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## Leigh and Purser Descendants



*Dick Purser*

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## *Generation No. 1*

**1. James<sup>1</sup> Leigh**, b. about 1670, in Possibly Accomack Co., Virginia or Charles Co., MD, d. 1728, in Bath, NC. Married (1) Sarah Helmot about 1690, in Virginia. Sarah Helmot was b. about 1672, in Unk., d. between 1702 and 1710, in Bath, Beaufort County, NC. Married (2) Elizabeth Rogers before 1710, in Bath County, NC. She was the daughter of Joseph Rodgers and Mary. Elizabeth Rogers was b. about 1664, d. before 1716. Married (3) Ann Williamson after 1717. She was the daughter of George Williamson and Hester Bridger. Ann Williamson was b. about 1675, in Isle of Wight County, Va., d. 7 Apr 1733, in Beaufort County, NC.

Notes for James Leigh: This is certainly the Leigh who appears on the 1715 Beaufort County "Corn List" as "Mr. Leigh and son." He would have been about 45 and his son would have probably been James and would have been between age 16 and 21. The corn list was a tax list to support intervention of a friendly tribe from South Carolina in the 1711 indian war.

James Leigh purchased a "entry of land" from Hannah Cockerham on January 5th, 1702/03. There may have been two tracts: one, the "tract of land whereon she hath lately lived being an entry made August 30, 1699" and two, 640 acres being an entry made October 7, 1701. Five days later on January 11, 1702/03 he laid 10 rights upon the entry made October 7, 1701. These 10 headrights on the land were for the importation into the province of ten persons named to wit: James Leigh, James Leigh, Jun., Sarah Leigh, Sen., Sarah Leigh Jun., Mary Leigh, William Holeman, Patience Leigh, John Leigh, Eliz. Leigh, Sarah Depee. In Colonial legal parlance an Entry was usually made, then the land was surveyed, and only then was a grant or patent issued. From the terminology in Deed Book 1, I surmise that Hannah Cockarum (or Cockerham) had not completed the process for the 640 acre tract and thus James Leigh was able to lay his own headrights on the tract.

All of the above in Beaufort or Hyde County records. Beaufort County was not formed until 1712. (recorded in Beaufort County DB-1)

If James Leigh listed the persons whose "rights" he claimed in 1702 in order of their age, one can establish a rough time frame for their births. James Leigh can be born no later than 1694 in order to be of age (21) in the Corn List of 1715. Lyonnell Leigh has to be born after January, 1702/03. James Leigh (son) dies in 1738 with underage children. In the birth dates I have Patience and Mary as twins. There is no evidence for this except that to have this many children Sarah in a very busy woman in the 1690's. This list also establishes that Sarah was alive in January, 1702/03.

On a May 7, 1716 list of landholding in Beaufort Precinct (Old Albemarle County, NC, 1678 to 1737, Wynette Parks Haun) James Leigh is credited with 1,040 acres on the south side of Pamticoe, 250 on South Dividing Creek, 360 acres at "Hickery" Point, and 640 acres on Dereham's Creek for a total of 2,290 acres patented. In these same records he is listed as a member of a court for "Pamplico" (Beaufort Precinct) held on Nov. 22, 1704 at the home of Robert Molynes. James Leigh is mentioned several

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times in "Hathaway's North Carolina and Genealogical Register". He is also mentioned as a member of the "NC General Court" in W. O. Saunders, Colonial Records of NC.

James Leigh's will dated 1728 lists his heirs. They are: His eldest son James, part of the land I now live on beginning at a markt tree above the horse pasture. Judging to be a hundred acres more or less; I give unto my son John Leigh a part of the land I now live on called the Accomack Entry beginning at the Accomack Entry Gut and running up the Gut to the Beaver Dam Gut judging it to be a hundred acres be it more or less. . . also my carpenter tools; I give to my son Lyonall a certain parcel of land lying between the Accomack Entry Gut and the Second Gut and running up the Branch of the Second Gut to the Savannah and then a SE course to the side line and likewise bounding upon my son John Leigh on the other side being by estimation eighty acres be the same more or less which is land I do give unto my son Lyonall Leigh and the male heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever but in case my son Lyonall shall die without such an heir then to the next male heir in line. (Note: Lyonall dies in 1728 also so this 80 acres probably went to either John or James.)

Item, I give to my daughter Sarah Leigh all the cattle of her mark...adds household furniture items; Item, I give to my loving wife Ann all that part of my estate that I had with her to use at her own discretion but in case my sd wife shall sue for any part of her dower, it was agreed between us before marriage that her children should have her estate and my children shall have mine as you will find by a bond from under my hand for 300 pounds sterling (note: Ann was Ann Darden before she married James Leigh and her later will lists her Darden children).

Item, I give to my grandson Peter Leigh (the son of James Leigh) the plantation I now live on and all the land belonging to it except those parts that I have already mentioned to be given.; And for all the rest I give and bequeath to my loving children, James Leigh, John Leigh, Lyonall Leigh, and my daughter(s) Patience Purser, Elizabeth Underwood, Milly Durham and Sarah Leigh to be equally divided between them, etc. Appoints sons James and John Executors, and Robert Turner, Esq. Trustee. Dated 23 day of September, 1728 .

"Elizabeth Rodgers Dereham" was James Leigh's second wife. A will issued by an Elizabeth Dereham, her daughter, dated 17 July, 1716, names James Leigh as her father-in-law and makes him executor of her will. "Grimes" states that "father-in-law" was often used to denote a "stepfather" in this early period so this tends to confirm this second marriage. Elizabeth Dereham is listed as a daughter of Elizabeth Dereham and Thomas Dereham. Her will also lists a sister, Ann Cleaves, a sister Katherine Derham (sic), a brother, John Derham, and Elizabeth Leigh, Patience Leigh, John Leigh, James Leigh and Joseph Truewhitt. It is proved on 2 April, 1717 on the oaths of Elizabeth Leigh and James Leigh, Jr.

In looking for the forebears of James Leigh one runs into the genealogical frenzy of the search for Robert E. Lee's ancestry. In 2003 I finally was able to disassociate him from the Grace McLean Moses article and from the Lees and Kings' suggestions based more or less on that article.

"Henry Leigh, Gentleman" is listed on the roster of passengers of the second relief ship (Second Supply) the "Mary and Margaret" which reached Jamestown in October, 1608. I could not find him on the

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muster lists for 1623/24 or 1624/25. I have researched this and similar connections in the main book and will not include them further here.

Notes for Elizabeth Rogers: Elizabeth Rodgers has occasionally been may have been confused with her daughter Elizabeth Dereham, whose will was recorded in Bath County, NC with a date of July 17, 1716 and a probate date of the April Court, 1717. Of course the coincidence could be actual. In this will, Elizabeth claims James Leigh as her father-in-law. "Grimes" states that "father-in-law" frequently was used to designate stepfather in the early years. Thus Elizabeth Derehams's will could indicate that Thomas Dereham's widow was James Leigh's second wife and that Sarah died before 1716.

In his will in 1728 James Leigh lists a Milly Durham as his daughter. His wife at the time of the 1728 will was Ann, formerly Ann Williamson Darden. Her will is also recorded.

Dereham sons available to marry Millie Leigh are Francis and Joseph.

Notes for Ann Williamson: This was James Leigh's last wife. Her will was probated in "Bath Co. NC" in 1733. She left her entire estate to her Darden children. James Leigh's will seems to indicate this was very much a marriage of convenience between "equals".

There is no doubt that Ann is the widow of Jacob Darden when she marries James Leigh. She apparently was Darden's second wife and moved to NC with "her" children after Jacobs death in 1719. Jacob Darden II remained in Virginia. On 19 April 1725, she purchased 360 acres on Bath Town creek which had formerly been owned by Capt. James Beard, who may have been Black Beard's father.

There is confusion in the data here. John Bennett Boddie (and others) has Ann Williamson marrying Jacob Darden II. This cannot fit the time frames. I have chosen to have Ann Williamson marry Darden as his second wife and his son by his first wife, Jacob II, stays in Virginia when she and her younger children move to Bath County.

Children of James Leigh and Sarah Helmot:

- i. **William Helmot**, b. before Dec 1690, in Accomack County, Virginia. William was the bastard child of Sarah Helmot, James Leigh's wife. His father was probably William Wise . In the head rights James Leigh lays on the entry bought from Hannah Cockeram in 1702/3, he is recorded as William Holeman.
- ii. **Sarah Leigh**, b. 1693, d. after 1734. Sarah Leigh apparently never married. She was a witness to Thomas Underwood's will in 1734.
- 2 iii. **James Leigh**, b. after 1694, in Accomack Co., Va., d. 1738.
- 3 iv. **Patience Leigh**, b. about 1696, in Accomack Co., Va., d. after 10 May 1733, in Beaufort Co., NC.
- 4 v. **Millie (Mary) Leigh**, b. about 1696, in Accomack Co., Va.
- 5 vi. **John Leigh**, b. 1700, in Accomack Co., Va., d. before 1754, in Beaufort County, NC.

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- 6 vii. **Elizabeth Leigh**, b. about 1701, in Accomack Co., Va.
  - 7 viii. **Lyonnell Leigh**, b. after 11 Jan 1702/3, in Bath/Beaufort Co., N.C., d. about 1751.
  - ix. **Wiliam Helmot**, b. before Dec 1690.

### *Generation No. 2*

**2. James<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>1</sup>*), b. after 1694, in Accomack Co., Va., d. 1738. Married Mary. Mary was b. in NC.

Notes for James Leigh: Will listed in Beaufort County Records in 1738. Note: a Roots Web family tree gives this James Leigh 10 children but 3 of them are duplicates and not included here. This family tree probably comes in from descendants of Joshua.

Children of James Leigh and Mary:

- i. **Mary Leigh**, b. about 1720.
- ii. **Joshua Leigh**, b. about 1724.
- 8 iii. **Peter Leigh**, b. before 1728.
- 9 iv. **Levi Leigh**, b. between 1728 and 1731.
- 10 v. **John Leigh**, b. before 1734, d. after Nov 1782.

**3. Patience<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1696, in Accomack Co., Va., d. after 10 May 1733, in Beaufort Co., NC. Married Robert Purser after 17 Jul 1716, in North Carolina. Robert Purser was b. between 1690 and 1693, d. BET 10 MAY AND 11 SEP 1733, in Beaufort Co., NC.

Notes for Patience Leigh: I have estimated Patience to have a twin sister Mary and to have been born about 1696. The date of her marriage is affected by Ann Dereham's will in 1716 which refers to her as Patience Leigh.

James Leigh and Daughter Patience Purser, Acct. Court, 1728.(Note from LSW. Data not found.)

Age questions arise about the Pursers because of their service in the Beaufort County Militia. In 1781, a James Purser is listed as "superannuated" while a James Purser, Sr. is not. Superannuated in that period, probably meant over 50 years of age. Yet Robert Purser, James Purser, Sr., Joseph Purser, and David Purser are listed as "active".

It is apparent that Robert Purser's (Patience's husband) eldest son Richard was not 21 in 1733. However both he and his son Robert were "taxables" in 1764. In a 1779 Beaufort county Tax List Richard has another son, James, who is of age. This James appears to be our link to Robert the emigrant.

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It could be that the Robert Purser mentioned here and the Robert Purser receiving Cert. # 693 for service in the Revolution is Richard Purser's son Robert, listed on the 1764 tax list, instead of Patience Purser's son Robert. But then we still have a bunch of Davids and James to straighten out.

Notes for Robert Purser: My original information about Robert Purser came from the Shropshire sisters, "Lees and Kings, of North Carolina and Virginia". This work proved to be totally in error as far as the pedigree of Judge James Leigh of Bath County was concerned and thus cast doubt on data about Robert Purser. I started anew in 2003 to consider both James Leigh and Robert Purser based primarily on data about a James and Sarah Lee from Accomack County, Va. e-mailed to me by Myron C. Banks of Raleigh, NC.

The primary effect on the Purser lineage of Myron Banks information about James Leigh was to change the probable date of Patience Leigh's birth to about 1696. This changes the probable date of her marriage to Robert Purser to about 1717-18. This delays the birth of Robert's children by the same amount. I have guessed that his eldest son, Richard, who was underage in 1733, was probably born around 1719 and Benjamin probably born about 1728.

Elizabeth Dereham's will in Beaufort Precinct of Bath County, dated July 17, 1716, refers to Patience as Patience Leigh, thus her marriage to Robert Purser marriage probably was after this date. She inherits a "suit of clothes" from Elizabeth Dereham, who was apparently her stepsister at this date at the time of writing the will.

On 17 July, 1728, just before he died, James Leigh deeded a tract of land to Robert Purser "for the good will love and affection which I do bear my son in law". (Beaufort/Bath County Records, Deed Book No. 1, page 507. He also noted a transaction with his daughter, Patience Purser on September 23, 1728 which I have been unable to find. September 23, 1728 was the date of his will and it appears he was settling everything he could in advance. This deed definitively establishes Robert's marriage to Patience Leigh.

A Robert Purser's will dated May 10, 1733 is also of record in Bath County. I believe this is the start of our Purser line in NC. This Robert Purser's will was probated in September of that year in Bath. It was witnessed by John Leigh, Jacob Pritchett and Humphrey Hawkins. This John Leigh was probably the son of James Leigh above in Beaufort Co. Richard Purser, Robert's "eldest son" in his will is underage when his father writes his will.

I have looked for Pursers in early Virginia who could be predecessors of this Robert. One possibility is a Robert Pischer, age 44, and his wife or daughter, Elizabeth, aged 16 who arrived in the Jamestown Colony aboard the ship Safety which left London on August 10, 1635.(PRO London, UK) What lends credibility to this is that the name "Pischer" does not appear in any genealogical indices or census data that I have searched, nor does it appear on switchboard.com today. A copy of the manifest of the Safety simply confirms the spelling "Pischer". Spelling habits were such that Pischer could easily have been Purser or Pussor. Other possibilities such as Perse, Perce, or Peirse in the Virginia Colony appear to continue under alternative spellings which were not of the Purser spelling family.

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Then there is Thomas Purser who arrived as a bonded servant on the ship Tristram and Jane before April, 1637 ("Accompts of the Tristram and Jane", ed. by Martha W. Hiden, Virginia Historical Society). This Thomas was turned over to Robert Brasseur, for a price of 600 pounds of tobacco, who was described as living in Elizabeth City County, then in the Upper County of New Norfolk (1637 and Nansemond County(1642)). He received a land grant in 1653 in Nansemond County part of which was authorized by his importing a Thomas Pursell who is almost certainly the Thomas Purser of the Tristram and Jane in 1637. (Cavaliers and Pioneers, Patent Book 3, p. 244)

There was also a George Purser for whose importation into the Virginia Colony Jenkin Osborne received 400 acres of land on 9 June, 1635 in Charles City County. His son, Francis Osborne, later re-applied and received 1300 acres of land in 1637, also claiming George Purser. (Cavaliers and Pioneers, Patent Book 1.)

There is a record of a Thomas Purser who was detained in custody in 1681 by the Sheriff of Northampton County, Virginia as a runaway servant of George Major of New Kent County. George Major received a land grant in 1683 part of which was based on a headright for Thomas Purser who is almost certainly the Thomas Purser, runaway in 1681.( Source 1: Northampton Order Book No. 11, 1678-1683, Microfilm Reel 46:: Source 2: Virginia Land Office Patents No. 7, 1679-1689 (v.1 & 2 p.1-719), p. 284 (Reel 7). This connection to the Major family may have unexpected ramifications.

I have only recently become aware of a John Purser who arrived in Maryland in 1652 and the fact that a Thomas Purser was imported into Maryland in 1669. One is tempted to think that these could be related to us and I am looking into the matter to see if they can be linked. These Purser's may eventually be linkable to the Myron Banks information. A Major family/Leigh family/Purser family connection before Bath County, NC would explain much.

So far there is no hard evidence for Robert Purser's ancestry, though the Leigh connection above is suggestive. James Leigh was wealthy and reasonably prominent politically. It is unlikely his daughters would marry the son of a bond servant without a prior connection. Yet, his daughter Elizabeth married a man, Thomas Underwood, who could not read and write. He was sufficiently well off to make a will, however.

After writing the above statement I re-considered the facts. Being indentured in and of itself would not necessarily indicate lower status. Sometimes a man would indenture himself for a specified term in order to learn a trade or business. There is a record of an indentured servant challenging his master to a duel. ("Ye Kingdom of Accawmack", Jennings Cropper Wise, Lib. Cong. Card No. 67-29404, pp. 329-330.) And indentured servants frequently married into the families with whom they served their indenture.

Children of Patience Leigh and Robert Purser:

- i. **Mary Purser**, b. about 1719.
- 11 ii. **Richard Purser**, b. about 1721, d. between 1779 and 1790.
- 12 iii. **Robert Purser**, b. about 1722.

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- 13    iv. **James Leigh Purser**, b. about 1725, d. between 1781 and 1786.  
      v. **Baniamen Purser**, b. about 1727. This first name is a variant spelling of Benjamin. In this time period the j in Benjamin and other names was frequently replace with an i. Benjamin Purser never appears in any records except his father's will. See Moses Purser comments.
- 14    vi. **Moses Purser**, b. about 1727.

**4. Millie (Mary)<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1696, in Accomack Co., Va. Married Joseph Dereham. He was the son of Thomas Dereham and Elizabeth Rogers. Joseph Dereham was b. about 1693.

Notes for Millie (Mary) Leigh: Making the assumption that Millie marries this Dereham son is arbitrary. All that is factual is that she marries a "Durham". I am also counting on the fact that Joseph's daughter, Elizabeth, is mentioned directly in Elizabeth Dereham's will, dated 1716.

Children of Millie (Mary) Leigh and Joseph Dereham:

- i. **Elizabeth Dereham.**

**5. John<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1700, in Accomack Co., Va., d. before 1754, in Beaufort County, NC.

Notes for John Leigh: John Leigh apparently has a son named Durham Leigh who sells the same 100 acres John inherits from his father James to John Tripp in 1754.

On Nov. 21, 1707 a John Leigh is mentioned in Beaufort DB 1, p. 84 as having transferred a lot in Bath Town to Maurice Luellen. This cannot be the same John Leigh who is still underage (<16) in 1715. This notation does raise a major question, however. Who is this John Leigh ?

Children of John Leigh and \_\_\_\_\_:

- i. **Durham Leigh**, b. before 1733. Durham Leigh sells his father's inheritance from James Leigh to John Tripp on January 16th, 1754. (Deed B-4, Beaufort County)

In "The Laws of North Carolina, 1786" we find an Act to vest title in one Howell Brown of Jones County who claims he purchased 200 acres from Durham Leigh (lying in Jones County) in 1779. It also states that Durham Leigh was living in Duplin County in 1779. The interesting part of the act describes the said Durham Leigh, "who since the said purchase hath withdrawn himself from this and the United States and attached himself to the enemies of the same and his estate by law hath been confiscated, and he hath made no assurance to the said Howell Brown to vest said land in him....." (passed January 6, 1787) It would appear that Durham Leigh was a Royalist and lost his estate to the state.

**6. Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1701, in Accomack Co., Va. Married Thomas Underwood.

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Thomas Underwood d. about 1735, in Bath Co., NC.

Notes for Thomas Underwood: James Leigh describes both Thomas Underwood and Robert Purser as sons-in-law in deeds dated 1728. In his will dated 1728, James Leigh names daughters Sarah, Patience Purser, Elizabeth Underwood and Millie Durham.

Thomas Underwood of Bath County has a will dated Jan 22, 1734, probated September, 1735 in court held in Bath Town; several executors, several witnesses including Sarah Leigh. His wife seems to be pregnant at the time. The will is contained on page 16 of the Old Will Book, Beaufort County, NC. I quote it as follows:

In The Name of God Amen.

I Thomas Underwood of the County of Bath in the Precinct of Beaufort being very sick but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God; Therefore calling into mind the mortality of my body and that it is appointed for all men once to die, Do make this my last Will and Testament, that is to say,

First. I commend my soul unto the hands of God that gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian Like and Decent manner at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting that at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again.

Imprimis. I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas my Great Bible when he comes of age and I give him all the cattle that is marked with a crop and a hole on the right ear and a swallow fork on the left and all their increase.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son James all the cattle of his mark and their increase, the mark being a crop and a hole on the left ear and a swallow fork on the right and Like wise a heifer and her increase "in leue of and earling" which I had.

Item. I give unto my daughter Elizabeth a cow named Madam and all her increase.

Item. I give unto the child my wife goeth with two cow calves in this next spring encluding the date hereof.

Item. I give this plantation and land thereto belonging to my son Thomas when he comes of age.

Item. I give unto my son James Three hundred and Seventy acres it being the great fork of the Beaver Dam.

Item. I give unto my loving Wife her full thirds of all my Estate both Real & personal and all the rest of my Estate to be divided among my children after my debts are paid and my will is that my young horse be kept till he is fitt to be roke and then sold & I likewise desire that my mare may not be sold but to be kept and the increase to go to my wife and children & my sheep also. And I do constitute and ordain my

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loving wife & Mr. Abraham Pritchett andand Mr. Richard Harvey & Mr. James Singleton and John Dixson to be my whole and sole Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. January 22, 1734. his Thomas X Underwood SEAL Signed, Sealed and mark Published in the presents of us

Saul Goodin Wilson Oates (mark) Sarah Leigh Wm. Whitford

The will was probated at a court in Bath Town on September, 1735 Proved by the testimony of Wm. Whitford.

I think it remarkable that both Robert Purser and Thomas Underwood who married daughters of James Leigh died before their eldest sons were of age. One also notes that Thomas Underwood could not read but owns a "Great Bible". His wife Elizabeth probably could read, certainly her sister Sarah, witness above, could do so.

Children of Elizabeth Leigh and Thomas Underwood:

- i. **Thomas Underwood.**
- ii. **James Underwood.**
- iii. **Elizabeth Underwood.**

**7. Lyonnell<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>1</sup>*), b. after 11 Jan 1702/3, in Bath/Beaufort Co., N.C., d. about 1751. Married Kezia Wood.

Children of Lyonnell Leigh and Kezia Wood:

- i. **William Leigh**, b. about 1725.
- 15 ii. **James Joyce Leigh**, b. about 1735.

### *Generation No. 3*

**8. Peter<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>2</sup>*, *James<sup>1</sup>*), b. before 1728.

Children of Peter Leigh and \_\_\_\_\_:

- i. **James Leigh**, b. 1728.

**9. Levi<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>2</sup>*, *James<sup>1</sup>*), b. between 1728 and 1731.

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Children of Levi Leigh and \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_:

- 16     i.   **Leven Lee**, b. between 1760 and 1770, d. after 1840.

**10. John<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. before 1734, d. after Nov 1782. Married Bethiah. Bethiah d. 1786.

Notes for John Leigh: Will dated 30 Nov., 1782, Beaufort Co., NC. Birth dates for his children are estimates only. Benjamin was co-executor with wife Bethiah fo his will so was adjudged to probably be eldest. Wife's will in 1786 mentions three small children and names Joseph, Abraham and Diane.

Notes for Bethiah: Her name is given as Bertha in one family tree but Bethiah appears to be correct.

Children of John Leigh and Bethiah:

- 17     i.   **Benjamin Leigh**, b. about 1758, in Beaufort County, NC.  
      ii.   **John Leigh**, b. about 1762.  
      iii.   **Sarah Leigh**, b. about 1764.  
      iv.   **Shadrach Leigh**, b. about 1765.  
      v.    **William Leigh**, b. after 1774.  
18     vi.   **Joseph Leigh**, b. after 1774, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. about 1813.  
      vii.   **Abraham Leigh**, b. about 1775.  
      viii.   **Diane Leigh**, b. about 1778.

**11. Richard<sup>3</sup> Purser** (*Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1721, d. between 1779 and 1790.

Notes for Richard Purser: There was a Richard Purser and his son Robert in the 1755 Census in Beaufort Co. He was willed 220 acres on South Dividing Creek by his father, Robert Purser. This was Robert's home plantation, "Ecrepint" which was the will's spelling for Hickory Point. The history and origin of this tract have been tracked down fully. He was underage in 1733 when his father died. Richard also had a son James who shows up in a 1779 Beaufort County Tax List and who is probably the direct link to us.

I have Richard as dying between 1779 when he was on the tax list and 1790 when he was not on the first census. He probably died before 1786 when he was not on the 1786 tax list. He would have probably been too old (60) to be on the 1781 militia rolls.

Children of Richard Purser and \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_:

- 19     i.   **Robert Purser**, b. 1740, d. 1807.  
20     ii.   **James Purser**, b. between 1744 and 1758, d. before 1800.

**12. Robert<sup>3</sup> Purser** (*Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1722.

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Notes for Robert Purser: Either this Robert Purser or Richard Purser's son Robert served in Revolution. Page 356, Comptrollers Office Certificates, 1785 Militia, Cert. No. 693 from New Bern District. I tend to believe that it is Richard Purser's son who had Cert. #693. The ages of his sons are based on their having to be over 21 when they deeded land to James Purser in 1790 and 1792. They are probably much older than this minimum.

Children of Robert Purser and \_\_\_\_\_:

- 21     i.    **Coventon Purser**, b. before 1769, d. before Feb 1819, in Craven County.
- 22     ii.   **Robert Purser, Jr**, b. before 1771, d. between 1820 and 1821.

**13. James Leigh<sup>3</sup> Purser** (*Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1725, d. between 1781 and 1786. Married Ann.

Notes for James Leigh Purser: Same Revolutionary War documentation as Robert, Certificate # 697, for service in Revolution. Later note. It is possible that this James Purser was actually named James Leigh Purser. An examination of Cert. #697 might provide evidence for or against. A Patience Purser, daughter of James Leigh Purser and "Ann Darden" is discussed in the "Purser Forum" on the GENFORUM pages and practically has to be in error. Ann Darden was James Leigh's last wife.

I think it likely James is James Leigh Purser. In the 1781 Beaufort Co. Militia list, James Purser is listed as "superannuated" while James, Sr. is listed as active. ? James Purser, Sr., Robert Purser, Joseph Purser and David Purser are all on this duty list as actives. There may have been more James Pursers active at the same time ?

On April 25, 1742, James Purser joined a group of "Protestant Dissenters, inhabitants of Bay River and Nuse River" who petitioned the Chief Justice of the Province to allow two houses in Flea Point on Bay River to be registered for public worship.(Hathaway's Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 2, p. 198.) It is possible that this is James Leigh Purser.

James Purser and Baniamen Purser were to be paid ten pounds apiece when their elder brother, Richard, ( under age in 1733) took possession of their father's plantation (220 acres along South Dividing Creek) in Beaufort County and called "Ecrepint". Robert Purser inherited 100 acres more or less of "Piney" land, location not specified.

In 1779 James Purser listed property to the amount of 2923 pounds in Beaufort County. In 1733 James was under age (13-14 I think), so he would have been about 60+ certainly old enough to be "superannuated" in the 1781 Beaufort Militia. If his name was James Leigh Purser and his son was James Purser, it would also be adequate reason for his son to become James, Sr. as soon as he had a son James.

I don't believe there is any hard information as to who his (James Leigh Purser's) wife was.

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Children of James Leigh Purser and Ann:

- 23 i. **James Purser, Sr.**, b. about 1743, d. before 1789.
- 24 ii. **David Purser, Sr.**, b. about 1744, d. before 1800.
- 25 iii. **Patience Purser**, b. 1761, in Craven County, NC, d. 1850, in Louisiana.
- iv. **Mary Purser**, b. between 1765 and 1775.

**14. Moses<sup>3</sup> Purser** (*Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1727.

Notes for Moses Purser: John, Son of Moses, 1779 Beaufort County Tax List. John above is over 21 in 1779, thus born before 1758. Moses is probably over 21 in 1758, .....make him born before 1737. I have assigned 1727 which would make him 31 in 1758. John, Moses' son, is over 21 in 1779 and is old enough to join the army in 1776. He is part of Capt. Charles Polk's Company a Mecklenburg County unit and serves at Cross Creek against the Scots Highlanders. ("The roster of soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution" , Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. Baltimore, MD, 1977.) Apparently after this he returns for a time to Beaufort County. By the time for the 1790 census he is in Mecklenburg Co. According to Charles Purser's data, John, Moses' son is born in 1750. If his father was at least 22 when John was born this would make him born before 1728.

Consider who is available in North Carolina to be Moses Purser's father.

Robert Purser's children are:

Richard, eldest, born about 1721 James 1725 Robert about 1723 Benjamin about 1727 Mary about 1719 Patience Leigh Purser,( Maybe), 1728.

Remember, Robert's marriage to Patience Leigh occurred after July, 1716 and he died in 1733. None of his progeny could have fathered a Moses Purser, father of John.

John is in Mecklenburg by the 1790 census and has his own genealogy file after that. His son Moses is in the Army in the War of 1812 and dies in Alabama in 1864.

My best estimate at this time is that Moses has to be a son of the original Robert and was left out of his will (as perhaps was Patience Leigh Purser ?). The only other conclusion requires a second Purser line originating other than Robert. That John Purser of Mecklenburg is out of this line is almost proved by his children's names: Richard, David, Robert, and Moses. Therefore I have assigned Moses to be a son of Robert, born about 1727. John Purser also witnesses a deed for Robert Purser (3) in 1768 along with Richard Purser. If my analysis below is correct, Robert Purser, son of Richard and John Purser would be first cousins.

One other consideration should be made. Benjamin Purser never appears in any record except his father's will. Moses Purser never appears in any record except by allusion in the 1779 taxpayer list. Perhaps they are the same person, maybe named Benjamin Moses Purser or Moses Benjamin Purser?

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Further, deductions as to Moses' age make his birth come very close to Benjamin Purser's.

In 2002 I discovered a John Purser in Maryland, imported in 1652 and a member of the Isle of Kent militia in 1662. It is possible that his line could produce Moses discussed above. There is also a Thomas Purser in Maryland in 1669 and it could be that the Maryland and York County Pursers have some linkage. One could hypothesize that John Purser, Isle of Kent, had sons Richard and John. John has a son Moses and Richard has a son Robert. But Occam's razor suggests only one son Richard who has a son Robert who had a son Moses Benjamin. All moonbeams and no facts to tie this to.

DNA data acquired in 2004 prove that John Purser's descendants and Richard Purser's descendants share a common ancestor. That ancestor was in all likelihood Robert Purser.

Children of Moses Purser and \_\_\_\_\_:

- 26     i.   **John Purser**, b. about 1750, d. 28 Mar 1826.

**15. James Joyce<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*Lyonnell<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1735. Married Sarah.

Children of James Joyce Leigh and Sarah:

- i.   **Mary Leigh**, b. 1790.

#### *Generation No. 4*

**16. Leven<sup>4</sup> Lee** (*Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. between 1760 and 1770, d. after 1840. Married Keziah. Keziah was b. between 1774 and 1784.

Notes for Leven Lee: [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]

Leven Lee's children are taken from the Lee family bible in the possession of Jack Robert Lee. In the 1830 and 1840 censuses his name is spelled Levin. In 1800 it is spelled Leven.

Children of Leven Lee and Keziah:

- 27     i.   **Joseph Lee**, b. 20 Mar 1798.
- ii. **Mary Lee**, b. 21 Apr 1802, d. 18 Oct 1872. Married James Hardison. James Hardison was b. 1800, d. 1878.
- 28     iii. **Hardy Lee**, b. 1804.
- 29     iv. **Asa Lee**, b. 20 Jan 1807.
- v.   **Keziah Lee**, b. 16 Apr 1808. Married William Lee 7 Jan 1837. William Lee was b.

- 
- about 1817.
- 30 vi. **Robert E. Lee**, b. 14 Jul 1814, d. 22 Sep 1887.
- 31 vii. **Elizabeth Lee**, b. 28 Sep 1816, d. 5 Jul 1846.
- 32 viii. **Unity Leigh**, b. 25 Apr 1822, d. before 1860.

**17. Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1758, in Beaufort County, NC. Married Mary Price 26 Sep 1785. She was the daughter of James Price and Sarah.

Notes for Benjamin Leigh: See Beaufort will abstracts under Benj. Lee.

Notes for Mary Price: This assignment of Mary Price to be Benjamin Leigh's wife is questionable, based on a will I copied in New Bern in 2001. James Price had a daughter named Mary Leigh and made Benjamin Leigh one of his exutors.

Children of Benjamin Leigh and Mary Price:

- i. **Ann Lee**, b. about 1786. Married William Savage 18 Jan 1815.
- 33 ii. **Daniel Lee**, b. about 1790.
- iii. **Ruthy Lee**, b. about 1792.
- 34 iv. **Benjamin Lee**, b. about 1795.
- 35 v. **Samuel Lee**, b. about 1801.

**18. Joseph<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. after 1774, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. about 1813. Married Winifred Price 29 Jan 1800. She was the daughter of James Price and Sarah. Winifred Price was b. about 1775.

Children of Joseph Leigh and Winifred Price:

- i. **Winifred Leigh**. Married Joseph West.
- 36 ii. **Phereba Lee**, b. about 1800.
- iii. **Abram Leigh**.
- iv. **Zorel Leigh**.

**19. Robert<sup>4</sup> Purser** (*Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1740, d. 1807. Married Elizabeth Tindel before 1763. She was the daughter of John Tindel and Elizabeth. Elizabeth Tindel was b. 1740.

Notes for Robert Purser: This Robert Purser is of taxable age (over 21) in Beaufort County in 1764. There is a Robert Purser listed in a 1779 tax list but he has so little property (120 pounds) it is hard to assume it is the same Robert but it may be. Richard Purser listed property of only 517 pounds in 1779. It is probable that this Robert Purser is the Robert Purser who served in the Revolution. See notes for his uncle Robert.

In 2002 I had second thoughts about our Revolutionary ancestors. The evidence is:

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Robert Purser - page 356, Comptrollers Office Certificates, 1785 Militia, Cert. No. 693 from New Bern District

James Purser - Same, Cert. No. 697

These are the data for Robert and James Purser being in the Revolution. Suppose both of these are the children of Richard Purser rather than from the other Purser lines ? It could be.

A will, apparently his, is abstracted in the records of Beaufort County. His wife, daughters and sons are taken from this will. His land lay next to James Purser's land. The will was dated 27 April 1807 which would make this Robert Purser about 64 at the time if he was born in 1743..

I believe it is this Robert Purser who shows up on the 1790 census as having two sons, 6 daughters and a wife. Before he died he had 10 children.

In the 1800 census he still has two sons under 16 and now has only 4 daughters at home but one is under 10. He has an extra female over 45, perhaps his or his wife's mother, or maybe a hired woman to help his wife.

On October 1, 1768 he and his wife Elizabeth deeded 300 acres of land (less an enclosure of 50 acres, called Warren Point) lying on the South side of Pamlico River and on the West side of Goose Creek to Francis Gilbert. The deed was witnessed by John Purser and Richard Purser. Richard Purser I believe to be Robert's brother, Richard. The John Purser in this deed is unidentified except that in the 1779 List of Taxables for Beaufort County is a "John Purser, son of Moses." In this same list is a "James Purser, son of Richard". The land in this deed is located to the East of Purser holdings on South (Dividing) Creek, apparently closer to Goose Creek.

Notes for Elizabeth Tindel: This assignment of Elizabeth Tindal as this Robert's wife is based on John Tindel's will. He was deceased as of 1767 and both Robert Pusser and Elizabeth Pusser witnessed his will and he refers to Elibeth Pusser as his daughter in the will. The date of the will is 28 July 1767.

The marriage is also documented on a webpage, "The Tindalls of Calhoun Co., Florida".

URL(2002) <http://www.ancestraldesigns.com/tindell/JohnTindellb1700.html>. The author is Carol Ann "Cat" Tindell, Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

The family tree she quotes is

Descendants of John Tindall

- 1 John TINDALL b: 1700 d: 1767 in Beaufort Co., NC . +Elizabeth b: 1702 Father: Mother: .....
- 2 John TINDALL b: 1735 Beaufort Co., NC ..... 3 Reul TINDALL b: 1765 Craven Co., NC d: Aft 1790 in Craven Co., NC ..... +Elizabeth b: Abt 1769 Craven Co., NC Father: Mother:

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..... 3 John TINDALL b: 1768 Craven Co., NC ..... 3 DtrJohn TINDALL b: 1773 Craven Co., NC ..... 3 Dtr John TINDALL b: 1776 Craven Co., NC ..... 2 James TINDALL b: 1738 Beaufort Co., NC ..... 2 Elizabeth TINDALL b: 1740 Beaufort Co., NC ..... +Robert PURSER b: 1736 Beaufort Co., NC Father: Mother: ..... 2 Samuel TINDALL b: 1742 Lenoir Co., NC ..... +LUCRETIA b: 1746 Lenoir Co., NC Father: Mother: ..... 2 Lukey TINDALL b: 1745 Beaufort Co., NC

Children of Robert Purser and Elizabeth Tindel:

- 37 i. **Sarah Purser**, b. about 1765.
- 38 ii. **Charity Purser**, b. about 1767.
- iii. **Ann Purser**, b. about 1770.
- iv. **Mary Purser**, b. about 1777. Married fnu1 Mason.
- v. **Elezabath Purser**, b. about 1779.
- vi. **Susanna Purser**, b. about 1780.
- vii. **Margret Purser**, b. about 1781.
- viii. **Luise Purser**, b. about 1782.
- ix. **Robert Purser**, b. before 1783, d. after 5 Feb 1820. He was under 16 in the 1790 Census and still under 16 in the 1800 census. In 1810 he is married and has a daughter under 10. In 1820 he is listed in the census with his wife and a daughter between 16-26. His will is written Feb 5, 1820 and does not mention his daughter.
- x. **Zedechiah Purser**, b. about 1784. He was under 16 in the 1790 Census and still under 16 in the 1800 census. He shows up in the 1810 census as being between 26-45 and with a female (wife?) under 26. I judge that he was close to 26 in the 1810 census and close to 16 in the 1800 census giving him a birthdate of approximately 1784.

**20. James<sup>4</sup> Purser** (*Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. between 1744 and 1758, d. before 1800. Married Polly Purser between 1775 and 1783. Polly Purser was b. between 1755 and 1765, d. after 1820.

Notes for James Purser: The existence of this James Purser is based on a Taxpayer list for Beaufort County for 1779 which lists a James Purser, son of Richard. This list was for tax payers over 21. He is a logical candidate to be the husband of Polly Purser and the father of Churchill. However, this connection must remain conjectural until further facts can be unearthed, however, it is the most satisfactory of any of the solutions I have tried. He also would be as logical a candidate as any to be the father of the Joshua Purser who is in Craven County for the 1820, and 1830 censuses and who buys 200 acres in 1822 and of Charity Purser who marries Moses Nelson in Craven County. One should emphasize that this is all speculation which has the virtue of tying up much ignorance into one simple package. William of Occam's "Razor" may work again !

Finding a possible father for Churchill has been difficult. None of the Robert Pursers, the David Pursers, or the other James Pursers fit both the time frames and the census data to have fathered a son in 1790. The fact that Churchill is listed as a labourer in 1850 rather than a farmer indicates his branch of the

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family had come upon hard times. This could be because this James died early. Upon discovery of this James Purser in the 1779 taxpayer list for Beaufort County, I chose him to be my great great great grandfather. There is a longer chain of logic contained in "The Purser Line" published with this genealogy report.

Note added June 17, 2003. In Pamteco Tracings, Vol. XVIII, June, 2003, No. 1, pp. 28-29. In the records of NCDAH in Raleigh there are two sets of records of "Heirs, assigns, distributees and guardians", the Book of Partitions and Divisions, 1736-1878 for Beaufort County, NC. In this article a decedent James Purser is listed for 1804 with distributees, Sylvester Silverthorn, Sally Silverthorn, and Polly Purser. In another listing she is listed as Patty Purser. The date is questionable since I believe James died before the 1800 census but in other entries in this record the date of Jacob Brown's death is mis-stated by at least 15 years. In a Silverthorn genealogy on the internet, a Sarah Purser is listed as the second wife of a Sebastian (not Sylvester) Silverthorn. I would have liked very much to see Churchill Purser listed as one of the Distributees here but even in 1804 he would have been only 14 years old.

Notes for Polly Purser: This Polly Purser is key. Her age has been estimated from the 1800, 1810, and 1820 censuses. I believe her husband died early. Of course both here and later, Polly is almost a synonym for Mary. If she was his mother, she would give Churchill an excuse to name a daughter Mary, who was also called Polly. Having an uncle, a reasonably successful uncle, named Joshua might be an excuse to name a son Joshua, too. In the 1800 census, the family headed by Polly Purser has one male under 10, 2 males between 10-16, and 2 females under 10 as well as Polly herself who is listed between 26-45.

My conclusion is that Sarah Purser had already married Sebastian Silverthorne (See notes for James Purser) by the time of the 1800 census and no longer in Polly's household. The two other females under 10 in her household in 1800 are unaccounted for as is one of the males. Charity should have been at home still in 1800...she would have been about 15. This could be age confusion on the census taker's report. The distribution of the assets in 1804, before Charity was married, took account only of the adult heirs of James Purser.

Children of James Purser and Polly Purser:

- i. **Sarah Purser**, b. before 1783. Married Sebastian Silverthorn. He was the son of Gilford Silverthorn and Jean. Sebastian Silverthorn was b. about 1730, in New Currituck, Hyde Co., NC, d. after 1815, in Beaufort Co., NC. This Sarah is married before 1804.(Pamteco Tracings, Vol. XVIII, June 2003, P.29.) She is a second wife but probably is at least 21.
- 39 ii. **Charity Purser**, b. about 1785, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. before 1850, in Wayne Co., NC.
- 40 iii. **Joshua Purser**, b. about 1788, in Beaufort County, North Carolina, d. before 1840, in Shelby County, Tennessee.
- 41 iv. **Churchill Purser**, b. 1790, d. between 1850 and 1860.

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**21. Coventon<sup>4</sup> Purser** (*Robert<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. before 1769, d. before Feb 1819, in Craven County. Married (1) Anna West 26 Nov 1792, in Craven County, NC. Married (2) Mary Mason 1 Jun 1816, in Craven Co. NC.

Notes for Coventon Purser: On Dec. 23, 1790, Coventon Purser conveys to James Purser, Sr. 200 Acres of land on S. Dividing Creek for 100 pounds. In 1792, Robert Purser Jr. and Coventon Purser convey to James Purser, Sr. 200 acres lying on S. Dividing Creek for 100 pounds. These are probably deeds for the same tract of land with the later being a title perfecting deed including brother James..

In the 1800 census, Coventon Purser is in Craven County with 1 male between 26-45, 3 females under 10, 1 female between 16-26 and 1 slave. In 1817, Adam Mahanes conveys 50 acres on the south side of the Neuse River to Coventon Purser. Coventon Purser had two marriages in Craven County.

Craven County, North Carolina

Marriage Records 1780-1867

PURSSER, Covington - WEST, Anna - 11/26/1792 PURSER, Coventon - MASON, Polly - 06/01/1816

"Coventer" Purser has a will dated in 1817 in Craven County. He names "his present wife" and a daughter named Ann (for his first wife Anna ?). Ann Maria Purser leaves a will in 1831, probated 1832 in Craven County.

Coventon's choice of John Sedgwick Nelson to be co-executor of his will speaks for a Nelson/Purser connection in 1817. Charity Purser married Moses Nelson in 1805.

Children of Coventon Purser and Anna West:

- i. **Ann Maria Purser**, d. before Feb 1832.

Notes for family of Coventon Purser and Mary Mason: This marriage date is a pure guess.

**22. Robert<sup>4</sup> Purser, Jr** (*Robert<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. before 1771, d. between 1820 and 1821. Married Linnah Purser.

Notes for Robert Purser, Jr: It is probable that this is the Robert Purser whose will is recorded in Beaufort County, Will Book D, p. 229, dated February 5, 1820. It was probated in the May Term, 1821. No terms provided in the abstract but it names his wife Linnah (Lena ?), and makes her his executor. Witnessed by Benjamin Braddy and Jesse Caten.

Children of Robert Purser, Jr and Linnah Purser:

- i. **Daughter Purser**, b. after 1804.

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**23. James<sup>4</sup> Purser, Sr.** (*James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1743, d. before 1789.

Notes for James Purser, Sr.: James Purser, Sr. has 1 male over 16, 1 male under 16 and 5 dependent females in the 1790 census.

Children of James Purser, Sr. and \_\_\_\_\_:

42      i.    **James Purser, Jr.**, b. about 1768, d. before 4 Jun 1810.

**24. David<sup>4</sup> Purser, Sr.** (*James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1744, d. before 1800. Married Mary before 1765.

Notes for David Purser, Sr.: David Purser's household in 1790 consisted of 1 free white male over 16, 1 free white male under 16, and 2 free white females.

He also served in the Beaufort County Militia in 1781. He was not on the 1755 or 1764 census or tax list.

David Purser, Jr has to have been born before 1765.

Children of David Purser, Sr. and Mary:

43      i.    **David Purser, Jr.**, b. about 1765, in Present in New Bern Dist. in 1790.

44      ii.   **John Purser**, b. between 1780 and 1787, in NC, d. in Henderson Co., TN.

**25. Patience<sup>4</sup> Purser** (*James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1761, in Craven County, NC, d. 1850, in Louisiana. Married James Brinson, Jr. 14 Apr 1783. He was the son of James Brinson, Sr.

Notes for Patience Purser: Patience and her husband migrated south and wound up in Louisiana, Bienville Parish. Data for her family was taken from the Walter Fuller (wfuller) Genealogy Database on the World Connect Project of Rootsweb.

Notes for James Brinson, Jr.: Migrated to Louisiana.

Children of Patience Purser and James Brinson, Jr.:

45      i.    **Polly Brinson**

46      ii.   **Mary Ann Brinson**

**26. John<sup>4</sup> Purser** (*Moses<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1750, d. 28 Mar 1826. Married Susannah Cuthbertson.

Notes for John Purser: John was in Beaufort County for a 1779 tax listing described as "son of Moses:."

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He was in Mecklenburg County, NC for the 1790 census. He signed up for several weeks (in 1776) of Revolutionary war service with a Mecklenburg Company raised by Capt. John Polk and served at the Cross Creek battle where the loyalist Scots were defeated.

He witnessed a deed, with Richard Purser, for Robert Purser and wife Elizabeth (Tindall) on October 1, 1768 when he should have been 18 years old.

For data on the John Pursefr family I am indebted to Charles Purser of Garner, NC.

Notes for Susannah Cuthbertson: Another name was "Beloved".

Children of John Purser and Susannah Cuthbertson:

- i. **Sarah Purser**, b. about 1777.
- ii. **Dorcus Purser**, b. about 1780.
- iii. **Elizabeth Purser**, b. 1781.
- 47 iv. **Moses Purser**, b. 1785, in NC, d. 1864, in Alabama.
- v. **Lydia Purser**, b. about 1790.
- 48 vi. **David Purser**, b. about 1797, d. about 1832.
- vii. **Robert Purser**, b. about 1800.
- 49 viii. **Richard Purser**, b. about 1802, in NC.

### *Generation No. 5*

**27. Joseph<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 20 Mar 1798. Married Elizabeth Fornes. Elizabeth Fornes was b. about 1798.

Children of Joseph Lee and Elizabeth Fornes:

- i. **John Lee**, b. about 1825. Married Ann Maria Miller 31 Oct 1849. Ann Maria Miller was b. about 1825.
- ii. **Richard Lee**, b. about 1827. Married Nancy Dixon 5 Dec 1852. Nancy Dixon was b. about 1828.
- iii. **Joshua Lee**, b. about 1832. Married Julia Scott 15 Oct 1854.
- iv. **William Lee**, b. between 1835 and 1836.
- 50 v. **Abner Lee**, b. 30 Jul 1835, d. 19 Sep 1919.

**28. Hardy<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1804. Married Kezia. Kezia was b. about 1803.

Notes for Hardy Lee: [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]

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Both Henry S. Lee and Levin were school teachers living in other men's houses in the 1860 census.

Children of Hardy Lee and Kezia:

- i. **Leven Lee**, b. about 1829.
- ii. **Henry S. Lee**, b. about 1831.
- iii. **Nancy Lee**, b. about 1833.
- iv. **Elizabeth Lee**, b. about 1836.
- v. **Mary Lee**, b. about 1842.
- vi. **Rebecca G. Lee**, b. 3 Jun 1867, d. 10 Oct 1940.

**29. Asa<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 20 Jan 1807. Married Rhoda Lewis. Rhoda Lewis was b. 1807.

Children of Asa Lee and Rhoda Lewis:

- i. **Gideon Lee**, b. 1834.
- ii. **Julia Lee**, b. 1836.
- 51 iii. **Riley Lee**, b. 26 Mar 1838.
- iv. **Mary Lee**, b. 1839.
- v. **Rhoda Lee**, b. 1841.
- vi. **Noah Lee**, b. 1843, d. before 1860.
- vii. **Clarissa Lee**, b. 1845.
- viii. **Nancy Lee**, b. 1847.
- 52 ix. **James Lee**, b. 1851.

**30. Robert E.<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 14 Jul 1814, d. 22 Sep 1887. Married Mahala Paul. Mahala Paul was b. 26 Jul 1820, d. 2 Apr 1898.

Children of Robert E. Lee and Mahala Paul:

- i. **Cornelia Lee**, b. about 1842.
- ii. **Richhilda Lee**, b. 6 Feb 1844.

**31. Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 28 Sep 1816, d. 5 Jul 1846. Married Charles Brinson 19 Apr 1839. Charles Brinson was b. 18 Jan 1813, d. 4 Aug 1884.

Notes for family of Elizabeth Lee and Charles Brinson: [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]

The marriage date is the date of the marriage bond.

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Children of Elizabeth Lee and Charles Brinson:

- i. **Elizabeth Brinson**, b. 1840, d. 2 Jan 1916. Married Josiah Tingle 18 Sep 1866. Josiah Tingle was b. 1839.
- ii. **John Smith Brinson**, b. 13 Nov 1842, d. 2 Sep 1862, in New Bern, NC. [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]  
  
Enlisted in Co. D., 40th Reg., NC Troops;(3rd Reg. NC Artillery, pvt.). Killed in Battle for New Bern.
- iii. **Lavenia Brinson**, b. 20 Dec 1845, d. 19 Sep 1917. Married George Marion Lewis 5 May 1869. George Marion Lewis was b. 5 May 1841, in 27 Jan 1913.

**32. Unity<sup>5</sup> Leigh** (*Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 25 Apr 1822, d. before 1860. Married William T. Paul 23 Feb 1842. William T. Paul was b. between 1814 and 1818, d. between 1870 and 1880.

Children of Unity Leigh and William T. Paul:

- i. **Ransom Paul**, b. about 1842. [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]  
  
This name is Ransom in the 1850 census; however, in 1860 it is Raymond G. Paul.
- ii. **Edgar Paul**, b. about 1844.
- iii. **Judith Paul**, b. about 1846. [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]  
  
The name is definigtely Judith in 1850. In 1860 it is Lucinda.
- iv. **Elizabeth Paul**, b. about 1848.
- v. **Henry Paul**, b. about 1851.
- 53 vi. **Benjamin Paul**, b. about 1852.

**33. Daniel<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1790. Married Mary.

Children of Daniel Lee and Mary:

- i. **Tabitha Lee**, b. about 1829.
- ii. **Mary Lee**, b. about 1830.
- iii. **Daniel Lee**, b. about 1831. Married Mary Ann Banks 5 Feb 1853.
- iv. **Frances Holland Lee**, b. about 1845. Married Emery Rice 17 Dec 1871.
- v. **Benjamin Lee**, b. about 1847.

**34. Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1795. Married Mary Hartley 30 Apr 1821. Mary Hartley was b. about 1795.

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Children of Benjamin Lee and Mary Hartley:

- i. **Mary Lee**, b. about 1836.
- ii. **Benjamin Lee**, b. about 1840.

**35. Samuel<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1801. Married Margaret. Margaret was b. about 1807.

Children of Samuel Lee and Margaret:

- i. **Nancy Lee**, b. about 1836.

**36. Phereba<sup>5</sup> Lee** (*Joseph<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1800. Married Joseph West.

Children of Phereba Lee and Joseph West:

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| 54 | i. <b>Celia West</b> , b. 9 Apr 1830, in Craven Co.,NC, d. 2 Oct 1923, in Pamlico Co., NC. |
| 55 | ii. <b>Noah F. West</b>  |
|    | iii. <b>Mary West</b> .  |
|    | iv. <b>Holland West</b> . Married Joab Rice.   |
|    | v. <b>John Wesley West</b> .   |

**37. Sarah<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*Robert<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1765. Married fnu Mason.

Children of Sarah Purser and fnu Mason:

- i. **Caleb Mason**.

**38. Charity<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*Robert<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1767. Married Fnu Caten.

Children of Charity Purser and Fnu Caten:

- i. **Sarah Caten**.

**39. Charity<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1785, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. before 1850, in Wayne Co., NC. Married Moses Nelson 19 Sep 1805. He was the son of Hardy Nelson. Moses Nelson was b. about 1780, d. before 1840.

Notes for Charity Purser: Assigning Charity as James and Polly's daughter is guesswork. On the other hand it allows tying in the early Nelson connection and later Charity's niece, Annie Comfort Purser, also marries a Nelson, Abner Nelson. As a quirk of relationships, this assignment results in Annie Comfort Purser having Charity as an aunt, while her husband Abner Nelson has Moses Nelson as an uncle.

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Using Charles J. Nelson's census data, Charity was between 50-60 in 1840 and died before 1850.

Notes for Moses Nelson: Moses Nelson was still listed in Craven County in the 1830 census but with no family. One reasons that he had already moved to Wayne Co. but was back in Craven at the time of the census. He is not listed in the 1840 census in Wayne County but his son, Charles Johnson Nelson is so listed and has a woman of age to be his mother in his household. Wayne County is where Goldsboro, NC is located.

Children of Charity Purser and Moses Nelson:

56      i.    **Charles Johnson Nelson**, b. 15 Oct 1815, d. 1899.

**40. Joshua<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1788, in Beaufort County, North Carolina, d. before 1840, in Shelby County, Tennessee. Married Nancy Purser. Nancy Purser was b. about 1794, in North Carolina, d. in Shelby County, Tennessee.

Notes for Joshua Purser: The assignment of this Joshua to be Churchill Purser's brother is pure speculation. This Joshua bought 200 acres of land in Craven County on February 27, 1822 from John and Turner Nelson. To buy that much land one can assume he is not just starting out so I assign an age of at least 31 in 1822 to estimate his birthdate. This Joshua also sold a slave ( a 15 year old boy named Sam) in Pitt County in 1812 (DB - AA, p. 86). He was a taxpayer in the Town of Washington (Poll Tax) in 1816. Making him Churchill's brother at least gives a rational explanation for Churchill's naming a son Joshua. He is present in the 1820 census and in the 1830 census, but not in the 1840. He also bought land in 1827 in Craven County.

I finally found this Joshua in the 1830 Craven County Census on 1/26/02. For this census he has 11 members of his household but no slaves, 5 sons and 4 daughters. He is between 30 and 40. He sold the slave (above) on November 18, 1812 so he must have been at least 21 on that date. So in the 1830 census I make him 42. This also checks with the assignment above. Maybe with 9 children. If he moves to Tennessee it's an undertaking ! His land in 1830 is next to that of Allen Jackson and John Jackson, both sons of Reading Jackson. This must be in the Contentnea Creek area of Pitt/Craven Counties. Note added 6/2003. Polly Purser's household in 1800 contained 2 males 10-16. I moved Joshua's birthday back to 1788 to fit.

Looking at notes from Tom Purser, Headland, AL I see a reference to heirs of Joshua Purser in "Ansearchin' News", the Tennessee Genealogical Society's Journal, taking up land in 1844. Searching the Shelby County, TN 1840 Census, I find a Nancy Purser heading a household which is consistent with Joshua Purser's younger members from the Craven 1830 census. Perhaps this is where this Joshua wound up. Nancy is 56 in 1850 so she should be in the 30-40 category in 1830 and Joshua should be in the 40-50 category. The census taker reversed them.

Some of the names of Joshua's children are simply Pursers found in Shelby County and White County marriage records which I assigned to Joshua's family. They actually seem reasonable but there are no

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specific records except for James, Caleb, and Ann and no guarantees.

Children of Joshua Purser and Nancy Purser:

- i. **son3 Purser**, b. between 1810 and 1815.
- ii. **Louisa Purser**, b. between 1810 and 1815. Married G. J. Slaughter 4 May 1842.
- 57 iii. **Joshua Purser**, b. about 1819.
- iv. **James Purser**, b. 1819.
- v. **F. M. Purser**, b. between 1820 and 1825. Married Nancy E. Carlton 13 Jan 1853.
- vi. **daughter 3 Purser**, b. between 1820 and 1825.
- vii. **Caleb Purser**, b. 1824.
- viii. **daughter2 Purser**, b. between 1825 and 1830.
- ix. **Ann Purser**, b. 1830. Married James Griffith 6 Feb 1854.

**41. Churchill<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1790, d. between 1850 and 1860. Married Penelope. Penelope was b. 1800.

Notes for Churchill Purser: Locating my great grandfather David Purser's father was not a trivial matter. Family notes were limited to the fact that my great grandfather had an unmarried sister named Polly, that he had an "Uncle Levi Stilley" who was a slave holder and, later in the search, D. B. Purser, my cousin, told me that David Purser had a brother named Joshua. At the beginning I could not locate David Purser's grave nor his wife's grave.

I first found a Churchill Purser in the 1850 census living in the Blounts Creek area of Beaufort County. The name Churchill, coupled with my grandfather's name, William Churchill Purser, triggered more study. Churchill was 60 in 1850 and in his household were his wife Penelope, aged 50, then daughters Polly age 18, Penelope age 10 and Comfort age 8. No sons. Then, tracing backward I found him in 1840 in the Blount Creek area again, then in 1830 he was living in the Goose Creek area of Beaufort. The 1830 census was a real challenge as he was indexed as "Churel Poocpter" but the original (in microfilm) was clearly Churchill Purser. Goose Creek is close to the original Purser holdings on South Creek.

The Stilley connection was later shown to be honorary but was helpful in looking at the 1850 census. In the Blounts Creek district Churchill Purser lived in dwelling 1217 family 1227. Levi Stilley was dwelling 1232 and family 1243, his son Carney J. Stilley was dwelling 1230, family 1241, his son Churchill Stilley was dwelling 1271 family 1282 and had a Joshua Purser, aged 16 in his household. His next door neighbor was a Noah Galloway while over in Pitt County, John Galloway had a David Purser in his household. I don't know the Galloway connection but there are Galloways in the Stilley family tree.

In 1840 and 1850 Churchill Purser would have been neighbors with the Stilleys. As stated above, Churchill Stilley had as a member of his household in 1850, one Johua (spelling as in the Federal census, Joshua as in the NC State copy) Purser, aged 16, listed as a labourer. Joshua Purser could have been in Churchill Stilley's household as a border attending the Stilley Academy, though his family lived

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close enough to make this unlikely. Churchill Stilley was wealthy enough at this time to have hired him.

At about this juncture, Joshua Purser's graveyard was located in Craven County near Vanceboro. The age and dates are a near exact match to Joshua, member of Churchill Stilley's household in 1850. In the 1870 census Joshua is called James Purser but his wife and children are a perfect match to Joshua's and he and his brother David are listed as being in the same family but in two households. The census taker even mixed up their families a bit. Nearby lives a Mary (Polly) Purcer.

Near this Joshua Purser cemetery I also found present day descendants of Joshua Purser and these two branches of our family are now back in touch !

Now back to the census data.

The 1840 Census shows a male between 5-10 years (Joshua, 6-7), a male between 10-15 years (David Thomas, 14) a male between 30-40 (Churchill, closer to 50), a female under 5 (Penelope), a female between 10-15 (Polly ) and a female between 30-40 (Penelope, his wife, close to 40). This correlation to the assumptions above is excellent. The "errors" lie in the fact that Polly should have been 8 years old and thus between 5-10 rather than between 10-15 in 1840 and Churchill was listed as 60 in 1850. Such errors are common.

Churchill Purser also shows up in the 1830 census with 1 male under 5 (David Thomas- 4 years old), 1 male from 20-30, 1 male from 30-40, and 1 male from 40-50. He has 1 female under 5, and 1 female from 20-30 (Penelope, his wife). The female under 5 must have been Polly and she must have been born before the census date. Churchill himself could have been counted either as 30-40 or 40-50 depending on his exact date of birth. Who the other two adult males are is unknown, perhaps unknown brothers, perhaps visitors, passing through.

In the 1880 census, David Thomas Purser identifies a Mary Purser in his household as his sister. Polly was frequently a nickname for Mary in this time period. David Thomas' wife Almarine died before the 1880 census and apparently his sister moved in to help. As I said before, a Mary Purcer was listed in the 1870 census with a separate household.

The final absolute certainty that Churchill was the father of David and Joshua was achieved in 2002 when Chuck Purser (Grover Norman Purser who is Joshua Purser's great grandson) located David Purser's and his wife Almarine's graves in a cemetery close to Vanceboro, NC. Also in this cemetery are Mary (Polly) Purser and an Annie C. Purser who is remembered by Joshua's descendants as being Joshua's sister. The "C." in Annie C. stands for Comfort, the sister who was 8 years old in 1850.

I visited this cemetery in May 2002 and recorded pictures of the stones. It appears to be a Roach family cemetery.

Great great grandfather Churchill Purser was elusive ! It took several years to be convinced beyond doubt as to his bona fides.

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At this point in time (July 4, 2002) I will insert a newspaper article printed in 1830. The content is illuminating and probably explains why Churchill Purser, at age 60 was listed in the 1850 census as a laborer rather than a farmer, as all his predecessors had been.

1830, Feb. 25. (New Bern Spectator) \$15.00 Reward. "Escaped from the jail in Beaufort County, on the night of the 24th instant, Miles Spier, Churchill Purser and Thomas Perry. The sum of ten dollars will be given for the apprehension of Spier, five dollars for Perry and five cents for Purser. Spier is a brother to Robert Spier, who was tried at Newbern for the murder of John Williams. Spier is a man of small stature, thin visage, sallow complexion, and has a down look when spoken to. He was born and raised in Pitt County, but has latterly resided in Beaufort; he is well known in both counties. He was committed at the last term of Beaufort Court on a charge of Grand Larceny. Perry is about 18 years of age, thick set, light complexion and speaks quick. He is a native of Currituck County and was committed under a capias on a charge of assault and battery. Purser is so well known in this county that a particular description of him is deemed unnecessary." Allen Grist, Sheriff.

Allen Grist was Sheriff of Beaufort County at the time.

On reading this one has the feeling that my great great grandfather Churchill Purser may have been at least notorious. Not only was he in jail but for his re-capture the Sheriff was only willing to offer 5 cents. Nevertheless, he produced two fine sons in David and Joshua. And David named one of his sons William Churchill !

Notes for Penelope: In the 1800 census Thomas Walker, father of Rachel Walker, Levi Stilley's wife, has 4 female children, 2 under 10. Only three girls are identified later, Rachel, Comfort, and Betsy. Note the Churchill Pursers also have a daughter named Comfort and the Stilleys have a daughter named Penelope. Assignment of Penelope as a Penelope Walker would make Levi Stilley, "Uncle" to David Thomas Purser through the Walker sisters. (Note: Thomas Walker also has 4 male children in the 1800 census, only two of which are identified.) (Note added same day. Apparently Thomas Walker's will (1822) does not mention a Penelope as a daughter. It is possible, he did not approve of the marriage; it is also possible "Penelope" died early and this assignment as Churchill's wife is totally incorrect. At best it is an unproved hypothesis.

This hypothesis is all based on an old note from my mother that Levi Stilley, a slave owner, is "uncle" to David Thomas Purser. April, 2001. In an old letter from Haughton Purser, David Thomas is described as having his education taken care of by an "Uncle" Stilley and serving him as an overseer. My feeling is that the "Uncle" title for Levi Stilley was simply an honorific.

Children of Churchill Purser and Penelope:

- 58     i.   **David Thomas Purser**, b. 2 Mar 1827, in Beaufort County, NC, d. 6 Aug 1911, in Pitt County, NC.
- ii.   **Mary "Polly" Purser**, b. Mar 1828, d. 6 Aug 1905. My mother's notes say Polly never married. The age is from the 1850 census. Another source gives her birthdate

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as January, 1828. This is more consistent with the ages given to her in the 1870 and 1880 censuses. In David's household in 1880, a sister named Mary is listed, aged 51 which matches Polly's age well. In this census Almarine, David's wife is missing. My information is that "Polly" was often a nickname given to those named Mary. A Mary Purser, aged 40, is listed as living in hefr own household two households from Joshua in the 1870 census.

- 59    iii. **Joshua Purser**, b. 22 Dec 1833, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. 19 Oct 1912, in Craven County, NC.
- iv. **Penelope Purser**, b. before Jun 1840.
- v. **Annie Comfort Purser**, b. 4 Mar 1843, d. 12 Dec 1936. Married Abner Nelson. He was the son of Garrett Nelson and Sussanah Edwards. Abner Nelson was b. 10 May 1830, d. 10 Aug 1902. She is buried in the Roach cemetery near Vanceboro, NC. According to Haughton's letter, David had a sister named Ann. This could be Comfort ? Also buried in the Roach Cemetery are David Purser, Almarine Purser, Polly Purser, Annie C. Nelson, and Abner Nelson. Annie C. Nelson is remembered by the Joshua Purser family as being Joshua's sister.

**42. James<sup>5</sup> Purser, Jr.** (*James<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1768, d. before 4 Jun 1810. Married Mary.

Notes for James Purser, Jr.: James Purser, Jr. is listed in the 1790 census as having 1 male over 16, 2 males under 16, and 2 females in his household. Both his son James Purser and his son Peter Purser have to be born prior to 1789 in order to be able to participate in a deed on June 4, 1810.

Children of James Purser, Jr. and Mary:

- 60    i. **James Purser**, b. before 1789, in Beaufort County, NC, d. after 1850, in Warren Co., TN.
- ii. **Peter Purser**, b. before 1789.

**43. David<sup>5</sup> Purser, Jr.** (*David<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1765, in Present in New Bern Dist. in 1790.

Notes for David Purser, Jr.: David Purser, Jr. household consisted of 1 free white male over 16, 1 free white male under 16, 3 free white females, and 1 slave in the 1790 census. In the 1800 census he has 3 males under 10.

According to these census data, this David Purser has room in his household for both Noah and Jesse Purser. However, assigning them to him as children is a hypothesis and is unproved by data at this point, December, 2001.

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Children of David Purser, Jr. and \_\_\_\_\_:

- i. **dau1 Purser**, b. before 1790. In 1790 Census. There were two daughters, one named Polly.
- ii. **dau2 Purser**, b. about 1790.
- iii. **Noah Purser**, b. between 1790 and 1800. Married Charlotte Jewell 11 Sep 1834, in Craven County, NC. The 1820 and 1830 census data for Noah are puzzling. At least three of the people shown in 1820 do not appear in the Noah Purser household in 1830. I have no explanation for this.

Noah has a son in 1820 and in 1830. Only Wiley could be made to fit into Noah's household in 1830 and he does not fit easily. Noah has a son between 15-20 years of age in 1830. From one account Wiley is supposedly 44 on June 25, 1861 when he enlists. This would make him 13 in 1830 which is acceptable as far as census data are concerned but not very solid evidence.

However, the 1860 census gives Wiley's age as 38 which would make him 8 in 1830. This is not close enough so I have assigned Wiley to Noah's brother Jesse. Wiley may have named his son for his uncle who died.

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- iv. **Jesse Purser**, b. about 1795, d. between 1830 and 1840.
  - v. **son3 Purser**, b. before 1800.

**44. John<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*David<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. between 1780 and 1787, in NC, d. in Henderson Co., TN. Married Elizabeth. Elizabeth was b. between 1797 and 1798, in NC, d. in Henderson Co., TN.

Notes for John Purser: Compare to John and Lizzie (or "Delissa") Purser in Henderson County, TN, in the 1850 and 1860 Censuses. This assignment is a pure guess; yet, it might be true.

In point of fact I cannot say that John is not the son of David Purser, Jr. or of one of the James Pursers. All of them have room for a son under 16 in 1790 and I have not gone back through all the census data to verify this assignment as a probability. John was born in NC and before any son of John of Mecklenburg could have had him. He was probably born in Beaufort County, maybe Craven.

John was a brickmason in 1850.

Children of John Purser and Elizabeth:

- i. **Nancy J. Purser**, b. about 1837, in Tennessee.

**45. Polly<sup>5</sup> Brinson** (*Patience Purser<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*). Married Christopher Koonce.

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Children of Polly Brinson and Christopher Koonce:

- i. **George B. Koonce**, b. about 1815.

**46. Mary Ann<sup>5</sup> Brinson** (*Patience Purser<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*). Married Christopher Koonce.

Children of Mary Ann Brinson and Christopher Koonce:

- 62 i. **James Carroll Koonce**, b. 1815, in Lebenon, Wilson Co., TN.

**47. Moses<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*John<sup>4</sup>, Moses<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1785, in NC, d. 1864, in Alabama. Married Mapsey Arnet 15 Feb 1816, in Wilson Co., TN. Mapsey Arnet was b. about 1781, in NC.

Notes for Moses Purser: Moses served in the Second Regiment from Mecklenburg County in the War of 1812. He was in Marion County, Alabama for the 1850 census aged 65.

Children of Moses Purser and Mapsey Arnet:

- i. **David C. Purser**, b. about 1823, in Alabama.
- ii. **Rebecca Purser**, b. about 1827, in Alabama.
- iii. **John A. Purser**, b. about 1828, in Alabama.

**48. David<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*John<sup>4</sup>, Moses<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1797, d. about 1832. Married Anna Mullis. Anna Mullis was b. 1807.

Children of David Purser and Anna Mullis:

- 63 i. **Hugh Purser**, b. between 1820 and 1825, d. 8 May 1864.
- ii. **John Purser**, b. between 1820 and 1825.
- iii. **Prior Green Purser**, b. between 1825 and 1830.
- iv. **Solomon Purser**, b. between 1825 and 1830.

**49. Richard<sup>5</sup> Purser** (*John<sup>4</sup>, Moses<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1802, in NC. Married Elizabeth. Elizabeth was b. about 1809, in Georgia.

Children of Richard Purser and Elizabeth:

- i. **Hamton Purser**, b. 1832, in Georgia.
  - ii. **Martha L. Purser**, b. 1834, in Georgia.
  - iii. **William Purser**, b. 1834, in Georgia.
  - iv. **Thomas Purser**, b. 1842, in Georgia.
  - v. **James M. Purser**, b. 1843, in Georgia.
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- vi. **Moses J. Purser**, b. 1845.
  - vii. **Frances Purser**, b. 1847, in Marion County, Alabama.
  - viii. **Henry F. McD. Purser**, b. 1850, in Marion County, Alabama.

*Generation No. 6*

**50. Abner<sup>6</sup> Lee** (*Joseph<sup>5</sup>, Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 30 Jul 1835, d. 19 Sep 1919. Married (1) Mary Caroline Lee. Mary Caroline Lee was b. 20 Feb 1838, d. 24 Apr 1903. Married (2) Mary Caroline Lee 5 Apr 1860. Mary Caroline Lee was b. 20 Feb 1838, d. 24 Apr 1903.

Notes for Abner Lee: [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]

Born at Goose Creek Mill, Pamlico Co., N. C. He and Mary are buried at Goose Creek near Keystown Road. Death Book 2, pp. 682 Pamlico Co., gives his birth date as 30 July 1831. He was in Bald Head Island, N. C. during the Civil War.

Children of Abner Lee and Mary Caroline Lee:

- i. **Etson Lee**, b. 31 Dec 1880, d. 16 Sep 1964.
- 64 ii. **Mason Felix Lee**, b. May 1861, d. 31 Dec 1942.
- iii. **Polina A. Lee**, b. 5 Jul 1869, d. 21 Apr 1930.
- iv. **Rebecca G. Lee**, b. 3 Jun 1867, d. 10 Oct 1940.

Children of Abner Lee and Mary Caroline Lee:

- i. **Kelly Anderson Lee**, b. 10 Sep 1865.
- ii. **Rebecca G. Lee**, b. 3 Jun 1867, d. 10 Oct 1940.
- iii. **Polina A. Lee**, b. 5 Jul 1869, d. 21 Apr 1930.
- iv. **Eludar A. Lee**, b. about 1870. Married Kenneth Holand. [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]  
  
Nick Named "Ludie".
- v. **Minnie Lee**, b. 2 Feb 1873, d. 5 Feb 1956. Married James Frank Paul.
- vi. **Pheba Lee**, b. about 1875. Married Charles Sumrell.
- vii. **Calona Lee**, b. about 1879. Married Arthur Powers.
- viii. **Etson Lee**, b. 31 Dec 1880, d. 16 Sep 1964.
- 64 ix. **Mason Felix Lee**, b. May 1861, d. 31 Dec 1942.

**51. Riley<sup>6</sup> Lee** (*Asa<sup>5</sup>, Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 26 Mar 1838. Married Sabrina. Sabrina was b. 1846.

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Children of Riley Lee and Sabrina:

- i. **Sophie A. Lee**, b. 1869.
- ii. **Asa W. Lee**, b. 1870.
- 65 iii. **Robert Henry Lee**, b. 15 May 1871.
- iv. **Rhoda E. Lee**, b. 1873.
- v. **Noah B. Lee**, b. 1875.
- vi. **Manley B. Lee**, b. 1877.
- vii. **Mary F. Lee**, b. 1879.

**52. James<sup>6</sup> Lee** (*Asa<sup>5</sup>, Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1851. Married Rachel E. Rachel E. was b. 1854.

Children of James Lee and Rachel E.:

- i. **Alexander Lee**, b. 1875.
- ii. **Mary Lee**, b. 1878.
- iii. **Riley E. Lee**, b. 1879.

**53. Benjamin<sup>6</sup> Paul** (*Unity Leigh<sup>5</sup>, Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1852. Married Sarah M. Sarah M. was b. about 1853.

Children of Benjamin Paul and Sarah M.:

- i. **Edgar D. Paul**, b. about 1876.
- ii. **Viola M. Paul**, b. about 1878.
- iii. **Della B. Paul**, b. about 1879.

**54. Celia<sup>6</sup> West** (*Phereba Lee<sup>5</sup>, Joseph<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 9 Apr 1830, in Craven Co., NC, d. 2 Oct 1923, in Pamlico Co., NC. Married David L. Banks. David L. Banks was b. about 1822, in Craven Co., NCV, d. 9 Feb 1862, in Craven Co., NC.

Children of Celia West and David L. Banks:

- 66 i. **Noah Harvey Banks**, b. 15 Mar 1859, in Craven Co., NC, d. 17 Jun 1932, in Grantsboro, NC.

**55. Noah F.<sup>6</sup> West** (*Phereba Lee<sup>5</sup>, Joseph<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*). Married Margaret Lupton.

Children of Noah F. West and Margaret Lupton:

- i. **Lector West**. Married David Mixon.
  - ii. **Florence West**. Married Lawrence Rowe.
  - iii. **Maggie West**. Married Joseph Heath.
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iv. **Joseph West**. Married Caddie Potter.

**56. Charles Johnson<sup>6</sup> Nelson** (*Charity Purser<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 15 Oct 1815, d. 1899. Married (1) Fannie S. Robinson. Married (2) Sarah A. Hearne 27 Oct 1836. Sarah A. Hearne was b. about 1816.

Notes for Charles Johnson Nelson: Charles Johnson Nelson was a carriage manufacturer and was ordained to the ministry in May 1866. Named the town of Goldsboro, NC. These data are taken from "Our Family Genealogy", Mary Nelson Smith Family.

Children of Charles Johnson Nelson and Sarah A. Hearne:

- i. **Thomas Edward Nelson**, d. 1875. Married Mary Ann Mooring.
- ii. **James Nelson**.
- iii. **Charles Nelson**, b. about 1836.
- iv. **Mary Nelson**, b. about 1842.
- v. **Richard Nelson**, b. about 1845.
- vi. **Nathaniel Nelson**, b. about 1849.

**57. Joshua<sup>6</sup> Purser** (*Joshua<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1819. Married Intha Short 7 Mar 1843. Intha Short was b. 1827.

Notes for Joshua Purser: This is guestimating. I assume that the Joshua Purser in Warren County is the son of the Joshua Purser who settled in Shelby County. This Joshua did marry Intha Short. The marriage was conducted by Reverend Arnold Moss on the date given. (White County, TN the oldest marriage book.) This Joshua was born in NC.

Children of Joshua Purser and Intha Short:

- i. **George W. Purser**, b. 1845.
- ii. **Andrew J. Purser**, b. 1849.

**58. David Thomas<sup>6</sup> Purser** (*Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 2 Mar 1827, in Beaufort County, NC, d. 6 Aug 1911, in Pitt County, NC. Married Almarine Brown. She was the daughter of James Brown and Elizabeth Hill. Almarine Brown was b. 31 Jan 1825, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. 18 Dec 1870, in Pitt County, NC.

Notes for David Thomas Purser: David Thomas Purser is the last Purser ancestor that I have personal knowledge of. His father, Churchill Purser, is definite and the people above him in the family tree are logical but we need more data to make definite assignments to Churchill. A David Purser appears in the 1870 Census in Craven County. David Thomas Purser's middle name is sometimes given as Churchill, the same as his son William's. All of the records I know of except the IGI (Mormon) refer to David simply as David Purser, no Thomas. The best argument for the Thomas is that his son, William

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Churchill apparently did name a son David Thomas (My uncle Tom or "Bud" Purser.)

There was a David Purser, 23 years old, working as a laborer in the household of John Galloway in the 1850 census in Pitt County. I believe this is Churchill Purser's son. He is the right age. In the census of 1850, Churchill Purser, age 60, has only females listed in his household. I believe his sons were hired out as laborers. The 1850 census occurs before David Thomas' marriage to Almarine Brown; thus he does not have a household of his own.

As a curiosity, the wife in the John Galloway household was a Sarah Chapman whose first husband had been named Roach. At the end of his life, David Purser was buried in a Roach family graveyard near Vanceboro. To further tangle the web, David's daughter Martha Elizabeth would marry Ramond Gatlin Chapman who turns out to be Sally Chapman's second cousin. (They had the same great grandfather, John Chapman, and their fathers were double first cousins.)

David Purser bought land in the Clay Root area on 6 June, 1874 from the heirs of William Cox; eg, Sylvester Cox, and his wife, Sarah, Guilford W. Cox and his wife Annie P. and Archibald Cox and his wife Elizabeth. (Pitt Co. Deed Book YY, P.225) This is David Thomas Purser. He is not so named on his headstone but my grandfather, his son, named his first born David Thomas Purser.

In 1878, when Martha Elizabeth and Raymond Gatlin Chapman had been married about a year, David Purser gives his son in law a mortgage on part of his Clay Root property in return for an advance of \$600. At this same time, more or less, he sells part of his land back to G. W. Cox, 272 acres for \$1,580. 1878 must have been a lean year for the Purser's.

I have covered the development of the ancestry of David Purser under his father's comment page. However, I will leave the details of the 1870 census below.

There are two groups of Pursers listed in the 1870 census as being in the same family but living in separate dwellings, Dwelling Nos. 251 and 252 but the family is the same, Family No. 253. I will try to separate these into two groups as follows:

253A	253B Name	Age	Occupation	Name	Age	Occupation
Purser, David 43	Farmer	Purser, James 36	Farmer	Almarine 44	Keeping	
House	Elizabeth J. 32	Keeping House	John A. 16	Farm Laborer	Frances M.	
4 Martha E. 14	At Home	Joseph F. 8	Mary Lydia 11	At Home		
Joshua F. 2	William C. 5	Ware, Samuel E. 20	Farm Laborer	Penny Susan 8	Nathan H. 17	

There are some discrepancies in this allocation but if one changes James Purser to Joshua Purser, the relationships are a bit clearer. Joshua bought land in Craven County in 1859, his wife is named Elizabeth J., he has sons F. M. and J. F., etc. Apparently, David and his family moved in with Joshua while looking for Pitt County land. Their homes are in Swift Creek TWP in Craven Co. This becomes TWP 1

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in the 1880 census and David Purser has bought land (above) in Swift Creek TWP in Pitt Co. by 1880.

There is also a possibility that Nathan's middle initial is A. rather than H. (Pitt Co. deedbooks)

Referring to the NC copy of the 1870 census, the families are sorted out as above except that Samuel Ware is not present, but Joshua Purser is still "James" Purser. David Norman Purser is a son of Joshua Purser who was born in 1874, after this census.

Notes for Almarine Brown: Almarine Brown is listed in the 1850 census as being 23 years old and living with her father and mother in the Chocowinity District of Beaufort County. There are Godleys on the same census page. Almarine is listed in the 1870 census in Craven County but died before the 1880 census. David's sister, Mary or Polly, apparently moved in with her brother after his wife died.

Most of Almarine's ancestry comes from work by Myrtie Keel I found in my mother's notes and from documents Myrtie placed in the Brown Library, Washington, NC. I have one deed from David Purser to James Taylor, Pitt County Records, DB ?, p. 111 conveying a tract of fifty acres in Beaufort County in which the land is described as "being the land left by the will of Polly Hill to Betsey Brown and then to her daughters Polly Ann and Almarine". Polly Hill was born August 27, 1837, married Josiah Godley on March 14, 1868, and is the connection who interested Myrtie Keel in the Browns. Myrtie was a Godley.

David Thomas traded or sold this tract of land more than once, wheeling and dealing his way to several hundred acres of land in Pitt County.

Children of David Thomas Purser and Almarine Brown:

- i. **Ann Purser**. Lived in Vanceboro, NC. Her brother John lived with her.
- 67 ii. **Martha E. Purser**, b. 13 Nov 1851, d. 29 Jul 1944.
- 68 iii. **Nathan A. Purser**, b. about 1853.
- iv. **John A. Purser**, b. 12 Sep 1854, d. 2 Jun 1935. Never married. Lived with his sister Ann in Vanceboro. In 1910 he was living with his aunt, Annie Nelson in Vanceboro.
- v. **Mary Lydia Purser**, b. 21 Jun 1859, d. 28 Jun 1935. Married James Henry C. Dixon 1877. He was the son of Oliver Dixon and Betsy Smith. James Henry C. Dixon was b. 16 Dec 1851, d. 17 Sep 1939. Lydia was known as Aunt "Lyd". In her old age she lived in house across road from Granddaddy's house in Clay Root Township. I remember her as a child and at one point she gave me a leather coin purse which I still have. (My memory is hazy but definite even though I can have been no older than four.) Her husband "Jim" also lived there. He was a druggist in Ayden, NC. The Cox genealogy gives her death date as 1921 and her husband's as 1926. This cannot be true as both I and Aunt Irma remember them. In 1921 Irma would have been 15 and would not have known the Pursers. The dates used here are from their tombstone in the Winterville Cemetery. Jim Dixon and wife in a

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- deed to Mary V. Purser dated 1909, give Lydia's name as Mary L. Purser or Mary Lydia Purser. Her grave marker gives it as Lydia Purser Dixon. Notes for James Henry C. Dixon: He was a druggist in Ayden. Buried in Winterville Cemetery.
- vi. **Penny Susan Purser**, b. 1861. Married Joseph C. Smith 7 Apr 1890, in Chicod, Pitt, NC. Sue Purser married and lived in Chapel Hill, NC.
  - vii. **James D. Purser**, b. 6 May 1863, d. 2 Mar 1866.
  - 69 viii. **William Churchill Purser**, b. 14 Jun 1865, in Bonneron or Edward, NC, d. 29 Sep 1946, in At home on farm in Pitt County.

**59. Joshua<sup>6</sup> Purser** (*Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 22 Dec 1833, in Beaufort Co., NC, d. 19 Oct 1912, in Craven County, NC, bur. in Joshua Purser Cemetery, SR 1644, Craven Co., NC. Married Elizabeth J. Williams 2 Nov 1859, in Craven or Beaufort County. She was the daughter of Joseph Williams and Charity Williams. Elizabeth J. Williams was b. 10 Oct 1840, d. 27 Sep 1918, in Craven County, NC, bur. in Joshua Purser Cemetery, SR 1644, Craven Co., NC.

Notes for Joshua Purser: This assignment was initially based partially on my cousin DB's memory that David Thomas had a brother named Joshua, and partially on an 1850 census entry for Churchill Stilley for a household member named "Johua Purser" of the correct age to match the cemetery data in Craven County. (The 1850 NC State copy of this census gives his name as "Joshua") The marriage date and the last name of his wife is based on an IGI entry about his marriage to "Betsy" Williams. (and confirmed by Louise Cowell's work as occurring Nov. 2, 1859.)

Betsy (Elizabeth J.) Williams parents, Joseph and Charity Williams lived next to Joshua in the 1870 census. In the 1880 census, Charity lives with Joshua and is identified as "mother-in-law".

Joshua bought 178 acres from Lavernia Ann and Charles Williams on September, 17th, 1859 (Craven County Records, DB 93, p. 512) lying on the north side of Palmetto Swamp and on the west side of Fork Swamp. In his will he gave his wife a life interest in all his property, then passed that same tract of land to his sons, Francis M and J. F. Purser, by will dated 29 December, 1894. He left his "beloved daughter", Ida J. Purser, one cow and a horse and buggy. This will was probated on October 29, 1912, 10 days after Joshua's death. His wife Betsy died 6 years later. There is no mention of a son David Norman in his will. (Note: Will copied in Craven County Clerk of the Court's Office, July, 2000. Will Book not noted on copy.)

Note 1 : In the Joshua Purser cemetery there is a headstone for Julia Hill Purser, b. March 3, 1879, d. Dec. 10, 1938, with the inscription "A tender mother and a faithful friend".

Note 2: In March of 2001 I stopped on SR 1644 and found the Joshua Purser Cemetery. Later, returning from visiting D. B. Purser in Bayboro, I stopped at a house close by to discover descendants of Joshua Purser still living on this land. The road SR 1644 dead ends into is called Purser Road. I talked with Janice Purser Murphy, a granddaughter of David Norman Purser, Joshua's son.

Regarding note 1. Joshua had a son, not mentioned in his will, David Norman Purser, who married Julia

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Hill. In March, 2001 I talked with her granddaughter, Janice Purser Murphy living on part of the Joshua Purser land. The mortician's marker noted by the surveyor (Leslie F. House, March 13, 1981, Brown Library, Washington, NC) was probably for David Norman Purser and for some reason no stone was erected.

Persons identified by Janice Murphy as being in her family were:

Charles and Janice Purser Murphy Her sister Caroline Purser Grover Norman Purser (Chuck) Garland Purser (Lives within sight of Murphy house but on another road (Purser Rd).) Garland has children Charles, James Edward and Travis.

I later established communications with Chuck and we have cooperated on Purser research since then.

In January, 2002, Chuck gave me a census of Purser cemeteries in the Vanceboro area. One of them contained my great grandfather, David, his wife, Almarine, his sister Polly and another sister, "Comfort" in the 1850 census and "Annie C." in the graveyard. This cemetery census is attached in the Scrapbook section of this entry,

Notes for Elizabeth J. Williams: The 1870 census gives Elizabeth's age as 32. It was probably 33 at the time of the census, June 18, 1870. A Charity and Joseph Williams live next door to Elizabeth and Joshua in 1870.

The 1880 census gives Elizabeth's mother's name as Charity Williams.

Children of Joshua Purser and Elizabeth J. Williams:

- i. **Joseph F. Purser**, b. 1862.
- 70 ii. **Francis M. Purser**, b. 13 Jul 1866, d. 30 Nov 1941.
- 71 iii. **Joshua Fenner Purser**, b. 16 Feb 1867, d. 1 May 1960.
- 72 iv. **David Norman Purser**, b. 11 Apr 1873, d. 10 Jun 1953.
- v. **Ida J. Purser**, b. about 1883. Married James Garfield Purser. James Garfield Purser was b. 1882. Not mentioned in the 1870 census.

**60. James<sup>6</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. before 1789, in Beaufort County, NC, d. after 1850, in Warren Co., TN. Married Mary Davis before 1812, in North Carolina. Mary Davis was b. about 1790, in NC.

Notes for James Purser: In 1810, James Purser conveys to his brother Peter Purser his undivided 1/4 interest in "lands owned by his late father, James Purser, Jr lying on west side of South Dividing Creek".(400 ac.)

The line also has contributions by Tom Purser, tom.purser@@comcast.net.

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James and Mary Purser, both aged 60 and with a daughter Elizabeth, aged 20, and a son Daniel, aged 19, are in the 1850 Warren Co., TN census.

Children of James Purser and Mary Davis:

- 73 i. **Charity Purser**, b. 1812, d. after 1870.
- 74 ii. **Joshua Purser**, b. about 1814, in Beaufort County, NC, d. after 1870.
- 75 iii. **James Purser**, b. 1 Feb 1815, in TN, d. 2 Aug 1890, in Warren Co., TN.
- iv. **Peter Thomas Purser**, b. about 1820, in Tennessee, d. in Woolsey, Washington Co., Arkansas.
- v. **Elizabeth Purser**, b. 1 Feb 1828.
- vi. **Daniel Purser**, b. 27 May 1834, in Warren County, TN, d. 1 Jun 1897, in Huntsville, AL.

**61. Jesse<sup>6</sup> Purser** (*David<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1795, d. between 1830 and 1840. Married Elizabeth Lane 24 Sep 1814. She was the daughter of Samuel Lane. Elizabeth Lane was b. about 1798, d. before 1860.

Notes for Jesse Purser: Assigning Samuel L., Jesse D., and Wiley all to Jesse Purser seems to leave Noah out in the cold but fits much better with the census data for 1820 and 1830.

Nancy Taylor asserts that Jesse Purser served in the War of 1812 and assigns Jesse David Purser to Jesse. I had assigned Jesse as David Purser, Jr.'s son since he named a son Jesse David. The alternative choice as Jesse's father would have been one of the James Purser's.

Again, I emphasize this is all logical but little hard evidence supports it.

Children of Jesse Purser and Elizabeth Lane:

- 76 i. **Jesse David Purser**, b. Nov 1820, d. 22 Dec 1914, in Raleigh, NC (Probably Old Soldiers Home).
- 77 ii. **Wiley Purser**, b. about 1822, d. 25 Jan 1862.
- 78 iii. **Samuel L. Purser**, b. 1831, d. before 1900.
- iv. **Elizabeth Purser**, b. about 1837.

**62. James Carroll<sup>6</sup> Koonce** (*Mary Ann Brinson<sup>5</sup>, Patience Purser<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1815, in Lebenon, Wilson Co., TN. Married Susan Johnson.

Notes for James Carroll Koonce: The family was in Ouchita Parish, La. in 1819

Children of James Carroll Koonce and Susan Johnson:

- 79 i. **George Washington Koonce**, b. 24 Oct 1855, in Nacogdoches County, TX.

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**63. Hugh<sup>6</sup> Purser** (*David<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>4</sup>, Moses<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. between 1820 and 1825, d. 8 May 1864. Married Mary Frances Austin.

Children of Hugh Purser and Mary Frances Austin:

- i. **9 children.**
- ii. **Hugh Purser**, b. 7 Jun 1864.

### *Generation No. 7*

**64. Mason Felix<sup>7</sup> Lee** (*Abner<sup>6</sup>, Joseph<sup>5</sup>, Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. May 1861, d. 31 Dec 1942. Married Agnes E. Banks. She was the daughter of Sylvester Banks and Celia. Agnes E. Banks was b. Apr 1857, d. 9 Apr 1945.

Children of Mason Felix Lee and Agnes E. Banks:

- i. **Frederick W. Lee**, b. Feb 1884.
- ii. **Jerome J. Lee**, b. Sep 1885. Married Phebe B. Phebe B. was b. 1882.
- iii. **Celia Caroline Lee**, b. 20 Mar 1888, in Pamlico County, NC, d. 28 Nov 1958, bur. in Paul Cemetery, Silver Hill Area, Grantsboro, NC. Married Harvey Arthur Purser. He was the son of Samuel P. Purser and Clementine Elizabeth Cayton. Harvey Arthur Purser was b. 28 Dec 1880, d. 13 Mar 1970.
- iv. **Amanda O. Lee**, b. Oct 1894.

**65. Robert Henry<sup>7</sup> Lee** (*Riley<sup>6</sup>, Asa<sup>5</sup>, Leven<sup>4</sup>, Levi<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 15 May 1871. Married Rhoda. Rhoda was b. 1876.

Notes for Robert Henry Lee: [Jackrobertlee2.FTW]

In both the 1910 and 1930 census data a George Z. Phillips, identified as a brother-in-law is living in Robert Henry Lee's household.

Children of Robert Henry Lee and Rhoda:

- i. **George Lee**, b. 1895.
- ii. **May Lee**, b. 1899.
- iii. **Don Elbert Lee**, b. 11 Feb 1902, d. 9 Jan 1993.
- iv. **Les Lee**, b. 1904.
- v. **Robert Lee**, b. 1909.
- vi. **Milford Lee**, b. 1912.

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- vii. **Gideon Lee**, b. 1915.
  - viii. **Nina Lee**, b. 1918.
  - ix. **Lillie Lee**, b. 1907, in Pamlico Co., NC. Married Myron Montague Banks. He was the son of Noah Harvey Banks and Deborah Alice Downs. Myron Montague Banks was b. 7 Feb 1904.

**66. Noah Harvey<sup>7</sup> Banks** (*Celia West<sup>6</sup>, Phereba Lee<sup>5</sup>, Joseph<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, James<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 15 Mar 1859, in Craven Co., NC, d. 17 Jun 1932, in Grantsboro, NC. Married Deborah Alice Downs 8 Jun 1895, in Chocowinity, NC. Deborah Alice Downs was b. 4 Aug 1870, in Chocowinity, NC, d. 12 Jun 1953, in New Bern, NC.

Children of Noah Harvey Banks and Deborah Alice Downs:

- i. **Hubert Cyrus Banks**, b. 17 Nov 1896, d. 13 Aug 1960. Married Leona Johnson. Leona Johnson was b. in Wayne Co., NC.
- ii. **Veston Colbourne Banks**, b. 13 Mar 1899, d. 27 Sep 1973. Married Daisy Mason. Daisy Mason was b. 7 Mar 1907, d. 2004.
- iii. **Gladys Olivia Banks**, b. 1 Jul 1900. Married Everett J. Harris. Everett J. Harris was b. in Hyde Co., NC.
- iv. **Myron Montague Banks**, b. 7 Feb 1904. Married Lillie Lee. She was the daughter of Robert Henry Lee and Rhoda. Lillie Lee was b. 1907, in Pamlico Co., NC.

**67. Martha E.<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*David Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 13 Nov 1851, d. 29 Jul 1944. Married Raymond Gatlin Chapman 6 Feb 1877. He was the son of Furnifold Chapman and Polly Smith. Raymond Gatlin Chapman was b. 13 Nov 1851, d. 2 Jun 1923.

Notes for Raymond Gatlin Chapman: Raymond Gatlin Chapman featured in a couple of transactions with the Pursers in addition to marrying Martha. David Purser mortgaged a tract of land to him in 1878 and in 1913 when the rest of David Purser's heirs wished to convey a tract of land their father had purchased from Andrew Tunstall in Beaufort County in 1851 to John A. Purser, Chapman forced a condemnation sale at the courthouse door and John bought in the 100 acre tract for \$105.00.(Beaufort County DB 176, pp106-7.)

Children of Martha E. Purser and Raymond Gatlin Chapman:

- i. **Claude Chapman.**
  - ii. **Bessie Chapman.**
  - iii. **Simeon Chapman.**
  - iv. **Susan Katherine Chapman.**
  - v. **Lola Chapman.**
  - vi. **Harton Chapman.**
  - vii. **Mamie Chapman.** Married Capt. Heath.
  - viii. **Clyde Lee Chapman**, b. 12 Apr 1906, d. Feb 1973.
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**68. Nathan A.<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*David Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1853. Married Edith Elizabeth.

Children of Nathan A. Purser and Edith Elizabeth:

- i. **Lillian Purser**, b. about 1897.
- ii. **Albert R. Purser**, b. about 1899.
- iii. **Paul Purser**, b. about 1902.
- iv. **Marvin Blount Purser**, b. about 1909.

**69. William Churchill<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*David Thomas<sup>6</sup>, Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 14 Jun 1865, in Bonneron or Edward, NC, d. 29 Sep 1946, in At home on farm in Pitt County, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery in Greenville, NC. Married Mary Virginia Stokes 16 Feb 1887, in Pitt Co. NC. She was the daughter of Thomas Wiley Stokes and Mary Ann Gwaltney. Mary Virginia Stokes was b. 12 Mar 1865, in Stokes Crossroad, NC, d. 2 Aug 1959, in Calico, NC (visiting Granddaughter), bur. in Greenwood Cemetery in Greenville, NC.

Notes for William Churchill Purser: I have a vague memory of Grandmama Purser telling me that Will Purser was born in Bonneron, NC. This is a small "town" close to Aurora, NC which I found on the USGS maps and noted that it has a cemetery. I will visit it on my next trip east to see if there is any trace of the Purser's there. There is also a note in my mother's hand assigning him to "Bonneron and Edwards". The "Edwards" should have been "Edward", a small community close to Bonneron, in Beaufort County.

The farm in the Clayroot district of Pitt Co. was located on the road between Calico and Gardnersville. Grandmama's half first cousin owned the general store in Gardnersville.

Notes for Mary Virginia Stokes: She was also known as Ida Virginia Stokes. I remember my grandfather (Purser) calling her Ida and grandmama Sermons usually referred to her as "Cousin Ida". The International Genealogical Index has granddaddy marrying both Mary and Ida on the same day.

Children of William Churchill Purser and Mary Virginia Stokes:

- i. **David Thomas Purser**, b. Feb 1889. Birthdate is guesstimated.
- ii. **William Haughton Purser**, b. 20 Apr 1891, d. Apr 1976. Married Aileen Chun Purser. Aileen Chun Purser was b. 5 Aug 1902, d. Oct 1980.
- iii. **James Rodney Purser**, b. 20 Jan 1893, d. 18 Nov 1949, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Married Nettie M. Purser. Nettie M. Purser was b. 9 Aug 1897, d. 2 Sep 1980, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Notes for Nettie M. Purser: Nettie was a sweet and totally nice person.
- iv. **Lat Wesley Purser**, b. 10 Sep 1897, d. 23 Dec 1960, bur. in Ayden Cemetery, Ayden, NC. Married Blanche Purser. Blanche Purser was b. 6 Sep 1896, d. 3 Nov 1985, bur. in Ayden Cemetery, Ayden, NC.

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- v. **Fred Olthus Purser**, b. 9 Oct 1900, in Clay Root Township, NC, d. 22 Jun 1953, in Winterville, NC (driving through), bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Married Lucille Sermons 26 Dec 1929, in Greenville, NC. She was the daughter of Matthew Cornelius Sermons and Jemima Catherine Jackson. Lucille Sermons was b. 14 Jul 1909, in Winterville Township, NC, d. 15 Mar 2003, in Edenton, NC, Chowan Hospital, bur. 18 Mar 2003, in Hertford, NC, Episcopal Church Cemetery. Died of a stroke while returning from Greenville where he was trying to buy a graduation present for his only son, who had graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy on June 2nd.
  - vi. **Lydia Purser**, b. 20 Sep 1902, d. 23 Jun 1985, in Florida, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Married (1) William Meeks. William Meeks was b. in Harrisonburg, VA. Married (2) James Ross before 1930.
  - vii. **Donald Bayne Purser**, b. 16 Oct 1904, d. 20 Oct 1944, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Married Verona Grace McCoy. She was the daughter of Miles Herbert McCoy and Rosa Florence Heath. Verona Grace McCoy was b. 8 Oct 1906, d. 10 Aug 1968, in Grifton, NC, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Notes for Verona Grace McCoy: Killed by a drunken driver.
  - viii. **Larry Brown Purser**, b. 1 Mar 1907, d. 18 Jan 1957, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC. Married Cuma Tucker Galloway. She was the daughter of Oliver Jarvis Galloway and Minnie L. Tucker. Cuma Tucker Galloway was b. 20 Jan 1907, d. 14 Jan 1967, bur. in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville, NC.

**70. Francis M.<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*Joshua<sup>6</sup>, Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 13 Jul 1866, d. 30 Nov 1941. Married Josephine Nelson. She was the daughter of George B. Nelson and Winifred Williams. Josephine Nelson was b. 4 Jun 1879, d. 11 Oct 1949.

Notes for Francis M. Purser: Nickname was "Frank" and he was buried as Frank M. Purser.

Notes for Josephine Nelson: Josephine was raised by Abner Nelson and Annie C. Purser but she was not their child. Perhaps she took the name Nelson or perhaps she was the daughter of one of Abner's kin.

Children of Francis M. Purser and Josephine Nelson:

- i. **Charlie Blount Purser**, b. 15 Apr 1902, d. 25 Aug 1986. Married Mary Jane Buck. She was the daughter of Frank Buck. Mary Jane Buck was b. 24 Mar 1905, d. 18 Aug 1979.

**71. Joshua Fenner<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*Joshua<sup>6</sup>, Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 16 Feb 1867, d. 1 May 1960. Married Emma B. Purser. Emma B. Purser was b. 21 May 1875, d. 30 May 1968.

Children of Joshua Fenner Purser and Emma B. Purser:

- i. **Charity Purser**, b. 29 Jan 1894, d. 30 Nov 1980. Married Fnu Spivey.

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- ii. **Ethel P. Purser**, b. 2 Oct 1897, d. 21 Oct 1987.
  - iii. **Ida A. Purser**, b. 22 Jun 1901, d. 17 Mar 1963.

**72. David Norman<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*Joshua<sup>6</sup>, Churchill<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, Richard<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 11 Apr 1873, d. 10 Jun 1953, bur. in Probably in Joshua Purser Cemetery on SR 1644. Married Julia Hill. She was the daughter of Willie Hill. Julia Hill was b. 3 Mar 1879, d. 10 Dec 1938.

Children of David Norman Purser and Julia Hill:

- i. **Lonnie Herbert Purser**, b. 27 Apr 1902, d. 17 Jan 1996, bur. in Palmetto Church, Rte. 17, near Irene Road, Vanceboro, NC. Married Gladys E. Gladys E. was b. 15 Mar 1901, d. 15 Dec 1958, bur. in Same.
- ii. **Carrie Jannie Purser**, b. 26 Feb 1904, d. 28 Jul 1962. Married George Lewis.
- iii. **Joshua Sherman Purser**, b. 15 May 1907, d. 27 Mar 1967.
- iv. **Lester Earl Purser**, b. 22 Oct 1912, d. 12 Jun 1968. Married Irene M. Irene M. was b. 16 Jan 1920, d. 11 May 1997.
- v. **Artis Ledrew Purser**, b. 7 Apr 1917, d. 13 Feb 1981, bur. 18 Feb 1981, in New Bern National Cemetery. FN2, USN.

**73. Charity<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>6</sup>, James<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1812, d. after 1870. Married Ambrose Upchurch about 1831. He was the son of Joseph Upchurch and Martha. Ambrose Upchurch was b. 1805, in Tennessee, d. about 3 Nov 1851, in Warren Co., TN.

Children of Charity Purser and Ambrose Upchurch:

- i. **Mary Upchurch.**
- ii. **Charity Upchurch.**
- iii. **John Upchurch.**
- iv. **Thomas Upchurch.**
- v. **James Upchurch.**
- vi. **Joseph Upchurch.**
- vii. **Elizabeth Upchurch.**
- viii. **Martha Upchurch**, b. about 1831.

**74. Joshua<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>6</sup>, James<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1814, in Beaufort County, NC, d. after 1870. Married Intha Purser 7 Mar 1843, in White County, TN. Intha Purser was b. before 1824.

Notes for Joshua Purser: These notes are from Calvin Haskins, <chaskins@@lynks.com>. They probably contain contributions from Tom Purser. Joshua served in Company A, 35 TN Inf. CSA From the certificate of discharge, Shelbyville, dated 3 Dec 1862: 'Born Buford sic County, North Carolina, aged 45 years, 5'10", fair complexion, blue eyes dark hair, farmer. Enlisted by Capt. Bowles at Camp Smartt, 6 Sept., 1861. Entitled to discharge by Conscript Act, being 45 years and 3 months old. Paid

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C\$157.50, 15 Dec 1862. Appears on roll dated 31 Oct, 1861 as 38 years old, on roll dated 16 July, 1863 as 41 years old.

Children of Joshua Purser and Intha Purcer:

- i. **Andrew J. Purser**, b. Oct 1848, d. before 1910. Married Tennessee Emely Youngblood 7 Aug 1866, in Warren County, TN. Tennessee Emely Youngblood was b. Dec 1848, d. after 1930.

**75. James<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*James<sup>6</sup>, James<sup>5</sup>, James<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1 Feb 1815, in TN, d. 2 Aug 1890, in Warren Co., TN. Married Nancy Rowland 9 Oct 1838. She was the daughter of Benjamin Rowland. Nancy Rowland was b. 8 Nov 1817, in TN, d. 16 Mar 1865, in Warren , TN.

Notes for James Purser: It is possible this is the source of the Tennessee Pursers discussed with a visitor in the UNM hospital at the time of Eva's surgery on her hand for carpal Tunnel syndrome in 2000.

Children of James Purser and Nancy Rowland:

- i. **Luke Purser**, b. 10 Jul 1839, d. 29 Dec 1914.
- ii. **John Purser**, b. 21 Jan 1841, d. 30 Nov 1929.
- iii. **Malvina Purser**, b. 16 May 1844, d. 15 Mar 1875.
- iv. **James Purser**, b. about 1848. Married Malvina Cantrell 18 Feb 1872. She was the daughter of William Cantrell and Sarah Mullican. Malvina Cantrell was b. 2 Aug 1845, d. 27 Jul 1898. See apturner gedcom (<http://www.my-ged.com/db/page/apturner/>) for more details on the James Purser line in TN. It is possible this is the source of the Pursers discussed with a visitor in the UNM hospital at the time of Eva's surgery on her hand. William had at least 6 children.

**76. Jesse David<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*Jesse<sup>6</sup>, David<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. Nov 1820, d. 22 Dec 1914, in Raleigh, NC (Probably Old Soldiers Home)., bur. in Confederate Section, Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, NC. Married Sally B. Caten 14 Feb 1856. She was the daughter of Moses Caten and Charity Bland. Sally B. Caten was b. 4 Apr 1824, d. 15 Jun 1897, bur. in White Hill Cemetery, White Hill FWB Ch., Smaw area.

Notes for Jesse David Purser: There is a Jesse Purser in the 1870 census living adjacent to Samuel L. Purser, aged 50 years. There is also a J. D. Purser in the 1860 census, aged 34 years.

He is listed as age 38 when he enlists in the Confederate Army on September 30, 1861. These three ages would give him a birth year of 1820, 1823 and 1826. Probably born about 1824. In the 1870 census, his wife, Sally, is listed as being 40 years old and his son Samuel is listed as 13. His marriage date is from Louise Cowell.

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In the 1900 census, Jesse Purser, aged 79, is listed in his son Samuel's household and his birth is given as November, 1820.

His burial information came from Charles Purser of Garner, NC. Nancy E. Taylor has Jesse dying of a fall from a chair at the Soldiers Home in Raleigh, NC

Notes for Sally B. Caten: Identifying Sally as a Caten comes from Louise Cowell's book on marriages in Beaufort County. She was probably named Sarah.

Notes for family of Jesse David Purser and Sally B. Caten: Louise Cowell's Bides Index has the marriage in 1856. Nancy Taylor has it in 1855. Samuel P. was born Jan. 23, 1856.

Children of Jesse David Purser and Sally B. Caten:

- i. **Samuel P. Purser**, b. 23 Jan 1856, d. 11 Aug 1940. Married Clementine Elizabeth Cayton 22 Jan 1880. She was the daughter of Jesse Cayton and Decie Ann Whitehurst. Clementine Elizabeth Cayton was b. 16 Sep 1852, d. 25 Jun 1936. In the 1900 census Samuel's birth is given as January 1855 and his age is given as 45, enumerated on 19 June, 1900.

**77. Wiley<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*Jesse<sup>6</sup>, David<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1822, d. 25 Jan 1862. Married Rhoda.

Notes for Wiley Purser: Ages taken from the 1860 census. South Creek, Beaufort County, Family 159. All children attended school within year. Wiley has real estate valued at \$200 and is a farmer.

A Willie Purser enlisted in the Confederate Army in Beaufort County on June 25, 1861 at age 44. He died in hospital at Manassas Junction, Va. on January 25, 1862 of pneumonia. His son, Noah P. Purser enlisted about two weeks later.

Children of Wiley Purser and Rhoda:

- i. **Noah P. Purser**, b. about 1842. Noah P. Purser enlisted in the Confederate Army at Manassas, Virginia at age 17 on February 10, 1862. He was wounded in the right thumb at Winchester, Va. September 19, 1864 and thumb was amputated. He was detailed for light duty and reported on duty as a guard at a hospital in Richmond, Va. through March, 1865. Thus he served for the entire war after enlisting.
- ii. **James R. Purser**, b. about 1845. Married Sarah A. Chesson 31 Mar 1872. Sarah A. Chesson was b. 25 Jun 1856, d. 20 Jun 1904. Enlisted New Hanover Co. Pvt, Company B, 3rd North Carolina Artillery, 40th State Troops. Enlisted 19 July 1863, New Hanover Co, for war, by Capt W. H. Tripp, age 16, volunteer. Appears on company muster rolls from Aug 1862 through Oct 1864. Present or accounted for through Feb 1865.

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- iii. **Moley Purser**, b. about 1848.
  - iv. **Sarah Purser**, b. about 1851.

**78. Samuel L.<sup>7</sup> Purser** (*Jesse<sup>6</sup>, David<sup>5</sup>, David<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1831, d. before 1900. Married Jane E. Pendleton 22 Dec 1859. Jane E. Pendleton was b. Apr 1841, d. after 1900.

Notes for Samuel L. Purser: Both Samuel L and Jesse are in the 1870 census in Richland Township which covers the Bonnerton, Edwards, Aurora area and live on adjacent farms. I believe they are probably brothers.

Samuel L. enlisted in the Confederate Artillery, in Beaufort County on September 30, 1861 at age 30.

Jesse D. enlisted in the Confederate Artillery, in Beaufort County on September 30, 1861 at age 38. He was wounded at Kinston on March 8, 1865 and paroled at Greensboro May 2, 1865.

Notes for Jane E. Pendleton: Jane is also listed as a Jane Rudleton in the Beaufort County Brides Index. She is listed as Pendleton in the Record of Marriages. Both marry Samuel L. Purser on Dec. 22, 1859. Jane Purser is listed in the household of her son-in-law, John Dustwell who married Sallie J. in the 1900 census. Her birthdate is taken from this census.

Children of Samuel L. Purser and Jane E. Pendleton:

- i. **Julia Purser**, b. 1864.
- ii. **John David Purser**, b. between 1867 and 1869. Married Mary E. Mary E. was b. about 1862. A David Purser is listed as 3 in the household of Samuel Purser in the 1870 census.

J. D. Purser is in the 1920 census living in Aurora and has his mother Jane living with him. He is age 51 in this census. He is John David Purser in the 1910 census, age given as 42 and is living on the East side of South Creek. 3 daughters. Notes for Mary E.: From the 1920 census, nick named Maggie.

- iii. **Sally J. Purser**, b. about 1877. Married John Dustwell. John Dustwell was b. Nov 1874.

**79. George Washington<sup>7</sup> Koonce** (*James Carroll<sup>6</sup>, Mary Ann Brinson<sup>5</sup>, Patience Purser<sup>4</sup>, James Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Patience Leigh<sup>2</sup>, James<sup>1</sup>*), b. 24 Oct 1855, in Nacogdoches County, TX. Married Frances Marie Cooper.

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- i. **Dolly Koonce**. Married Joe Blankenship.

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