991

Curator of Genealogical Material  
Surry County Library  
Dobson, N.C. 27017

Dear Sir:

I am researching the Fender family. They seem to have first appeared in North Carolina in Surry County. Is there anyone in your area who has been ~~making~~ doing research on this family? Do you have a Genealogical Society in Surrey County? Do you have any abstracted files such as cemetary records, land records, death records or any other abstracted records that are easy to copy and mail? I will detail what I know and perhaps you can put this letter on file and someone will get in touch with me. CHRISTIAN FENDER is the only FENDER listed on the state census of 1786. Christian died in 1800. His will lists wife, ~~May~~ Mary: Gabriel, Nimrod, Michael, John, Henry, Sarah and Catherine. Christian appears on the 1790 and 1800 census. Most of the boys moved to Ashe County. I am trying to find out when Christian first moved to Surry and where he came from. Are there any records that would show his wife's maiden name? I enclose a stamped, addressed envelope. Please let me know if there is any way you can help me. I will be happy to pay any copying and mailing charges if you are allowed to do this.

Thank you very much,

*Sandra E Fender*  
Sandra E. Fender

*Answered - Sent flyers + researchers names + addresses*

Subj: **Old Center Church, Yadkin County**  
Date: 3/12/02 8:12:05 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: TexUTMan  
To: nlgroce@yadtel.net  
CC: Wjhiatt

Nina Groce,

Dear Nina,

Wilma Hiatt sent me your name saying you know about the Old Center Methodist Church that there are 3 graveyards near where it once stood and there are some church records of some sort.

I am looking for information about any of the Christian Fender family who may have been baptised, married, buried, members, etc. in that congregation. His youngest son, John is my ancestral grandfather. He was born 1780 and married about 1810 but I don't know his wife Elizabeth's last name. And there are numerous other questions I'm seeking answers for as well.

Was sort of the opinion Christian may have affiliated with that church before his death in 1800 and possibly buried there. Some of his children were baptised in the Moravian Church but none ever joined.

Can you help me on any records and tell me where the graveyards are located?

By the way, in Jasper Long's book he mentions several Groce and Gross names. I am related to the Long's 2 ways. Perhaps you and I are related...or someone in your family?

Thanks.  
Richard Fender  
Radford, VA  
TexUTMan@aol.com

*Richard*



JOURNAL PHOTO BY GREG WOLF

**Carolyn Spence rests her hand on a new gravestone as she speaks to descendants of Christian Finter.**

# Tracing N.C. ties that bind

## Finter descendants follow links to shared roots

**By Jim Sparks**  
JOURNAL REPORTER

NORTH WILKESBORO

When Linda Thompson was a young girl growing up in Kentucky, she heard her grandparents tell stories about how their family had come from Northwest North Carolina.

When as an adult she became interested in genealogy, her research confirmed those roots.

Now about 30 years after beginning her genealogical inquiries, Thompson, a grandmother from southwestern Ohio, is finally getting the chance to see the places where her mother's side of the family, the Fender line, came from.

"When you're a genealogist, that's what you want to do," Thompson said. "You want to see it because it's a part of you. It helps illustrate all the facts you've uncovered in records and gives you a better idea of what your ancestors' lives were like."

Thompson is one of more than a dozen folks who, after communicating on the Internet for three years, have traveled here this weekend from all over the county to celebrate their connection to a shared ancestor, Johann Christian Friederick Finter.

See **FAMILY**, Page B6

STATE / METRO

## FAMILY

Continued From Page B1

Finter, whose name was Americanized to Fender by his children, was born to German parents in Lancaster County, Penn., in 1738. He migrated south and first settled around the forks of the Yadkin River in Davie County before eventually ending up in what is now the Marler Road area of western Yadkin County. He and his wife, Anna Maria, raised eight children there. Those children in turn followed the expansion of the frontier west into and over the mountains while also siring loads of children both in and out of wedlock.

"Christian's children all had biblical names," Len Chapel of North Wilkesboro, the reunion's coordinator, said. "But that wasn't the only thing biblical about them. That directive about being fruitful and multiplying, they pretty much stuck to that, too."

Branches of the family's tree spread north through Kentucky into Ohio and Indiana and west all the way to California and produced offspring that became both famous and infamous.

One of Finter's acclaimed descendants is Dr. Frederick A. Fender, a pioneering medical researcher at Sanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., who in the 1940s invented the electroencephalograph, a machine that graphs the brain's electrical activity.

Another is Clarence Leo Fender, who created the Fender Guitar Co. and revolutionized guitar design with the solid-body electric guitar.

A notorious member of the Fender line is Sam Bass, the outlaw.

Bass and his gang were best known for robbing trains in the frontier West.

Bass died on his 27th birthday, July 21, 1878, after being shot by Texas Rangers a few days earlier while he tried to rob a bank in Round Rock, Texas.

Chapel said that uncovering both the virtuous and the scandalous aspects of one's family history is an unavoidable part of genealogical research.

"This is one business you can't be in if you can't handle the truth," Chapel said. "Anyone who says that illegitimacy, murder, mayhem and other unrespectable behavior wasn't a part of their family history hasn't done a thorough enough job of research. It's there. It's just a matter of finding it."

Chapel also said the Fenders were a typical family who fanned out across the country in pursuit of opportunity. A lot of them knew how to make money, and most of them worked hard.

"Our family is no different than any other," Chapel said. "We're blue collar and white collar, rich and poor, outlaw and respectable citizen. We've got a little of everything. That's what makes us so American."

Many other American families also have roots in Northwest North Carolina, said Carolyn Spence of Trinity, who is descended from Christian Finter through one of his sons who settled in Alleghany County.

Spence is an avid genealogist who has spent years looking into her family's connections.

She said that though it may seem surprising that the men who created the brain monitor and the Stratocaster guitar were linked to Northwest North Carolina, the area's connections to fame are quite plentiful.

During the latter half of the 1700s, Northwest North Carolina was frontier.

Although land along the mid-Atlantic Coast began to fill up with arrivals, the rugged Appalachian Mountains and the hostile Indian tribes that lived there formed a barrier that funneled settlers south from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

As land in the state's western Piedmont began to fill up, settlers eventually poured west through gaps in the mountains and river valleys.

Northwest North Carolina was one of the primary spots through which this migratory stream flowed, Spence said. As a result, people nationwide have ancestors who once lived here.

"This area is very unique because it was the outmost edge of settlement," Spence said. "For this reason all kinds of folks find they have ties here."

"A descendant of the Stamper family from Alleghany County started the company that became Banquet Foods and a descendent of the Cheek family, also from Alleghany County, started the Maxwell House Coffee Co. It's amazing the connections you can find if you just go back far enough in your research."

■ Jim Sparks can be reached in Boone at (828) 264-3549 or at [jsparks@wsjournal.com](mailto:jsparks@wsjournal.com)

Subj: **Re: Church**  
Date: 3/7/02 6:52:54 AM Eastern Standard Time  
From: TexUTMan  
To: Wjhiatt

In a message dated 03/05/2002 9:10:18 PM Eastern Standard Time, Wjhiatt writes:

<< The book has a history of Jasper S. Long and a photo. And also the Holcombs of Yadkin County and Descendants of John and Fanny Brittain Hocomb. Are these the ones you are interested in? The article about the church did not mention a cemetery but with a church that old I would think there would be a cemetery. I'm sure I can find out later. Exactly what do you want me to look for in our research room. >>

Hi, Wilma.

I really do appreciate you looking into the above on the Center Church.

All those souls you mention above are related to me one way or another. What I'm trying to ascertain is this: Was Christian FENDER who married Anna Maria LONG a Methodist and were any of his children Methodists; married in the Meth. Church and was he buried in a Meth. cemetery.

His youngest son, John (Johannes), my ggggf, was baptised in the Moravian Church but his parents were not members.....the baptism was listed as "friends" not members. We can't find Christian's grave nor can I find any marriage information on John although his wife Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ filed a "Petition for Relief" in 1811 in Surry County.

The fact that Christian Fender's property in Surry County became a part of Yadkin make it difficult to track this stuff down.

John Fender moved to Indiana after 1815 and was a founder of the Meth-Epis. Church in Richmond, IN....and others in the family were involved with the Meth-Epis. group.....so I thought maybe Christian associated himself with that Church group. He definitely was not with the Moravians. We've searched those records thoroughly.

I guess at this point, Wilma, don't make me copies of anything until perhaps we can find marriage lists, baptismal records and membership records from the period 1796 to say, 1815.

Sincerely,

*Richard*

Subj: **Re: Church**  
Date: 3/5/02 10:19:03 AM Eastern Standard Time  
From: TexUTMan  
To: Wjhiatt

In a message dated 03/04/2002 8:44:25 PM Eastern Standard Time, Wjhiatt writes:

<< I've never heard of the Old Center Methodist Church in Surry Co. Do you mean the old Central Methodist Church? Or is the Old Center Methodist Church in another county now that formed from Surry.  
>>

According to the late Jasper Long in writing about the LONG family of Yadkin County, "in the beginning both families" (Long and Holcomb) "lived in the Center Church Community of Yadkin County. A large majority of the membership of Center Church has always been of the Long and Holcomb families or their descendants."

"John Holcomb, Jr. married Elizabeth Lawrence. About 1775 they left Virginia and came to North Carolina and settled in Yadkin County near Yadkin River about 35 miles south of North Carolina and Virginia State line. He deeded the land for Old Center Church on Cranberry Creek in 1795. For a number of years Center Church was noted for its Camp Meetings. They were a series of evangelical services that were of at least a weeks duration....."

Okay.....I said Surry County because I thought it was in Surry. Many of the Long's lived near the county line and like my ggggf, he was in a part of Surry that started out as Rowan and then it became a part of Yadkin.....I think. He lived on Deep Creek. It is very close to the line.

I live in Virginia and am not all that familiar with where these places are located relative to the specific county. Perhaps this Methodist Church, now torn down, was in Yadkin. If so, where could I find any records; and, a grave yard?

Thanks for your response. I appreciate your interest especially since I mentioned the wrong county. Are you the one who searches Yadkin?

*Richard*



my Fender Fam. line - as far as I have it.

Donna Tice - Carnall  
606 E. 9th

Cherryvale, Ks. 67335

6-336-3413

my Grandparents:

2. William Fender

Date Born: 29 June 1845  
Where Born: (Lee) Illinois  
Date Married: 26 Aug. 1891 - Missouri  
Date Died: 30 May 1931  
Where Died: Neodesha (Wilson) Ks.

my mother:

1. Edith Viola Fender

Date Born: 6 Jan. 1910  
Where Born: Dennis (Lafayette) Ks.  
Date Married: 31 May 1927  
Where Married: Indep. (Montgomery) Ks.

my father:

Elias William Tice

Date Born: 19 Jan 1908  
Where Born: Longton (Elk) Ks.

3. Ida May Duff

Date Born: 22 July 1868  
Where Born: Marshalltown (Marshall) Iowa  
Date Died: 2 June 1948  
Where Died: Neodesha (Wilson) Ks.

my Great-Grandparents:

4. John Henry Fender, Sr.

Date Born: 4 July 1823-24  
Where Born: (Lawrence) Indiana  
Date Married: 23 March 1845  
Date Died: 18 March 1881  
Where Died: [Worth] Missouri

5. Mary Hall

Date Born: 6 June 1825  
Where Born: [Indiana]  
Date Died: 1 July 1888  
Where Died: [Worth] Missouri

6. Martin Fredrick Duff

Date Born: 28 Sept 1836  
Where Born: Germany/Holland  
Date Married: 4 May 1860 - Maryland  
Date Died: 18 Sept 1908  
Where Died: Great Bend (Barton) Ks.

7. Susannah Rebecca Black

Date Born: 28 Dec 1840  
Where Born: Maryland/Pa.  
Date Died: 31 March 1911  
Where Died: Neodesha (Wilson) Ks.

my Great-Great-Grandparents:

8. Absolom Fender

Date Born: [1781-90]  
Where Born: North Carolina  
Date Married: .....  
Date Died: .....

9. Lolly or Sally ?

Date Born: [1781-90]  
Where Born: Virginia  
Date Died: .....

10. William Hall

Date Born: 1791-1800  
Where Born: Kentucky  
Date Married: .....  
Date Died: .....

11. Lophia / Sophia ?

Date Born: 1791-1800  
Where Born: Virginia  
Date Died: .....

12.

Date Born: .....  
Where Born: .....  
Date Married: .....  
Date Died: .....

13.

Date Born: .....  
Where Born: .....  
Date Died: .....

14.

Date Born: .....  
Where Born: .....  
Date Married: .....  
Date Died: .....

15.

Date Born: .....  
Where Born: .....  
Date Died: .....

Genealogy Letter-Pedigree

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To Whom It May Concern,

'Help! I'm trying to put together the pieces of my family patchwork quilt & I need your guidance.'

My Great, Great, Great Grandfather was named Andrew Fender. He was born in 1783 in Surry County I believe. He married Sally (Sarah) Bass on October 7, 1811 & then married her sister in 1821. I believe that my Great, Great, Great Grandfather Aaron Fender was born either in Surry or Ashe County.

I am trying to determine who Andrew's parents were & who Sally Bass' parents were. Her sister's name was Elizabeth Bass.

There's a Christian Fender who died in Surry around 1800. He had two sons, Nimrod & Henry. Both of these men seem to have migrated to Lawrence Indiana & Clay County Ohio. So did Andrew Fender! Each of them named sons Andrew. If these two men aren't Andrew Fender's brothers then they are "very close" cousins.

If you can give me any help at all I would greatly appreciate it.

I have enclosed a SASE to induce you to respond kindly to me.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely

Synda Bromhard

772 Fifth Avenue

Chula Vista, CA 91910

Answered - flyers sent ✓