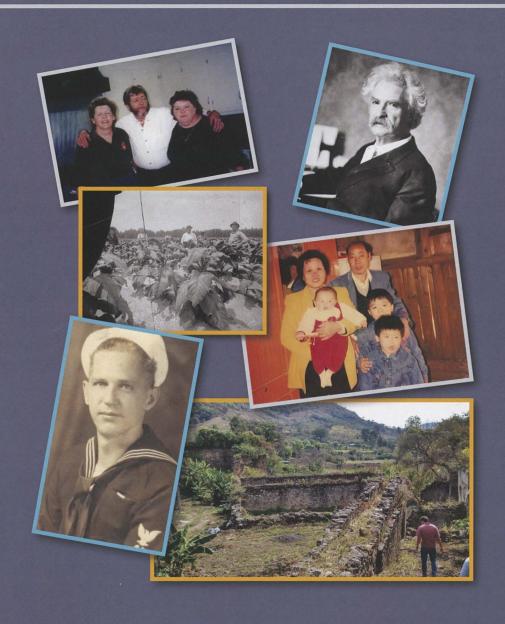
Local Students with a Broad Heritage



Local Students with a Broad Heritage

Volume 4

Edited by
Kathleen D. Fowler

Assistant Editor
Sarah Orange

Surry Community College Dobson, NC I dedicate this book to all of my students at
Surry Community College
who have worked very hard to research and write
these narratives in order to share them with their
classmates, their families, and with the future. I
appreciate their efforts

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Surry Community College 630 S. Main St. Dobson, NC www.surry.edu Preface

Family history is a journey. Whether one's ancestors are indigenous or immigrant, their stories are journeys in time, moving from past to present. Tracing those lines of ancestry can tell us much about the everyday-lives of our ancestors: their challenges, their triumphs, their tragedies. Their lives are the backbone of our nation, they are not insignificant, and they should not be forgotten: from the farmer raising a living from the land, to the immigrant seeking a better life, to the soldier willing to stand for a cause, the unsung heroes of history are an important part of our heritage and should not be forgotten. That is what this project is all about.

Local Students with a Broad Heritage is
the result of the research and hard work of my
American Literature students in the fall of 2018.
They were tasked with investigating previous
generations of the families they claimed, whether
biological, adoptive, or chosen. They then
researched the time periods and cultures within
which those people lived, and they recorded their
discoveries in the form of narratives.

The stories in this resulting collection range through five centuries and four continents. They tell tales of childhood hardships and dangerous careers, of hopeful dreams and tragic reality. Regardless of the time or place in which these stories take place they all contribute to the

pot which we call America. All of the students who took part in this project had the opportunity to practice their skills in researching and writing, drawing upon various modes of composition. I hope that they had fun in the process, and I hope that you enjoy the results.

5

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Caleb and Elizabeth Blackwelder: Heroes American Revolution	
The Untold of China's Great Economy	20
Clemens Family History Narrative	34
After The War	58
Living a Life Dying of Cancer	
Survival	94
Escaping Erin	
Good Ol' Boys	126
Overcoming Troubles	144
James William Moricle, Sr	160
World War II Hero	174
The Paved Road.	187
Enduring War	202

The Royal Family	217
The Life of a Patriot	235
A Woman of Great Strength	253
Home on the Range	267
Living Through The Great Depression	277
Migrating into a New Life	300

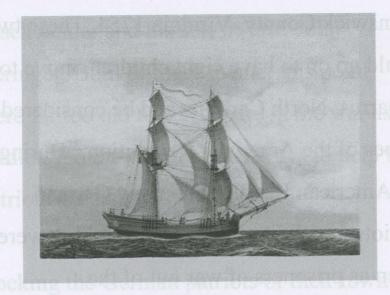
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6

Caleb and Elizabeth Blackwelder: Heroes of the American Revolution By Nathan Baker

Caleb Blackwelder (November 08, 1722 –September 26, 1794), formerly known as Gottlieb Schwarzwalder, sailed to the new world with his father John Jacob Blackwelder on the ship Friendship 1738 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. He would marry Elizabeth "Betsy" Phifer (1724-1794)

Caleb Gottlieb Blackwelder shortly
after immigrating to the Americas with his
father moved down to the mid-Atlantic
region to tend to rich farm land. Shortly after



Frank Allen. Friendship Transport Ship¹

the death of his father and the birth and death of his first daughter, Caleb married a woman by the name of Elizabeth Phifer in

¹ Allen, Frank. *Friendship Transport Ship*. Ship Friendship is the name of the ship that Caleb Blackwelder and his father arrived to America on.

Brunswick County, Virginia 1754. These two would go on to have eight children, move to Cabarrus, North Carolina and be considered heroes of the American Revolution.² During the American Revolution, many German patriots, much like Caleb Blackwelder, were taken as prisoners of war out of the Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and were imprisoned in Camden and Charleston. Two of these patriots imprisoned were Caleb

Blackwelder and his son-in-law, John
Beringer. Both of these men at this point
were far too old to participate in the war as
soldiers, so they found other ways to help the
patriot cause.

Caleb and his Son-in-law were stocking the German patriots of their town with supplies for the war, after already giving many of their children to the war as soldiers, because of this when their town was ransacked by a British battalion lead by Colonel Bryan and left open for a loyalist gang to come and imprison patriots, Caleb and John were taken from their beds at night

² Deward C. Williams, The Blackwelder and Allied Families from Cabarrus to the Land of Illini: A Genealogy of the Descendants of Caleb Blackwelder and His Wife Betsey Phifer. 1947. 12-13.

to a British prison in Camden, North Carolina. They were imprisoned for several months alongside another of Caleb's sons John Blackwelder. For weeks Caleb John Baringer and John Blackwelder rotted in a rat-infested prison. They survived the horrible treatment from the British, but the situation became even worse as many of the soldiers were sick. Disease was rampant and lead to the infection and eventual death of John Blackwelder.³ Elizabeth Blackwelder, the wife of Caleb, devised a plan to gain the favor of the British guards and get her

12

³ Ibid. 33.



Hessian Soldiers in America⁴

During this time Elizabeth fearlessly exposed herself to smallpox which was running rampant through the British ranks in

While Elizabeth's saint-like deeds would gain her and her husband regard as heroes, it would later lead to her name gaining a local mythos around it. Her time

⁴ The Hessian State Archive. *Hessian Soldiers in America*. This is an image of the uniforms hessian soldiers, German loyalist, would wear during battle.

⁵ Ibid. 18.

⁶ Ibid. 24.

spent with the sickly British soldiers may not have infected her with the small pox disease, but she carried the disease on her clothes. Elizabeth would infect several people once she had returned home after the war, and thus the town's people would refer to those infected with the disease saying they "bore the acquaintance of old granny Blackwelder." As for Caleb and John, they were said to have been close friends and protectors of their Hessian loyalist who slowly crept back into the German settlements after the war was over.

If anything true courage and dedication to the betterment of your family's future was a necessity for the colonist to have in order to face the strongest military power in the world, in a fight for their freedom, and win. Both Caleb and Elizabeth Blackwelder showed this courage and dedication with Caleb contributing to the war effort through supplying the Continental Army, unlike many of his sons and grandsons who fought in the war. Elizabeth also showed this courage by throwing her own wellbeing and safety out the window in order to help treat British soldiers with small pox so that she

⁷ Ibid. 18.

may gain their favor and be allowed to save her family members from imprisonment.

True heroes were, and still are, necessary to make not just the American Revolution but the United States of America a success, and Caleb and Elizabeth Blackwelder are two of those heroes, and I am proud to have them as my ancestors.



Carrie Baker. The Graves of Caleb and Betsy Blackwelder (June 18, 2018)

Allen, Frank. Friendship Transport Ship.
Baker, Carrie. The Graves of Caleb and
Betsy Blackwelder. June 18, 2018.
Baker Family Private Collection.
The Hessian State Archive. Hessian Soldiers
in America.

Williams, Deward C. The Blackwelder and Allied Families from Cabarrus to the Land of Illini: A Genealogy of the Descendants of Caleb Blackwelder and His Wife Betsey Phifer.
Edwardsville, Illinois 1947.

The Untold of China's Great Economy By Linda Chen

Chen Shao An (birth: April 4, 1944-current); married to Yang Li Yue (birth: November 16, 1948-current). The couple currently lives in Fuzhou, China. They have three sons, (two in America and one in Spain) and six grandchildren. Both are also retired and enjoy day-to-day activities in the neighborhood.

It's the year 2018, China is a rapidly growing country thriving with people, factories, and new innovations. The country also contains the world's largest manufacturing economy and is the exporter of goods. China holds second place in the world's largest economy with the United

States in first.⁸ The country became a member of the World Trade Organization in December of 2001. It also has free trade agreements with several countries including Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Switzerland, and Pakistan.⁹ While most of the industrialization is done along the coast the country, the inland regions are less

⁸ Smith, Rob. *The World's Biggest Economies in 2018*. 18 (April 2018): accessed September 12, 2018, The World Economic Forum on ASEAN,

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/04/the-worlds-biggest-economies-in-2018/.

⁹ China and the WTO, China has been a member since 11 December 2001: accessed September 12, 2018, World Trade Organization

developed, and most of the people there still rely on agriculture. The difference between inland and coastal regions of the country can be related to the cities of America and the country areas, where there are many families who still rely on the land for food and domestic animals for meat.

Flashback sixty years, and China was in the midst of a crisis. In 1958 China's leader at the time, Mao Zedong, launched its Great Leap Forward political movement; a movement where the government forced the population to drop everything and start working in factories to produce steel, so

China could catch up with the U.S. and Britain¹⁰. At first, this new plan seemed great. Then natural disasters struck over a three year period and thus caused the movement to be an overall failure.

¹⁰ Lim, Louisa. *A Grim Chronicle of China's Great Famine*. 10 (November 2012): accessed September 12, 2018, NPR Books, https://www.npr.org/2012/11/10/164732497/a-grim-chronicle-of-chinas-great-famine



Great Leap Forward Propaganda Poster Wu Shaoyun (吴少云); Zhang Yuqing (章育青); Lu Zezhi (陆泽之), September 1959¹¹

¹¹ Wu Shaoyun; Zhang Yuqing; Lu Zezhi, Great Leap Forward Propaganda Poster. 1959. - This poster is one of the most famous posters during the Great Leap Forward movement. "The commune is like a gigantic dragon, production is noticeable aweinspiring" https://chineseposters.net/posters/e13-593.php.

It was April 1959, a year after the Great Leap Forward campaign was in effect and the country was in a deep period of famine and starvation. The Yellow River (or Huang Ho) flooded causing thousands of drownings and ruined crops. According to government reports, more than 40 million hectares (almost 100 million acres) of agricultural land were rendered useless.¹² These floods were then followed by a wave

¹² G. Kucha & J. Llewellyn, *The Great Chinese Famine*, accessed September 13, 2018, Alpha History, https://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/great-chinese-famine/.

of further disasters: droughts, severe heat, more floods, typhoons, disease, and insect infestations. With all of these disasters going on, leader Mao still required the farmers to produce an incredibly ridiculous amount of grain for export and caused the rural residents to lose all of their food supply.

Soon the peasants began to starve.

Many sought alternative food sources like grass, leather, even seeds sifted from animal manure. In Sichuan, thousands of peasants were forced to eat soil. Dogs, cats, rats, mice, and insects were all eaten, dead or alive until

there were no more.¹³ Malnutrition and the effects of vitamin deficiency became a common problem to see. For some the unbearable hunger made people behave in inhuman ways. Government records reported cases where people ate human flesh from dead bodies.

As one could see, the Great Leap Forward
Campaign turned out to be disastrous. As the
country began to rebuild itself, the

¹³ G. Kucha & J. Llewellyn, *The Great Chinese Famine*, accessed September 13, 2018, Alpha History,

https://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/great-chinese-famine/.

government soon started a new program. In 1978 the Chinese government established what westerners would call the "Open Door Policy."¹⁴ This was a movement in which China opened its doors for international trade and more foreign influence. It was one of the major movements that helped China boost its economy and become the superpower that it is today. During this time period where Shao An Chen and his wife Li Yue Yang received a wage and salary for their jobs.

Photo of Chen Shao An and his wife Yang Li Yue and their grandchildren at the time.

Xue Oing Lin, private collection (2000)¹⁵

Before the policy, the couple got paid whatever the owners decided to pay them

¹⁴ Huan, Guocang. *China's Open Door Policy*, 1978-1984. Accessed September 14, 2018, *Journal of International Affairs* 39, no. 2 (1986): 1-18. http://www.jstor.org/stable/24356571.

¹⁵ Xue Qing Lin, private collection photo album. Mrs. Lin has a lot of pictures in her photo albums that contains pictures of her kids, and in-laws. These pictures are taken by an unknown photographer but are listed as a family photographs

because there wasn't a demand for anything. However, because the country was newly open to additional trade, it resulted in demands for products that weren't in demand in the past, and factories needed workers to produce the products. Due to this, employees and employers established wages and salaries.

The Open Door Policy has proven to be a great success within the country. The policy has led to a lot of foreign investors to invest in the coastal cities of China, like

Shanghai. Shanghai is almost equivalent to the New York of the United States. As time goes on, it is said that maybe one day, China will soon be as developed as the United States itself.

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¹⁶ Ibid.

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Wu Shaoyun; Zhang Yuqing; Lu Zezhi, "Great Leap Forward Propaganda Poster". Digital Image. Chinese Posters. September, 1959. Accessed September 13, 2018.

https://chineseposters.net/posters/e13-593.php.

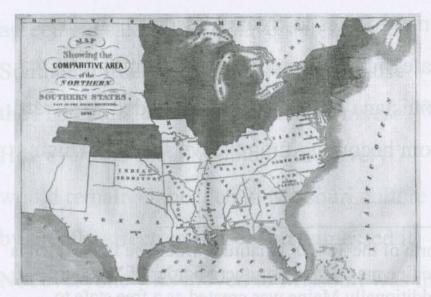
32

Clemens Family History Narrative

By Zachary Chandler

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (born 30 Nov. 1835 died 21 Apr. 1910); married Olivia Langdon Clemens (born 7 Nov. 1845 died 5 Jun. 1904): Samuel became a well-known writer, under the name of Mark Twain, with Olivia as his editor. Samuel's books were heavily influenced by his childhood memories of growing up in the slave state of Missouri, and his books provide an example of how life was viewed in those times.

Since the establishment of the United States of America, no state has had more of an impact on the country than Missouri. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 allowed the



Map of the United States in 1820 Showing Free and Slave States

MrNussbaum.com. *Missouri Compromise*Comparative Map (2015) 17

The Missouri Compromise, one of the causes of the Civil War, last revised 2015, accessed September 15, 2018, https://www.mrnussbaum.com/history-2-2/misscomp/. This image shows the slave states, white in color, while free states are dark. Missouri would be the last slave state to expand westward from the Louisiana Purchase. In the agreement the all land

United States to create Missouri as a slave state, but prevented the land from the Louisiana Purchase, that expanded westward, from becoming future slave states.¹⁸ This

north of the 36° 30' N latitude would be free, which is the line made on the southern border of Missouri. Additionally Maine was created as a free state to restore the balance of the creation of Missouri, to maintain equal representation of free and slave states with in Congress.

Compromise," The Laws of the United States: Acts of the Thirteenth Congress of the United States - *A*Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S.

Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 – 1875: 545-548, last revised March 6, 1820, American

Memory, Library of Congress, accessed on September 18, 2018. https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=003/llsl003.db&re cNum=589.

agreement satisfied the slave states in the South and free states in the North because they had equal representation in Congress. ¹⁹ However, the social problems of slavery would remain embedded in Missouri culture by greatly affecting those who witnessed it. Not everyone who moved to Missouri was in search of owning slaves or plantations, but rather in search of a better life as Manifest

¹⁹ History.com Editors, "Missouri Compromise," *Abolitionist Movements: Missouri Compromise*, last revised September 11, 2018, accessed September 19, 2018, https://www.history.com/topics/abolotionist-movement/missouri-compromise. The following information comes from this source.

Destiny became the mantra to expand westward. Those who grew up in Missouri had varying beliefs towards slavery, and the ones who wrote about these times tell how different the culture among the Missouri people was. To understand the different beliefs among Missourians, it is important to understand where the immigrants came from and how the culture of Missouri changed those who grew up in this newly established slave state.

Since Europeans touched the shores of America, they had the notion of acquiring lands and believed that riches lay westward

and were available for the taking. After the Missouri Compromise many Americans, as well as immigrants, looking for economic opportunities, would move to Missouri to gain land and acquire their desired fortunes. Since Missouri was a newly created slave state, many Southerners came to open plantations, while Northerners and foreigners came to open paid labor enterprises. Above the Missouri River and along the Mississippi River lay the best plantation real-estate, but below the Missouri River was inferior soil

which made plantations less profitable. ²⁰
Before the Civil War, slaves accounted for ten percent of the state population, a percentage far lower compared to the South, and Missourians generally had no more than two slaves. The economic output from the institution of slavery was not as significant as many Southerners had hoped for. Immigrants from Germany and New England were

In 1835, John Marshall Clemens from Virginia and Jane Lampton Clemens from Kentucky moved to Missouri due to economic circumstances.²¹ Both came from

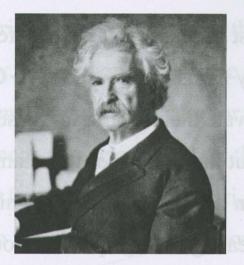
²⁰ Robert Jackson, "The Emergence of Mark Twain's Missouri: Regional Theory and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," *Southern Literary Journal* 35, no. 1 (Fall, 2002): 52, accessed September 19, 2018, http://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=https://sear ch.proquest.com/docview/216424029?accountid=1417 9. The following content comes from this article.

²¹ Ibid 67-68. The following content comes from this article and these two pages.

southern aristocratic backgrounds that were pro-slavery. They owned one slave by the name of Jennie who would care for the family's needs and help with their three children. After moving to Missouri, Jennie was sold to pay debts since John could not afford to keep her after suffering multiple business failures as a farmer, storekeeper, trader, and land prospector.²² The story of John and Jane is like many Americans who

moved west in search of a better life, but faced many hardships instead. The Clemens did not elevate their wealth in Missouri as planned, but they cared for their family and raised a son that would benefit significantly from his years growing up in Missouri. Their son was Samuel Langhorne Clemens, and he would later write books about life in Missouri during the mid-1800s under his pen name Mark Twain.

²² Kaplan, Justin, and Roy J. Friedman, *Mark Twain Collection: Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain: A Biography*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1966, 18.



Portrait of Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) 1900 From Hulton Archive - Getty Images (2018)²³ Samuel Clemens grew up in

Hannibal, Missouri and worked various odd

jobs as a young man. Most notably, he served as a steamboat pilot on the Mississippi River as he later notes in his book, *Life on the Mississippi*.²⁴ During this time Samuel saw firsthand the industrial and plantation regions along the Mississippi River.²⁵ At a young age Samuel believed slavery was approved by God, but in subsequent years he reflected on

ch.proquest.com/docview/216424029?accountid=1417

9. The following content comes from this article.

Writer Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens, 1835-1910), circa 1900, Hulton Archive – Getty Images," *A Children's Story Mark Twain Never Finished is Set to Publish this Fall – TIME*, last revised January 23, 2017, accessed on September 19, 2018, http://time.com/4643504/mark-twain-childrens-story-fall-2017/.

²⁴ Robert Jackson, "The Emergence of Mark Twain's Missouri: Regional Theory and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," *Southern Literary Journal* 35, no. 1 (Fall, 2002): 49-53, http://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=https://sear

what he saw at a young age as cruel. In his books the word "nigger" was used frequently, and slaves were often portrayed as ignorant, but the use of these viewpoints also demonstrates how many Missourians of that time shared common racist beliefs.²⁶ In addition to racism, Samuel was exposed to gruesome acts such as seeing his friend drowning, an emigrant stabbed to death, a man shot by a merchant in the streets, and

Olivia Langdon married Samuel
Clemens and shortly after marriage they had
children. The Clemens spent the rest of their
lives together and worked on his later

²⁶ Thomas V. Quirk, "Mark Twain", Encylopedia Britannica. Last revised April 14, 2018, accessed on September 15, 2018, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mark-Twain. The following content comes from this article.

booksas a team. She edited everything that he wrote; he would go as far as saying that she deserved credit for the influences of his



Olivia Langdon Clemens (1845-1904) From the University of Virginia Library (1998)²⁷

48

success in his works after the marriage.²⁸ Throughout her life she was surrounded by dynamic and intelligent feminists, such as Isabella Beecher Hooker and Anna Dickinson, providing her with a desire to support women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery. Samuel was attracted to her intelligence as much as her beauty and wanted to marry her because she was unlike most women of that time. Both of their influences can be seen in Mark Twain's later

²⁷ Stephen Railton, "Olivia Clemens, 1845-1904," *Mark Twain in His Times: Olivia Clemens*, last revised July, 17 1998, accessed September 19, 2018, http://twain.lib.virginia.edu/projects/applebaum/olivia. html. For additional source information go to

http://twain.lib.virginia.edu to learn about the contributors of this information.

²⁸ Ibid. The following information is from the same source.

writings where her character and opinion could arise in characters, such as Aunt Polly, Aunt Sally, and Miss Watson. As tribute to Olivia, he dedicated his book, *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, to her and probably as tribute to all the women in his life that inspired him.²⁹ In this book, which is perhaps his most serious work, Samuel said Joan of Arc was "the most extraordinary

²⁹ Wilson Carey McWilliams, "Divine Right: Mark Twain's Joan of Arc." *The Review of Politics* 69, no. 3 (Summer, 2007): 329-335, accessed September 19, 2018, http://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/220218591?accountid=1417

Many accounts of slavery or how people saw the world in those time are lost because most people did not record their experiences. A larger part of Samuel's success as a writer came from growing up in Missouri and sharing what he witnessed in his childhood to readers worldwide. While

many Americans dealt with hardships after
the Missouri Compromise, whether it be
gaining economic freedom or enduring
slavery, many personal account are
unfortunately forever lost. As a writer,
Samuel did not write as a means to end
slavery like many abolitionist, rather he
demonstrated different viewpoints on slavery
in the mid-1800s, and allows reader to
choose their own opinions.

Samuel Clemens is a testament of how culture can be deeply rooted at a young age and cause conflicts years later, after he began to see the world from another

perspective. Today, Samuel's books are still controversial due to the racism in them, but his books serve as a document that can be examined to understand how life was. Samuel was not technically a historian, but his books can teach future generations how narratives of the past were distorted due to the institution of slavery. Thanks to Samuel's books, he shared what life was like in Missouri after the Compromise, and tells stories that otherwise would have never been heard.

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After The War By Isabelle Coffin Garnder Davis

Asahel Sanford Davis (18 Apr. 1843-20 May 1916; married Maria J. (1844-1919): Asahel fought and was wounded during the Civil War and filed for his pension before the Civil War ended.

A turbulent time in the United States, the 1860s held many possibilities as to how the conflict over slavery would be played out. Many already knew that it would turn to war, and with the states becoming more and more divided over time, the boiling point was forthcoming in 1861. Asahel Sanford Davis

was only eighteen years old when the war started, living in Putnam, Connecticut.³⁰ The son of a farm laborer and a housewife, with two siblings, he was still unmarried and so was a fit candidate for enlistment into the

Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registration Records (Provost Marshal General's Bureau; Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865); Record Group: 110, Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War); Collection Name: Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records); NAI: 4213514; Archive Volume Number: 1 of 2. Ancestry.com. U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863-1865 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Acestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

war only two years later.³¹ A young man from the North who had probably aided his father in working on a farm would hardly have the necessary knowledge to fight effectively in a war, but with his able body and previous work as a laborer, he would be

Enlisted on December 2, 1863, he was first given the rank of Private in the 1st Regiment of the Connecticut Cavalry.³³ A very important position, and one that saw plenty of combat in the latter half of the war. The original use for the cavalry was to keep an eye on enemy forces as well as stop their communication and supply lines. But at the

³¹ Year: 1870; Census Place: Putnam, Windham, Connecticut; Roll: M593_117; Page: 558B; Family History Library Film: 545616. Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduce by FamilySearch. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records).

³² National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Consolidated Enrollment Lists, 1863-1865 (Civil War Union Draft Records).

³³ National Park Service. *U.S. Civil War Soldiers*, *1861-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007.

beginning of the war, they were not properly utilized, many officials believing that the war would be over before more properly trained cavalry could be sent out, as well as the overall belief that "the cavalry [was] extravagant and needless spending" despite many states offering their cavalries. However, after the battle of Bull Run, the opinion changed, and the cavalry was a sought after and well used tool in the Union's arsenal.34

While in service to the army, Asahel went with his regiment to many different places, fighting in numerous battles. Starting in West Virginia with the operations in Hampshire and Hardy Counties in early 1864 before moving to Maryland and then into Virginia. While with his regiment in mid-1864, Asahel was most likely a part of the events of Grant's Overland Campaign. While Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee were

https://ehistory.osu.edu/exhibitions/Regimental/cavalr y.

 ³⁴ Sayers, Alethea D., "Introduction to Civil War Cavalry," *Ehistory*, accessed September 23, 2018,

^{35 &}quot;1st Regiment, Connecticut Cavalry," *National Park Service*, accessed September 23, 2018, https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=UCT0001RC.

with only more on the way. A few days later, the cavalry, once again under Major General Sheridan, attempted to take the crossroads of Old Cold Harbor. After days of skirmishing, with a full assault occurring on June 3, it became an obvious Confederate victory. The Union casualties numbered over ten thousand after nine days of fighting, and so the plan changed to instead focus on an attack at Petersburg, rather than Richmond.³⁸

66

Near the end of June, the cavalry was sent to disrupt Confederate communications once again. They destroyed railroad tracks, buildings, and even trains themselves. There were two divisions, one under Brigadier General James Wilson, and the other under Brigadier General August Kautz. While one General's troops would engage with the Confederate forces, the other would destroy more rails, but eventually both forces were cut off, thwarting the attempt at destroying the Staunton River Bridge.³⁹ With another

³⁸ "Cold Harbor," *National Park Service*, accessed September 23, 2018, https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=va062.

³⁹ "Staunton River Bridge," *National Park Service*, accessed September 23, 2018,

Confederate victory, and several more in the coming days as Wilson and Kautz attempted to regroup and find a safe place to do so, they destroyed more Confederate tracks, aiding in the blocking of Southern communications and sending of supplies, "but at a great cost in men and mounts."⁴⁰

https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=va113.

Unfortunately, sometime in the fall or winter of 1864, Asahel is believed to have been wounded. He was "mustered out" on December 16, 1864.⁴¹ And before the war ended, he attempted to file for a pension, specifically on February 3, 1865.⁴² This is

^{40 &}quot;Reams Station I," *National Park Service*, accessed September 23, 2018, https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=va068; "Sappony Church," *National Park Service*, accessed September 23, 2018, https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=va067.

⁴¹ Historical Data Systems, comp. *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2009.

⁴² The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; Record Group Title: Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1773-2007; Record Group Number: 15: Series Title: U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934; Series Number: T288. National Archives and Records Administration. U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934

very liberally at the beginning of the Civil War so as to increase eligibility for not only those who served, but also their family such as "widows and orphans, and for dependent orphan sisters." With the war and so many soldiers gaining pay for their service to the country, the laws that worked in the past, when fewer individuals were applying, had

[database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2000.

Disability is still a word that we have trouble defining today, and with the injuries sustained in the war being so varied and the abilities of those who were wounded ranging from being completely unable to work while still needing to support a family, to being

⁴³ Prechtel-Kluskens, Claire, "A Reasonable Degree of Promptitude," *Prologue Magazine*, Spring 2010, accessed September 23, 2018, https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/spring/civilwarpension.html.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

able to work but dealing with immense pain while severely exerting themselves. However, the pension office followed precedents and based decisions on whether the veterans could support themselves through manual labor. There was also the addition of a required examination every two years to ensure that those who were supposedly temporarily disabled or variably disabled were still to be given pension. They would be investigated by at least one physician "chosen by the commissioner of pensions."45 Sometimes the results of these

examinations led to reduced pension or even a complete cutoff from pension funds altogether.46

There was also the accusation of obstacles put in place to make it harder for veterans to apply for their pensions. However, the commissioner denounced these claims, saying that "nothing is required of the claimant which is not necessary and, in most cases, conveniently obtainable."47 With that being said, there were still many cases of pensions not being approved of in a timely

45 Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid

manner. Though sometimes it was the applicant's fault, by not providing enough evidence and the pension office having to send off for documents from other departments. As the years went by, it became more and more difficult to prove disability for pension because of lack of witnesses and evidence to prove the disabilities occurred because of the war. And then there was the inclusion of a widow's pension. Cohabitation was the general consensus of marriage due to haphazard marriage records.⁴⁸

48 Ibid.

Asahel Sanford Davis fought in the Civil War, was discharged after a year of service, and returned to his home in Putnam, Connecticut. ⁴⁹ He filed for a pension, but it is unknown the extent of his supposed injuries and how much he received in return. He started seeing Maria J. Howe, and they had their first child, a daughter, in 1867, followed by a son. ⁵⁰ Asahel and Maria officially

⁴⁹ Year: 1880; Census Place: Putnam, Windham, Connecticut; Roll: 110; Page: 619A; Enumeration District: 139. Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010.

became husband and wife in 1872 and went on to have three more sons and another daughter. Asahel would die on May 20, 1916, leaving behind his wife to file for a widow's pension only six days later.⁵¹ The Civil War tore many families apart, losing numerous fathers, sons, brothers, and other relatives to its cause. The battles were long and arduous, leaving many of the soldiers scarred, both mentally and physically. The United States pension was able to give countless veterans another chance at life after

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https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battles-detail.htm?battleCode=va062.

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⁵¹ The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; *Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs*, 1773-2007.

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Living a Life Dying of Cancer By Mackenzie Collins

Linda Faye Edmonds Davis (8 Aug. 1945 – 23 Dec. 2008); Married Kenneth Wayne Davis (9 June 1943 – 18 Feb. 2012): The couple lived in Mount Airy, North Carolina, US

Early in the morning, Linda Davis got into her car with one of her three daughters, Kim Collins, and one of her granddaughters, Mackenzie Collins, to go to her doctor's appointment in Winston Salem, NC. She had to go to the doctor to basically tell her the same thing they had told her many times before; that her lung cancer wasn't going to get any better, seeing as it was caught in a

late stage, and that it was wise to plan for her death now, and to make sure that she would be comfortable in the end. This isn't something anyone wants to hear or experience, but it was her reality. The doctors found the cancer when it had already evolved to stage four lung cancer and there was really no hope. Everyone hoped for it to be different, but nobody hoped more than her granddaughter. Mackenzie didn't understand a lot of what was going on; she was only seven years old, but she did understand a lot for her age.

Linda Edmonds had been a smoker for most of her life, it was common when she was growing up; that was long before they started putting warnings on the back of the cigarette packages. She also worked in the RJ Reynolds factory until she was physically unable to. All this combined was not the best for her health. Her mother and father were already gone, preceding her in death. Her mother, Nancy, had passed in 1982 and her father, Garl, had passed in 1969⁵². Her sister

⁵² Bob Carter, "Nancy Viola Bruner Edmonds (1922–1982)," *Find a Grave*, last revised 5 Sept 2012, accessed 17 Sept 2018,

Lily Venable, or Mae as everyone knew her as, passed in the early 2000's. She was ready to see everyone again. She knew she wasn't going to get better, but as her Baptist faith let her know, she was going to see everyone again. She still had people in this world that she loved and wanted to see. She had many siblings and their spouses to still want to see, she had her husband, she had her daughters, and she had her grandchildren. Her daughters were Kim Collins, Karen Heath, and Wanda "Kay" Stone. She then had her brothers,

www.findagrave.com/memorial/96590122/nancy-viola-edmonds.

Johnny and his wife Lynn, and Jimmy and his wife Nancy. Then her sisters, Wilma and her husband Roger, and Nina. She also had all her grandchildren to watch grow. She had Tiffany Stone, Brandon Heath, James Thore, and Mackenzie Collins. With so much family still here, she didn't want to leave them. She wasn't necessarily scared to leave but it wasn't a comforting feeling when thought about.

surrounded by the people she loved and who loved her in return in August of 2008. She spent that final birthday at the Sagebrush located in Mount Airy, North Carolina. She

87



Linda (left) pictured with her brother, Johnny (center), and sister, Wilma (right) Source: Mackenzie Collins' personal collection

Linda spent her last birthday surrounded by the people she loved and who loved her in return in August of 2008. She spent that final birthday at the Sagebrush located in Mount Airy, North Carolina. She was with her daughter, Kim, and her granddaughter, Mackenzie. They sat and laughed through the pain that was ever present, and the heavy feeling that weighed down on the family. They all knew that this was more than likely going to be the last birthday that they spent with her, but they didn't let that get in the way.



Linda pictured on her final birthday with daughter Kim in the background (2008) Source: Mackenzie Collins' personal collection

Days turned into weeks and weeks into months, and everything was only getting worse. Linda's health quickly deteriorated over the next four months. She was

hospitalized for a part of those months until she realized that she didn't want to pass in a dingy hospital room, so she went home. The family brought in a hospital type bed into their living room for her closer to her death. Her family would take turns spending the night at the house to watch over her, seeing as her husband, Kenneth, was unable to do so because of prior health issues himself. They would clean her up and make sure she was as comfortable as possible through the inevitable discomfort and pain that she was obviously in. O self-smo2 snovreve begins to

Through everything, Linda was strong. Through the ups and downs in her journey, she was strong and never let the bad times get her down. She never showed her pain to the younger ones, or let people see how bad it really was. She tried incredibly hard to fight through it and to come out victorious in the battle, only to come up just shorthanded. Linda Faye Edmonds Davis lost her fight to cancer on 23 December 2008. It devastated everyone, and no one in the family was left unaffected. Her passing truly changed everyone. Some like to believe that she is in Heaven, smiling down at everyone,

watching everyone change and grow and love. She was an amazing and beautiful woman who everyone was lucky to know.

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Survival By Maggie Collins

Rebecca Shelton East (abt. 1859-1948. Married 1873/1903 to Joseph Henry East (abt. 1852-1903): the couple was poor and sharecropped on a piece of land to survive during the eighteen-hundreds.

Land is valuable to all since it can be used for crops which are then harvested for personal intake or commercial use. An effective way to receive profits from the land is to use sharecropping, which involves an agreement between the landowner and a

tenant farmer. A sharecropper may either receive a percentage of the crops grown by



Plowing the Field Mountain Farmer, Shelby Adams and Mimi Pickering 1973.⁵³

⁵³ Adams, Shelby. Pickering, Mimi. "Mountain Famer" *Appalshop*. Plowing the Field in 1973. Web 24 Sep. 2018.

the tenants, the value of which represents the whole of his embodied labor or may be provided with a separate area of land upon which to produce his own crops.⁵⁴
Sharecropping was some way families had guaranteed homes if they produced the crop for the owner to sell for profit.

Rebecca Shelton East lived on a sharecropped farm with her husband and six children to raise while living through the late eighteen-hundreds and into the early nineteen-hundreds. The family was very poor

and went hungry most days, as it was hard to maintain eight total mouths to feed with just one farm, one ox, and one gun for hunting purposes. She was not an educated woman since she could not read or write and was only able to speak English. Her job at home was to be the housewife who did the cooking when there was something to prepare for a meal and take care of the children. To help her family, she could make money by working with other sharecroppers if they were in need of help, or she was able to help in gardens and was able to take home certain

⁵⁴ Michael Pitt, "Sharecropping and Class Analysis: Comments on the Conceptual Issues," *Rethinking Marxism* Vol. 10, Issue. 3,(1998): 1. 96

fruits or vegetables as a way of payment.⁵⁵
All the children would use their efforts for helping on the farm or helping other farms if time permitted just to survive and help their family. Life was hard, but there was a way for the family to make it through.

The East family's sharecropping was on a tobacco farm, used whatever resources were available to use. There was never an opportunity to buy new equipment for the land or new materials each season for the tobacco after being harvested. Nothing was

⁵⁵ Jack Arrington, interviewed by author, Mount Airy, NC, September 15, 2018.

wasted, as everything could be used for different purposes. Now, Rebecca was a talented woman considering that she could not read or write, but she was able to quilt a bedspread with symmetrical patterns without having anyone show her how. Rebecca would take the old tobacco twine, which was used for drying tobacco leaves, and made a quilted bedspread with it.⁵⁶ Fabric of any type would never be wasted because it could always be made into something else. Since something could go from a bedspread, to an

⁵⁶ Barbara Edmiston, interview by author, Mount Airy, NC, September 15, 2018.

apron, and then to a towel, pieces of the material would become smaller and smaller, which meant that the leftover fabric could still be used to make smaller and smaller items. Since the children were spread out in age, they provided continual help on the farm. Out of the children there was four girls (Mary, Allison, and Leah) and only two boys (James and Rufus). The children were getting older and then getting married to start new lives with their significant others. Most of the children were out of the house by the time Rebecca's life changed forever.

During the year of 1903, Rebecca's husband Joseph Henry East, went hunting in hopes of providing for his family that day with some type of meat. Now, during this time is was very important to be accurate while hunting as missing means that was money wasted. As Joseph was climbing over a fence, he dropped his shot gun which went off and killed him. When he was found, Rebecca was left with 3 children still at home, the one ox which tended to the farm, and the shotgun that killed her husband. Yet, she refused to give up and strove to provide for her family, herself.

Working the farm was tough, as now there was more responsibilities upon her and the family continued to go hungry most days. The three children left at home were Alice, Leah, and Rufus. While the children helped as much as could, the youngest, who was Rufus, was only seven years-old when this accident happened. Rebecca knew that she could not keep up with him and that there would never be enough for him to eat, so Rufus was sent to go live with his oldest sister Mary to be raised.⁵⁷ Mary was 23

years-old when her father passed and had been married for three years. Since Rufus was now living with Mary, that left Alice and Leah on the farm with their mother. Years later, both Alice and Leah get married and leave their mother to start new life with their husbands. After her last two children left the house, Rebecca gave the land back to the owner for another family to take over for their personal gains. Which left Rebecca starting a new life without her husband and without the farm.

Once the rest of her children where off starting their own lives, since Rebecca

Norma Bowen, interview by author, Mount Airy, NC, September 15, 2018.

left the farm she began living with her children. She would take care of her grandbabies and would provide any type of help that her children would ask of her. There was much moving around as there was never a home in her name and she never remarried, as she continually wanted to take care of her children. Even though her children did not have much, they also wanted to take care of their mother as she had tried her best while raising them.

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Escaping Erin By Cameron Taylor

Alexander Gordon (December 17, 1722 - 1805) married Jane Stewart (March 2, 1722 - 1780) and immigrated with their son Thomas Gordon (1745-1803) to North Carolina in 1750. William Balch, Irish Central.⁵⁸

Unforgettable Picture of Famine Times." Digital image. March 1, 2017. Accessed September 19, 2018. "William Balch, American minister, historian and journalist visited Ireland during the Famine year 1850. We pick up his journey as he approaches Millstreet in Cork in dreadful." During William Balch's trip to Ireland, he discusses what he heard and what he saw. Once he quoted a beggar-women who lifted her child to Balch and said, "Pray, yer honor, give me a mite for my poor childer, a single penny, oond may God save yer shoul."

weather.https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/an-american-reports-from-ireland-during-the-famine-photos.

Reverend Alexander Gordon was born in Down, Ireland on December 17, 1722. ⁵⁹ Seventeenth century Ireland was very different than it is today. Compared to England, Ireland was lacking not only in economy but in agricultural methods as well. ⁶⁰ In the early 18th century, the constant cultivating of the same farmlands led to

⁵⁹ It is not known what denomination Alexander Gordon was affiliated with but it is certain he was from a protestant denomination since he was from Northern Ireland.

⁶⁰ Fanning, Ronan, and et. al. "Modern Ireland under British Rule." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed September 19, 2018. https://www.britannica.com/place/Ireland/Socialeconomic-and-cultural-life-in-the-17th-and-18th-centuries.

poor-quality soil. This made it difficult to grow crops which then led to a decline in agricultural labor. This caused the people of Ireland to immigrate to other countries to make a living.

By the time Alexander was sixteen,
both his father and mother had died. This
meant Alexander was left to grow up in 18th
century Ireland during a time when the
tension between Ireland and England were
great. Ireland was a puppet state that England
could control. During this time, England's
Charles the II enforced harsh laws which
affected Ireland's economy in a negative

way. Three of those acts were: The Navigation Act, The Cattle Act, and the Woolen Act. In the beginning, Irish ships could send Irish goods to the English colonies without any difficulties or hindrances from England. After The Navigation Act was introduced, goods could not be sent to any of the English colonies unless they were transferred to English ships at English ports. When England put the Cattle Act into play, many Irish men and women who made a living on farm animals were ruined. According to the Cattle Act, it was against the law for the people of Ireland

to export livestock to England or to any other foreign countries. Wool was also a large industry in Ireland during the 1600's. With the Woolen Act, the English government made it illegal for Ireland to sell woolen goods to any country. This caused many weavers to leave for other countries to try and support themselves. The ones who did stay in Ireland either died of starvation or barely survived only by stealing and begging. While there is no known evidence of Alexander having a criminal record; sometimes you have to do what you can to survive. By this time, England had corrupted

the Irish economy to the point the population was struggling just to scrape by.⁶¹

To make matters worse, three famines were about to hit Ireland. The first famine occurred in 1729 due to three bad harvest years. "One half of the people in Ireland eat neither bread nor flesh for one half of the year, nor wear Shoes or Stockings." While this was a very small and short famine, it was only a precursor to what was about to

⁶¹ Baker, Lyman A. "Conditions in 18th-Century Ireland (ca. 1729)." K-state.edu. This information taken from the website was a student at Kansas State University during 1999.

⁶² Ibid.

happen. The second famine occurred due to a severe amount of frost in 1739, which killed an estimated 400,000 people due to starvation. Two years later, a severe famine hit Ireland called *Bliadhain an Air*⁶³, "Year of the Slaughter." While there is no known records from Alexander's accounts during the famines, as a young boy with no parents, he would have been greatly affected by the

The famine created different kinds of unusual climate conditions. The people around the area seemed to be amazed by the weather around them. On the Lee River in Cork, a fair was held on the frozen river. This excitement was short lived, however. With the constant frozen weather, fuel prices rose dramatically, and many poor people even froze to death in the bitter temperatures.

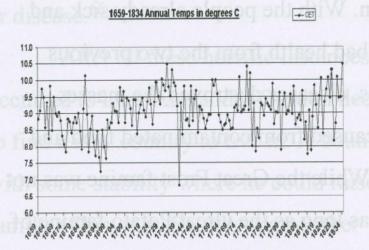
When things seemed they could not get any

⁶³ Also called the Great Frost and also the Forgotten famine because most people remember the Great Potato Famine more due to it having a longer duration

⁶⁴ While wealthy people individuals do not face as much hard times as

worse, they did. As the temperatures continued to stay close to freezing, many types of agriculture died from the thick layers of frost that covered them. By the year 1740, the potato was a main source of food for Ireland. When large quantities of the potatoes died, the price of potatoes went through the

roof, and starvation became a reality for many Irish men and women.



18th century weather. The major dip represents the winter 1739-40 (Ireland)
Grigg, D; Irish History Podcast (1980)⁶⁵

115

⁶⁵ Dwyer, Fin. "1741: The Year of Slaughter • Irish History Podcast." Irish History Podcast. August 10, 2010. Accessed September 19, 2018. https://irishhistorypodcast.ie/1741-the-year-ofslaughter/. A quote from the website read, "one of the most tragic events in post-medieval Irish history.

In 1741, the people were continuing to starve when typhus and dysentery started to set in. With the people already sick and still in bad health from the two previous famines, diseases destroyed the masses, many caused from contaminated food and water. While the Great Frost famine was not nearly as long as the Great Potato famine of 1845, what it lacked in duration, it made up

Although this famine has been overshadowed by the famine of 1845-1851 it was equally destructive. In fact, it killed a greater percentage of the population in a shorter period of time. Although often attributed to "natural causes" a closer look reveals the suffering could have been alleviated."

After all these horrific instances had occurred to him, Alexander Gordon decided to find a new country to live in. A country with some stability where he could raise a family of his own. So, like many other Europeans that were seeking a better life, Alexander, along with his wife and son,

⁶⁶Mcwilliams, Brendan. "The Great Frost and Forgotten Famine." The Irish Times. February 19, 2001. Accessed September 19, 2018. https://www.irishtimes.com/news/the-great-frost-and-forgotten-famine-1.282539.

moved to North Carolina in 1750. After battling with the death of his parents, two famines, political and economic crises, he had finally escaped the hardships of Erin.

Like many other Europeans that immigrated to America, Alexander and his family took up farming as their occupation.

While obtaining land during this time was not hard,⁶⁷ cultivating the land was extremely difficult. Getting up early in the morning before the sun rose and slaving in the hot sun

until it is night time and repeating that same process daily can be demanding.⁶⁸ New inventions would arise to aid in agriculture such as the cotton gin and the cast-iron plow but, these contraptions would not come into existence until the 1790's. ⁶⁹

⁶⁷ Bellis, Mary. "Detailed Timelines of the History of American Agriculture." *ThoughtCo*, www.thoughtco.com/history-of-american-agriculture-farm-machinery-4074385.

⁶⁸ Svay, Victor. "Life in America and Europe- 1750-1770." *Prezi.com*, 23 Feb. 2014, prezi.com/b9ck1byrx0an/life-in-america-and-europe-1750-1770/.

⁶⁹Keiferg. "Agricultural Revolution Timeline." *Timetoast*, www.timetoast.com/timelines/agrigulture.

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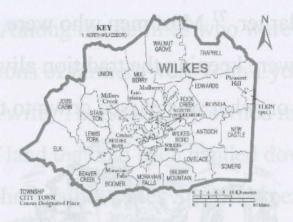
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124

Good Ol' Boys By Presley Wagoner

John Wesley Lyon (1878-1947): married Thursey M. Snow (abt.1990-1917), Laura B. Dameon (abt.1920-1938), and Sarah Leftwhich (abt.1938-?): lived in Wilkes, Allegany, and Virginia as a farmer.

From running moonshine to bailing hay, raising cattle, and priming tobacco, men, and women did what they needed to survive in the country. Out in the small community of Traphill, N.C., farms thrived. Grain was their largest crop; which led to Wilkes Co. being wildely known for its grain alcohol, "moonshine". Livestock, game were the main



Map of Wilkes County Genealogy INC. 2017⁷⁰

export. Traphill was growing as an economy, and the need for more goods to be traded

⁷⁰ Genealogy INC, "Wilkes County, North Carolina History & Facts," *Wilkes Co. NC Maps, Atlases & Gazetters*, Last modified September 2018. Web. 20 Sept. 2018.

www.genealogyinc.com/northcarolina/wilkes-county/

became larger. ⁷¹ Most men who were farmers were keeping the tradition alive by carrying on what was passed down to them.



Aloysius Patrimonio's sketch of farmer and horse plowing field
123RF⁷²

Among the families who were from generations of farmers were John Lyon and his first wife, Thursey. They owned multiple plots of land that had been handed down from John's father Miles Sr., who spent his entire life farming just like his father had. Farms like John's not only provided a source of income, but they provided food on the table. Farmers ate what they could raise, kill, or gather. Farming was not easy for them. Tools were fairly simple and were hand held. Rakes, hoes, shovels, and saws are just to

⁷¹ Hayes, Johnson J. "The Land of Wilkes," *Wilkesboro, N.C.* Wikes County Historical Society, 1962.

Drawn Sketched Vector Illustration of a Farmer and 128

Horse Plowing the Field with Barn Farmhouse," *Photography*, 123RF.

name a few.⁷³ It took tremendous amounts of energy and horse drawn plows, to tend to the fields. Horses were vital. They were not only used for plowing, horses were used for pulling wagons loaded with crops, hauling cut timber to clear land for farming, and travel.⁷⁴ These essentials are what helped John provide for his family.

As a farmer, John fought many battles throughout his lifetime. The

Tools were fairly simple and were hand hel

unpredictable weather of North Carolina was a factor that kept these farmers on their toes. From blistering summers to harsh winters or the terrible droughts, the quantity of crops every year was always in question. By the late 1800s and early 1900s the number of farmers were increasing rapidly. The American production was rising to an alltime high. This made prices fall for a variety of crops. Families who had mortgages or other large debts were affected the most. As the prices fell, the need to double production grew to try to earn enough to pay their bills. In turn, this caused a greater overproduction

⁷³ Morton, G. Donna, "Farming Tools in the Early 1900s," Hand Powered, Leaf Group. 2001-18.

⁷⁴ North Carolina Museum of History, "The Story of North Carolina: Farm Chores in the Early 1800s Gallery Cart," Growing Your Own Food, MOHA.

which lead to a vicious cycle of crop prices falling that lead many farmers to bankruptcy. Rising costs were another issue some families couldn't escape. Many farmers felt under attack by forces that were leaning on the national economy. Industries were able to keep prices high on manufactured goods, middlemen were taking their cuts before



Dunn Area, Lewis White Studio: Group in Tabacco Field North Carolina State Archives c.1920's-30's⁷⁵

selling to farmers, and taxes were extremely unfair.⁷⁶

⁷⁵ Lewis White Studio, "Group in tobacco field, no date (c.1920's-30's)," *North Carolina State Archives*, Call no. PhC.121-91.

North, South, and West," *Changes in Agriculture*, AP, US History. Dec. 4.

In North Carolina, farmers had tried to improve situations during the agricultural depression by forming organizations to promote equal rights among farmers. Unfortunately, nothing could prepare any family in Wilkes County for October 29, 1929. The Great Depression, an event that changed John Lyon's life along with thousands of others. Most people in the area were living off a low income at the time and for nearly half of North Carolina, that income was agriculture. Most farmers were still overproducing crops to try to make up for the falling prices that began a few years prior.

This lead to failure when The Depression hit. Prices plummeted to an all-time low and farmers were receiving less than half of their original income. With farmers making nearly nothing, they could not afford farm supplies or even worse, food, clothing or other necessities for their families. They began to rely on banks for credit that resulted in piles of debt. 77 strainimb A mamtauib A landlubing A John and his second wife Laura began

handing off farm duties to their four children.

⁷⁷ Bishop, RoAnn, "Agriculture in North Carolina during the Great depression," Tar Heel Junior Historian, NC Museum of History, January 1, 2010.

They were grown by the time the Depression hit, which meant there were more hands to help provide for one another. In Wilkes and other surrounding counties, they were used to going without, so learning to live with even less only meant finding new ways to survive. Around 1933 a plan had been put into action to try to give relief to falling crop prices. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration began paying farmers to grow less crops and leaving acres of land unplanted. By farmers growing less, a shortage would result. When a shortage for a certain crop began, the farmer could then raise prices to make more

money. ⁷⁸ John and his family began acting out this plan with tobacco and corn. The plan helped for a short time. It was enough for small areas like Wilkes, to get people back on their feet. While it was a quick fix it did the trick. The effects John and his family felt from the depression were enough from John to throw in the towel and pick up another passion.

Being from the South, religion was a major staple in nearly every family's home in Traphill. God was the one person they could

137

⁷⁸ Wheelock, C. David, "What Was the Great Depression?" *Session 1: The Great Depression and North Carolina*, North Carolina Museum of History.

put their trust in, who could make all their troubles better. The Roaring River Primitive Baptist Church started in 1785, was a popular place for people in Traphill. Many people of importance attended either church or its other location in Roaring River. John Lyon was a true man of God and started his own church during the era of The Great Depression. It was branched off of the Primitive Association, but he built the church by hand off of what is known as "D" Road. The church did well, but the location was not ideal for most people in the community. A few deacons of the church and John loaded

the church up one day onto planks drawn by horses and moved the church to where the Old Roaring River Baptist Church stands today. ⁷⁹

In the eyes of the people from
Traphill, they always had more than enough.
No matter what was thrown their way, they
helped everyone out like they were their
own. They never did without because no
matter what, they always had each other.
Being a farmer in the 1800s was far from
easy, but lessons were learned that were

⁷⁹ Sidden, A.C., Miles, Charlie, "Minutes 1 of the I Eighty-Eight Annual Session," *Primitive Baptist*, Wilkes Co. Oct. 5, 6, and 7, 1956.

passed down from generation to generation.

The determination, and hard work is something that is seen over and over again from people in this area. It took strong will to come from nothing, and then, suddenly try to make a living from nothing.

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Overcoming Troubles By Jill McCormick

Roy Lee Martin (1932-2006; married Virginia Clara Coe August of 1955) The couple met in Copeland (Dobson, NC) and grew up together, farming, while Clara worked as a registered nurse and Roy Lee worked as a court bailiff after serving in the Korean war for 4 years.

Born in 1932, Roy Lee Martin didn't know what lie ahead of him just eighteen months into his life. What started out as a normal hot July evening would soon change his life in ways that he, and his family, never imagined. His mother, America Lucindy was preparing to wash clothes in a wash tub out

on their front porch. She ran inside to grab the clothes to begin washing them, when all of a sudden she heard a terrible scream. She ran outside and discovered her youngest son, Roy Lee, who had just begun walking, had fallen into the tub of scalding hot water. She immediately pulled him out, and screamed for her husband, who was a sheriff's detective for Surry County. He cranked his squad car and rushed him to Northern Hospital of Surry County, blue lights and all. When they arrived, Roy Lee was immediately taken back for examination. He had severe third degree burns on 90% of his

body, possibly fourth degree burns. His parents were told on the spot that he was likely not going to make it.

After spending over a week in the hospital, taking pain medications, and getting treated every few hours with special ointment and wraps, he was finally sent home. His parents were told that he would not be able to sleep normally for several months. He had to sleep on his elbows and knees, being propped up. After the healing process began and he started scarring up, his parents knew a lady who was known for taking burns out of the body. Her name was Cora Coe. She literally

"talked the fire out of his body." She began coming to their house every day, and continued the healing process for them. He was left with just 2 scars on his entire body after she was done healing him, even after having 90% of his body severely burnt. 80 He told my own mother, years later, "everywhere that she touched me and said a prayer, I no longer have a scar." (Mark 16:18 "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.") This bible verse was said to be mumbled as they were taking the fire

⁸⁰ Jennifer Boyd, "Looking back: healing hands" MyHorryNews.com

away. It was said that they could pass this power to someone else.

Eighteen years later, after being told that he would not make it, Roy Lee served in the army for four years. He was stationed in Leghorn, Italy, which is an Italian Port City Livorno on the West coast of Tuscany. He was soon sent to the Korean War which began in June of 1950. It was a war between North Korea and South Korea, where 75,000 soldiers from the North invaded the South following a series of clashes along the

border.⁸¹ By July, American troops had joined the conflict, in favor with South Korea. The fight on the Korean peninsula was a global struggle between East and West. Grandpa Roy Lee was on the frontline during the war. As soon as he was sent in, the fights began. He would tell mom and I different stories back in the day about what all he had to do while he was in the war, and his stories broke my heart. He spent nearly three years of his life having to kill other people. Not only did he have to kill other people, he had

⁸¹ Korean War.

History.com/topics/korea/korean-war

to protect himself from being killed. He also had to watch his own men go down, and there was nothing that he could do about it. Just a few months before the war ended, he would have a day that would change his life forever. He got shot in the arm, close to the upper shoulder. He was taken off of the frontline for several weeks, but was able to recover in time to continue fighting before the war would come to an end. Even though he was able to continue fighting, we would never be on the frontline again.



James, Fitch. Korean War Vets Mark 60th Anniversary of End to Forgotten War. 26 July 2013

In July 1951, President Truman and his military commanders started peace talks. The fighting still continued along the 38th parallel as the negotiations stalled. Both sides agreed to accept a ceasefire that would maintain the 38th parallel boundary, but they could not agree on whether the prisoners of war should be sent back to their own

countries. Finally, after over two years of negotiations, the adversaries signed an armistice on July 27, 1953. This agreement allowed the Prisoners of War to stay where they liked; drew a new boundary near the 38th parallel which gave South Korea an extra 1500 square miles of territory; and created a 2-mile-wide "demilitarized zone", which still exists today. Though the Korean War was fairly short, it was extremely bloody; with more than 5 million deaths total; 40,000 American deaths, and 100,000 Americans wounded.

After the Korean War was over, Roy Lee would serve one more year and then be decommissioned. Coming home was a definite difficulty for him. Years later he shared information with the family that would haunt our dreams. Along with recovering from being injured as a baby, and in the war, he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) severely for years after coming home. This is a disorder that develops in people who have experienced or been through scary, shocking, or dangerous

events. ⁸² Even after having my mother in 1961, he continued to suffer from it. My own mother even remembers what it was like for him dealing with that. He would never sit facing away from the door at a restaurant, he would have flashbacks, bad dreams/night scares. He also got frightened fast, avoided certain things such as large crowds or loud noises, and always felt on the edge. He could hardly ever get any sleep because of it.

154

When he came home, he began farming and working at a service station. Two years later he married Virginia Clara Coe, the love of his life and my grandma whom I am named after. In 1961 they would have a beautiful baby girl, Sandra Martin Smith, whom I am blessed to call mom to this day. His days' home would be some of the most difficult of his life, even more difficult than when he was in the war. After overcoming the painful burns from his childhood which he was easily healed from, and recovering from a bullet wound to the arm, he struggled with something much

^{82 &}quot;Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" National Institute of Mental Health, https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd/index.shtml

deeper. Something that could not be seen from the surface, but that haunted him daily. In the end, he was a strong man, one of the strongest people I knew. Not many people could overcome so many obstacles in their life and still wake up with a smile on their face every day, ready to conquer whatever else this crazy world had to throw at them. He was a special man, and I will forever be grateful that I was able to call him "Grandpa".



Photo of Roy Lee Martin
"Sandra Martin Smith collection" 1952

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158

James William Moricle, Sr. By Drew Cain

Birth date- June 1, 1912/ Death Date- February 1, 1984/ Marriage Date- July 15, 1933

James William Moricle, Sr. was the first of his family to immigrate to America. William, was born Wilhelm Morgel in Germany and immigrated to the US to Frederick County, Maryland. The last name changed early on after Mr. Morgel came to the US and there are several variations of it in government records from the late 1700s. Other variants of last name after Mr. Morgel came to the US, include Morkel, which is

how it is pronounced commonly, and
Morecal, Moracle, and Morrical. Mr.
Morgel's family wrote it as Morricle. Over
the years some descendants kept that
spelling, while others dropped one of the
"r"s.

James William Moricle, Sr., subject of this paper and my great-grandfather, was known as Bill. He was born and raised in Rockingham County, NC, one of four children of Asa Moricle and Clara Simpson.

Bill left school before graduating and went to work at American Tobacco Company as a machinist, a trade that would be

beneficial throughout his life. The principal at his school was also the baseball coach, and Bill was a good baseball player. Therefore, the principal/coach talked him into going back to school because he wanted Bill on the team. Bill did finally graduate while playing baseball. After graduation he went back to work at American Tobacco Company until he was drafted by the Navy.

On January 19, 1944, the tenth birthday of his first son James William Moricle, Jr., Bill was sworn into the Navy.

This was during World War II, and his intake center was Spartanburg, SC. Bill left behind

his wife, Florence Wood Moricle, and his sons J.W., Jr. (Billy) and Clay Wesley.

Bill was assigned in the Navy to the machine shop as a machinist mate due to his experience at American Tobacco Company. Early on he was sent to machinist training classes in Norfolk, VA. One task his instructors asked him to do was to manufacture some special bolts. When the instructor came around to check on the bolts, Bill was making ash trays from scrap materials. The instructor inquired about the bolts to which Bill replied, "Oh, I finished those a long time ago, so I kept myself busy

making these." Seeing his great work
prompted the instructor to ask what he did
before the Navy, when Bill told him he was a
machinist at American Tobacco Company,
the instructor told Bill that he was a horse
trainer! It is ironic that the Navy had a horse
trainer instructing a machinist in the machine
shop, as opposed to the other way around!

His first service was in the Atlantic
Ocean and his ship's assignment was to
search for German submarines and U-boats
off the coast of the US. On his first duty, he
said they could still see the lights from New
York City at night. That is how close to the

US shore they were searching for German boats. Bill's first time in New York City was while serving in the Atlantic. Once on shore he realized he had no money, but he was lucky enough to meet a man who was a Mason. Prior to entering the Navy, Bill had become a 32nd degree Mason, and there is a strong bond between the Mason brotherhood. He struck up a conversation with the man in New York, telling him he wanted to call home and check on his family, but he had no money. When the man found out Bill was a Mason, he gave him enough money to get something to eat and to call home. Bill never

took his Masonic ring off at any time during his Naval service because of the G in the center. He knew G stood for God and believed God would watch over him during the war.

As a side note, until he was much older, Bill thought he was of French ancestry. It was only after receiving a book titled "The Morricle Family – The story of a Floyd County Family" written by a distant cousin, did he learn he was German. He would never read the book, and though he would not say why, it was most probably because he remembered fighting against the

Germans in World War II and could have wondered if he was fighting against distant relatives. When the naval war in the Atlantic Ocean began to die down, Bill was transferred to the Pacific Ocean Naval fleet and was stationed at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was assigned to Destroyer Escort ship #57 named "Barber".

166



83 Souvenirs

Here is a photo of items Bill sent home to his wife Florence while serving in the Pacific. One is a lady's apron with a Naval insignia and the other a fringed scarf from Hawaii.

His ship's responsibility was to escort naval destroyers, staying to their outside, in order to divert incoming torpedoes, by While home on leave near the end of his service, he happened to drive into the town of Reidsville, where a parade was taking place. That is how he found out that the Germans had surrendered, and World War II was hopefully coming to an end.

Bill was discharged from the Navy in December 1945, due to his age and the fact he had 2 small children at home. At the time of discharge, he was a First-Class Petty Officer. In total, he had served a little less than 2 years in the Navy.

⁸³ Here is a photo of items Bill sent home to his wife Florence while serving in the Pacific. One is a lady's apron with a Naval insignia and the other a fringed scarf from Hawaii.

After leaving the Navy, Bill went back to work for American Tobacco
Company in Reidsville, ran a country store, and farmed tobacco. He and Florence had another son, Wallace Wood, after his service to his country was over. Bill also later became a Shriner, and he and his family lived in the small community of Bethany.



This is a photo of James William Moricle Sr. in his Naval uniform in 1944.

James Willam Moricle was a hardworking man. He helped his country, his family and many others. I believe there

Sr. in his Naval uniform in 1944.

should be more people like him in the world today. He is an inspiration in my life and I hope to become more like him each day.

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173

World War II Hero

By Brook Holt

Eldon Barnett Newsome was born on October 23, 1925, in Stokes County, North Carolina. Eldon Newsome married Georgia Fulk Newsome in the year of 1946, the couple had been married for sixty years when Eldon passed away on September 15, 2006. Eldon also served in the United States Navy during World War II, as a Combat Medic. 85

World War II began in the year 1939, but the United States did not enter the war

Find A Grave..." Find A Grave. February 27, 2008. Accessed September 15, 2018. http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24921052/eldon-barnett-newsome. (Information from this source was used throughout this entire paragraph).

174



Collage of Photos of Eldon Newsome & his family. Linda Joyce, private collection, (1925-1940's)⁸⁶

⁸⁶ Collage Photo of Eldon Newsome & his family. Linda Joyce, private collection, (1925-1940's). This Photo contains images of Eldon Newsome in his Navy uniform and personal family photos.

until the Japanese bombed the Pearl Harbor on December 5, 1941. When Pearl Harbor was bombed, Twenty-One U.S ships were sunk, 188 aircrafts were destroyed, and 2,403 people were murdered. It was only four days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor when Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. This was the first time Adolf Hitler, the current leader of Germany at the time officially declared war on another nation.87

When war was declared on the United States in 1941, the weapons used were deadly; there were many different types of weapons used in World War II: small fire arms, artillery, tanks, and mines. These types of weapons can cause mortal injuries, especially tanks and mines. This would be an incident when combat medics like Eldon Newsome would come in and attempt to rescue soldiers that were injured on the battle field. However, medical care options were limited for soldiers; there were many times

(Information from this source was used throughout this entire paragraph).

⁸⁷ History Channel. "WWII In HD: America Enters World War II | History." YouTube. May 19, 2014. Accessed September 23, 2018. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yQyCTTPGuQ. 176

when soldiers would have minor injuries to their limbs, but because of the limited options that combat medics had in pressed amounts of time, their limbs would have to be amputated.⁸⁸

When soldiers had their arms or legs amputated there was not time for numbing medications, the only drug that would be used, would be morphine. Morphine is a

medication that assists a person when they are in physical pain; however, morphine is a slow release pain medication; this means that while a person's limbs are being amputated by a combat medic, they will still feel a majority of the pain. One can make the inference that the combat medic that is performing the operation may feel really bad about the pain they are causing the individual; however, combat medics like Eldon Newsome that were interviewed years later, after the war have said that "While it was a tough experience, it was all worth it to save someone's life." This a very admirable

War II (army Medic Interview)." YouTube. December 10, 2014. Accessed September 14, 2018. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qc6FlGIzkbk. (Information from this source was used throughout this entire paragraph).

sentiment; it portrays a very positive light on what type of people were combat medics during World War II.⁸⁹

Eldon Newsome was not interviewed after World War II; however, but there is one experience in particular that Eldon shared with his daughter, Linda who stated in an interview "I cannot remember the name of the battle my Father was talking about, but during one of the battles of World War II, my

Father was searching for wounded soldiers on the hill side when he came across an injured Japanese man; majority of people would have saw him as the enemy, and left him to die. But my Father did not leave the Japanese man to die, my father said he and his friend lifted the man up and took him to the United States Navy Aid Station. Once at the aid station, they injected him with morphine and bandaged his wounds. After my Father told me this story, he told me that everyone is a child of God, no matter what apparel they wear." This story that Linda shared of her Father shows how much

War II (army Medic Interview)." YouTube. December 10, 2014. Accessed September 14, 2018. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qc6FlGIzkbk. (Information from this source was used throughout this entire paragraph).

compassion these combat medics had for not only United States soldiers, but human beings in general. It was not part of Eldon's job description to help that Japanese soldier, but Eldon saw more in this Japanese man than just his soldier apparel. Eldon saw himself in the Japanese soldier; Eldon saw somebody's son, somebody's husband, and somebody's father.⁹⁰

by Father told me this story, he told me that

Linda stated in the interview about her Father, Eldon Newsome, that Eldon took the Japanese Solider back to the United States Navy Aid Station. When the majority of people think of the phrase "Aid Station," they think of a clean, cool environment with clean surgical instruments, many different medications etc. However, the reality is that during World War II, aid stations were merely little tents set up on the ground outside. During the summer time, these tents would be packed with sweaty people, which caused germs and infections. These aid stations were exactly how it is written; these

⁹⁰ Joyce, Linda. Interviewed by Brooke Holt. Informal Interview. Linda Joyce's House. Interviewed September 10, 2018. (Information from this source was used throughout this entire paragraph).

were little stations that would allow combat medics to provide aid in such a way to get an individual in a stable condition, so that they could be moved to a civilian hospital.⁹¹

Combat medics played a major role in World War II. They were a necessity to soldiers during World War II; without combat medics like Eldon Newsome, many soldiers would have lost much more than one

outside. During the summer time, these tent

of their limbs—many of these soldiers would have lost their lives.

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⁹¹ Joyce, Linda. Interviewed by Brooke Holt. Informal Interview. Linda Joyce's House. Interviewed September 10, 2018. (Information from this source was used throughout this entire paragraph).

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House. Interviewed September 10,
2018.

The Paved Road

By Anayeli Garcia

José Abigail Mejia Villa (Birth: abt. 1928) Married to
Manuela Pérez Pérez (in 1950)
They lived in Toro Loco, Cruz de Caminos,
Michoacán de Ocampo, México.
Toro Loco is currently known as Piumo, Villa
Madero, Michoacán de Ocampo, México.⁹²

There is an unpaved road to get to the isolated village of Toro Loco. The thirty

⁹² Gricelda Villa Perez, interview by Anayeli Garcia, Dobson, NC, September 5, 2018. José Abigail was known as Abigail. The name José is abbreviated using a "J". The "J." was used to differentiate between a man and a woman on legal documents. In this narrative, Abigail will be referred to as José Abigail for clarity.

households in the small village are scattered within the valleys and are surrounded by forests of pine trees that extend to the horizon. In this village, the monarch butterflies rest on the branches of the pine trees after their long journey south. 93 Life seems so peaceful here to the visitors, as

188

there is no pollution, and all the stars can be seen clearly at night.



Photo of a Hacienda in Toro Loco J. Manuel Calderon, private collection (2016)⁹⁴

⁹³ Gricelda Villa Perez, interview by Anayeli Garcia, Dobson, NC, September 5, 2018. Gricelda Villa Perez is the daughter of J. Abigail Villa. She grew up in the same village as him.

⁹⁴ J. Manuel Calderon, Facebook Post, January 25, 2016, accessed September 16, 2018, http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=154720212 2264124&set=pb.100009230533184.-2207520000.1537320547.&type=3&theater. Calderon's picture shows the old hacienda, or larger estate used for farming, in Toro Loco.

The Mexican Revolution had just ended in 1920, and the transition from revolution to evolution had just begun. The primary focus was for the economy to become dependent on industries instead of the agricultural market. 95 The Mexican government initiated a plan of industrial development which led to an economic boom in the urban cities of Mexico. As a result, new factories, plumbing, and electricity became a popular necessity in the city life. 96

However, the growth hardly touched the majority of the people—the rural populations.

José Abigail Mejia Villa was one of the many *campesinos*, or countrymen, who made up three-fourths of the rural population. ⁹⁷ Like all the children of *campesinos*, when he reached ten years old, José Abigail helped his parents work in the fields from sunrise until dark having to endure the extreme heat and aching muscles. José Abigail lived in a household of five

⁹⁵ Robert Ryal Miller, *Mexico: A History* 1st
ed. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985),
324.

⁹⁶ Ibid., 271.

⁹⁷ Ibid., 276. According to Miller, three-fourths of Mexico's population live rural communities.

people. 98 This meant that his family had to do more work since they only had three children. Many campesinos saw this as a disadvantage, but once José Abigail's parents saw an opportunity to work in the city, it was easier for them to move. In 1943, José Abigail and his family settled in the city of Morelia, Michoacan. 99 The city life was something unfamiliar to José Abigail. Opposed to the country lifestyle, the roads were paved, and street lights illuminated the dark nights. While he lived in the city, José

192

Abigail was one of the fortunate few campesinos who was able to go to school and learned to read and write. 100

Upon the outbreak of WWII, the Mexican government abandoned its plan for improvement. The rights of peasants and workers were replaced with more plans for economic development of industries in urban areas. ¹⁰¹ Upon this unfavorable situation, José Abigail's parents decided to return to their village. ¹⁰² After going back home, little

⁹⁸ Gricelda Villa Perez, interview by Anayeli Garcia.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Miller, 323.

¹⁰² Gricelda Villa Perez, interview by Anayeli Garcia.

had changed. The path to the village of Toro Loco was still unpaved, and there was no electricity or potable water compared to the city.

As the years passed in the small village of Toro Loco, every day was the same for José Abigail's family. They would wake up at sunrise to do the day's labor and sell their crops in the city. José Abigail was twenty-three when he married his parents' goddaughter, Manuela Perez Perez. She left her house with all her belongings in a shoe

box to begin her new life with José Abigail. 103

The married couple lived a humble life. Manuela would rise with the sun and prepare José Abigail *atole*, a corn beverage, beans, and a hot cup of coffee to start his day. 104 As their family grew, both Manuela and José Abigail worked hard every day so that their children wouldn't have to go through the same hunger that they did. To maintain his growing family, cultivating

¹⁰³ Ibid. All of the information from this paragraph was part of the interview.

104 Ibid.

maize wasn't enough, so José Abigail had to look for new sources of income. 105

As the Mexican cities started to commercialize their petroleum and mining industries, the countrymen like José Abigail couldn't profit from this industry because the rural villages were still excluded. 106

Desperate to find a way to feed his children, José Abigail saw an opportunity in the land around him. The pine trees that surrounded his home and welcomed the monarch butterflies were now bringing money to his

105 Ibid.

family. José Abigail began his work by extracting the resin from the trees and collecting it into barrels. He would take a long two-hour trip each week to the nearest market to sell his resin. The demand for the pine resin increased, and his lands were profiting him. The Productora Forestal de Acuitzio y Villa Madero took great interest in José Abigail as he was a respected man in his community who knew about the market. José Abigail was hired as a manager of the company, and every two weeks, he would go and buy the resin from the other villagers. While he worked for the Productora Forestal,

¹⁰⁶ Miller, 330.

José Abigail lived in the city of Morelia while his wife and children remained back home. 107

As a manager of the Productora

Forestal, José Abigail was determined to find help for his community. Although José

Abigail couldn't drive, he invested in a cargo truck for the villagers and his sons to carry lumber and resin. His position as a manager allowed him to meet lawyers and engineers that worked for his district. 108

Unfortunately, the business that José Abigail worked for went bankrupt, and he lost his job. He went back to his village, and with the money that he had saved up he would grow maize and buy insurance for it. So ever if the crops failed, he would still get more money for it. 109 Even though José Abigail lost his job, he didn't lose contact with the lawyers and engineers that he met. After much persistence, José Abigail solicited help for his community by convincing the district officials of the

¹⁰⁷ Ibid. Toro Loco is located in the municipality of Villa Madero, Michoacán de Ocampo, Mexico.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid. Even if J. Abigail's crops failed, he was guaranteed income with the insurances that he bought.

importance of the *campesinos* and their labor. 110

The life of *campesinos* had never changed in Toro Loco until José Abigail came. After countless years of working under the scorching sun and time that José Abigail had to spend away from his family, he convinced the district officials to construct a road that would connect his village to the other towns. 111 José Abigail built a road for his community to travel on and for his children to go walk farther than he could.

Calderon, J. Manuel. Facebook Post. January 25, 2016. www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid= 1547202122264124&set=pb.1000092 30533184.-

Miller, Robert Ryal. *Mexico: A History*. 1st ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985.

Villa Perez, Gricelda. Interview by Anayeli Garcia. Dobson, NC, September 5, 2018.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

was guaranteed income with the insura bidl 111

Enduring War By Logan Banks

John W. Phillips (Birth February 4, 1847) Married to Siba McCraw.

Lived in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

John W. Phillips, born February 4, 1847, ran away from home at age 14 to join the Confederate army in their fight against the Union. Lying about his age, Phillips signed up for battle in Dobson, North Carolina, registering as 17 years old. As a young man looking for a thrill from war,

Camp life was its own struggle in comparison to the war itself. As Confederate soldiers, John and his comrades had to face various dangers from poor shelter, to malnutrition, to sickness. During travel and during battles, many camp items were left

Soldiers in the Civil War (Delmar Printing, 1992), 438.

behind, so the army could move faster. This resulted in little shelter that provided the least possible protection from outside factors. Not only was the living situation bad, but the amount of food available to the soldiers varied greatly. Sometimes there was plenty for soldiers to eat, while on other days, the army would have to go without. This lead to foraging for fruit, and on multiple occasions, John and the rest of the 28th Regiment would

have to trade with the Union during the time between battles. 114 This often led to the soldiers stealing from each other, even during their friendly exchanges.

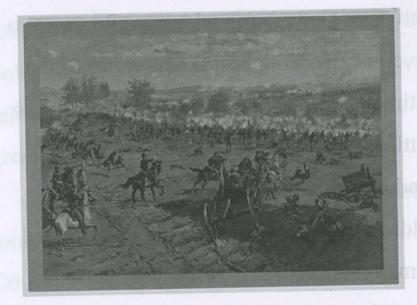
Outdoor living also led to diseases
from bacteria being spread due to the sharing
of sleeping spaces and clothes. Since many
soldiers were not accustomed to moving
around to different areas of land, sickness
was able to spread to easier to those who

¹¹³ Gary Helm, "Life of the Civil War Soldier in Camp," *American Battlefield Trust*, October 19, 2017, https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/life-civil-war-soldier-camp.

¹¹⁴ Hester Bartlett Jackson, Surry Country Soldiers in the Civil War, 438.

were not immune. 115 This led to the loss of many friends and fellow soldiers.

When not dealing with the everyday struggle of camp life, the confederate army would entertain themselves with music, card games, and newspapers that were delivered every so often. One thing that every soldier looked forward to was mail from home. It was in this mail that soldiers could hear from their families a welcome diversion from the war.



Battle of Gettysburg
Thure de Thulstrup. Library of Congress (1887). 117

The battlefield did not always go as planned for the soldiers. Company A of the 28th Regiment was called in to fight in the

¹¹⁵ Gary Helm, "Life of the Civil War Soldier in Camp," *American Battlefield Trust*.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Thur de Thustrup, *Battle of Gettysburg*, Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2003663828/.
207

Battles of Gettysburg, which would go on to have one of the highest fatality rates of the entire war. 118 John had begun the trek to the battle, but his general, A.P. Hill decided to send him back with the sick and weak soldiers to watch over them. 119 Phillips had to march his company back to Winchester, Virginia, where he temporarily became a ward master in a hospital where his fellow

Following his time caring for the sick, John rejoined the battle where he would face his greatest challenge of all.

On May 12, 1864, the 28th Regiment joined the fight at the Spotsylvania

Courthouse. John and his fellow soldiers managed to break the Union's flank on

General Lee's orders. During the battle, the regiment lost 126 soldiers, with John

Britannica, June 24, 2018, https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Gettysburg.

¹¹⁹ "John W. Phillips Frets and Fumes as He Is Denied Trip to Gettysburg," *The Mount Airy News*, June 30, 1938.

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ James Henry Lane, "Twenty-Eighth Regiment," In *North Carolina Troops, 1861-'65*, (Raleigh, N.C.: State Dept. of Archives and History, 1966), 480.

being taken as a prisoner by the Union. This was the last battle that Phillips fought in the war, as he had both knees broken, along with an arm. He was sent to Point Lookout in Maryland for 3 months to serve under the Union.

After being captured and held captive by US forces, Phillips was transferred to Elmira, NY, as a prisoner of war. Phillips, along with his fellow prisoners, made it through each day in the camp by following the same procedures. This routine consisted

of the prisoners waking up for roll call, eating a meal, and then either working around camp, or just sitting around. The major problem that inmates had to face every day was disease caused by overcrowding. Elmira's camp was made to hold only about 5,000 prisoners, but usually the number of inmates was higher than 7,000. This overwhelming number of prisoners had to

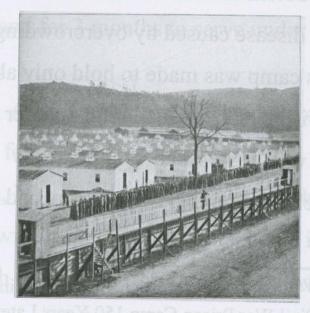
¹²² Jackson, 140-141.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Keri Blakinger, "When Hell Was in Elmira: Civil War Prison Camp 150 Years Later," *Ithaca*, June 1, 2015, https://www.ithaca.com/news/when-hell-was-in-elmira-civil-war-prison-camp-years/article_72dae506-1f7f-11e5-ab7a-83357cae3961.html.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

sleep and defecate in the same areas, causing a multitude of diseases to be spread around camp, which led to a high mortality rate because of the lack of proper sanitation.



Photograph of Elmira Prison Francis Miller, Nellaware (1911). 126

On June 19, 1865, Phillips was released from prison when he signed a loyalty oath to the United States of America. 127 Upon returning home, John married Siba McCraw, and went on to become a farmer. Like many others, John went into war expecting excitement and pleasure, but was left with an aftershock of painful experiences. After four years of harsh camp life, war injuries, and prison encampment, John W. Phillips' perception

http://www.nellaware.com/blog/elmira-prisoner-of-war-camp.html.

¹²⁶ Francis Miller, Photo of *Elmira Priso*,. "Elmira Prisoner of War Camp," *Nellaware*, 212

¹²⁷ Jackson, 141.

had changed. It took endurance and determination to survive the horrors of war.

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The Royal Family

By Dylon Wooten

John William Royal (1846-1923)

On January 20, 1846, my great-great-great grandfather, John William Royal was born in the Cherry Lane community of Alleghany County, and at the age of four, he and his parents, William Franklin Royal, and Sarah "Sallie" Royal, moved to the neighboring county of Ashe. His time in

217

¹²⁸ Barbara Groeger, "Out on a Limb," Ancestry, https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/75801252/person/302026684956/facts ?_phsrc=pRG20&_phstart=successSource

Ashe County was living the life of homesteaders with his parents and seven siblings. At the age of 14 he would move to the Traphill community of Wilkes County.

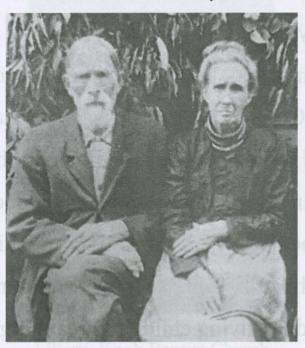
After his 26th birthday, he married Sarah Jane Brooks and would go on to have 12 children together. 129

Sarah "Sallie" Royal, moved to the

129 Ibid.

218

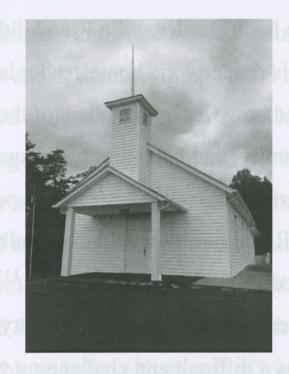
John and Sarah Royal



Hardin and Virginia Royall. *John W. and Sarah J. Brooks Royal*, (1981)¹³⁰

130 Hardin and Virginia Royall, *Log Cabin Families of Stone Mountain, North Carolina*, Nu-Line Printing Company, North Carolina 1981, p. 137.

John Royal and his family owned property on what is now referred to as Oklahoma road, just below Liberty Knob Baptist Church. John Royal's father had donated the property where the first school in Alleghany County, Liberty Knob School, would be built. 131 Having lost two of his infant children, John would provide for his wife and ten living children by farming the surrounding area around his residence. 132 He



Liberty Knob Baptist Church
Dylon Wooten, *Liberty Knob Baptist Church*,
(September 17, 2018)¹³³
was a farmer on one level, but by today's
definition, he may have been considered

¹³¹ Allan Wood. 2018. The Royall Family. Personal Interview.

Cabin Families of Stone Mountain, North Carolina, (North Carolina: Nu-Line Printing Company, 1981), 137-138.

¹³³ Dylon Wooten, *Liberty Knob Baptist*Church, Personal photograph, September 17, 2018.

221

been where most of the financial support for his family came from. 136

Writings from Elinore Pruitt Stewart and Oscar Micheaux, as well as many others, may have attempted to downgrade the difficulties and hardships associated with homesteading. There was nothing simple, easy, or glamorous about taking a piece of unclaimed, uncleared, and uncultivated

property and turning it into land that could provide for the members of your family, but also enough cash crop or stock to provide for the financial needs of what was typically large families during this time. Without roads or automotive transportation being available, it is reasonable to believe that families had to rely on themselves for all or most of their daily needs. With that in mind, there must have been many different types of agriculture occurring on the Royal family property.

In addition to the tobacco, livestock, and other crops that were used to provide necessary nutrition for the family, John

¹³⁶ Allan Wood. 2018. The Royall Family. Personal Interview.

Remembered: A Sesquicentennial Perspective, (Agricultural History, 2013) 1. http://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=https://sear ch.proquest.com/docview/1285490580?accountid=14179.

Royal was also a beekeeper. 138 Consistent with the other types of farming that John was doing during this time, it is reasonable to believe that the honey was used both for family consumption and as a small source of revenue for the family. Of all of the types of farming performed by John, it would seem that being a beekeeper would be the easiest, and least dangerous type of work. That however would not be the case for John Royal. While hiving a swarm of bees, he fell from a tree and landed awkwardly on his back. This fall would result in John being paralyzed and would from then on live his life as an invalid. 139 The year of the injury is unknown but is believed to have been in the late 1890s. 140 Since research and development of tests associated with the neurological system were only being developed around 1900 by Charles Sherrington, it is unknown whether any medical assistance would have been available

¹³⁸ Hardin Royall and Virginia Royall, *Log Cabin Families of Stone Mountain, North Carolina*, (North Carolina: Nu-Line Printing Company, 1981), 137-138.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Allan Wood. 2018. The Royall Family. Personal Interview.

for John or not.¹⁴¹ Even if neurological testing had been available in larger metropolitan areas, there certainly would have been little hope of acquiring such treatment in the mountains of Wilkes and Alleghany County.

Understanding that during this time in history, there was huge stratification of job duties at home, this event must have created quite a hardship on the family, particularly

141 Christopher Boes, *The History of Examination of Reflexes, (*Journal of Neurology 261, 2014) no. 12.

on John's wife, Sarah. Typically, the husband would take care of the farm including the crops and the livestock while the wife would care for the home, children, and cooking. Since we do not know exactly when this event occurred, we cannot attest to the fact, but it is reasonable that some of the older children must have been old enough to help fill the void left by John's injury. In 1910, at the age of 64, John and his family moved back to the Cherry Lane community of Alleghany County, very close to his birth

^{2265.}http://login.proxy172.nclive.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1627638189?accountid=14179.

place. 142 With this move however, John did not part ways with the property where he had formerly lived at the Wilkes border because his son, Nathan, would later take residence in the family home. 143 Following Nathan's death, the home place would be torn down and a new house was constructed. This new house is currently occupied by John's grandson, F.A. Royall, who is a current

142 Barbara Groeger, "Out on a Limb,"
Ancestry, https://www.ancestry.com/familytree/person/tree/75801252/person/302026684956/facts
?_phsrc=pRG20&_phstart=successSource
143 Hardin Royall and Virginia Royall, Log

Cabin Families of Stone Mountain, North Carolina, (North Carolina: Nu-Line Printing Company, 1981), 137-138.

deacon at the Liberty Knob Baptist Church on Oklahoma Road. 144

John Royal died on July 4, 1923, at the age of 77. This seems to be a particularly full life considering the time that he lived and the health challenges that he faced. Sarah Royal lived to be 88 years old and died in 1942. John and Sarah are buried at the Liberty Knob Cemetery, near John's

¹⁴⁴ Allan Wood. 2018. The Royall Family. Personal Interview.

¹⁴⁵ Hardin Royall and Virginia Royall, *Log Cabin Families of Stone Mountain, North Carolina*, (North Carolina: Nu-Line Printing Company, 1981), 137-138.

parents, his sister, and several of his children and grandchildren. 146



John and Sarah Royal's tombstone
Dylon Wooten, *Royal Tombstone*, (September 17, 2018)¹⁴⁷

232

146 Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Dylon Wooten, *Royal Tombstone*, Personal Photograph, (September 17 2018).

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The Life of a Patriot By Mackenzie Moxley

Revolutionary War patriot John
Seagraves (abt. 1738 – 1833) was born on
the Isle of Wight County, Virginia and lived
in several different counties in North
Carolina during his lifetime. He fought as a
private in the Continental Army, navy, and
possibly the militia. He also participated in
multiple revolutionary war battles including

the battles of Ninety-six, Stono Ferry, and Eutaw Springs. 148

As the sun rose on the morning of
September 8, 1781, John Seagraves along
with over two thousand other Continental
Army soldiers and militia under the
command of General Nathaniel Greene made
their way to the British camp at Eutaw
Springs on the banks of the Santee River. By
this time, Greene's American army had

236

exhausted British forces over years of fighting for the control of South Carolina. General Greene heard that British Colonel Alexander Stewart was leading his forces in a retreat to Charleston to meet British General Lord Cornwallis and decided to form a surprise attack plan. Greene joined forces with North Carolina and Virginia to try and force the British out of South Carolina once and for all. Over two-thousand Continental soldiers were recruited to execute the patriot battle plan including John Seagraves. 149

¹⁴⁸ Jim Seagraves and Louanne Seagraves Love, "John Seagraves, Sr." *The Seagraves Family in America*, accessed September 11, 2018. http://theseagravesfamilyinamerica.com/getperson.php?personID=I643&tree=AllAmericanSeagraves.

^{149 &}quot;The American Revolution in South Carolina - The Battle of Eutaw Springs." *Carolana History*, accessed September 16, 2018.

John Seagraves, now in his early forties, was a private in Captain William Ward's fifth regiment of North Carolina. He enlisted in 1777 and was no stranger to the brutal and rigorous conditions of the American Revolution. John had already fought in the battle of Stono Ferry in 1779 and in the bloody Battle of Ninety-six in June of 1781 (three months before Eutaw Springs). 150 The Battle of Stono Ferry was a

http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_b attle_of_eutaw_springs.html. The following description of the battle of Eutaw Springs was taken from this source.

soldiers were recruited to execute the patriot

150 Jim Seagraves and Louanne Seagraves Love, "John Seagraves, Sr.".

patriot victory at the beginning of John's
Revolutionary War experience. The
Continental Army was able to defeat the
British at the Stono River with the help of the
South Carolina Navy. 151 Unlike Stono Ferry,
the Battle of Ninety-six was a Patriot loss
and the longest battle of the Revolution. With
only one thousand men, General Greene
attempted to take the British fort called
Ninety-Six, but the British defense system

^{151 &}quot;The American Revolution in South Carolina – Stono Ferry." *Carolana History*, 2017, accessed September 20, 2018. http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_st ono_ferry.html.

was too strong. After almost four weeks of fighting, John Seagraves, along with his fellow soldiers, had to retreat leaving one hundred and eighty-five casualties behind. 152 Only three months after the retreat at Ninetysix, John was faced with yet another dangerous battle at Eutaw Springs.

Even though General Greene was able to gather a rather large army of two thousand soldiers, these men were far from

240

being well-equipped and ready for battle. The living conditions for soldiers were inhumane as the newly developed American government hardly had enough funds to feed, clothe, and equip the army. Medical treatment for wounds was almost non-existent and diseases ran rapidly through the camps. Soldiers chose to endure these conditions for money, land or simply for the

¹⁵² History.com Editors, "Patriot siege of Ninety-Six, begins" *HISTORY*, last modified August 21, 2018, accessed September 20, 2018. https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/patriot-siege-of-ninety-six-south-carolina-begins.

¹⁵³ Geist, Christopher. "A Common American Soldier." *Terms of Estrangement: Who Were the Sons of Liberty?: The Colonial Williamsburg Official History & Citizenship Site*, Colonial Williamsburg, 2004. accessed September 16, 2018. http://www.history.org/foundation/journal/autumn04/s oldier.cfm.

cause of freedom. John Seagraves had left his wife, children, and homestead behind to risk his life in battle. These men were ordinary Americans with little to no military experience, but they fought with heart, determination, and strength for their families and country.

Early that September morning at
Eutaw Springs, the British army had just
started eating their breakfast when the patriot
army bombarded their camp. Colonel Stewart
quickly assigned his captains and troops
across Congaree near Eutaw Springs. Battle
soon began in the surrounding forest area

with American Continental soldiers and militiamen firing as best as they could. At first, the American side seemed to falter, but Greene brought in soldiers from North Carolina, including John Seagraves, to replenish the line. The British continued moving forward into the Patriot line firing as heavily as possible. Just as circumstances were starting to go in favor of the British, Francis Marion's highly skilled militia appeared over the horizon. Both British and American forces were shocked to see these militiamen coming towards them at full strength. These militiamen were Colonel

Greene's last resort and strongest hope in defeating the British, and the patriots were eventually able to succeed in taking the British camp after hours of gunfire and hand-to-hand combat.¹⁵⁴

A sigh of relief fell over the

Continental Army as the British began to
retreat. John Seagraves and the surviving
soldiers made their way to the British camp
near the shaded Eutaw stream. Assuming the
battle was over, they began to eat what was
left of the breakfast abandoned by the British

244

that morning. Despite warnings from their captains, the Continental soldiers continued to raid the camp. Soon after the raid began, the British surrounded the soldiers in a last attempt to win the battle. The American soldiers had come too far to give up even though their position was hopeless.

Somehow, they mustered up enough strength to flee the British camp. 155

^{154 &}quot;Battle of Eutaw Springs." World History Project. The following description of the Battle at Eutaw Springs was taken from this source.

^{155 &}quot;The American Revolution in South Carolina - Eutaw Springs." *Carolana History*, 2017. The following description of the Battle of Eutaw Springs was taken from this source.



Painting of General Nathaniel Greene waving his hat at the Battle of Eutaw Springs Carolana History, "The American Revolution in South Carolina – Eutaw Springs" 156

The fighting finally began to subdue as the afternoon sun pounded harshly on both Patriot and British forces. At this point, neither side was in any condition to keep

156 Ibid.

The British retreated to Charleston where they would be held by Greene until the end of the war. 157 John Seagraves and his fellow men had endured an immeasurable amount of pain and loss by the end of the battle. The blood and bodies of the slain soldiers covered the once peaceful landscape of Eutaw Springs, and the battlefield became a burial place for the two hundred and fifty

¹⁵⁷ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, "Battle of Eutaw Springs" *Encyclopedia Britannica*, last modified September 1, 2018. https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Eutaw-Springs.

Patriots who had given their lives that day. 158
The Battle of Eutaw Springs was the last
battle of the Revolution to be fought in South
Carolina. Not long after this, American
independence was declared at Yorktown.

After Eutaw Springs, John was discharged and spent the rest of his days as a hard-laboring farmer and landowner in North Carolina. He had little to no family after his wife died during childbirth while he was away at war. In 1818, when he was around the age of eighty, he applied for a war

pension some 40 years after he had fought. Like most of the Continental Army, his payment was only \$8.00 a month adding up to around \$300.00 for the three years he served. 159 This small payment does not compare to the suffering of these Continental Army soldiers like John Seagraves had to endure. Without ordinary men like John enlisting to fight, the Revolutionary War would have been lost and America would not be the free nation it is today.

^{158 &}quot;Battle of Eutaw Springs." World History Project.

¹⁵⁹ Jim Seagraves and Louanne Seagraves Love, "John Seagraves, Sr.".

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http://theseagravesfamilyinamerica.co

m/getperson.php?personID=I643&tre e=AllAmericanSeagraves.

A Woman of Great Strength
By Emma Carter



Smith Coat of Arms Luther N. Byrd Author and Artist¹⁶⁰

In 1886, my great-great grandmother, Rhoda Elizabeth Stone, and great-great

160 Smith, Bessie E. Stones of Surry Lineage, (1990), Back of cover page 253

grandfather, James Beauregard Smith, got married and moved to Pinnacle, North Carolina. She was twenty years old and he was twenty-one years old.¹⁶¹

They began life as a poor married couple, very much like many other families of the time. With no money for a wedding portrait a photographer used two tin-type

161 Stone, Charles H. *The Stones of Surry*, (Revised Edition 1955), 372

254

pictures to make this print.¹⁶² The photographer used a picture of Rhoda that ¹⁶³



Photo of Rhoda Elizabeth Stone and husband James
Beauregard Smith
"Your Past Is Waiting to Inspire You" 164

¹⁶² Smith, Bessie E. Stones of Surry Lineage, (1990), 4

^{163 &}quot;Your Past Is Waiting to Inspire You."

Ancestry. Accessed September 24, 2018.

http://www.ancestry.com/

164 Ibid.

she had taken with her brother and a picture of James that he had taken with his sister. The photographer cut out the brother and sister then combined the portrait of Rhoda and James to make it look like they were together when the picture was taken. In the originals James was pictured with his sister and Rhoda was pictured with one of her brothers. This was an unusual technique for the time period which may be why that story has been passed down in my family through the years. As the couple went through the years, they did what they could to make money by owning and operating a store,

gristmill, saw-mill, blacksmith shop, and a farm. Rhoda and James had eleven children between the years of 1888 and 1907. They had six boys and five girls, but their oldest son, Emory Elmer, died in 1908 at the age of twenty from either typhoid fever or diphtheria. Diseases like tuberculosis, diphtheria, and typhoid were common because of the lifestyle of the day and the scarcity of medicine and trained physicians in the area. 165 Exactly one month after the

¹⁶⁵ Nespor, Cassie "Medical Treatments in the late 19th Century," *Melnik Medical Museum*, Posted on March 27, 2013, accessed on September 14, 2018,

death of their son, James died of a broken heart and Rhoda was left behind to finish raising ten children on her own. 166

After Rhoda's husband and son died, the pain she felt was overwhelming, but she had a family to support, so she sold the farm and moved closer to her brother. Rhoda bought an existing farm and settled in the Siloam Community with the huge responsibility of raising the rest of her children by herself. The house that Rhoda

https://melnickmedicalmuseum.com/2013/03/27/19ctr eatment/.

258

bought had some amenities that most houses during that time did not. It had plastered walls, a basement under the kitchen, fireplaces in the two front rooms of the house, and a well in the screened-in porch which joined the two sections of the house. In the house there was one bedroom that had double beds which Rhoda and one of her daughters shared, another room that doubled as a parlor and a bedroom, and a kitchen that was behind these two rooms. Eventually one

¹⁶⁶ Smith, Bessie E. Stones of Surry Lineage (1990), 5.

of her sons, Clayton, built his bedroom on the side of the kitchen. 167

During the early 1900s many people around this area, including Rhoda, farmed and made most of the things that they needed like clothes, soap, and food. Rhoda and her children were no different. They made their own soap from the ashes in the oven and the fireplace. They would put the ashes in a pot that had a hole in the bottom of it and pour water over the ashes. They strained it off to be lye. The lye, which is a solution used for

washing and cleaning, was poured into pans and left to cool. After it cooled it congealed so that it could be cut into blocks or pieces of soap. The soap was put into tin buckets until it was used.

¹⁶⁷ Smith, Bessie E. Stones of Surry Lineage, (1990), 6.



Photo of Rhoda Elizabeth Stone Bessie Emma Smith, Private collection, 1990¹⁶⁸

168 Smith, Bessie E. Stone's of Surry Lineage. 1990. MS 1.

262

Rhoda also preserved the food the family grew. They either used tin cans or glass jars to preserve the food. The glass jars were sealed with a rubber gasket and the tin cans had a ring on top which a round lid fit over. The lids that were soldered in place, had a tiny hole for releasing steam. This hole in the lid completed the canning process after the cans had cooled. Cans were then stored in the ice house until they could be moved inside before the winter to prevent the jars and cans from freezing. 169 Rhoda and her children also preserved a lot of their pork

products through a salt process. After cutting the meat and putting several layers of salt on it, the meat was stored in a barrel that Rhoda called a "hogshead". This protected the meat from flies and insects.

Rhoda and her children even made the cloth to use for their clothing needs since they grew their own cotton and flax. Rhoda and her children wove and spun cotton and linen to make their clothes, bedding, and table linens. Nothing was wasted on the farm, and Rhoda made sure all her children

knew how to work and the value of hard work. She had no other choice in order to survive and help her family survive.

Rhoda eventually left the farm and moved in with her youngest son and his wife, Clayton and Bessie, in 1940 and lived there until she died in 1955. She continued to be a source of encouragement and inspiration for her family. I never met my great-great grandmother, but I know that her blood runs in my veins, and her strength is a part of who I am. For that, I will always be grateful.

¹⁷⁰ Smith, Bessie E. Stones of Surry Lineage, (1990), 7.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

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2018. http://www.ancestry.com/.

Home on the Range By Roxton Edwards

Virginia Callie Lindsay Stewart (27 Mar. 1921 – 15 Apr. 1997; Married Willard (31 Jan. 1992 – 9 Dec. 1980): the couple lived in Lambsburg, Carrol, Virginia, United States, on a farm.

Before the sun had even come over the mountains, the Lindsay family was up and moving as a full day of labor was upon them. Virginia Lindsay, the mom of the family, started her morning by waking up the kids, Karen and Don. They were only seven

¹⁷² Karen Mckinney, Personal Interview, September 2018. The following story is taken from the personal interview done with Karen Mckinney. 267

and eight years old, respectively, when their dad went off to war. Willard Lindsay went to fight in World War II. Without him around, Virginia had to be the primary caretaker and be ready to be the only caretaker in the likely even he did not come back from the war.

Every morning in the Lindsay
household, after Virginia woke up the kids
she would begin to make breakfast. Their
usual breakfast was biscuits, along with milk
and sometimes eggs. The family also had
gravy every day due to its low cost. Living
on the farm, they tried to always have a wellstocked pantry of food.

After breakfast, they had to tend to the animals. It took a lot of effort and energy to tend to all the animals every day. There were pig, cows, and chickens on the farm, and on this day the two children had to help kill the pigs. Once both the kids were fed, they went outside and began their long day's work.

Karen and Don were normal kids growing up in the nineteen forties with a dad at war. They both went to school at North Surry, in Mount Airy, North Carolina. Every school day they would have to walk a mile to the bus stop, as well as a mile back home in

the evening. Don did well in school, and
Karen was the typical straight A student.
School was important to the Lindsay family,
Virginia had graduated from high school
which back then was a great feat.
Nevertheless, she still only worked in a sock
factory. Whatever time was not focused on
her job, she was focused on the kids.

The kids began gathering the pigs and preparing them for slaughter. When they killed the first pig, they took the tenderloin from it and brought it inside for Virginia to prepare for dinner. Don cut up most of the pig while Karen took the parts inside for

Virginia to can. Lots of food was canned back then to preserve it. This always allowed for food when the family had no money.

Virginia was the only person in the family working at the time while Willard was gone. She worked in a sock factory, knitting socks. This was done on a large machine that would woe the fabric together and looped it. During the summer the employees would take their machines home, allowing them to work throughout the summer while the children were home. When they had a bag full of socks they could go to the factory and trade it in for some money. This insured that

during the summer the Lindsay family had a steady income.

Inside the house, while the kids were working outside, Virginia gathered up all the dirty dishes and clothes as they needed to be washed and ready for the school week. There is a creek next to their house that she would go out and get buckets of water from. This was then dumped into the washer, which was electric. If the clothes needed deep cleaning, she would sometimes put soap in it. Once the washing cycle was complete, she had to rise the clothes several times. Having an electric washer helped her do more chores while it

was taking care of the clothes; this is compared to the alternative version of using a washboard for each individual clothing item. When it was finally lunch, and the kids were ready to take a break and eat. Virginia would usually use the extra biscuits from breakfast, and put peanut butter or ham, or even jam on them.

After the kids grabbed their biscuits, they went back outside to eat them then finish their work in the garden. While they did this Virginia checked the mail and received a letter saying that Willard was leaving Pearl Harbor and heading elsewhere.

She was relieved when she received this
letter because just a few days later Pearl
Harbor was attacked. She avoided telling the
children that their father might have been
dead in Pearl Harbor. It was not until the end
of the war when Willard came home that the
family was relieved.

It was nearing the end of the day, and Virginia still needed to cook dinner. The children finally came inside and sat in the living room and worked on their homework. Virginia took out a glass jar of green beans and got some potatoes from the store room. This was their usual dinner, they fried some

potatoes with some oil after cutting them in thin slices. The green beans were boiled, and sometimes replaced with pinto beans or even collard greens. The pork tenderloin was already cooked from the morning's harvest. All of it was laid out across the stove and everyone came and got what they wanted. After everyone ate, the kids went to bed and Virginia cleaned up the kitchen and headed off to bed herself. The day was over, and everyone slept knowing tomorrow the kids would have to go back to school, and Virginia would have to go back to work and repeat the whole day over again.

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Living Through *The Great*Depression

By Klaudia Tucker

Howard Tucker (1914 Dec. – 1987 Jan.) witnessed the effects of *The Great Depression* and came out a stronger individual having gone through the experience.

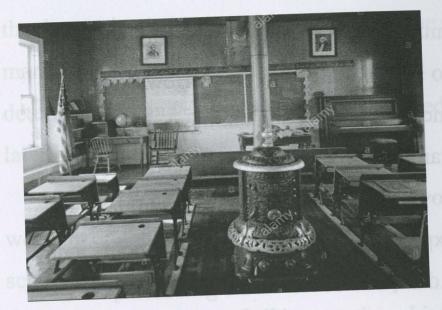
Americans who lived during the 1930's will never forget the time known as *The Great Depression*. Beginning with the crash of the stock market in 1929, the American economy went through a downward spiral that would last for a

the depression helped shape Howard into the man he would become and gave him the determination and drive he needed to succeed later in life.

For Howard, most days were spent working on the family farm and attending school during the school months. A day at school meant students of all ages gathered in a single room, heated by a pot belly stove, in a nearby community. While attending the local school, Copeland School, Howard met and fell in love with Hazel Watson, a girl his same age. However, there was little time for courting, as they called it, because there was

much work to be done. In addition to going to school, daily chores for Howard would include farming and taking care of the gardens. From priming tobacco to milking cows to feeding the hogs, the children were expected to help out for several hours a day. Adam, one of Howard's grandsons, remembers how his grandmother would tell him that many teenagers from her generation actually preferred going to school because it got them out of a long day's work.¹⁷⁵

Tucker, Adam. Interviewed by Klaudia Tucker. Pilot Mountain, NC. September 8, 2018.
281



Typical classroom from the 1930s Allamy Stock Photo¹⁷⁶

Time Pioneer Classroom With Piano & Wood-Burning Stove." Alamy. Accessed September 23, 2018. https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-1900s-old-time-pioneer-classroom-with-piano-wood-burning-stove-47237110.

A lot of the dates for Howard and Hazel were spent at community events such as corn shucking and bean stringing. During The Great Depression, many families resorted to growing their own vegetable gardens due to a shortage of food supply. 177 Neighbors would often share their crops with others in the community. Other dates for Howard and Hazel would include church activities or just sitting at home with family, listening to the radio. Since money was tight,

^{177 &}quot;Life for the Average Family During the Great Depression." History.com. Accessed September 22, 2018. https://www.history.com/news/life-for-the-average-family-during-the-great-depression.

leisure activities such as going to the movies were not an option.

When Howard was a junior in high school, he received his driver's license. In an effort to make some money, he got a parttime job as a school bus driver. Terry, Howard's son, recalls the story his dad would tell him about his first paying job. He drove a Ford Model A flatbed truck, and since there were no seats in the bed of the truck, students would sit around the edge of the bed hanging their feet off the sides.

Tucker, Howard. Interviewed by Klaudia Tucker. Pilot Mountain, NC. September 8, 2018.

During the warmer months, Howard found it amusing to bounce the students around on the back of the truck, especially as they drove through the creeks, causing some to fall in the water. Even the kids that were bumped off the truck thought it was amusing. Howard was actually considered one of the lucky ones to get a job during this time because unemployment rates were just starting to soar in America. By 1933, roughly 25% of the work force in America was without jobs because of *The Great Depression*. 179

¹⁷⁹ Amadeo, Kimberly. "Great Depression Timeline." The Balance Small Business. Accessed September 22, 2018.

Essentially, one out of every four families was financially unstable during this time.



Truck similar to the one Howard drove as a school bus.

Michigan Car Company¹⁸⁰

https://www.thebalance.com/great-depression-timeline-1929-1941-4048064.

Vehicles. July 26, 2018. Accessed September 23, 2018.

http://www.mafca.com/gallery_1929.html.

During 1935, at the age of 21, Howard was still living at home trying to save money, and he continued working on the family farm. His romantic life with Hazel was still going strong as they often caught rides to visit one another and often wrote letters when they were apart. One of the greatest stories I remember my great grandmother sharing with me was the one about her and my great grandfather having an argument and how they worked it out. In late

December 1935, Howard and Hazel had their first big fight and didn't speak to each other for three days. They made up and told each they never wanted to feel that way again. Two weeks later, in 1936, Howard and Hazel secretly eloped in Wytheville, Virginia, when they were both 22 years old. To celebrate, they split a hot dog in Hillsville on their way back home. Financially, Howard could not afford for Hazel and himself to live on their own, so they told no one of the big news and went back to living their normal lives in separate homes.

Toward the late 1930's, the economy was starting to see an increase in growth, and unemployment was beginning to decline. 181 Howard continued to save as much money as he could. Two years later, he and Hazel made the announcement to their family and friends that they were married and finally moved out on their own. Originally from Pilot Mountain, they rented a home in Mount Airy where Howard took a job as a meat cutter in

¹⁸¹ Amadeo, Kimberly. "Great Depression Timeline." The Balance Small Business. Accessed September 22, 2018.

https://www.thebalance.com/great-depression-timeline-1929-1941-4048064

a local market, and Hazel attended beauty school. Even though it wasn't customary for women to work, *The Great Depression* initiated a rise in more women joining the work force to help support the family. ¹⁸² This would later help pave the way with the advancement of women's equal rights.

The Great Depression finally came to an end officially in 1941. With the help of the government passing such laws as The

290

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
(FDIC) and the Social Security Act during
the depression, Americans had found a new
confidence in the economy and consumer
spending began to rise. 183, 184 During the

¹⁸² "Life for The Average Family During the Great Depression." History.com. Accessed September 22, 2018.

https://www.history.com/news/life-for-the-average-family-during-the-great -depression

¹⁸³ Amadeo, Kimberly. "Great Depression Timeline." The Balance Small Business. Accessed September 22, 2018.

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¹⁸⁴ History.com Editors. "FDIC."

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¹³ Tucker, Adam. Interviewed by Klaudia Tucker. Pilot Mountain, NC. September 8, 2018.

¹⁴ NCpedia. "Agriculture in North Carolina during the Great Depression." Weapons in the War of

interview with Adam, he recounts the story of how Howard and Hazel made their way back to their hometown of Pilot Mountain. 13 Around the early 1940s, Howard and Hazel purchased 46 acres of land for \$700.00, and a 25% commission from all sales of tobacco. They built a small house which they used not only for living, but for storing tobacco as well. However, the tobacco industry wasn't quite the booming business it had been before. Tobacco farmers were still feeling the effects from the Great Depression which

1812 I NCpedia. Accessed September 22, 2018. http://www.ncpedia.org/agriculture/great-depression. 292 caused demand for tobacco to decrease.¹⁴
Because of this, Howard eventually got out of the tobacco business, and with a new found confidence, decided to start his own poultry farming business, something he had always dreamed of doing.

In the years following *The Great*Depression, Howard did in fact get to live out his dream. At the height of his success, he had grown his personal farming business to include twelve chicken houses, an office building, twenty-five to thirty employees, and three small homes for the hired help.

Traveling the east coast contracting chicken

growers was just one of the many roles he performed to grow his business. His knowledge in the poultry industry earned him much respect in the community, and family and nearby neighbors came to him looking for employment.



Howard in the local newspaper inspecting eggs as he prepares to join Caroline Farms and their expansion

The Elkin Tribune 1956¹⁵

¹⁵ The Elkin (N.C.) Tribune. "Feed Mill First Phase of \$1-Million Project." 1964. Howard and Hazel were married for fifty one years, had two sons and four grandsons, and they got to enjoy their time together for many years. In 1972, at just 57 years of age, Howard was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Howard lived for 72 years total, and although The Great Depression only lasted for about ten of those years, it greatly impacted his life. Much of his success can be attributed to the struggles he and his family

went through during those tough economic times. He was able to learn the value of a dollar and how to stretch it. The hard work he put into the family farm taught him a good work ethic and gave him the experience and tenacity to start his own business.

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298

Migrating into a New Life By Sarah Wagoner

Thomas Vestal (8 September 1727-12 June 1813; born in Chester County Pennsylvania; migrated with Quakers to North Carolina out of religious persecution and moral disagreements; married Elizabeth Davies 3 August 1754 in Alamance, North Carolina; died 12 June 1813 in Chatham County, North Carolina)



Symbol of the Quakers¹⁸⁵

185 "Pennsylvania Quaker Research," *Plantation Biographies*, Accessed September 16, 300

Another quiet argument arose
between brothers only a few houses down
from that of Thomas Vestal. Of course, it
had to remain quiet since the entire colony
was continuously filled with tensions. Since
the word came to Chester County,
Pennsylvania of the impending war between
the French and the Indians¹⁸⁶, several good,

2018. https://haygenealogy.com/hay/quaker/quaker-PA.html.

history.org, n.d. Accessed September 20, 2018. http://www.ushistory.org.us/8b.asp. The French and Indian War, as referred to by Americans, was known to the rest of the world as the Seven Years War. It was a continuation of previous conflict between the French and the British, but this was the first to take place in America. Both parties wanted to gain control of the

peaceful Quakers had begun to question what their roles should be in such matters. If a Quaker were to decide to take up arms in any event, he would face the real risk of disownment from his family and his community.¹⁸⁷ The same type of punishment could be inflicted for other breaks from

Ohio Valley, thus controlling the fur trade and the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River was of great importance and meant great power for those who controlled it. In 1754, between strikes to discourage the British, the French camped near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, therefore impacting the Quakers in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Even though the British did eventually defeat the French, many lives were impacted, lost, or destroyed before it had ended.

187Wood, L. Maren, "Quakers," *Anchor*.

302

NCpedia, n.d. Accessed September 16, 2018. https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/quakers.

religious tradition, such as marrying someone outside the Quaker faith. So, should the current Quakers remain idle and pacifist like their Quaker ancestors? Should they break from tradition and fight alongside those they felt should be supported? After all, was not this New World their grandfathers had brought them to base on the idea of freedom?

Besides these tensions, there was the ever-present pressure from the Puritan community to abandon the Quaker way of life. Quakers, also referred to as the Society of Friends, were a religious group who broke

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

from the Church of England. The Puritans also broke from the Church of England, or the Anglican Church, but there are several significant differences between the Quakers and Puritans, resulting in conflicts between the two groups. The Puritans believed in predestination and that a God-chosen few were meant to "purify" the world, or in this case, America. They relied on biblical

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

scriptures as the pathway through which God would speak to them. ¹⁹¹ The Quakers, however, believed in a more personal relationship with God, expressing that He lived within each of their spirits. ¹⁹² Because of this, their religious practices were more internal and individualistic, which led the Puritans to be skeptical, and even fearful, of their intangible faith. ¹⁹³

between-quakers-beliefs-those-held-puritans-8612.html.

¹⁹⁰ Clark, Janet Mulroney, "What Are the Basic Differences Between Quakers' Beliefs and Those Held by Puritans?" *Synonym*. Classroom, June 25, 2018, Last modified June 25, 2018, Accessed September 20, 2018.

https://classroom.synonym.com/basic-differences-304

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² Ibid.

¹⁹³ Ibid.

So, yes, another argument was taking place between brothers because, as it was recently discovered in the Quaker town, one's individual beliefs are sometimes even stronger than those bonds of blood. Thomas Vestal probably would have taken part in an argument very similar had he possessed any siblings of his own to argue with. However, as an only child, still under the guidance of his mother, Elizabeth Mercer, he did not.

There were plenty of whispers in almost every part of town over the controversial fight-or-no-fight, move away-or-stay debate, but the Monthly Quaker

Meeting would most certainly not be one of those places. Births, deaths, marriages, baptisms, christenings, and other items suitable for the church records would surely be mentioned and praised. But, any matter that might suggest a turn away from the traditions would be kept to oneself. Thomas and his mother, along with the other members of their congregation would spend

Yearly Meeting Minutes, vol. 11. Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina. "U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935," Database. Ancestry.com, Accessed September 16, 2018. https://search.ancestry.com/cgibin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=2189&h=9165718&tid=&pid=&usePUB=true&_p hsrc=AeJ108&_phstart=successSource: 2014.

the meeting attentively engaged in the agenda or staring at their clothes.



U.S. Quaker Meeting Records accounting for Thomas Vestal's birth and other important community events¹⁹⁵

195 Ibid. somo 2 se social material 280 Ils A sonal

The clothes the Quakers would have been staring at would not have provided much distraction, however. Realizing that any New World colonist's clothes at the time would have been lacking aesthetically in comparison with twenty-first century standards, those of the Quakers were even more modest. Along with their simple, peaceful lifestyles, Quakers believed in dressing humbly, as frivolous dress could have been considered to be valuing material things over religious ones. 196

¹⁹⁶Wood, L. Maren, "Quakers," *Anchor*. NCpedia, n.d. Accessed September 16, 2018. https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/quakers.

Only a few weeks after such whisperings, Thomas Vestal found himself on a wagon. It was not an incredibly special wagon, and certainly not ornate. It was built by men in the community with focus only on practicality and function. No decoration or extra materials would have been considered useful when building it. Nevertheless, the wagon would do its job. On this day in history, that job would be to transport Thomas, his mother Elizabeth, and the rest of an overloaded group of Quakers, southward. Several wagons were leaving, all headed in the same direction. Some of the people

chose to pretend it was voluntary, but others accepted that Pennsylvania was no longer a welcoming place for them.

There was no real question as to the route these wagons would take on their way south. The only route suitable for a wagon, or a train of wagons to be more exact, was the Great Trail stretching all the way from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Since the trail was shaped into the mountainside, there were also many areas

^{197&}quot;Pennsylvania Quaker Research," *Plantation Biographies*, Accessed September 16, 2018. https://haygenealogy.com/hay/quaker/quaker-PA.html.

not easily passable by wagon. This would require the travelers to walk long distances on their own as some of the men maneuvered the wagons through the treacherous terrain. 198



¹⁹⁸ Ibid.

Map of the "Great Trail" in 1751¹⁹⁹

When the long journey had come to an end, Thomas Vestal and many of the migrating Quakers would find a new home in North Carolina as it was more welcoming than other areas to their faith. Not long after arriving, however, they would face the Regulator Movement. This movement brought high taxation to newly migrated inhabitants of North Carolina, thus forcing some of the other Quaker settlers to once

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

²⁰¹ Ibid.

again move, landing in Virginia.²⁰²
Eventually, the Quakers, including Thomas and his mother, did find supportive communities that embraced the spirit of religious freedom on which America's principles are based. Thomas Vestal went on to live out the rest of his days in North Carolina, living each day in gratitude of such freedoms that required the migration into a new land to claim.

²⁰² Ibid.

314

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