

Ward Family in Stokes and Surry Counties

Submitted by GSRS Member Betty S. McGarity

When submitting the following information, GSRS member Betty S. McGarity wrote, *"I am descended from (among others) Francis Fulton, Jr. who married Mary WARD or WORD ... (in the Stokes County Marriage records it is "WORD"). In the written records sometimes it looks like an "o" and sometimes an "a."*

"We believe it is WARD, and have accumulated a good bit of information to back that up... but we can't be absolutely positive, because we can find nothing about the WORD family of Stokes County in the records for comparison.

"I am enclosing a paper on the combined WARD research that several descendants have done... compiled by Rachel Rawls (now deceased) on the Ward family that we believe Mary Fulton probably descended from. I will also enlose a letter written to me by the well-known professional researcher, Mrs. W. O. Absher, (also deceased) back in 1989 on the WARD families of Surry and Stokes."

Ms. McGarity's generous sharing of her family information is greatly appreciated. It is hoped that others will have also researched this family and can compare notes with Ms. McGarity. She can be reached at 1829 Almeta Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307.

WARD FAMILY

(Some possible connections to MARY WORD/WARD, wife of FRANCIS FULTON, and Mother of their 10 children who left descendants)

The fact that Francis Fulton and Mary Word's marriage bond was spelled W O rd rather than W A rd has presented some questions as to her possible family origin. There were families in Stokes County and Surry County by both names; in addition, in records of both counties the name may appear WARD at one time and WORD another for an individual who is obviously the same person according to all evidence extant. There is good reason to believe that this is true for Francis Fulton's wife. She was very likely to have been MARY WARD.

It may never be absolutely established who either of her parent's were, but there is enough evidence to accept at least tentatively that her mother was BETTY WARD (Betsy, or Elizabeth). There is no real evidence as to her father's name.

From loose papers (File GR 92.325.1, NC STATE ARCHIVES) of Surry County, Absher (1985 a) transcribed the following: "3rd Tues., Aug. 1768...Jurors present on oath that Elizabeth Ward on 30 May 1768 did commit the heinous crime of fornication." Surry County was not formed until 1771 officially. A number of years after Mrs. Absher transcribed and published this, I examined these papers and did not find this; but in the interim it could have misplaced or destroyed. There is no indication that this was the Betty Ward in the subsequent references. There were other Elizabeth Wards and Words in the area. The date might be suggestive, however.

Absher (1985b) found these deeds in Surry County Deed Book A, and I was later able to copy them from the original deed book in Dobson, N. C. In April, 1772 Betty Ward apprenticed her daughter "Mary, aged 4 years 3 months to Rhosur Ward," and her son "Randol aged 3 years 2 months to Charles McAnally. The record indicates that Betty Ward was from "Unity Parish", Guilford County.

It should be remembered that in the Colonial Period in the North Carolina, parishes were named and were often established when a new county was set up. Parishes, however, did not play the same role in this section as they did at times in both Virginia and South Carolina. Surry County was in St. Jude's Parish.

There is no indication in the record as to whether Betty Ward was married, single or a widow. To date I have found no records in either Surry or Guilford Counties that clarify this. It might be assumed that she had recently moved to Surry County from Guilford for some reason. Why she did is unclear but she may have wanted to live near relatives either her own or her childrens. Since his last name was Ward, Rhosur was apparently connected in some way. If he was the father of Mary and Randol, he might have wanted to take his daughter into his own household, since this was not uncommon during the period, but if so why not both children? The tax records and census records for Rhosur might suggest Elizabeth also was living with him.

In 1800 Betty or Elizabeth does not appear, but Randal Ward is listed for the first time. (1 male under 10, a male 26-45, 2 females under 10 and 1 female 26-45). In 1810 Elizabeth is shown again with no males, 2 females 16-26, 1 female over 45. Randal had 1 male under 10, 1, 10-16, 1 26-45 and 2 females under 10, 2 females 10-16, and a female 26-45 in 1810. Neither of them are shown in the 1820 Census.

In 1803 Betty Ward received a land grant for 45 acres on Zelphia (also spelled Zelphey and Zilphey) Island Creek which was bounded by Randol Ward's line and that of Elias Burchfield. Francis Fulton had land on this creek also, and subsequently both Francis and Samuel Fulton purchased land of Burchfield.

There are several WILLIAM WARDS in Stokes County, and it is not easy to decide which may be shown to have some relationship to the Fultons. Because some continued to live in Stokes for extended years, married individuals probably unconnected to the Fultons, are known to be from different families, some of them can be eliminated at least as being closely related. Mrs. Absher, for example, in his lineage cited in EARLY FAMILIES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FAMILIES OF ROCKINGHAM AND STOKES..., 1977) mentions a descendant of John Ward named William who is of another family).

Apparently William, Esq. (meaning he had been appointed a J.P.) that appears in Censuses and other records was not closely related. A William Sr. and William Jr. and a William M. appear in Censuses and tax list and only in the case of William Jr. is it clear that no reason to assume a connection. The terms Senior and Junior were used quite differently during this period from the modern usage and frequently implied not father and son but uncle and nephew, or even that there were two men of the same name in the same place and that one was older than (or had lived longer in the area than) the other. In the case of Jr., I have been using transcriptions of the original censuses, for example, and J. could have been assumed to be Junior when it was only a "J." There is, as shown below, a definite assumption of close relationship with William J. Ward.

From Francis Fulton's will, written in 1847 and probated in 1848, we know that his daughter Elizabeth married William Ward (m. b. 02 May 1817), had children (number not specified) then under 21 and was deceased by 1847. Francis appointed his son Joel to have custody of these children's estate--their father had moved to Tennessee with his family--until they came of age--and that from their part of the estate was to be deducted a note written by their father in 1839 with interest. Nothing indicates whether she accompanied her husband to Tennessee, but the note might at least suggest the time when he and his family moved. A William H. Ward married Patsy Dalton in December of 1820 in Stokes County, but it might be questioned whether Francis would have been asked for a loan in 1839 if his daughter had had children and died that young and her husband remarried in 1820. Who this William Ward is, therefore, is not clear, and no records of wills and estates or deeds gives information that would lead to as assumption as to his family origin.

About WILLIAM J. WARD more is known, and there is some evidence that if he is also BETTY WARD'S son, he was brother of MARY WARD FULTON. In a letter to Mrs. Betty McGarity (19 November, 1989), written in reply to an inquiry as to whether Mrs. Absher's Ward line might be connected with ours, Mrs. Absher (CGRS) suggests that the William (J.) Ward in the 1820 Census of Stokes County when neither Randol nor Elizabeth or Betty Ward appear has the following household: 1 male under 10, 1 male 26-45, 3 females under 10, a female 10-16, 2 females 26-45 (wife & sister) and 1 female over 45 (Elizabeth).

This seems to be a very valid assumption based on preponderance of the evidence when William J. Ward's will, written in February, 1855 and probated in June of the same year (see attached copy) is examined. His wife's name was Catherine (William Ward and Katy Zimmermon (sic) were married in April 1807 N. C. Marriage Bonds, N. C. State Archives). He lists three sons--Randolph (and his name geneally appears in Censuses as Randal or Randol), Peter and the youngest son, Milton still living at home; daughters: Ruamer (Richardson), Elizabeth, Agnes and Anne. He named SAMUEL FULTON (oldest son of Francis and Mary Ward Fulton) his executor. One of his daughter is named Elizabeth, probably after her grandmother. The son named Randolph obviously suggests a close connection. William J. Ward appears in the 1850 Census as being 73 years of age. Did he have another son William? Probably not, but he could have had an nephew by that name. Did Elizabeth Fulton marry a cousin, perhaps the son of Randal Ward? In 1838 there was an Indenture between William Ward, Sr. and William Ward, Jr. and Randal Ward and Armistead Abbott (Stokes County Deeds, Vol. 12, p. 247). William Ward also sold land to Armistead Abbott in 1837, witnessed by Joel and Fuel (Fewel) Fulton. He had also given land to his sons and daughter on their marriages.

Further connection is shown when Randol and Peter Ward sought marriage bonds. Randal married Elizabeth Ann Mitchell in August 1840 and one of his bondsmen was WILSON Fulton. (Randal, Elizabeth and their son Duke are buried in the Mitchell Family Cemetery). Peter married Margaret Mitchell (M. B. 15 January 1851) and Francis Fulton was a bondsman.

Based on the above information, it can be assumed that Betty Ward had several children including: Mary b. ca. Jan. 1768, d. before 1847), m. Francis Fulton 1790; Randall, b. ca. 1769, (m. , had children); William J. (b. ca. 1770, d. 1855, m. Catherine Zimmerman 1807, several children).

Examination of MY NOTEBOOK ON THE FULTON, ABBOTT, PRIDDY, WARD AND RELATED FAMILIES by Betty McGarity, placed in the Library of Stokes County in Danbury in 1993 yields additional information on the Wards and other families named. It is a "Working Notebook", not a family history.

WARDS IN SURRY COUNTY: Mrs. Absher herself is descended from a John Ward who moved to N. C. from Virginia and who had a large family that appears in subsequent Surry and Stokes records. There was a Charles WORD whose wife was named Elizabeth and who had a daughter Mary and a son Thomas J who appears in later records, but there is no real evidence that this family was related to Mary Fulton. A Robert Ward left a will with children mentioned, but again this does not appear to be Mary Fulton's family.

A John Ward witnessed a deed for land on Old Field Creek (later Stokes County) sold to Charles McAnally in 1768 which appears in Rowan County deeds (Linn, 198). Probably more than one person named John Ward appears in Stokes and Surry records in several different context. Surry Land Entries: Joseph Winston's Book shows an entry on Archer's Creek on teh Dann(sic) River at the Virginia line that specifies improvement that was John Ward's (Surry Land Entries: Joseph Winston's Book 1775-1791)

Another entry by Joseph Winston (Entry 277): Charles McAnally 50 acres on Zelphys Island Creek between my entry and Rhosur Wards...including Peter Boman's improvement on Dec. aa, 1788 gives a location for "Rhosur Ward." This entry was later withdrawn by Charles McAnally but the location is important.

In the tax lists for Surry County Rhosur Ward's name appears through at least 1775. In 1771 and 1773 he had 2 poles, in 1774, 1 pole; in 1775, he is shown as having 100 acres, value \$50

BETTY WARD: In the 1786 Surry County Census (Register, p. 153) "List of inhabitants of Blackburn's District. Taken by Chas. McAnally, Column 1" three members of the McAnally family are listed first, followed by Elisha Dodson and then "Drurias Ward; a white male 20-60, and 2 females; BETTY WARD, 2 white males and 6 females. Rhosur does not appear but the location suggests this could possibly be the same land he owned. The McAnallys and Drurias Ward later appears in Stokes County after its formation--the area is, of course, the same. Since he was a near neighbor again there was probably some relationship. In Stokes records a Drury Ward occurs who seems to be the Drurias in early records. In at least one instance the Court minutes show where Robert Fulton and Drurias Ward were called as witnesses in a suit. The John and Henry Wards in the Surry County Census for this period are not in this district.

We may speculate that Betty's son Randol (Randolph) and daughter Mary were living with her at this time even if they had been apprenticed earlier. In 1790 Elizabeth Ward's household (assuming she is Betty above) had a male 16+, 1 male under 16 and 5 females. She must have had additional children, of course, but the 5 females could indicate that Mary was now married to Francis Fulton.

Other Wards in Stokes County in the 1790 Census were:

	Males 16+	Males 16-	Females	
James	4		1	8
Leaven	1		3	5
William	1	2	4	

REFERENCES

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- Ingmire, Frances: Stokes County NC Marriage Records 1783-1868, Vol. I Males (I found a copy of this in Reg. of Deeds Of., Danbury, NC)
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- 1850 Federal Census Including Supplemental Schedules of Stokes Co. (1985)
- Published by James Hunter Cpt. DAR
- 1860 Federal Census of Stokes Vo. (1990)
- 1870 Federal Census of Stokes Co. (1993)

Mrs. W. O. Absher, C.G.R.S.

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19 November 1989

Mrs. Betty S. McGarity
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Dear Mrs. McGarity,

In researching my Wards in Surry, Stokes & the N. C. Archives I have found records that separate the Wards that I descend from from the Wards that Randal (Randolph) Ward belonged.

In the file C.R.92.325-1, Surry County, N.C. Civil Action Papers in N. C. Archives was a bond dated 20th May 1768 one ELIZABETH WARD late of the Parish of Saint Jude committed the heinous crime of fornication. It does not state whether she was married, single, or a widow. Then in Surry Deed Book A, p. 20-22, 1 April 1772 Betty Ward (Betty being a nickname for Elizabeth) of Unity Parish, GUILFORD CO. binds her daughter Mary Ward age 4 years 3 months to RHOSUR WARD & binds her son RANDAL WARD, age 3 yrs 2 months to Charles McAnally to learn the Wheelwright trade.

Elizabeth (Betty) Ward is on the 1787 Surry Co State census with 2 males under 21 & 6 females. In 1790 in Stokes Co. Fed. Census she lists 1 male over 16, 1 male under 16 and 5 females. In 1800 I did not find her in Stokes, but RANDAL WARD is there with 1 male under 10, 1 male 26-45, 2 females under 10 and 1 female 26-45. In 1810 Stokes Fed. census Elizabeth is again shown with no males, 2 females 16-26, 1 female over 45. Randal with 1 male und 10, 1 m 10-16, 1 m 26-45, 2 f und 10, 2 f 10-16, 1 f 26-45. WILLIAM (J) Ward is listed for the first time in 1810 with 1 m 26-45, 1 f und 10, 1 f 16-26. In 1820 Randal or Elizabeth are not listed but it is believed that Elizabeth & a dau. are living in the household with William (J) Ward as he listed 1 m und 10, 1 m 26-45, 3 females und 10, 1 female 10-16, 2 females 26-45(wife & sister) & 1 female over 45 (Elizabeth).

The Indenture binding Mary Ward, dau of Elizabeth, places Mary as being born in January 1768 making it possible for this to be the one who married Francis Fulton. Mary being 22 years old in 1790.

There was a Thomas A. WORD in Surry (later) Stokes County, but having abstracted the wills of Stokes and the first two deed books of Stokes, the first six deed books of Surry, the court minutes of Surry, I have never seen any connection with Thomas A. Word and the Wards - either mine or those who belonged to Elizabeth.

This is about all I can tell you about the Wards. Due to health reasons, I no longer do research, but would not take anything for my over 30 years of research, not only in my own family but professionally for people all over the USA who had roots in Surry, Stokes and Wilkes. Both my father and mother were born in Stokes Co. Sincerely, *Ruby J. Absher*
1120 Mrs. W. O. Absher, C.G.R.S.