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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.

TRYON

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, 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; Gr. dau. Mary, Margaret, Harriet C., Rachael C., Charity 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, Spicy 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 Jr. 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) nor 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. Aprx. 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, 1758, will
Moses, 1760, will
Arthur, 1761, inventory
Benjamin, 1762, will
Sarah, 1764, will
Abel, 1766, will
Moses, 1767, will
Bartho. 1768, will
Benjamin, 1768, 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

Albemarle Co:
William, 1783, will

Amelia Co.
William, 1752, will

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

Brunswick Co:
John, 1796, will (OVER)
Webb Family

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

Young 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 was the father of J. M. Andrews, H. P. Andrews.

Samuel Andrews, wife was a Barr.

Benjamin's wife was Elizabeth Robson and the father and mother of H. P., J. M., Kate, and J. K. Andrews.
William Watson, father of Elizabeth Watson
Patrick Watson & John Watson were
brothers of William Watson. Patrick
Watson was Major in the Revolutionary
War & John was Captain.

Rebecca Watson, wife of William Watson
and sister of the three Robinson troops
in the Revolutionary War: namely, Thomas,
James & William, Thomas Robinson was
killed in the Battle of Kings Mountain.
William was shot at the Battle of Kings Mt.
and was carried to Rutherford County, his
home, on a cowhide, which is shown
in the possession of James M. Andrews.

Son of Benjamin Andrews & Elizabeth Watson
in Rutherford County.

Signed - Mrs. G. L. Woff

(mother of Mrs. C. May Branden)
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

mortally wounded

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".
JOHN WATSON

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