



The DENSON Family

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North Carolina to Texas



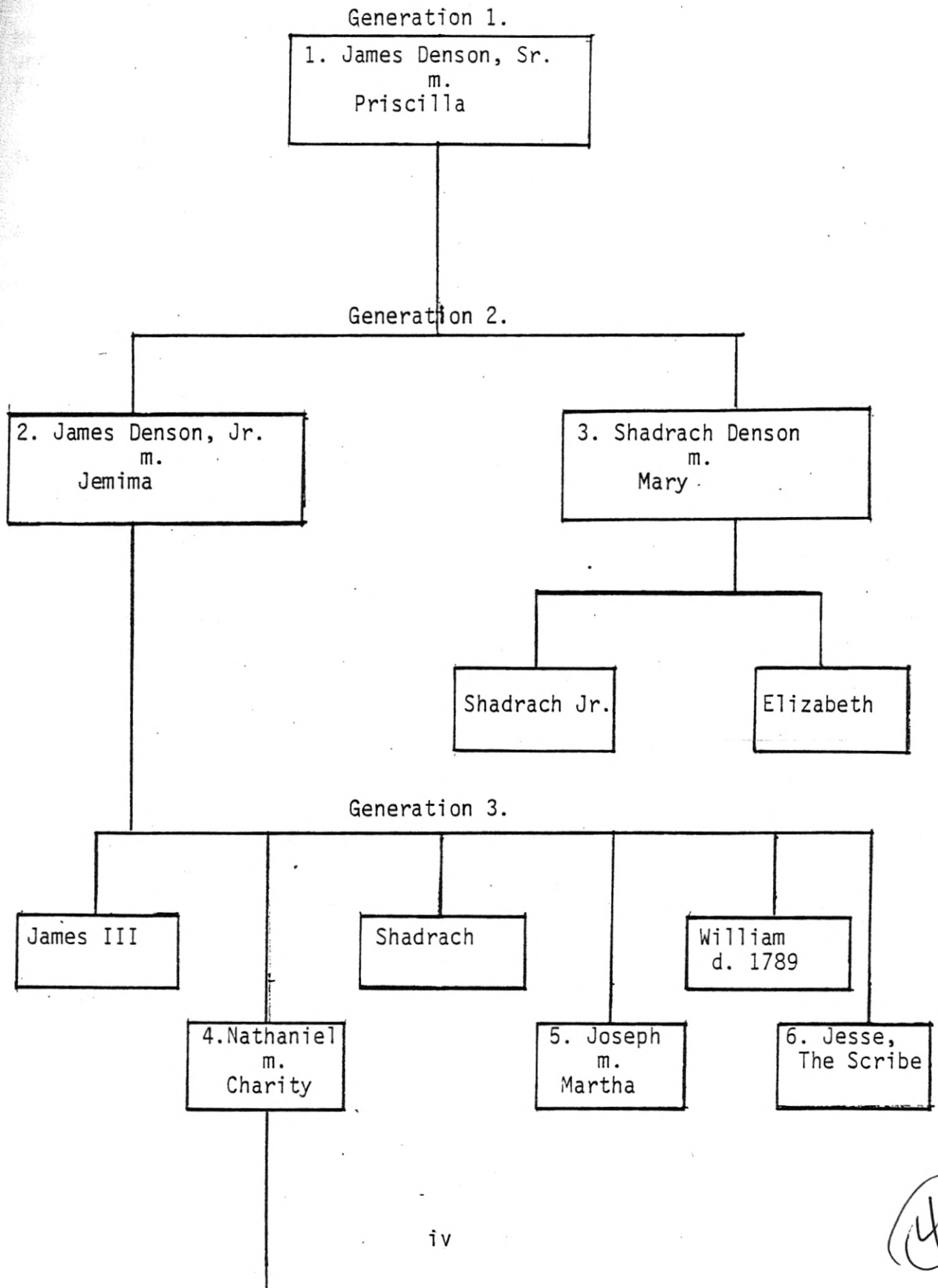
GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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Lois K. Nix

(4a)

CHART OF FIRST 3 GENERATIONS.



4b

CHAPTER I

THIS BUSINESS OF BEING A DESCENDANT

Family histories have a tendency to sound alike. Ask anyone, he will reply "My father told me two brothers came over", or "I always understood our family was related to King James of England and had to flee when he died", or similar versions of royal connections.

Not to be outdone, the Densons have included both these elements in their legends. The one most often repeated is:

"William, John, and Nathan Denson, relatives (cousins by one account) of Charles I of England and vigorous supporters of his cause in the Civil War of 1642-45, fled to Wales after the defeat of Charles I (by Cromwell) at Naseby in 1645. They sailed for America the next year landing in Virginia."

This story has no basis in fact, other than the fact it has been repeated for so many generations. Variations of this story were told in three different Denson papers passed on to me by other Denson researchers. I am only able to identify one of the writers, Mrs. Jeannette Denson Metts, who wrote that her grandfather always told them to remember they were of royal blood, being a cousin to King Charles I.¹ Who am I to destroy such a romantic legend; moreover, where would Alex Haley and his Roots be if he hadn't listened to the tales about the old African, Kunta Kinte?

Some think the above William is the same as this next man who is written up in many histories.

"The first Denson to America, William Denson, came 1637/38 and was sponsored by Robert Pitt, Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

"He sailed from Bristol, England to Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and after working off his indenture, he married Frances ? in 1650. The Densons were a Scotch family who were entitled to bear Arms. He was a Quaker, founding Chuckatuck Meeting House, one of the oldest in the country. He received a patent to 450 acres of land, dated September 6, 1661, on the western branch of Nansemond River, called "Indian Creek". This was given him for transporting nine persons to the Colony. This property was in what was called Upper Norfolk. William Denson was Burgess from Upper Norfolk in 1659-1660. The meetings were held at "James Cittie". William Denson and wife, Frances had the following children:

i Frances Denson b. 1 Dec. 1651

1. Jeannette Denson Metts, 1123 W. Cherokee Glenn, Ocean Springs, Ms. 39564; great-granddaughter of Rev. William Denson (#10), in letter to author July 6, 1976. At this writing Mrs. Metts is too ill to answer genealogy correspondence.

- ii William Denson b. 25 Nov. 1653; d. 1694 unmarried
- iii James Denson b. 11 Aug. 1657
- iv Katheren Denson b. 4 Aug. 1659
- v Sarah Denson b. 14 Nov. 1665
- vi John Denson b. 25 Mar. 1666
- vii Joseph Denson b. 18 Aug. 1669; had no children."

This story is a collage of information on William Denson found in the following sources:

Various Quaker records found in the Newberry Library Collection, Chicago, Illinois.

John Bennet Bodie, 17th Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia
(Baltimore: Southern Book Co. 1959)

William Wade Hinshaw, Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, Vol. VI, Virginia (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973)

A bit of history, the large majority of the first Quakers in the Nansemond, Va. area were originally Puritans who were converted to the beliefs of the Quaker orator, George Fox. The Puritans and merchant class in England supported Oliver Cromwell, the leader of the Parliamentary Army in the Civil War against Charles I. You would not expect "relatives" of Charles I to be Puritan, or Quaker, after having fought for the King and fleeing for their lives.

William Denson, the Quaker was one of the earliest Quakers, and the earliest documented Denson. Whether or not he is the same William Denson who fled Naseby to Wales to Virginia is open to speculation.

John Denson, son of the aforementioned William, went to North Carolina. We know that he had a grandson, William, who married Rebecca Eley. This William was a Revolutionary Soldier and served under Colonel Abraham Shepard as a private in the Tenth Regiment.¹

Unfortunately, I cannot relate our branch of the Densons to these people. Many people with whom I have corresponded concerning the Densons feel this is the ultimate objective--to find the missing link connecting Nathaniel Denson with William Denson, the Quaker.

In the next chapter, I will present the early Densons that I think I can connect to Nathaniel Denson, beginning the numbering system discussed in the introduction.

1. Daughters of the American Revolution Membership Paper #469042

(4d)

CHAPTER II

EARLY DENSONS

1. JAMES DENSON, SR. b. ca. 1715 d. 1760 Anson County, North Carolina = Priscilla _____; d. 23 Mar. 1778. Their known children:
 2. i James Denson Jr. = Jemima
 3. ii Shadrach Denson = Mary

Anson County, North Carolina was formed from Bladen County in 1750. Densons were in the part of Bladen County that became Anson County. James Denson, Sr. received the following land grants in Bladen and Anson County from 1746 to 1760.¹

Grant File #218	500 acres	1746
#923	500 acres	1746
#243	100 acres	1753
#1440	150 acres	1756
#1949	150 acres	1760

Usually, a man went in and applied for a piece of land, paid his fee and was granted the land.

Land Grant #218 reads:

"George the Second, To all to whom ye know that we have given unto James Denson five hundred acres of land in Bladen County on the No. side of great PeeDee. Beginning at a red oak on the great bluff above the mouth of little River, running N. 35 chains 180 poles to a pine, then south 55 chains 320 poles to a white oak, So. 35 Ws. 320 poles to a red oak on the bank of the river, then up the river to the first station to hold. Dated the 22 of Nov. 1746 --
Gab. Johnston"

Early deed and probate records in Anson County, North Carolina support the family relationship shown above. Consider the following abstracts from these early records. (Arranged chronologically for easier reading.)

Deed Book 1.

p. 64-65
21 Jun. 1750

James Denson Sr., planter, to James Denson, Jr. planter, for 5 s. Virginia money, 100 A. on N. side of Great PeeDee, part of original grant 22 Nov. 1746. Wit: Wm. Downs, Luke Blakely.²

1. Land Grant Books, Secretary of State, Administration Building, Raleigh, N. C.
2. Brent Holcomb, Anson County, N. C. Deed Abstracts, Vol. I; 1749-1757 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1974)

p. 63
22 Jun. 1750

James Denson Sr., planter, to William Downs, weaver, for £10 Virginia money, 100 A. land on N. side Great PeeDee, granted to sd. Denson 22 Nov. 1746. Wit: Thomas Ridge, Luke Blakely, Saml Armstrong ¹

12 Jun. 1753

James Denson Sr. and James Denson Jr. were jurors in Inquest of Bryan Ponn, Anson County, N.C. ²

15 Nov. 1753

Land Grant #243 to James Denson of Anson County 100 A. west side of Little River on a branch a mile from the mouth. (see photocopy of grant in this manuscript)

p. 242-243
26 Jul. 1756

James Denson Sr. to James Denson Jr. for £40, 150 A. on N. side Great Pee Dee at Red Bluff, part of original 500 A. grant 22 Nov. 1746.

p. 271-272
29 Oct. 1757

James Denson Jr. of Anson County to William Terry for £20 Sterling money of Gr. Britain, 100A. on N. E. side of Great Pee Dee river and all improvements, one-half of gold and silver mines, granted to James Denson 21 June 1750 Wit: John Frohock and James Robinson

p. 157-158
24 Oct. 1760

James Denson of Anson County to Shadrach Denson for £40 procurement money, 3 tracts on N. side Pee Dee (1) 150 A part of grant to James Sr. 22 Nov. 1746 being land where Shadrach and his mother now live. (2) land adj. to Josephus White granted sd. Denson Sr. 5 Dec. 1753 [see grant #243 15 Nov. 1753] (3) land between the lines of James Shephard; three tracts falling to James Denson Jr. by heirship by the death of his father, he being the oldest son and the will not proven for want of evidences. 300 A total.
James Denson SEAL

Wit: Anne Cartrite
Priscilla Denson
Dorsey Pentecost ³

This last deed tells the whole story. By Oct. 1760 James Denson Sr. was dead and James Jr. had inherited the land, apparently all the land because of some mixup in the will. He sold his brother this 300 acres and his mother was witness to the transaction. It should be noted that in Colonial North Carolina three kinds of currency were in use. The most valuable being British Sterling. "A man's wealth was measured by his possession of British Sterling." Next best was Virginia money and third, North Carolina procurement money. So, James sold his brother the 300 acres rather cheaply.

1. Brent Holcomb, Anson County, N. C. Deed Abstracts, Vol. I; 1749-1757
2. May W. McBee, comp. Abstracts of EARly Records Anson County, N.C. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1950)
3. Ibid. Holcomb, Vol. II 1757-1766

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Sometime later, Priscilla Denson remarried Alexander McPherson who died 14 Jan. 1778. She died after 23 Mar. 1778 and left a will recorded in Will Book I, p. 31 (Abstract follows)

"Will of Priscillah McPherson of Anson County, to son Shadrach Denson all my land, mentions gr-dau. Betsey Denson. Shadrach Denson sole Exor. 23 Mch. 1778. (A true copy of Priscillah McPherson's last will and testament, Thos. Wade, Clk.)"

Her son James was not mentioned because he predeceased her in 1777. *

Herman L. Bogan, former College Professor and avid genealogist of Memphis, Tennessee, considered James, Sr. the son of James and Elizabeth Denson of Onslow County, N. C. and Jethro Denson the father of James. He said he had no proof.

George the second & I will be done & I have for that he is now given me
John Hancock's son hundred acres of land in Johnston County on the
head of the river of the same beginning at a white oak at the mouth of
the river and running along the same to the river in the year 1733
Dony to York river then down the river's course of the river to the King's
Mills & back to the river at a day of June 1733
Geo. Johnston

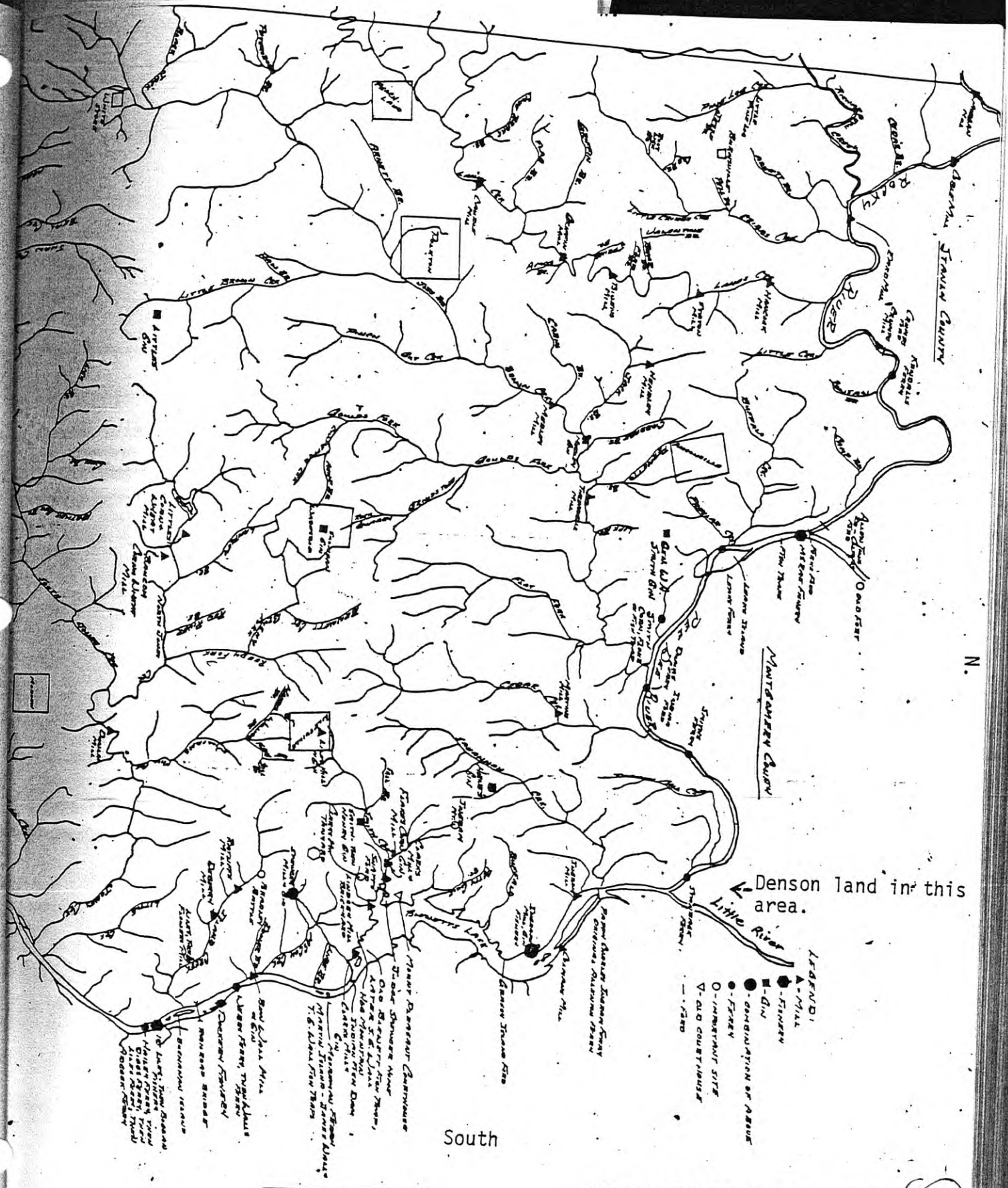
George the second & I will be done to have for that he is now given me
James Denson's free hundred acres of land in Johnston County on the
head of the river of the same beginning at a white oak at the mouth of
the river and running along the same to the river in the year 1733
Dony to York river then down the river's course of the river to the King's
Mills & back to the river at a day of June 1733
Geo. Johnston

George the second & I will be done to have for that he is now given me
James Denson's free hundred acres of land in Johnston County on the
head of the river of the same beginning at a white oak at the mouth of
the river and running along the same to the river in the year 1733
Dony to York river then down the river's course of the river to the King's
Mills & back to the river at a day of June 1733
Geo. Johnston

The first course of this
patent attested by order
of his Excellency in Council
from No 33. 1. 26. N. 250
East date April 28th
1768. Sup: H. 1768

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N.

← Denson land in this area.

- LEGEND:
- ▲ - Mill
 - - Farm
 - - Old
 - - CONGRUATION OF RIVER
 - - FERRY
 - - INTERMIT SITE
 - ▽ - OLD COURTHOUSE
 - - - FORD

South

RICHMOND COUNTY

ANSON COUNTY, 1749-1912
 Map compiled by Henry Garris and
 Glenn K. Martin

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2. JAMES DENSON, JR. (James) b. ca. 1732 d. 1777 = Jemima. The following is a list of their known children:

i James Denson b. ca 1760 d. 1817 Ga. = Nancy d. 1850

A will found in Jones County, Ga. is believed to be that of this James Denson.

Feb. 10, 1817
 "To wife, not named; to daughters Rebecca, Elizabeth, Auttah, Mary Tisdal, son Jeremiah: to children of son James H. Exrs. Lazarus Battle, Luke Bond, Jesse McK Pope, Edmond Lowe, Jno. Cook, Peter Wyche. Wit: Nathaniel Halley, H. P. Cook, Shadrach Denson, Aaron Stone.¹

4.* ii Nathaniel Denson = Charity Colson

iii Shadrach Denson b. ca 1766 = Elizabeth
 This may be the Shadrach who witnessed the will in Jones County above, or as others believe, he may have gone to Tennessee, Kentucky and on to Bond Co., Il. by 1830.

5. iv Joseph Hopkins Denson = Martha Colson

v William Denson b. ca. 1772 d. 1789, unmarried, in Anson County, N. C. An inventory of his estate recorded in Anson County, reads as follows:

"Inventory of Estate of William Denson, Deceased, which came to the Privity or knowledge of Wm. Boggan, Administrator. July Court 1789

1 coat, 2 jackets homespun, 1 pr leather breeches, 10 yard stripd. cotton cloth, 5 yds ditto tow, 4 shirts & pr cotton boots, 2 pr stockings, 1 copy book, 1 ditto Young Mans Best Companion
 2 woodin boxes, 14 tt iron, 2 tt cotton thread, 2 tt flax thread

His part of the Estate of his father James Denson Decsd.

-- -- -- -- -- -- -- --	--	£18, 8, 6, 3/4
1 Mare sold for £15,13,4 Sterling	26, 2, 10, 1/2	
	£44,11, 4, 1/4	
Interest on £44,11,4¼, 11 years	29, 8, 6,	
	£73, 19, 10, 1/4	

Contra Cr.

By washing mending & making & finding some clothes for 6 boys £3 p. year

By paid Silvenous Gibson - - £16, 0, 0

By paid the Clerk for administrator 1, 15, 0

£17, 5, 0 "

1. Carolyn White Williams, History of Jones Co. Ga. 1807-1907 (Macon: J. W. Burke Co., 1957)

(4k)

6. vi Jesse Denson = (1) Elizabeth; = (2) Ann Hutchins

Land grant records show James, Jr. received at least two land grants of his own, aside from the land he inherited from his father. They are shown as #2370, and #2429, for 75 acres each and both received in 1766.

James Jr. and his brother Shadrach Denson are on the 1763 tax list for Anson County, N. C.

Though James Jr. owned a lot of land, he did not escape the squeeze of high taxes forced on farmers by officers and agents of the Royal government. Back country planters were a network of self-sufficient craftsmen. Money was exceedingly scarce as is always the case in a new country. Government officials were joined by Scotch Highlanders in introducing an expensive style of living quite inappropriate to the rural population of the colony. To support their extravagant lifestyle, these minions of power demanded exorbitant fees for their services. A fee of \$15 was exacted from a poor farmer for performing the marriage service.

The collection of taxes was enforced by lawsuits with enormous expense. Sheriffs demanded more than was due, under threat of a sheriff's sale; and they applied the gains to their own use. This happened to some of the Densons and their kin. Shadrach Denson was the victim of a sheriff's sale as were some of the Colsons.

Petitions to the Legislature for correction of grievances were treated with contempt. The people formed an association for 'regulating' the abuse of power (hence the name Regulators). They resolved to pay only such taxes and legal fees as provided by law. The open defiance of the Regulators toward officers of the Royal government led to many collisions between them in the years immediately preceding the Revolutionary War.

James and his brother Shadrach were "Regulators" in 1769 when one of the first revolts against high English taxes occurred in North Carolina. They are listed in North Carolina Colonial Records, Vol. 8, pp. 79 & 80 with other Regulators from Anson County.

In 1770 James and Shadrach signed a petition to the Governor against the court at Salisbury, asking a court at Campellton be established.

James Jr. died in 1777, you might imagine in a skirmish during the Revolution, but no proof of this has been established through the Daughters of the American Revolution. There is a James Denson listed in the militia in Vol. 22, p.343 of North Carolina State and Colonial Records.

The list of James and Jemima Denson's children was copied from an old Bible and sent to Edith Denson several years ago by Jeannette Denson Metts, with the notation that these were Nathaniel Denson's

for 11 years, the length of time elapsed since his father's death.

This next I cannot prove because no early marriage records survive in Anson County, N. C.; but I feel strongly that other records substantiate my theory.

James Denson died about age 45. Jemima remarried William Boggan before Oct., 1779 and prior to her son William's death. James's estate was divided at that time. No will has been found; the inventory is of his personal property. No records have been found showing the disposition of his land, unless Jemima remarried and it became a part of another estate in later years. Consider the statement "a copy made out for William Boggan" on the James Denson inventory - why? Because Boggan was now Jemima's husband and as such was in charge of her business. At the same time, William Boggan was administrator of William Denson's estate.

The following deed abstracts support this theory:

Deed Bk. 7, p. 177

6 Oct. 1779

William Boggan to Patrick Boggan, both of Anson, for £ 100; 200 acres south of Pee Dee on Gould's Fork of Brown Creek. Jemima Boggan also signs. Wit: Wm. Morgan, Patrick Boggan.¹

Deed Bk. 2, p. 298

2 Feb. 1788

James Denson, William Boggan and Jemima Boggan to Burwell Lanier 100 acres...southside Pee Dee River below Waggon Ford Wit: John Carraway, Clement Lanier, Elizabeth x Lanier

James Denson signed and seal
William Boggan signed and seal
Jemima Boggan (her mark) ²

This James Denson would be James III, Jemima's oldest son. Both of these transactions taking place before James Denson Jr.'s estate was divided.

About the time of the first deed (1779), Anson County was divided and the Denson land was in the part forming Richmond County. I think Jemima and William Boggan were living on some of the original Denson land.

Richmond County Records

Will Book I, p. 37

24 Nov. 1790

Will of James Smith Sr. Wit: Jas. Turner, Jemimah Boggan ³

1. May W. McBee, comp. Abstracts of Early Records Anson County, N.C.
2. Research of original records, N. C. Archives, Raleigh, N.C. by Mrs. Rosemary Richardson, Rt. 1, Box 276, Louisburg, N.C. 27549: August, 1981. Material furnished by Margaret V. Johnston, Box 164, Denham Springs, La. 70726.
3. Ibid. May W. McBee

Inventory of William Denson Estate
Anson County, North Carolina

ANSON CO. N. C. records

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William Denson, July Court, 1789.

An Inventory of the Estate of William Denson Deceased, which came to the Privity or Knowledge of Wm. Boggan Administrator.

- 1. Coat 2. Jackets homespun.
- 1. P. leather Breeches 15. Yards striped Cotton Cloth.
- 5. Yds. D. Tow 4. Shirts 2. P. Cotton Boots.
- 2. P. Stockings 1. Copy Book.
- 1. D. Young Mans best Companion.
- 2. Woodin Boxes 14. Iron 2. Cotton Thread.
- 2. flax D. his Part of the Estate of his father James Denson Deed

	£ 18. 8. 6. 3/4
1. Mare sold for £ 15. 13. 4. Sterling	26. 2. 10. 1/2
	£ 44. 11. 4. 1/4.
Interest on £ 44. 11. 4. 1/2. 11 years	29. 8. 6. 0
	£ 73. 19. 10. 1/4

Contra. Cr.

By washing mending & making & finding some clothes for 6 boys £ 3. P. year

By Paid Silvanous Gibson ----- £ 16. 0. 0

By Paid the Clerk for administration 1. 15. 0

£ 17. 5. 0

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3. SHADRACH DENSON (James) b. ca 1737/39 d. 1782 in Anson County, N. C. = Mary. They had the following known children: ✕

- i Shadrach Denson Jr.
- ii Elizabeth (Betsey) Denson b. ca 1770 = 1786 to William Patrick Boggan b. 1752 Orange Co., N.C. d. 16 Jun. 1818 Augusta, Ga. He was son of John and Hannah Boggan.¹

The Anson County records support the information contained in a letter from Herman L. Bogan of Newbern, Tennessee to Alice Mann dated 22 Nov. 1976.²

"Dear Alice,

I purchased lineage charts of South Carolina Genealogical Society and your chart 121. I am interested in your Denson line because I am a direct descendant of the Densons of Anson County, N. C. I notice Nathaniel and Charity's charts are not complete. Write to Wadesboro, Anson Co., N.C. for will of Joseph Colson, when he names Charity Colson Denson and sisters and brothers.

My line, descending is James Sr. and wife Priscilla Denson, their son, Shadrach and wife Mary Denson, their dau. Elizabeth (Betsey) and husband Patrick Bogan, their son Shadrach Bogan and wife Ann Fee, their son Charles Augustus Bogan and wife Nancy Whipple, their son Charles Edgar and wife Lula Mae Westbrook, my father and mother.

James and Priscilla Denson's known sons are James Jr. and Shadrach. Shadrach and Mary had known son Shadrach Jr. and daughter Betsey.

(signed) Herman L. Bogan"

(Mr. Bogan said some early family member's "disenchantment" with other Boggans caused the removal of one of the "g's" in the name)³

Shadrach Denson was a Regulator. His name is on a list of known Regulators from Anson County in 1769. (Saunders, Colonial Records of N. C. Vol. 8, p.80) It is believed that he and James participated in the first clash of wills between the Colonists and the English government over taxation without representation as described below:

"So heavy were the exactions of the officers that in 1768 the people rose in self-defense, entered the court house

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1. Information furnished by Margaret Bogan Bray, Box 201, Mineola, Tx. 75773, Oct. 2, 1981
 2. Letter supplied to author in 1977 by Edith Denson, Box 456, Bandera, Tx. 78003.
 3. Frances B. Krechel, The Boggan Family (Hemet, California, 1975)

CHAPTER III

THE SONS OF JAMES DENSON JR.

- 4.* NATHANIEL DENSON (James, James) b. ca. 1763 in Anson Co., N.C. d. 1838 in Rankin Co., Ms. = ca. 1784 to Charity Colson. Nathaniel and Charity are buried in the Mt. Pisgah Cemetery, Sand Hill, Rankin County, Ms. This cemetery is in the old church yard but the church was torn down and the lumber used to build a newer one near the highway.¹

Their children:

- i James Denson b. 28 Mar. 1791 d. 1839 buried Mt. Pisgah Cemetery, Rankin Co., Ms. = 19 Feb. 1815 Susan Little. He was in the War of 1812; a Lt. in Captain William Bates Company of Mississippi Territory Militia. (See copy of Service Record). His estate notice for Dec. 1839 term of Probate Court was published in the Jackson Mississippian, Jan. 3, 1840. Shows Isaac Denson Admr.²
- 7. ii Isaac Denson = Cassandra Grayson
- 8. iii Joseph Denson = Araminta Smith
- 9. iv Jesse Denson = Sarah Henderson
- 10. v William Denson = Mary Williams
- vi Thomas Denson b. 22 Mar. 1802 in Tn. ; d. 19 Nov. 1875 Williamson Co., Tx. = Elizabeth Davis b. 1816; d. 1901.
- vii Mary Denson b. 1 Apr. 1804 in Tn.; never married. Said to have come to Texas with brother, Jesse, and believed to have worn money belt containing \$6000 of family gold. After arriving in Texas, one of the family slaves, Andrew, became homesick and ran away. Mary wrote to her brother, Shadrach, who was then Justice of Peace, asking him to look for and apprehend the runaway.
- viii Katharine (Cathrine) Denson b. 17 Dec. 1807; d. 11 Apr. 1878, buried at Mt. Pisgah = John Ratliff b. 1799, d. 1849. Her children were:
 - Susan Ratliff b. 9 Jun. 1838 d. 4 Jun. 1856
 - Isaac D. Ratliff b. 12 Feb. 1845 d. 16 Oct. 1852.
- 11. ix Shadrach Denson = Alethia Chambers
- x Nathaniel Denson b. 15 Mar. 1811 in Al. = 3 May 1839 in Ms. to Virginia Davis.
- xi Madison Denson b. 10 Apr. 1815 in Al. = 28 Sep. 1837 in Ms. to Josephine Ann Eley.

1. Visit to Mt. Pisgah by Edith Denson, 1976. Caretaker pointed out graves. They are covered with brick made from Joseph Denson's kiln. No stones or inscriptions on graves.

2. Mississippi Genealogical Society, Newspaper Notices of Mississippians.

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This list of children was copied from an old family Bible owned by Cora Boyd of Canton, Ms. The Boyds married Densons. These were copied by Dr. Dillard Denson, a descendant of Isaac Denson. *

The first reference to Nathaniel in Anson County, N. C. is a petition signed by him in November, 1789. Anson County citizens petitioned the General Assembly asking that they be annexed to the District of Fayetteville. The petition was passed by the House, Nov. 9, 1789. These signatures form a census of that district for 1789.¹

Nathaniel Denson is also listed in the 1790 Federal Census, Fayette District, Anson County, N. C. This Census shows one male under 16 and three females, including the female head of household. Nathaniel is listed as the only male over 16, head of household. The same Census shows Shadrach and Jesse, his brothers, and they are over 16, head of family, with no wives.

Charity Colson, Nathaniel's wife, was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Colson. Joseph had a mill on the Pee Dee River near the Denson's land. Colson's Mill was the sight of a Revolutionary battle where 300 Tories camped near the mill were surprised by Colonel Davidson.²

Charity's uncle John was a friend of the famous Tory, David Fanning, and was arrested as a Loyalist sympathizer, but pressure from family, friends and neighbors seems to have changed his mind.

"From the journal of the Provincial Congress at Hillsboro, 20 Aug. 1775 it appears John Coulson, an individual of some considerable influence in this county was brought before Congress and solemnly recanted his political opinions and promised to aid, support and defend the just rights of America."³

Another uncle, Jacob, was a Captain in the Revolutionary War from South Carolina and Georgia where he died in 1778. Charity's grandfather is believed to be John Collson of Bertie Precinct as shown by the following will abstract:

"John Collson, Bertie Precinct, May 3, 1730: sons, John, Thomas, Jacob, Sanders, and Joseph; daus. Mary and Martha; wife Susannah. Susannah and John executors, plus Thos. Blount and Thos. Whitmell."⁴

Joseph Colson's will is found in the Probate Records of Anson Co., N. C. dated 8 July 1788, shows wife Mary; son Joseph, dau. Mary Colson

1. May W. McBee; Anson County, N. C. Abstracts of Early Records.
2. Robert O. DeMond; Loyalists in N. C. during Revolution (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1979, p.127)
3. John Hill Wheeler; Historical Sketches of N. C. p. 25
4. J. Bryan Grimes; Abstracts of North Carolina Wills, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1975) p. 78