1935 September 18 - Clarence Griffin

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Mrs. O. Max Gardner,
Shelby, N.C.

Dear Mrs. Gardner:

I have your letter of Sept. 16th, requesting certain information relative to Andrews, Blanton, Webb, Watson and Young families.

Due to an unprecedented seasonal business in our newspaper office, my time is very limited, at the present, for genealogical research work.

While the Rutherford County Historical Association had definitely decided to publish my history of Rutherford and Tryon counties, nothing will be done along that line until after our Sesqui-centennial at Rutherfordton is out of the way. Incidentally, I have a sister in Danville, Va., who is re-typing and partially editing my history; and she has about half of the manuscript at her home there. Some of the material which I had decided to send you is in Danville.

I am sending you, with this mail, the result of a short research for material. Included in this envelope are abstracts of Tryon and Rutherford wills to 1840; index of Virginia wills; and a mass of material from my "grab box"; material which has been used either in my history or the newspaper and the copy discarded. Under separate cover I am also sending you a pamphlet carrying a brief history of Tryon county. Strictly speaking, this is not a history, and is a bare outline of Tryon history which will eventually appear in permanent form. I am also sending you a pamphlet on the Walker family. I recall that Felix Walker mentions the Watson family, and his connection with them. I do not have the time to cite you to the exact page.

We are planning a great celebration in Rutherfordton on October 11th on occasion of the 150th anniversary of the founding of that town. Hope you can be present.

Yours very truly

(Clarence Griffin)

Do not return Material.
TRYON COUNTY WILLS
(Originals filed with Clerk Superior Court, Lincolnton, N.C., unless N.C. Historical Commission has assumed charge of them within the last year)


WATSON, WILLIAM. Ex. 1778 (original missing; reference on Index only). Names Anna and Molly Watson.

The cross index to/wills show no wills executed by Youngs, Webb, Blanton or Andrews.

RUTHERFORD COUNTY WILLS.

ANDREWS, SAMUEL. (Revolutionary soldier). Ex. June 8, 1803; probated Oct. 1805. Wife, Sarah; sons, James, John, Hugh, Benjamin; dau. Christian.


WATSON, JOHN. May 11, 1812; prob. July 1813; wife, Jean; sons, William, Hugh, George, James, dau. Elizabeth C., Isabella, Mary; bro. George Watson.


WATSON, MARY. Ex. 1 July 1838, prob. July 1840. dau/ Nancy M. Jefferson, (w. of Thomas Jefferson, State Senator, Rep. in House of Commons from Rutherford for many years); grandsons, Adolphus Patton, George W. Jefferson; Cr. dau. Mary, Margaret, Harriet N., Rachael G., Chaitry E. Patton; also left bequest for Little Britain Presbyterian church.

WATSON, DANIEL. Ex. 7 June 1836, prob. Apr. 1837. Wife Jincey, and "other lawful legatees".


WEBB, DAVID. Ex. 15 Sept. 1829. Prob. Oct. 1829. Wife Mary; sons John, George, Andrew, Richmond, Noah, Chambers; dau. Mary Lyles, Spiecey Weathers,
REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS FROM Rutherford Co
From: "Chapter 7, Participants in the Revolution", (M.E.) proposed history of old Tryon and Rutherford Cos.

Andrews, Samuel
Blanton, Burwell
Watson, Private James, N.C. Militia
Watson, Capt. John. Died July 19, 1812, aged 59
Watson, Major Patrick, N.C. Militia
Watson, Private William Sr. N.C. Militia, Pensioner. Died Jan. 9, 1854, at age of 95
Webb, Private Jacob. N.C. Militia
Young, Private Joseph, N.C. Militia

TRYON COUNTY MARRIAGE BONDS

do not show any Blanton marriages in Tryon (1769-1779)
but any Andrews (but Anders, Andros); no Watsons, Webbs or Youngs.

LINCOLN marriage bonds do show some Webbs and Youngs.
I have abstracts of RUTHERFORD COUNTY MARRIAGE BONDS which show all these families.
Daisy Walker, Rachael Randall, Margaret Cochran; one unborn child

YOUNG, SAMUEL; (Deed Gift recorded in Will Registry) admitted to probate as part of nuncupative will. ex. Aprxxxx Nov. 1, 1800; prob. Apr. 1801. Gifts to son Francis Young; also under date of Oct. 1, 1800, deed of gift to son John Young.

YOUNG, GIFFIN, no date of execution. Prob. Oct. 1827. Mentions wife and child but does not name them

YOUNG, ANDREW (Suicide note admitted to probate as will; executed on 8 Jan. 1833, day of death) probated April 1835. wife, Polly; son Stanford.

VIRGINIA WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.
(Note: The foregoing information is taken from Torrence's "Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800, An Index", Richmond, 1930. This volume shows wills and administrations for all Virginia counties; but is an index only. Suggest you ascertain the county seat of any of the following counties in which you are interested, and write the circuit court clerk of that county for further information:

Blanton

Essex County:
Thomas Blanton, will, 1697

Spotsylvania County:
Richard Blanton, will, 1734

ANDREWS

No Andrews wills or administrations filed in Virginia, Thers is

ANDROS:
Surry county:
Thomas, will, 1695

WATSON:

Accomack Co.:
Richard, 1688, will
Robert, 1703, will
David, 1709, will
John, 1709, will
Elizabeth, 1720, will
Benjamin, 1735, will
Benjamin, 1737 will
Sarah, 1742, Inventory
David, 1751, inventory
John, 1751, Inventory

Moses, 1751, Inventory
Robert, 1751, Inventory
Solomon, 1755, will
Peter, 1768, will
Moses, 1769, will
Arthur, 1761, inventory
Benjamin, 1762, will
Sarah, 1764, will
Abel, 1766, will
Moses, 1767, will
Bartho. 1768, will
Benjamin, 1772, will
Mitchel, 1774 will
Zorobabel, 1775, will
Peter, 1776, will
Edmund, 1777, will
Levi, 1778, will
Peter, 1782, inventory
Benjamin, 1784, nuncupative will
Robt. 1786, will
America, 1790, will
Zorobabel, 1795 will

Albemarlle Co:
William, 1783, will

Amelia Co.
William, 1752, will

Berkeley Co:
Thomas, 1778, will
John, Sr., 1785 will

Brunswick Co
John, 1796, will (OVER)
Charlotte:
Matthew, 1778, will
Matthew, 1794, will

Greensville Co:
Alexander 1782 will
Gershon 1794, will

Henrico Co:
John Sr 1706 will
Benjamin, 1714, will
John, 1750 will
Joseph, 1752, will

Henry Co:
John 1784 will

Isle of Wight Co:
Robt. 1661, nuncupative will
Sarah 1672, will
Elizabeth 1676 will
William 1688, nuncupative will
James, 1774 will

Loudoun Co:
Robert, 1768, inventory

Louisa Co:
James 1776, will
David, 1777 will
Barbary, 1778 will
Nehemiah, 1789 will

Lunenburg Co:
John, 1763, will

Mecklenburg Co:
James 1772 will
Isaac, 1783 will
Burwell, 1792, inventory
Henry, 1795, inventory

Norfolk Co:
Robert 1791 will

Northampton Co:
John 1733 will
Edmund, 1795 will

Nortonumberland Co:
Hugh 1767 will
Margaret 1772 will

Prince Edward Co:
Thornton, 1794, inventory

Rappahannock Co:
John, 1684, will

Washington Co:
Patrick, 1788, will

WEBB FAMILY
(There are 128 Webb wills and inventories in 26 Virginia counties and Hustings Courts. I can furnish you a list, if desired)

YOUNGE AND YOUNG FAMILIES
There are 97 Young and Younge Wills and administrations filed in about 35 Virginia Counties. An index of these can also be furnished.)
Several brothers of the Andrews name came over from Ireland about 1770-1772 and settled in Penn. near Gettysburg. Samuel Andrews one of the brothers came direct to Berksford County and settled. He had seven sons. Benjamin one of the sons was the father of J. M. Andrews, H. P. Andrews.

Samuel Andrews' wife was a Barr.

Benjamin's wife was Elizabeth Gobin and the father and mother of H. P., J. M., Kate, and F. K. Andrews.
William Watson, son of William Watson, was born Sept. 14, 1802, in Rutherford County, N.C. He married Elizabeth Talley Nov. 14, 1824. They were the parents of six children: John W., James, Patrick, William, Elizabeth, and Mary. William Watson was a captain in the Revolutionary War and fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain. He was shot at the battle of Kings Mountain and was carried to Rutherford County, his home, on a cowhide, which is now in the possession of James M. Andrews, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth Watson, in Rutherford County.

Signed - Mrs. J. W. M. Wells
(mother of Mrs. O. M. Gardner)
Major Patrick Watson was a hero of the Revolution, and is buried in Brittain cemetery. Draper, in his "Kings Mountain and Its Heroes", says: Major Patrick Watson commanded the Rutherford county footmen in the rear, and thus failed to participate in the Kings Mountain battle. A native of Pennsylvania, he settled in Rutherford county in 1764, and died in 1809 in his fifty-eighth year.

Watson was very active in the cause of American Independence, and participated in a number of engagements from 1775 to 1783, and held various commands.

The inscription on his tombstone in Brittain cemetery reads: "In Memory of Patrick Watson, Soldier of the Revolution, who Died September 15, 1809, aged 57 years, 9 months and 16 days."
Lieut. Thomas McCulloch was mortally wounded at Kings Mountain and is buried in Brittain cemetery. McCulloch was a lieutenant under Gen. William Campbell, of Virginia, at the battle of Kings Mountain. He had long been prominent among the border men of Holston, in Virginia. Though only a lieutenant, he commanded a company at Kings Mountain, and was mortally wounded in the battle. He died while the army was at Col. John Walker's plantation, near present Logan Station, on October 12, 1780, five days after the battle. Due to poor transportation methods his body was interred in Brittain cemetery, nearby. A few years later William (Uncle Billy) Watson, who had participated in the battle at Kings Mountain, secured a small soapstone rock and carved thereon in crude letters the following:

"Here lies the body of
Lieut. Thomas McCulloch,
Belonging to Col. Campbell's Regt., Va., who lost this life in and for the honourable just and riteous cause of liberty at the defeating of Col. Fargerson's infamous company of bandits at Kings mountain in October, 1780."

Although "Uncle Billy" Watson's spelling was not so good, his intentions were, and thanks to his unselfish service to a fellow soldier, the identity of McCulloch's grave has been preserved to posterity. The writer recently made application to the War Department for a government headstone to replace the present inadequate soapstone marker at the head of his grave.

The name of McCulloch also appears on the new monument erected by the United States Government on the Kings Mountain Battle ground.
John Watson was a captain in the Revolutionary War. He resided near Brittain church, and is buried in the Brittain cemetery. The inscription on his tombstone is as follows: "In Memory of John Watson, who Died July 19, 1812; aged 59 years. He was a Captain in The Revolution".
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